

Objectives of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group in accordance with Act 132

	Objectives
1	Develop a long-range, comprehensive plan for cesspool conversion statewide of all cesspools by 2050, to be known as the cesspool conversion plan.
2	Consider and recommend means by which the department of health can ensure that cesspools are converted to more environmentally-responsible waste treatment systems or connected to sewer systems;
3	Identify areas where data is insufficient to determine a priority classification of cesspools for conversion and determine methods and resources needed to collect that data and conduct analysis of those areas.
4	Modify, amend, and develop definitions and criteria for priority upgrade areas, as identified in the Department's report conducted pursuant to Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, identify the preferred alternative waste treatment systems or sewerage connections for these priority areas, and consider and make recommendations on whether cesspools in these priority areas should be required to convert sooner than 2050.
5	Examine financing issues and the feasibility of various mechanisms, including grants, loans, tax credits, fees, special assessment districts, requirements for conversion at point of sale, and any other appropriate mechanisms for accomplishing and funding cesspool conversion, or any combination of these mechanisms.
6	Consider owners' ability to pay for cesspool conversions, and, especially how assistance can be provided for lower-income homeowners.
7	Consider the most cost-effective approach to cesspool conversion.
8	Identify physical, practical, and financial impediments that may be encountered by land owners who are required to connect pre-existing cesspools to a sewer system or convert cesspools to an individual waste treatment system and recommend solutions to those impediments.
9	Consider best policies, practices, and laws from other jurisdictions related to cesspool conversion, including but not limited to Rhode Island and New Jersey that have undertaken large efforts to phase-out cesspools in their jurisdictions.
10	Include feedback from each county's community members, wastewater divisions, and boards of water supply.
11	Consider alternative wastewater equipment and technologies appropriate to the various areas where cesspools are located that may better protect the environment at lower or comparable cost and how the equipment or technologies can be incorporated as part of the long-term solution to wastewater treatment issues. These alternatives may include, without limitation, graywater systems, constructed wetlands, and other available technologies.

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12	Research and recommend measures to encourage and stimulate research and innovation for new wastewater technologies, including systems that treat waste not only for bacteria but also to remove nutrients and contaminants that impact the environment.
13	Evaluate mandatory versus voluntary participation in the cesspool conversion plan.
14	Consider whether exemptions should be granted for some mandatory conversions based upon geology, topography, soil type, availability of land, or other relevant factors and make recommendations to the department relating to establishing rules for those exemptions.
15	Consider any other information deemed necessary or appropriate by the department, the cesspool conversion working group, or any third-party consultants.