



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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HB 1396 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center support HB 1396. This bill would create an innovative pilot program within the Department of Health Environmental Management Division that provides funding for wastewater planning and management specific to cesspool conversion via connection to sewer or other centralized systems. This program would incentivize county-level action and promote partnerships and information sharing between the state and county wastewater management programs. Importantly, the bill not only provides planning support but also includes stakeholder outreach and implementation funding. Implementation of this measure could allow for the connection of existing cesspools to sewer or other centralized systems that would not have occurred otherwise, and would likely alleviate financial hardships on those selected to participate in the pilot programs within each county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.