



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 2066 – RELATING TO FINANCING

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 offer comments on HB 2066. This bill would establish a cesspool conversion on-bill financing program to be administered by the Hawai'i green infrastructure authority to provide low-interest loans to eligible homeowners for the upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools.

The upgrade and conversion of cesspools to advanced forms of wastewater treatment is critical to avoiding outcomes that could impair Hawai'i's drinking water and ecosystem health. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.