

Honolulu, Hawaii  
FEB 04 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1730  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 1730 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Wastewater Technical Advisory Group to assist the Department of Health in reviewing administrative rules and practices for cesspools and wastewater systems and proposing changes to make upgrades more affordable; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for positions within a branch of the Department of Health and the hiring of a consultant to assist the Wastewater Technical Advisory Group.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program; University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center; Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i Region; American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii; Public Access to SunScreens Coalition; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force; The



Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra; WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations; Kingdom Pathways; WaiHome LLC; and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that although more than three thousand three hundred cesspools need to be upgraded per year to meet the 2050 cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection mandate, fewer than four hundred fifty cesspools per year are being upgraded. Your Committee recognizes that high costs are contributing to this lack of progress. This measure ensures that the Department of Health has the capacity and support necessary to review administrative rules and practices and propose changes to make cesspool upgrade, conversion, and connection more affordable.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the name of the Wastewater Technical Advisory Group to the Cesspool Conversion Implementation Working Group and amending the membership of the Working Group;
- (2) Amending one of the positions to be established in the Department of Health;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$182,208 for the establishment of positions in the Department of Health.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1730, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1730, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy &  
Environmental Protection,

  
NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



HSC R 13-26

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 1730</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EEP, WAL, FIN</b>	Date: <b>1/29/26</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.		
The recommendation is to:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)		

  

EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.				✓
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean				✓
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
TOTAL (7)	5			2

  

The recommendation is:     ☒ Adopted                  ☐ Not Adopted

If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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