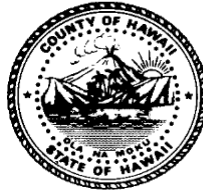


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Brad Kurokawa
Mahealani Maikui
Richard Bidleman
Vacant
Vacant
David Meyer
Vacant
Robert Nishimoto
Tawn Keeney

County of Hawai‘i

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Hāmākua Action Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 92-7, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS). This meeting will be held in-person at the location listed in this notice and by Interactive Conference Technology (ICT) through Zoom.

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

IN PERSON LOCATION: Honoka‘a Sports Complex
45-541 Akia Street
Honoka‘a, HI 96727

ONLINE/ZOOM:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-itrTwthZaIV0s2CWXBX0OIgh7VoxI>

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The public may provide oral testimony at the meeting by joining Zoom or attending in-person at the physical location listed above. Although not required, to register in advance for oral testimony please contact staff at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8288. Pursuant to § 92-3, HRS, interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so either at the time the committee takes public statements on the agenda, or at the time the specific agenda item is called. Please note that public testimony may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item. In addition, although not required, to ensure timely delivery of written testimony to committee members, it is requested that written testimony be submitted by 4:30 p.m. at least two business days prior to the meeting via email to cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. When submitting written testimony, please specify for which agenda item written testimony is being submitted. All written testimony will be a part of the public record.

NOTICE REGARDING INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY (ICT): A meeting held by ICT shall be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication when audiovisual communication cannot be maintained with all members participating in the meeting or with the in-person location identified in this notice. The meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication is restored, or audio-only

communication is established after an unsuccessful attempt to restore audiovisual communication. If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting as provided in this subsection within 30 minutes after an interruption to communication, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Committee will consider approving the draft minutes from the February 12, 2024, meeting.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Pursuant to § 92-3, HRS, interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so now, or at the time the specific agenda item is called. Public testimony may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item.

IV. BUSINESS:

- 1. Integrated Wastewater Management Plan Presentation -** Presentation and Q&A by Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management Director, Ramzi Mansour.
- 2. Overview of CDP Action Committee Purpose and Hāmākua CDP Implementation Priorities for 2024 -** Brief presentation by Planning Department staff on the background and purpose of the CDP Action Committee. Discussion to establish which implementation projects the committee will pursue in 2024 based off findings from the Hāmākua CDP document.

V. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Committee members will discuss potential agenda items for the next meeting including revisiting topics from meetings that did not have quorum.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Hāmākua Action Committee and is requesting assistance to get the word out to interested community members. The application can be found on the Mayor's office website at: <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-commissions-application>
- Deputy Corporation Counsel Jean Campbell is assigned to the Hāmākua CDP AC.
- Hawaii County Council Chairperson, Heather Kimball to provide County Council updates related to the Hāmākua Community Development Plan.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository:

<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/Browse.aspx?dbid=1&startid=109367&cr=1> These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

NOTICE: The purpose of the public hearings is to afford all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the above items. A person desiring to submit oral or written testimony shall indicate their name and whether the testimony is on their behalf or as a representative of an organization or individual. Written testimony can be submitted via email or hard copy. Hard copies should include an original and nine copies and be submitted no later than 4:30pm two business days prior to the meeting.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service, other reasonable modification, or language interpretation to access this meeting please contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 or cdp@hawaiicounty.gov as soon as possible, but no later than five business days prior to the meeting date, to arrange for accommodations. If a response is received after the five-business days deadline, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled. “Other reasonable modification” refers to communication methods or devices for people with disabilities who are mentally and/or physically challenged. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai‘i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai‘i County Code). A lobbyist means, “any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials.” (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai‘i County Code). Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720.

HĀMĀKUA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

1 HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

2 Monday, February 12, 2024
3 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

4 **CALL TO ORDER**

5 Chair Meyer called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee
6 (AC) to order at 4:00pm. Quorum was established at this time. This meeting was held in-person
7 at the Pāpa‘aloe Community Center Annex and online via ZOOM.

8 The YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:

9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poWghSnRl78>

10 **ROLL CALL**

11 AC Members Present: Brad Kurokawa, Robert Nishimoto, David Meyer, Tawn Keeney, Richard
12 Bidleman

13 AC Members Present via ZOOM: Mahealani Maikui joined late at 5:05pm

14 County Staff: Planners – Maryam Palma and Jessica Lahip

15 County Officials: Council Member, Heather Kimball and Deputy Corporation Counsel, Sinclair
16 Salas-Ferguson

17 11 members of the of the public attended the meeting (7 in person and 4 via ZOOM)

18 **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

19 Chair Meyer announced that the Planning Department is seeking applicants for the HCDP AC.
20 There are currently 3 vacancies and 3 holdovers on the AC.

21 Chair Meyer announces how to find public notices via the county website. Chair requests more
22 communication by Planning regarding new land use applications in the Hāmākua district [SEE
23 YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:45]

24 Updates and announcements by Council Member Heather Kimball and discussion with AC [SEE
25 YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:02]

26 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

27 Committee member Richard Bidleman motioned to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes.
28 Motion seconded by committee member Brad Kurokawa. Motion passed unanimously [SEE
29 YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 33:43]

30 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

31 **No public comments before agenda items.**

32 **BUSINESS:**

33 1. **Emergency Routes Discussion:** This item was called to order at 4:48 p.m.

