



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 Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD

Director, University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Thomas Giambelluca, PhD

Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Michael Bruno, PhD, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1759 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) **support HB1759 HD1.**

This bill would require cesspools attached to or used by housing or lodging that provides transient accommodations to be upgraded, converted, or connected to a sewerage system before 1/1/2035 for those categorized as priority 1 by the University of Hawai'i cesspool prioritization tool, and 1/1/2040 for those categorized as priority 2 by the University of Hawai'i cesspool prioritization tool.

Upgrading cesspools is a vital step towards mitigating the potential risks associated with groundwater contamination, as the adoption of advanced wastewater treatment methods reinforces Hawaii's dedication to protecting its valuable water resources and minimizing ecological impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1759 HD1 provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.