



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

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14-036

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR RULE CHANGES RELATED TO CESSPOOLS AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS EXTENDED TO OCT. 17 *Community Meetings to be Held on Neighbor Islands*

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is extending the public comment period for changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 11-62, Wastewater Systems. Written statements will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Wastewater Branch, Environmental Management Division, Hawaii Department of Health, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 309, Honolulu, HI 96814-4920. For detailed information on the rule changes go to: <http://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/>

A public hearing will be held on Oahu at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, in the 5th Floor Conference Room at 919 Ala Moana Blvd. in Honolulu. Concerned individuals who wish to speak are asked to submit two (2) copies of their statement before or at the hearing. Video Conference Center sites will be open from 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, at the following locations:

- **KAUAI:** Kauai District Health Office, Conference Room, 3040 Umi St., Lihue
- **MAUI:** Department of Health, BT Conference Room, 210 Imi Kala St., Suite 204 (in Millyard), Wailuku
- **MAUI:** Wailuku Health Center, 121 Mahalani St., Conference Room 105, Wailuku
- **HILO:** Hawaii District Health Office, Conference Room, 1582 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo

In addition, DOH will be holding public informational meetings on the Neighbor Islands to discuss the proposed administrative rule changes at the following locations. Written comments will be accepted by DOH at these meetings.

- **KAUAI:** Monday, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. at the Kauai District Health Office conference room, 3040 Umi St., Lihue
- **KONA:** Thursday, Oct. 9, at 5 p.m. at the West Hawaii Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy, Kailua-Kona
- **MOLOKAI:** Friday, Oct. 10, at 5 p.m. at the Kaunakakai Gymnasium at 180 Ala Malama St., Kaunakakai

- **MAUI:** Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 8th Floor of Kalana O Maui Building., 200 S. High St., Wailuku
- **HILO:** Thursday, Oct. 16, at 5 p.m., Aupuni Center, 101 Pauahi St., Suite 1, Hilo

For more information on the community meetings schedule, contact the Wastewater Branch at (808) 586-4294.

There are roughly 90,000 cesspools statewide in Hawaii, with nearly 50,000 located on the Big Island of Hawaii, almost 14,000 on Kauai, more than 12,000 on Maui, more than 11,000 on Oahu, and more than 1,400 on Molokai. The untreated wastewater from cesspools can contaminate ground water, drinking water sources, streams and oceans with disease-causing pathogens, algae-causing nutrients, and other harmful substances. It is estimated that cesspools in Hawaii release as much as 23,700 pounds of nitrogen and nearly 6,000 pounds of phosphorus into the ground each day which can degrade water quality, stimulate undesirable algae growth, and impact our coral reefs.

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