



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 Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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SB 426 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center **support** SB 426 SD2 HD1.

This bill would effectuate a primary recommendation of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group to move up upgrade and conversion timelines for Priority 1 and 2 areas, which have been found to have the most severe impacts on our state's resources.

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. Bringing forward the conversion timelines for Priority 1 areas to 2030 and Priority 2 areas to 2035 would demonstrate the time-sensitive nature of cesspool upgrade and conversion. To further support the success of this measure, the state should champion workforce development and capacity expansion for the wastewater management field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.