



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
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By

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H.B. 734 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 734, which seeks to review and propose changes to wastewater system rules and practices to make cesspool upgrades more affordable without compromising water quality.

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports the intent of this bill, as addressing cesspool pollution is critical to protecting public health and preserving Hawaii's water quality.

However, Hawai'i Sea Grant respectfully requests to be removed from this initiative as outlined as a consulting entity. While Sea Grant offers expertise in coastal and environmental science, it does not possess specialized knowledge or capacity in assessing the financial feasibility or affordability of wastewater system upgrades. Other stakeholders, such as wastewater industry professionals, economists, or finance experts, may be better suited to address this critical aspect of the bill's objectives.

We appreciate the legislature's commitment to tackling cesspool pollution and exploring pathways to affordability without compromising water quality and urge the committee to advance H.B. No. 734 with adjustments to ensure that consultation efforts include entities with the appropriate expertise in affordability and financial analysis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.