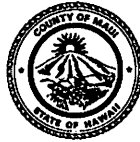


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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Kelly T. King  
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 20, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 551,  
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to: 1) extend the lapse date for funds appropriated to the University of Hawaii to conduct a comprehensive statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas; and 2) extend the lapse date for funds appropriated to the State of Hawaii Department of Health to conduct research or gather technical assistance relating to the cesspool conversion working group's comprehensive cesspool conversion plan.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawaii has nearly 88,000 cesspools, a large number of which are found in Maui County, Kauai County, and Hawaii County. Cesspools are responsible for placing 53 million gallons of raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface waters every day, potentially impacting 90 percent of the State's drinking water. Cesspools also pose a significant harm to streams and coastal resources, including coral reefs.
2. Cesspool conversion represents a nearly \$1.2 billion statewide impact in maintenance and replacement costs. A compliance date to convert all cesspools by the year 2050 was included in Act 125 passed by the State Legislature, 2017 Regular Session.
3. Extending the lapse dates for funds appropriated to the University of Hawaii

March 14, 2019

Page 2

and to the State of Hawaii Department of Health will ensure the necessary research and studies are conducted to eliminate Hawaii's cesspools in a timely and most economically feasible way.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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