

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that similar to the  
2 situation in Tuvalu, the current flush and septic systems in  
3 certain areas of Hawai'i are ill-suited due to geographic  
4 challenges and scarce water supplies. One such area is Kaloko-  
5 Honokōhau National Historic Park in Hawai'i county. The site  
6 presents formidable engineering challenges such as proximity to  
7 the ocean, hard volcanic rock, and groundwater just two feet  
8 below the surface. To address sewage needs, park officials  
9 installed two odorless, zero-discharge composting toilets in an  
10 attractive, prefabricated building that features a low-gradient  
11 ramp to provide handicapped access. Prior to the installation  
12 of the composting toilets, there were no public toilets for  
13 visitors to the park, while the beach was strewn with human  
14 feces.

15           The legislature further finds that composting toilets use  
16 no water and produce compost that can be used to enrich the  
17 soil. Over time, in the presence of oxygen, heat, and moisture,



1 biochemical processes convert the waste to stabilized compost.  
2 Pathogens are nearly eliminated, and the volume of organic  
3 material is reduced by 90 per cent or more.

4 The purpose of this Act is to address the lack of waste  
5 disposal systems throughout the State by requiring the counties  
6 to authorize composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible  
7 to municipal wastewater systems, thereby benefiting the people  
8 living in those communities and the health and welfare of the  
9 State as a whole.

10 SECTION 2. Section 27-21.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "§27-21.6 Functions reassigned to the counties. The  
13 following functions are hereby reassigned to the several  
14 counties:

- 15 (1) The medical care of inmates of county jails;  
16 (2) The rendering of medical investigatory services  
17 requested by the police;  
18 (3) Physical examinations of employees to the extent that  
19 such functions had been performed immediately prior to  
20 the adoption of Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 1965;



1 (4) The care and treatment of county workers' compensation  
2 cases to the extent that such functions had been  
3 performed immediately prior to the adoption of Act 97,  
4 Session Laws of Hawaii 1965; and

5 (5) The regulation of the design, construction, and  
6 operation of individual wastewater systems and private  
7 wastewater treatment works~~[7]~~; provided that ~~[the]~~:

8 (A) The transfer of this function to each county  
9 shall take place on the date that the expenditure  
10 of start-up funds is made by the State to such  
11 county for this purpose~~[7]~~; and

12 (B) The counties shall authorize the installation and  
13 use of composting toilets in areas that are  
14 inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. As  
15 used in this subparagraph, "compositing toilet"  
16 means a toilet that uses no water or very little  
17 water and uses natural processes to treat waste."

18 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 878

**Report Title:**

Counties; Wastewater; Individual Systems

**Description:**

Requires the counties to authorize the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines composting toilets.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

