
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 ninety per cent or more.

4 The purpose of this Act is to address the lack of waste
5 disposal systems throughout the State by authorizing the
6 counties to approve the installation and use of composting
7 toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater
8 systems, thereby benefiting the people living in those
9 communities and the health and welfare of the 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 may approve the installation and use
 13 of composting toilets in areas that are
 14 inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. As
 15 used in this subparagraph, "composting 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.

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



Report Title:

Counties; Wastewater; Individual Systems

Description:

Authorizes the counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines "composting toilets". (SD1)

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