34 Kevin Waltjen and Jennifer Zelko from HECO discuss concern about powerlines and tree
35 trimming cycle on Kapehu Road. Marisa Harman speaks on Kamehameha School’s work on
36 Kapehu Road. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 48:05:00]

AC discusses potential Permitted Interaction Groups (PIG) for emergency routes. Planning addresses Section 4.9.3 Policy 55 of the CDP as a suggestion for the Mud Lane emergency route. Tawn Keeny requests to form a PIG. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:04]

Brad Kurokawa motions to form a PIG to solicit community input on Policy 55 in CDP document with committee members Tawn Keeny, Mahealani Maikui, and Chair David Meyer, seconded by Mahealani Maikui. Motion passed by 6 votes, aye. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:45]

This item concluded at 5:50 p.m.

2. **Lehua Street Subdivision Sidewalk Funds Availability:** This item was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

Committee member Richard Bidleman presents Lehua Street map, Communication No. 2024.02. Bidleman expresses the need for an additional sidewalk along Lehua Street adjacent to Honoka'a Sports Complex. Planning addresses Section 5.3.4 Policy 70 which states the County's action for improving pedestrian access in Honoka'a. Planning agrees to address feasibility of this project at the next meeting [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:49]

This item concluded at 5:58 p.m.

3. **Scheduling of Future Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee meetings:** This item was called to order at 5:58pm

AC discusses possible meeting times, dates, and meeting locations. AC agrees to meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:00p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:57]

This item concluded at 6:06 p.m.

4. **Letter of Endorsement to a Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission (PONC) Application:** This item was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

AC discusses letter of endorsement for PONC application, Communication No. 2024-10.

Committee member Tawn Keeney motions to submit letter of endorsement by Hāmākua CDP AC for consideration by Hawaii County, seconded by committee member Richard Bidleman. Motion passed unanimously [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 2:04]

This item concluded at 6:31 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Committee member Brad Kurokawa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Mahealani Maikui. Motion passed with unanimous aye vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33p.m.

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository](https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

Cesspool Conversions in the County of Hawai'i



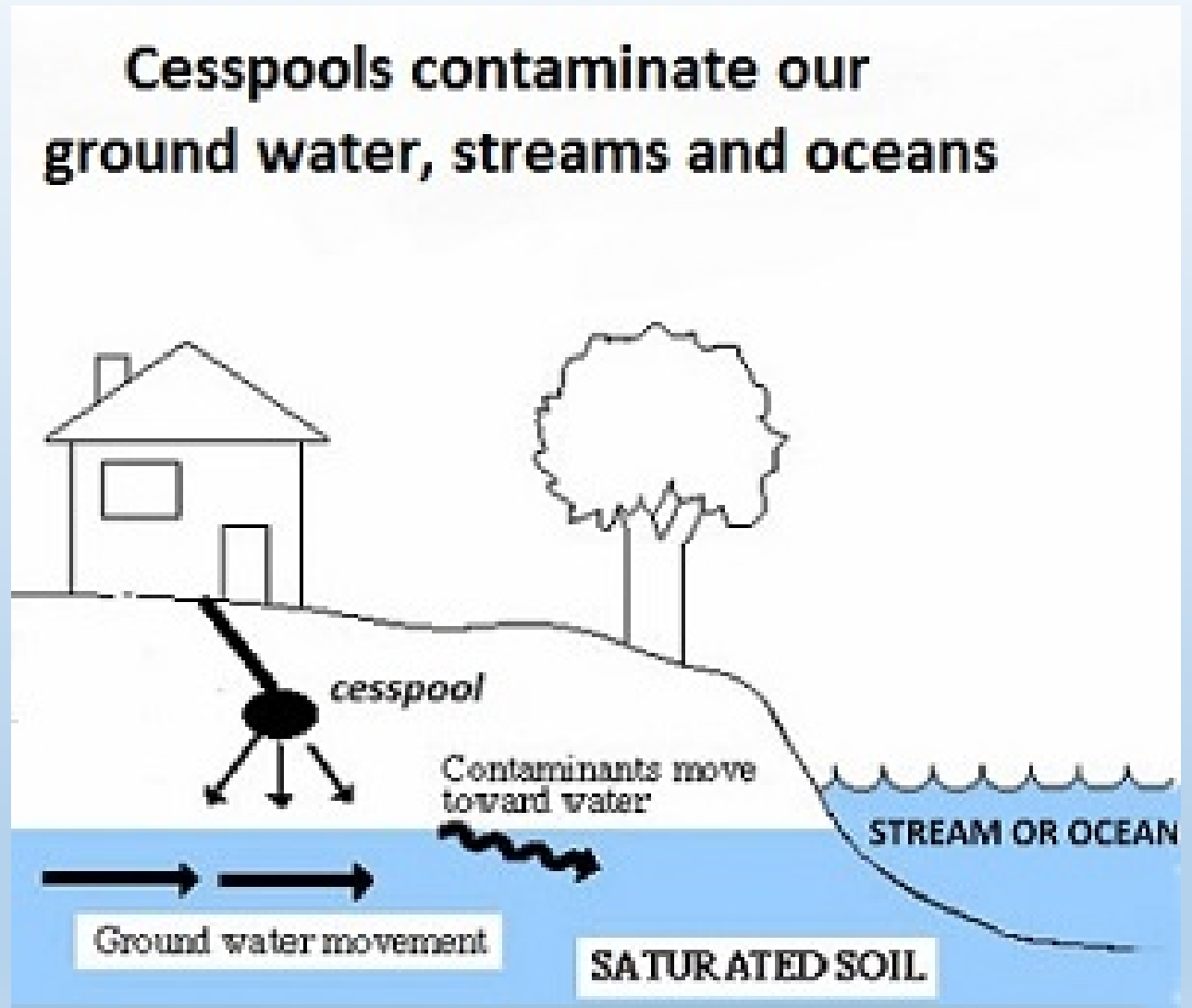
Ramzi Mansour, Director
Department of Environmental Management

