

# CESSPOOL CONVERSION WORKING GROUP (CCWG)

## Main Group - Meeting Agenda

**Date:** March 30, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Webinar

**Call in Details:** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83343892407>

Meeting ID: 833 4389 2407

Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

### Members Present:

Sina Pruder (SP)  
Ted Bohlen (TB)  
Michael Mezzacapo (MM)  
Stuart Coleman (SC)  
Representative Nicole Lowen (NL)  
Darren Lerner (DL)  
Ken Hiraki (KH)  
David Smith (DS)  
Eric Nakagawa (EN)  
Kawika Winter (KW)  
Lani Fernandez (LF)  
Ramzi Mansour (RM)  
Erica Perez (EP)  
Wesley Yokoyama (WY)

### Guests:

Cari Ishida (CI)  
Joachim Schneider (JS)  
Christina Comfort (CC)  
Sasha Helfner (SH)

### Members Not Present:

Jason Kagimoto (JK)  
Senator Kalani English (KE)  
Elizabeth Char (EC)

### Facilitation Support:

Christin Reynolds (CR)

## AGENDA

- A. Call to Order by TB at 10:03am
- B. Approval of October 29th meeting minutes
  - a. No comments from group or public for adjustments.
  - b. TB moves to approve meeting minutes as drafted, SC seconds motion
    - i. 12 members say “aye”
    - ii. No oppositions
- C. Introduction of new members
  - a. Wesley Yokoyama, Director Department of Environmental Services City & County of Honolulu.
  - b. Ramzi Mansour, Director of County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management

## D. Data and Prioritization update

### a. Overview of progress to date to frame Data & Prioritization

- i. Finance and Technology Reports Can be found here:  
<https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/ccwg/>
- ii. High level overview of where we are in progress can be found in legislative report  
here:<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2020/12/Act-170-Cesspool-2021-Leg-Report.pdf>
  1. Question: Will there be back and forth with the Legislature upon delivery of the report?
    - a. Yes it would be a good idea to include engaging the Legislature, but is up to the group on when to do that, it isn't a requirement.
    - b. Next Steps: When we are ready with information to brief Legislature, NL can help facilitate that briefing.
  2. Question: Will there be implementation within the Cesspool Conversion Plan?
    - a. Yes, implementation is a critical component of the Cesspool Conversion Plan.

### b. Data & Prioritization Scope Update

#### i. Scope

1. Modify, amend, and develop definitions and criteria (as needed) for priority upgrade groups/areas, as identified in the Departments 2018 Legislative Report.
2. Create a process to assign cesspools to upgraded priority areas.
3. Make recommendations, based on estimated severity of impacts, from obtained data, where cesspools in high priority areas should be required to convert sooner than 2050.
4. Identify areas where data is insufficient to determine a priority classification and determine methods and resources need to conduct further analysis for prioritization.
5. Consider criteria for exemptions of cesspool conversion.
6. Additional students hired to help update the cesspool location datasets and help to work on GIS interface dashboard (end product)

#### ii. Discussion

1. Discussion about if exemptions being considered. The data & prioritization scope can inform exemptions, but it is also an implementation question and will need to be coordinated with DOH and others.
2. Discussion about what level of flexibility will be allowed for the end product and the implementation given site specific conditions. A lot of DOH review is currently site specific, for example depth to groundwater. Elevated nitrogen levels will

be the driver for requirements. More discussion to be had on exact implementation of priority areas.

3. Consider performance driven requirements because of technology changes between now and 2050 for example could use nitrogen and BOD limitations for example.
4. Discussion about affordability driving exemptions. How do you handle requirements for areas that can't afford conversions but are polluting the ocean? What do you do in those situations? Do you implement with enforcement and fines for areas that aren't implementing if they already can't pay. DOH would need to beef up their enforcement in order to have the 2050 mandate be successful.
  - a. Next Step: Need to discuss implementation further specifically enforcement and affordability.
  - b. TMK level data/tool would be useful in the future for implementation and consideration of legislative decisions around point of sale or other priority group requirements.
5. Discussion about federal financing opportunities. There is a window of opportunity right now with infrastructure funding and investment on Capitol Hill.
  - a. Next Step: CR will save time at our next main group meeting to discuss further how to communicate need to delegation. Need to figure out how to get money to homeowners. Need to communicate the need. Offer briefing to federal delegates. Coral reefs are an important issue to Case. Kai Kahele is involved with labor subcommittee and appropriations.
  - b. Next Step: Send to CR any existing federal asks to coordinate and sequence. Think about how best to get funding to homeowners.

#### **E. Status of legislature bill SB369 SD1**

- a. Bill is no longer moving forward. Considerations for staffing needs, community outreach and sequencing with the conversion plan were discussed as needs to address in order to successfully move forward on an inspection at point of sale program.
- b. NL mentioned that the bill also proposed amending the regulations to remove the limitation on specific types of wastewater systems to which cesspools must be upgraded or converted.
- c. Next Step: Discussed a potential engagement opportunity where Sea Grant in partnership with DOH could offer a workshop or webinar that educates about cesspool conversions and would offers CEU's to Relators. MM to follow up. Also continue working through potential iterations of bill language for an inspection at point of sale program.

#### **F. Future sewer plans for the four Counties**

- a. What sewer expansion plans do you have between now and 2050? This will be an important part of the conversion plan, if it is going to be sewerred in the future then they wouldn't be required to upgrade. Different approaches from different counties on where sewerred falls in the conversion plan which is most cost effective, onsite, decentralized or centralized?
- b. Next Step: CR and SP to reach out to counties to discuss sewer plans.
- G. Updates on complimentary initiatives**
  - a. Outreach
    - i. Work4Water is already doing outreach to federal delegation.
    - ii. Mahalo to County of Hawaii moving forward on Puako funding to put together a facilities plan (\$1.8M).
- H. Questions and Comments**
  - a. Recurring meeting to be scheduled Third Tuesday of the Month at 1pm
  - b. Next meeting Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- I. Adjournment 11:59am**