



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

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 1894 – 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 and UH Water Resources Research Center **support HB 1894.**

This bill would authorize appropriate funds to the Department of Health for public outreach and education and update the mandatory seller disclosures in real estate transactions to include information regarding cesspool status and conversion dates.

The upgrade of cesspools underscores Hawai'i's commitment to public health, recognizing that the well-being of its residents is closely linked to the state's ability to effectively manage and treat wastewater to meet the highest standards of safety. Homeowner and public education regarding the risks associated with cesspools, upgrade requirements and timelines is an integral element of achieving the state's cesspool conversion goals.

Mandatory disclosure would motivate conversion prior to the sale of the property, accelerating the statewide conversion and upgrade of cesspools and preventing new buyers from the undue burden of conversion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.