Agenda

- **What are cesspools and how many are within the County of Hawai‘i**
- **The driving legislative force**
- **COH public engagement meetings**
- **Most likely conversion options for COH**
- **Roles and responsibilities Owner vs. COH vs. DOH**
- **Cost**
- **Why now and How**
- **How to participate to shape the Wastewater vision for the COH**

Cesspools are harming our environment

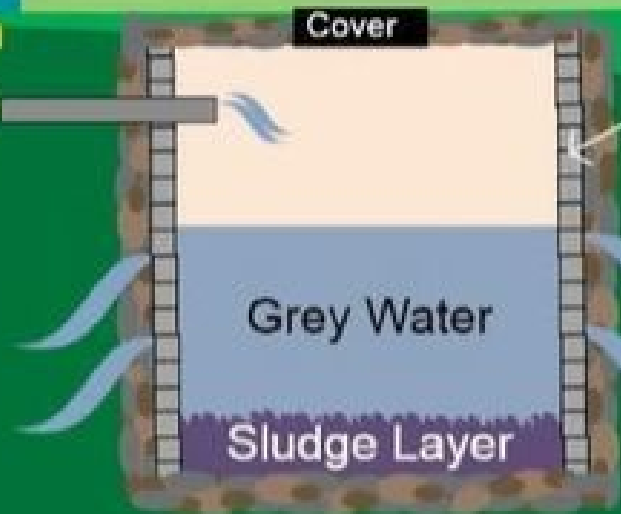
- Cesspools are substandard systems. They don't treat wastewater; they merely dispose of it. Cesspools concentrate the wastewater in one location, often deep within the ground and in direct contact with groundwater, causing groundwater contamination. -- DOH



Cesspools, continued



Inlet Pipe/Drain



Concrete/Brick/
Perforated Wall

Grey water perforates
through the wall
and into the Earth

Cesspools in Hawai'i

88,000



Number of cesspools in the State of Hawai'i & highest number of all States in the U.S.

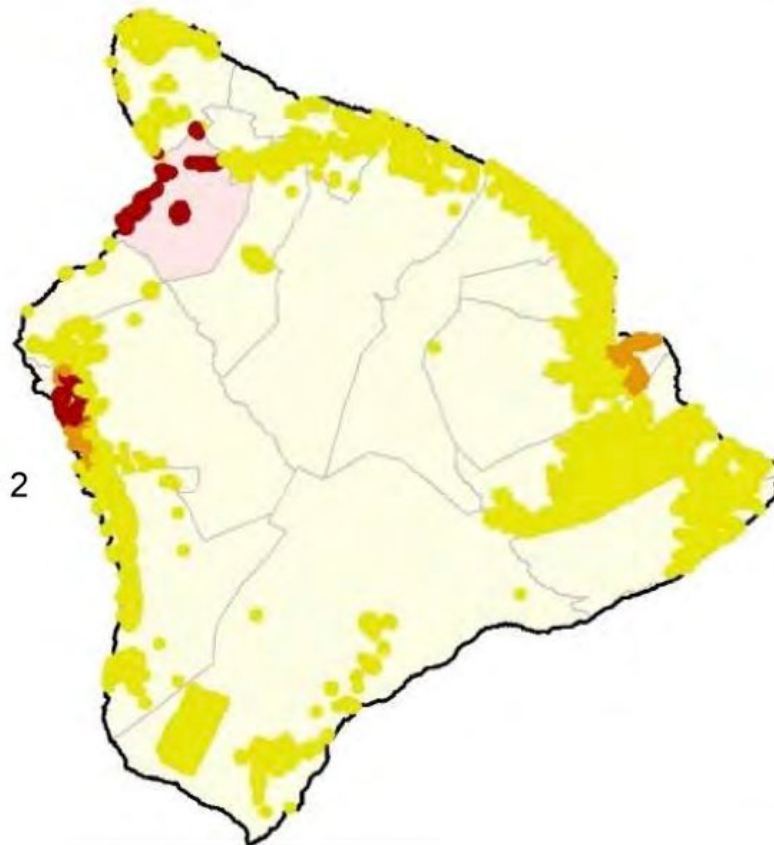
Act 125

Passed during the 2017 Legislative Session, mandates the removal of all cesspools island wide by the year 2050.

For more information and to read the full report on cesspools by the Department of Health visit:
<http://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/cesspools/>

Cesspools: Prioritization Category by Tract

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3



53 Million

Gallons of sewage from Hawai'i cesspools that leak into the environment daily.



