



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land  
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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#### HB 181 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center support HB 181. 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 timelines for priority level 1 and 2 areas to 2030 and 2035, respectively, 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.