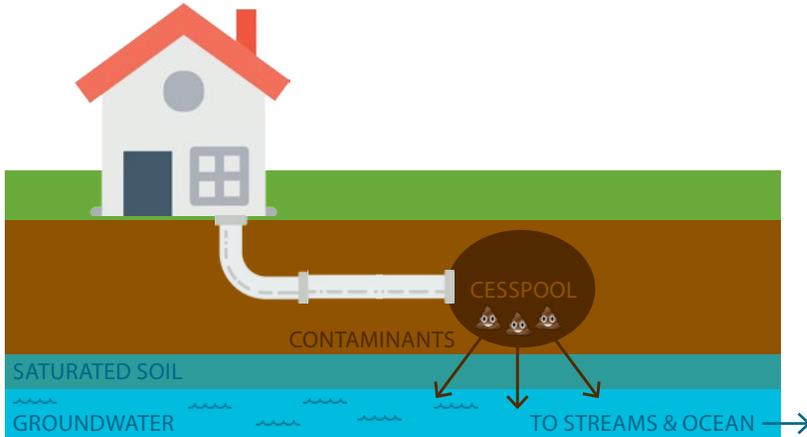


CESSPOOLS IN HAWAII

Hawaii has far more cesspools than any other state—88,000 to be exact—and is the last in the nation to ban them. These cesspools put tens of million of gallons of raw sewage into our groundwater and surface water every day. Makawao and Kahalu'u are already seeing the impacts of outdated cesspools on our environment and shortly other communities will as well. The state is taking these early warning signs seriously and enacted Act 125 to ban cesspools and encourage upgrades. This is an important step towards protecting Hawaii's drinking water, public health, and environment. But so much more is needed.



NEXT STEPS:

- Fund Department of Health drinking water monitoring programs cut by federal lawmakers.
- Encourage homeowners to convert sooner with additional funding options.
- Support innovations in wastewater management like composting toilets and gray water reuse.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Cesspools are little more than holes in the ground that discharge human waste. They don't treat wastewater, or contain contamination. They just pass it through.
- Hawaii's cesspools put 53 million gallons of raw sewage into the groundwater daily. We rely on our groundwater for over 90% of our drinking water.
- This release of untreated wastewater not only threatens public health by the potential spread of disease but also brings harm to our aquatic and nearshore environments.
- Addressing cesspools can be costly for homeowners—replacements cost \$20,000 - \$100,000 each. Additional financial support must be made available to those who cannot take advantage of the tax credit made available by Act 125.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support legislation this session that offers additional financial aid to homeowners in need of cesspool upgrades.

Support additional funding for the Department of Health and investment in wastewater infrastructure at state and county levels.

Stay up to date on this issue and others with the Sierra Club of Hawaii by joining us for Capitol Watch 2018 at hawaicapitolwatch.org



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