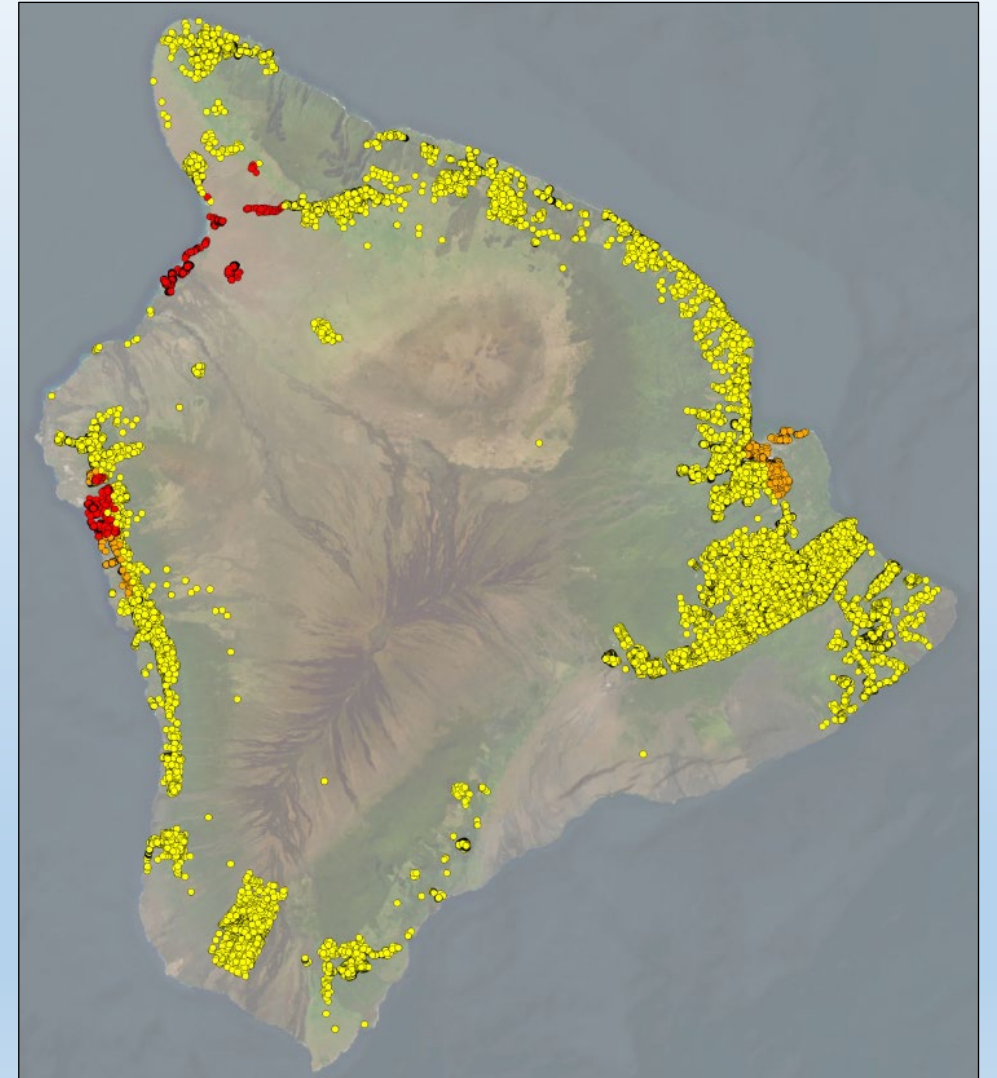
90%

Percent of the Hawai'i's drinking water that comes from underground aquifers. Recent testing found cesspool contaminants in the drinking water of some areas of the state.



Hawai'i County has the most cesspools in the State

Priority Category	Number of Cesspools
● 1	5,119 cesspools (11%)
● 2	2,619 cesspools (5%)
● 3	40,858 cesspools (84%)
Total	48,596 cesspools



