Testimony Presented Before the
Senate on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
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By
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HB 1759 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai‘i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) support HB1759 HD1.

This bill would require cesspools attached to or used by housing or lodging that provides transient accommodations to be upgraded, converted, or connected to a sewerage system before 1/1/2035 for those categorized as priority 1 by the University of Hawaii cesspool prioritization tool, and 1/1/2040 for those categorized as priority 2 by the University of Hawaii cesspool prioritization tool.

Upgrading cesspools is a vital step towards mitigating the potential risks associated with groundwater contamination, as the adoption of advanced wastewater treatment methods reinforces Hawaii's dedication to protecting its valuable water resources and minimizing ecological impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1759 HD1 provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.