

What is the problem?

Cesspool conversions are a topic of frequent discussions in local communities. Across the state there are roughly 83,000 cesspools, and 7,500 on Oahu. Cesspools contaminate groundwater and drinking water sources, with excess nutrients and harmful pathogens posing a threat to public and environmental health.

What are the solutions?

Act 125 requires all cesspools be converted to approved wastewater systems, such as septic systems, sewer, or community scale systems. Currently, sewer is not available to all homeowners that are served by cesspools. The project team will work with DHHL and the City and County of Honolulu to determine if sewer mains can be constructed within the neighborhood, including investigating cost estimates and timing. Other alternatives such as upgrades to Individual Wastewater Systems (IWSs) will be evaluated. The project team is working closely with DHHL to understand funding options for improvements.

What are the benefits of wastewater treatment?

Proper wastewater treatment is important for protecting the environment and human health. Removing cesspools and replacing them with proper wastewater treatment technologies will prevent wastewater from surfacing or entering the groundwater and drinking water supplies. Properly maintained IWSs and sewer infrastructure help protect the health of residents and protect cultural, recreational, and agricultural areas, support property values, encourage tourism, and improve business opportunities for current residents and future generations.

Who are the project team members?

The project team is diverse and includes providers that the community can work with to identify and plan wastewater solutions, provide education and outreach, and apply for funding.

What is the goal of the Initiative?

This project will help DHHL and the Waianae Valley Homestead Community get the information and resources needed to identify the right type of wastewater system(s) for the community and to position them to apply for federal funding. The local community will provide input and feedback on the solutions that best fit their needs.

Additional Questions?

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