



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 1:02 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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HB 1759 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and
Members of the Committees:

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
Hawaii cesspool prioritization tool, and 1/1/2040 for those categorized as priority 2 by
the University of Hawaii 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.