



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 1898 – 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 1898.**

Cesspools are a major environmental and human health issue in this state, and the Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project is an incredibly important tool for addressing the myriad of impacts of cesspools in Hawai'i. The financial burden of cesspool conversion makes it prohibitive for some individuals and families, so having a grant program that will provide funding makes the conversion process accessible to all. Increasing the funding amount and providing funding for two full time positions to assist with this program is a valuable first step in addressing the accessibility challenges of cesspool conversion. We hope to see the state increase the funding available, as well as the number of positions created to support this program and process in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.