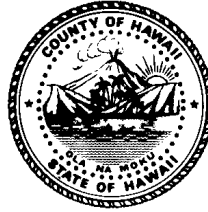


Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 11, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

RE: **HB 2151, HD1 Relating to Cesspool Conversion**

Cesspool conversion is going to be an enormous problem, and I thank this Legislature for recognizing and addressing an issue that might otherwise be ignored until the 2050 deadline for conversion is much closer.

I urge as much funding and assistance as can be made available for the numerous property owners who will find conversion to be unaffordable. Having said that, however, it is not clear to me that the focus can only be on cesspools identified as "failing." For one thing, "failing" is not defined; is it the intention to leave it to the Department of Health to define the word in its rules? Second, while I can understand that a failing cesspool should have a high priority for action, does HB2151, HD1 create an incentive to allow one's cesspool to fall into disrepair so that it will be eligible for a grant?

It would seem that a broad program is called for, but perhaps it can be made up of "subprograms" such as the one called for in HB2151, HD1.

Again, thank you for searching for solutions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR