



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
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By
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SB 369 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program strongly supports this measure.

Previous research and review, by specialists at The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, of other state efforts to convert cesspools and outdated onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) supports this additional option/method of conversion to help the state meet the Act 125 mandate. Several states (Arizona, Iowa, Massachusetts, Delaware, and New Mexico) along with many counties and municipalities require an inspection of onsite wastewater systems before a property can transfer ownership. A review of these regulations reveal they are varied and provide flexibility for unique situations. In general, rules such as SB 369, are thought to provide protection to all parties involved, with minimal burden, and assist with the speed in which outdated and polluting onsite wastewater systems are replaced.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.