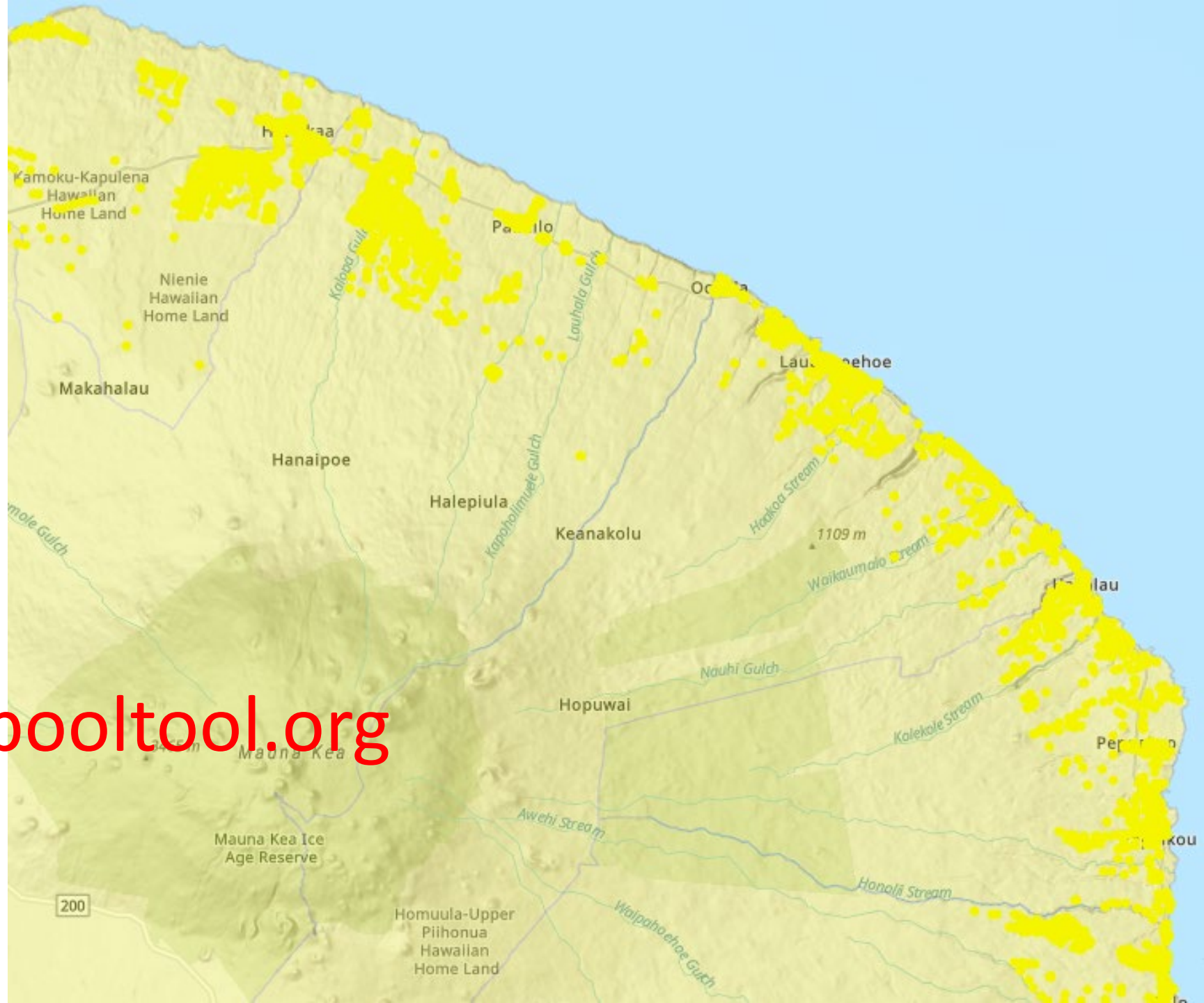
2,000 cesspools per year need to be converted to meet the 2050 deadline.

The Driving Legislative Force

- **HRS 342D-72:** (a) Before January 1, 2050, every cesspool in the State, excluding cesspools granted exemptions by the director of health pursuant to subsection (b), shall be:
 - (1) Upgraded or converted to a director-approved wastewater system; or
 - (2) Connected to a sewerage system.(b) The director of health may grant exemptions (based on small lot size, steep topography, poor soils, or accessibility issues)
- **Act 132 (2018):** Created the Cesspool Conversion Working Group
 - Analyzed 15 objectives in the broad categories of Finance, Technology, and Data Prioritization
 - Presented findings to the 2023 Legislature

**All Cesspools in
Hāmākua/Rural
North and South
Hilo are in
Priority Level 3**

www.hawaii cesspool tool.org



Who is responsible for what?

Hawaii Department of Health, Wastewater Branch

- Review and approve **new individual wastewater systems** (e.g., septic tanks, aerobic treatment units, or others).
- Regulate and oversee **all IWSs** state-wide, including enforcement of the cesspool ban.
- Implement **IWS financial aid** (when available).

Homeowner

- **Comply** with the State's cesspool conversion mandate.

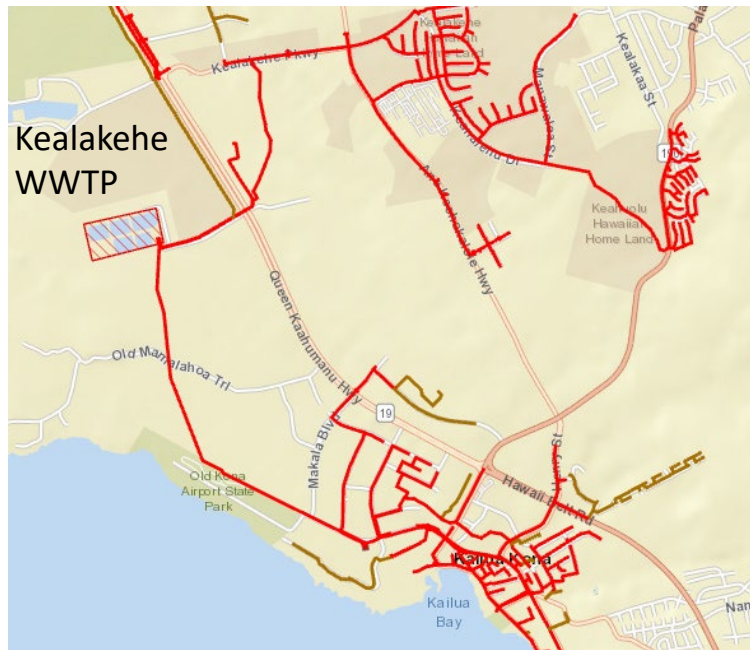
Hawaii County

- Support constituents by developing a **roadmap** to guide the County's cesspool conversions.
- Operate and maintain **County-owned sewers**, wastewater pump stations, and wastewater treatment plants.
- Plan and build **new sewers** so that feasible homes can connect (convert cesspools).
- Review and approve **building permits**.

