
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS TO CONVENE A REGIONAL
CESSPOOL MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE WITHIN EACH COUNTY OF THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, among other
2 provisions, required the Department of Health to investigate and
3 report to the Legislature on:

4
5 (1) The number, scope, and location of cesspools statewide
6 that require:

7
8 (A) An upgrade or conversion to a septic system or
9 aerobic treatment unit system; or

10
11 (B) Connection to a sewerage system; and

12
13 (2) The priority of upgrading, converting, or connecting
14 cesspools; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Department of Health
17 submitted its report to the Legislature; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's report, among other
20 findings:

21
22 (1) Noted that Hawaii has eighty-seven thousand nine
23 hundred inventoried cesspools, which put an aggregate
24 total of approximately fifty-three million gallons of
25 raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface
26 waters every day;

27
28 (2) Estimated that the cost of upgrading, converting, or
29 connecting each inventoried cesspool in the State
30 could cost approximately \$20,000 or more per cesspool,
31 or \$1,750,000,000 in the aggregate, with an average



1 construction investment of \$54,700,000 per year from
2 2018 to 2049; and

- 3
- 4 (3) Identified fourteen areas within the State, containing
- 5 an aggregate total of 42,730 cesspools, as priority
- 6 areas for upgrading, converting, or connecting
- 7 cesspools; and
- 8

9 WHEREAS, in its report, the Department of Health noted that
10 issues relating to cesspools are complex and involve access to
11 municipal sewer systems, local geology, cesspool density,
12 receiving waters, and most-appropriate treatment technology;
13 now, therefore,

14
15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the county district
18 health officers are requested to convene a regional cesspool
19 modernization task force within their respective county of the
20 State for the purpose of investigating the feasibility and
21 potential impacts of the department's findings and
22 recommendations in its December 2017 report to the Legislature
23 on cesspool replacement in light of health, safety, geographic,
24 and economic considerations; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at a minimum, the following
27 individuals are requested to serve and be included as members of
28 the regional cesspool modernization task force within each
29 county:

- 30
- 31 (1) The respective county district health officer;
- 32
- 33 (2) One member of the Senate who resides in the respective
- 34 county, as appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 35
- 36 (3) One member of the House of Representatives who resides
- 37 in the respective county, as appointed by the Speaker
- 38 of the House of Representatives;
- 39
- 40 (4) One member of the respective county council, as
- 41 appointed by that county council's chair;
- 42



1 (5) One representative of the respective county's economic
2 development department or office, as appointed by the
3 head of that department or office;

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5 (6) One representative of the respective county's agency
6 or department that is responsible for wastewater
7 management, as appointed by the head of that agency or
8 department;

9
10 (7) One representative of agricultural interests who
11 resides in the respective county, as jointly appointed
12 by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
13 House of Representatives; and

14
15 (8) One member of the community, as jointly appointed by
16 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of each regional
20 cesspool modernization task force are requested to elect a
21 chair, a vice chair, and any other necessary officers for the
22 task force from among the members of the task force; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
25 modernization task force is requested to convene its first
26 meeting no later than July 1, 2018; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
29 modernization task force is requested to work in collaboration
30 with a third-party consultant hired to conduct a study on issues
31 relating to the upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools
32 required by section 342D-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
35 modernization task force is requested to submit a report of its
36 findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any
37 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
38 convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
41 modernization task force is requested to cease to exist on
42 June 30, 2020; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;
4 the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives; the chair of each county council; the Executive
6 Director of the Office of Economic Development, City and County
7 of Honolulu; the Director of the Office of Economic Development,
8 County of Maui; the Director of the Department of Research and
9 Development, County of Hawaii; the Director of the Office of
10 Economic Development, County of Kauai; the Director of the
11 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of
12 Honolulu; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Reclamation
13 Division of the Department of Environmental Management, County
14 of Maui; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Division of the
15 Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii; and
16 the County Engineer of the Department of Public Works, County of
17 Kauai.

