



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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SB 2425 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

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

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) **supports SB 2425**.

This bill would authorize and appropriate funds to the Department of Health for public outreach and education and update the mandatory seller disclosures in real estate transactions to include information regarding cesspool status and conversion dates.

The upgrade of cesspools underscores Hawaii's commitment to public health, recognizing that the well-being of its residents is closely linked to the state's ability to effectively manage and treat wastewater to meet the highest standards of safety. Homeowner and public education regarding the risks associated with cesspools, upgrade requirements and timelines is an integral element of achieving the state's cesspool conversion goals.

Mandatory disclosure would motivate conversion prior to the sale of the property, accelerating the statewide conversion and upgrade of cesspools and preventing new buyers from the undue burden of conversion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.