Most likely conversion options for COH

- Expansion of centralized sewer service areas
- Decentralized systems
 - Potential conversion option for clustered systems that cannot be feasibly connected to centralized systems
- Individual wastewater systems
 - Conversion technology is dependent onsite conditions

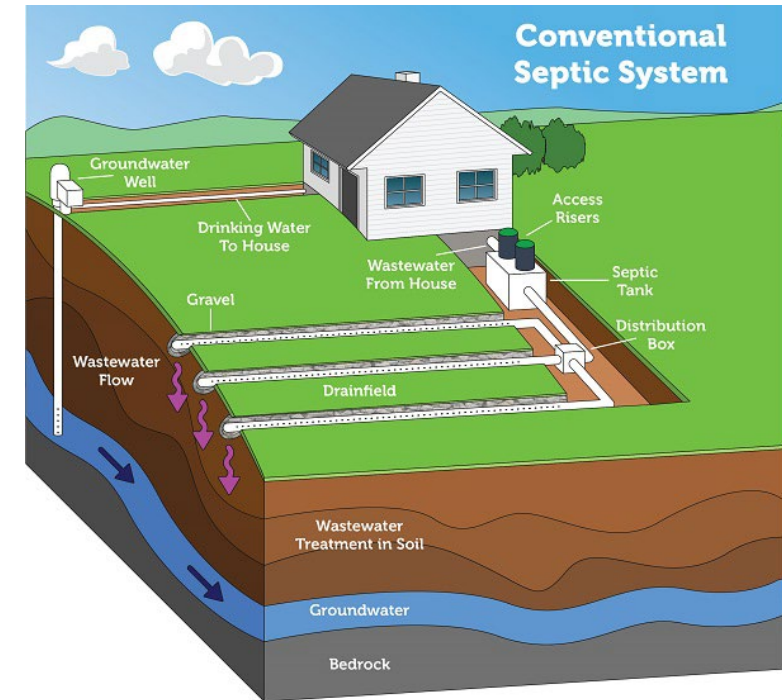
Options to Replace Cesspools



Connection to an Existing County Treatment Plant



Decentralized or Cluster System with a New Treatment Plant



Upgrade Cesspool to an Approved Onsite System

Conversion option #1: Connect to the County's sewer system (Centralized System)

- Proximity to existing collection system
- Feasibility of extending the collection system
- Available capacity at the wastewater treatment plant
- Cost of upgrades and sewer fees

County Wastewater Treatment Plants



Connect to the County's sewer system

Benefits



Potential to reduce potable water use and increase recycled water use



Excellent environmental protection



Potential for rapid conversions



Homeowners will not have to operate and maintain an individual system



Potential to reduce the burden of conversions by limiting scope to sewer lateral only

Challenges



County will need to expand sewer system



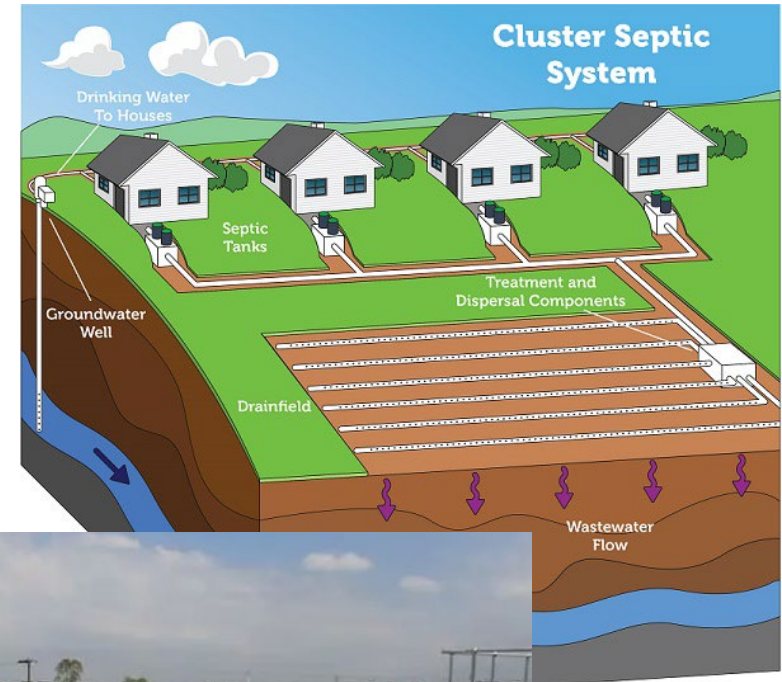
Cost to the County will be significant, but can be financed/recovered over time



County requires staff/support to implement projects

Conversion option #2: Connect to a new or existing Decentralized or Cluster WWTP

- Connecting groups of homes (50 to several hundred)
- Smaller version of a centralized WWTP
- Larger version of an onsite individual wastewater system
- Cost of construction and sewer fees



