



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 Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

By

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Director, University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

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Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Michael Bruno, Provost, PhD

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HB 2264 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) support HB 2264 HD1. This bill would establish a three-year new wastewater demonstration and implementation pilot program within Hawai'i Sea Grant and in coordination with WRRC.

Our programs strongly agree that the upgrade and conversion of cesspools to advanced forms of wastewater treatment is of great importance. HB 2264 HD1's proposed pilot program would serve to assist the state with this important transition by providing the funding and support needed to complete no less than four wastewater system demonstration projects. These demonstrations would provide valuable insights into technology and program support needed to affect widespread conversion for the health of our nearshore ecosystem. In addition to the direct expenses of conversion demonstrations, we request that this bill be funded to support the hiring of several new full-time staff for effectuation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2264 HD1 provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.