



# 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  
House Committee on Water & Land  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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#### HB 1893 – RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS

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

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and UH Water Resources Research Center **support HB 1893**.

The Cesspool Conversion Working Group reported that the vast majority of cesspool owners cannot afford the upgrade of their cesspool to an advanced form of wastewater treatment. Because it is critical to both human and environmental health that the state's cesspools be eliminated as soon as possible, it is important that a multitude of mechanisms for financial assistance be created for homeowners. This bill would increase the grant funding amount for cesspool conversions by \$10,000 and would provide salary support for two positions that would support cesspool conversion work in the state. Both of these measures will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the current cesspool conversion program.

*We recommend that the reference to the year on Page 2, Line 17 be updated to instead say "in the University of Hawai'i's most up to date cesspool hazard assessment and prioritization tool".*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.