Connect to a new or existing Decentralized or Cluster WWTP

Benefits

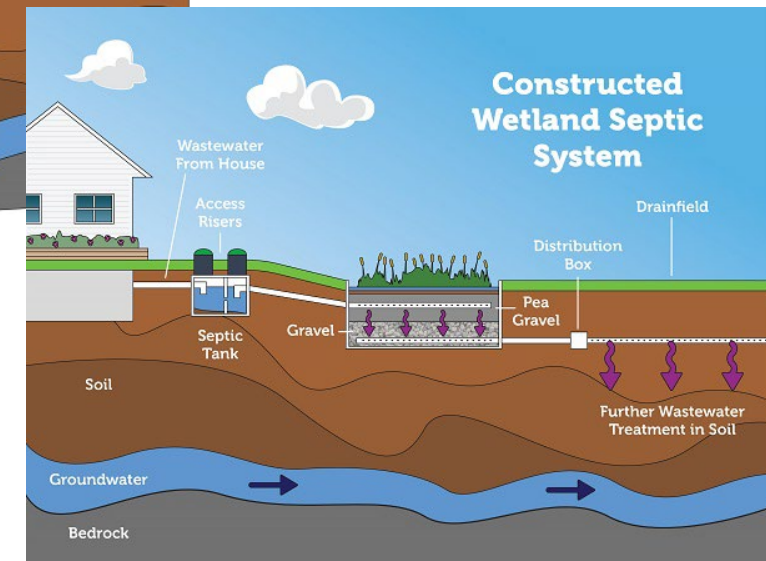
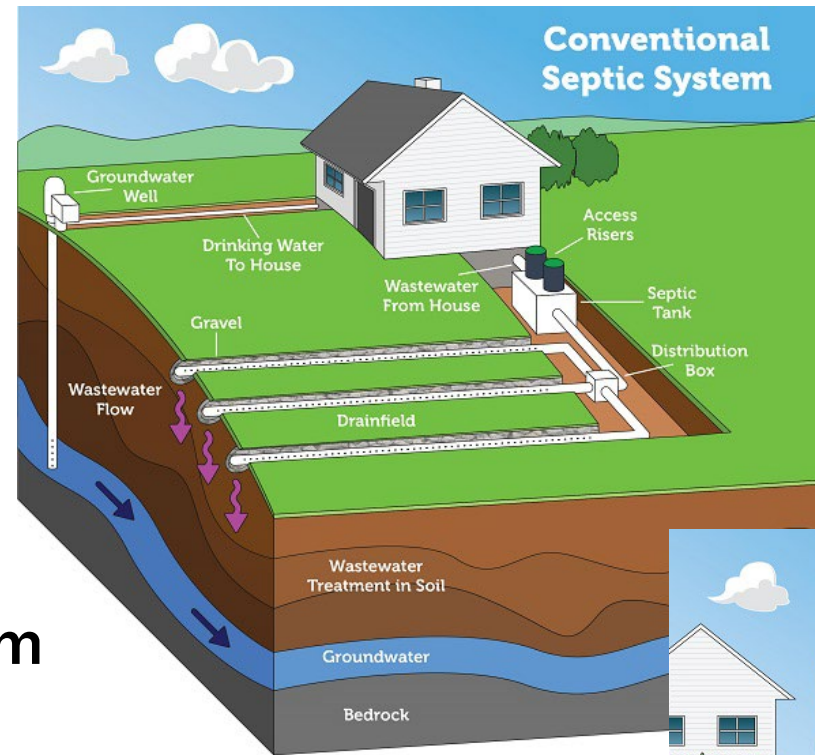
-  Potential to reduce potable water use and increase recycled water use
-  Excellent environmental protection
-  Potential for rapid conversions
-  Homeowners will not have to operate and maintain an individual system
-  Potential to reduce the burden of conversions by limiting scope to sewer lateral only
-  Broadens range of funding opportunities

Challenges

-  Neighborhood coordination needed (e.g., Sewer Improvement District)
-  Costs for up-front planning, design, and construction
-  Need for licensed, skilled operators
-  Land/space requirements

Conversion option #3: Convert to a DOH-Approved Onsite System

- Site evaluation by licensed engineer to determine possible system options
- Regulation (HAR 11-62): systems approved for use by DOH
- Submit application for each system to be reviewed/approved by DOH
- Typically, minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet



Convert to an Approved Onsite System

Benefits



Potentially lower construction costs



Better than cesspools



Additional land would not need to be acquired



Relatively fewer permitting requirements



Homeowner demonstrates environmental stewardship

Challenges



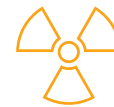
Homeowners are responsible for operating and maintaining system



Cost must be borne by homeowner and financial support is needed by many



Owners must hire licensed engineer and contractor



Environmental risk because effluent is directly discharged into ground

How much does a cesspool conversion **cost**?

It depends on the conversion method...

- **IWS:** Homeowners' costs for IWS conversions range from \$30K to \$70K (site-specific +/-)
- **Sewering:** Cost estimates from Puna Facility Plan
 - Estimated \$4B to \$11B capital cost for different sewerage alternatives (County sewers)

Future plans for financial support



Hawaii County is exploring grant and low interest loan options for County projects.

- Federal funding opportunities.
- Prioritize high priority cesspools and financially burdened.



State financial support programs:

- Waitlist is filled for the current \$20K DOH grant program.
- Other programs are to be determined.

<https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/home/ccpgp/>

– ***Why***

- To protect human health
- To manage precious groundwater sources, shorelines, beaches, reefs, and ocean activities
- To comply with Federal and State laws
- To provide a road map for future development planning
- To address solutions to current conditions
- To identify and forecast capital improvements and work on financial plans in advance
- To create a preventative maintenance program
- To tackle the top priorities and identify necessary resources

– ***How***

- Close and ongoing collaboration with the County Council over the last three years to tackle our wastewater challenges head-on
- DEM has been working on multiple fronts to solve the wastewater problem by:
 - » Finalizing the Puna and Pāhoa wastewater master plans
 - » Undertaking a wastewater rate study to address the fiscal shortfalls
 - » Securing the services of Carollo Engineers to address the Integrated Wastewater Management Plan, the Cesspool Master Conversion Plan, the Facility Plan, the Hilo WWTP, and a revision of Operations and Maintenance manuals

