

CESSPOOL CONVERSION WORKING GROUP (CCWG)

Main Group - Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Webinar

Call in Details:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 81400424067

Passcode: 530884

Dial In: (US) +1 346-248-7799

Passcode: 530884

Members Present:

Sina Pruder (SP)

Ted Bohlen (TB)

Mike Mezzacapo (MM)

Erica Perez (EP)

Eric Nakagawa (EN)

Stuart Coleman (SC)

Ramzi Mansour (RM)

Rep. Nicole Lowen (NL)

Kawika Winter (KW)

Lani Fernandez (LF)

Roger Babcock (RB)

Troy Tanigawa (TT)

Ken Wysocki (KWY)

Members Not Present:

Elizabeth Char (EC)

Darren Lerner (DL)

Ken Hiraki (KH)

Facilitation Support:

Christin Reynolds (CR)

AGENDA

A. Call to order

B. Public testimony on agenda items

- No public testimony

C. Approval of November 16th meeting minutes

- TB makes motion to approve minutes
- SC seconds
- All in favor
- No oppositions

D. Status of cesspool related legislative bills

- [HB1805](#) Relating to Cesspools – Establishes a temporary income tax credit until 12/31/2025 for costs of cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection. Requires the upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools upon sale of real property or within 12 months of the date of sale recordation, with certain exemptions.

- Amended to apply to properties within 1000 feet of coastal water, streams and other sensitive waterways within 12 months.
 - Realtors have some concerns on this one.
- [HB1806](#) Relating to Cesspool Conversion – Requires cesspools in the State to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system approved by the Director of Health before 1/1/2050.
- [HB2088](#) Relating to Finance – Creates the environmental and economic development revolving loan fund under the administration of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority.
 - On bill financing to help finance the upgrades, voluntarily entered into by the County and Homeowner, would set up a structure under HGIA to administer.
- [HB2195](#) Relating to Cesspools – Establishes a cesspool compliance pilot grant project to assist low- and moderate-income property owners.
 - Grant program
- [SB2802](#) Relating to Cesspools – Authorizes the counties to establish and charge a monthly or annual fee on commercial and residential property owners with cesspools with exceptions.
- [SB2610](#) Relating to Cesspools – Reinstates income tax credit for cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection for eligible taxpayers and eligible expenses.
 - Dead
- [SB2802](#) Relating to Cesspools – Authorizes the counties to establish and charge a monthly or annual fee on commercial and residential property owners with cesspools with exceptions. Requires the counties to establish a Cesspool Conversion Fund.
- [SB2995](#) Relating to Cesspools – Requires upgrades to cesspools at the time of sale and allows a tax credit for certain wastewater systems.
 - Dead
- [SB3056](#) Relating to Financing – Creates the environmental and economic development revolving loan fund under the administration of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority.
- [SB3302](#) Relating to Green Infrastructure – Require the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority to design and administer the Environmental and Economic Development Revolving Loan Program and Property Assessment Financing Program.

E. Outline of the Cesspool Conversion Plan

Executive Summary

Acronyms

- I. Act 132 and Working Group Formation
 - a. Working Group Objectives
 - b. Working Group Formation
 - c. Meeting Overviews
 - d. Current Status of Cesspools and Onsite Wastewater Pollution in Hawaii
- II. Cesspool Prioritizations and Exemptions: Objectives 3, 4, and 14

- III. Cesspool Alternatives: Objectives 2 and 11
- IV. Financing Cesspool Conversions: Objectives 5, 6, 7
- V. Mandatory versus Voluntary Participation: Objective 13
- VI. Conversion Impediments: Objective 8
- VII. Policies and Practices from Other States: Objective 9
- VIII. Research and Innovation: Objective 12
- IX. Stakeholder Feedback: Objective 10
- X. Long Term Priorities
 - a. Stakeholder Engagement
 - b. Organizations and Administrative Processes
 - c. Legislative Actions
- XI. Cesspool Conversion Timeline

- Comments on Outline

- Make sure funding/financing has information on access and utilization of the IIJA bills – in the financing for conversion? (who can access the funding/how?)
 - Recommendations Section – most important section of the report -menu of options – simple statements included – legislature and other stakeholders can pick up appropriate actions.
 - Financing options and technology options, what are the best ways we can achieve conversion in terms of finance and technology? How are people going to pay for it?
 - Consider putting recommendations at the top of report
- Other comments:
 - Setup PIG to input ideas for plan?
 - Need realistic short term and long term goals
 - Each County have Wastewater Plan – coordinate with sewer expansion with each county
 - Priority focus on areas that have the most potential to cause harm, outline the actions to accomplish it.
 - Earlier deadlines for priority areas?
 - Appendices (what other resources to include?)

F. Discussion on Conflict of Interest. Discuss if policies and/or procedures regarding this topic should be developed by the Cesspool Conversion Working Group.

- Important to disclose any conflict of interests..
- No formal policy to establish at this point.

G. Questions and Comments

- Consider how to incorporate comments from past member memo into conversion plan.
 - Consider program administration and organizational structure of conversion programs, what to recommend?
 - Consider the table of capabilities of different providers to support cesspool conversion.

H. Adjournment