



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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### HB 2195 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports HB 2195 HD1. This legislation would create a cesspool compliance pilot grant project to assist low-and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with the costs of upgrading, converting, or connecting a cesspool to the sewer system. In particular, this bill applies to cesspools identified as failing by the Department of Health (DOH), which stand to disproportionately contribute to the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution occurring daily, statewide.

One of the primary impediments to cesspool conversion is the cost to individual families, particularly those property owners with low-and moderate-incomes. This bill would provide financial relief to the owners of cesspools who need it most, and would allow for the expedited conversion of systems already identified as failing. The legislation proposed by this bill would enhance the state's capacity to fulfill its mandate under Act 125, which requires the conversion of all cesspools by 2050.

Hawai'i Sea Grant supports HB 2195 HD1, which will help low-and moderate-income homeowners with the costs of replacing their cesspools with more appropriate waste management systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.