Two rounds of public engagement



February 2024

First Round: Basis of Cesspool Conversion Plan

- Water stewardship
- Importance of eliminating cesspools
- Overview of options to convert cesspools

Second Round: Cesspool Conversion Plan Findings

- Conversion options by region
- Financing & funding concepts



Summer 2024

Ongoing Public Engagement

First Round: February 2024

Second Round: Summer 2024

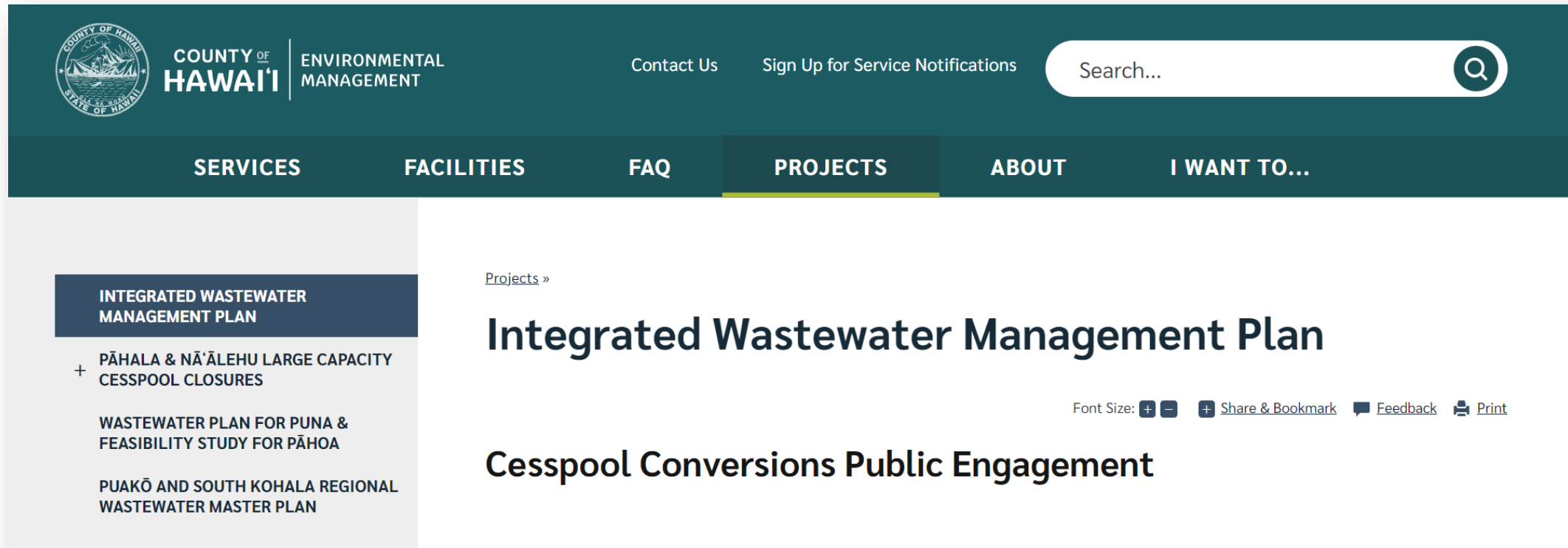
- **Maps showing conversion options:**
 - **Connect to an existing wastewater treatment plant**
 - **Connect to a new cluster or decentralized wastewater treatment plant**
 - **Replace cesspool with an approved system**
- **What will it cost and how to pay?**
 - **Financing & funding concepts**

For more information, please see DEM's website or email
cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov

❖ <https://www.dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects/integrated-wastewater-management-plan>



Scan me



The screenshot shows the County of Hawaii Environmental Management website. The header includes the County of Hawaii logo, the text "COUNTY OF HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT", and links for "Contact Us" and "Sign Up for Service Notifications". A search bar is also present. The main navigation menu includes "SERVICES", "FACILITIES", "FAQ", "PROJECTS" (which is highlighted), "ABOUT", and "I WANT TO...". On the left sidebar, under "PROJECTS", there is a list of projects: "INTEGRATED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN", "PĀHALA & NĀ'ĀLEHU LARGE CAPACITY CESSPOOL CLOSURES", "WASTEWATER PLAN FOR PUNA & FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PĀHOA", and "PUAKŌ AND SOUTH KOHALA REGIONAL WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN". The main content area displays the "Integrated Wastewater Management Plan" project page, which includes a "Projects »" breadcrumb, the title "Integrated Wastewater Management Plan", and a sub-section titled "Cesspool Conversions Public Engagement". At the bottom of the main content area, there are links for "Font Size", "Share & Bookmark", "Feedback", and "Print".

How to participate in the legislative process.



❖ Tips on testimony:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101/tips-on-testimony/>

Scan me

- ✓ Include the bill number, bill's title, your name
- ✓ Address the committee chair and members
- ✓ Clearly state whether you support or oppose the bill
- ✓ Introduce yourself and your organization (if any) that you represent
- ✓ Summarize the reason for your position; provide facts and/or tell a personal story
- ✓ Thank the committee for the opportunity to testify
- ✓ Keep it short

How to participate in the legislative process...



Scan me

❖ Use your voice at the Legislature:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/use-your-voice-at-the-legislature/>

- ✓ Communicate with your Legislators
- ✓ Share an idea for a new law
- ✓ Ask for a public hearing
- ✓ Testify
- ✓ Repeat as necessary
- ✓ Contact the Governor

Questions?

