

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
L.T. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

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DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805
March 15, 2022

KEAUKAHA LESSEE
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Lessee:

Subject: DHHL Keaukaha Cesspool Assessment and Survey

Governor David Ige signed Act 125 into law in 2017, requiring the upgrade, conversion, or sewer connection of all cesspools in the State by January 1, 2050. There are an estimated 2,500 cesspools located on Hawaiian Home Lands. As a result, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is assessing the location and usage of cesspools on Hawaiian Home Lands throughout the State.

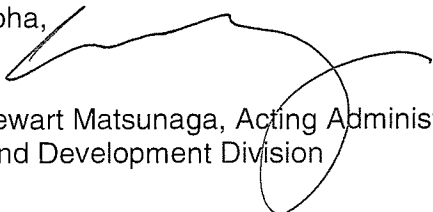
Cesspools are underground wastewater collection systems used to dispose of untreated sanitary waste. Cesspools largely consist of a puka surrounded by rock, blocks or concrete cylinder that has an open bottom and perforated sides. These systems are used to collect sewage from toilets, sinks, bathtubs, and washing machines, but cesspools do not treat the discharge. Untreated waste in a cesspool can have a variety of negative impacts on human and environmental health, including the contamination of drinking water and damage to land or aquatic ecosystems. See enclosed diagrams of various wastewater disposal methods.

As a first step, DHHL is conducting this in-house survey to identify the number of cesspools in the Keaukaha homestead. Please answer the questions in our survey and drop off at the East Hawaii District Office at 160 Baker Ave. A drop box with a sign will be located near the entrance to the office door. Next steps include ground truthing of cesspools within DHHL homestead properties and assessment of cesspools within other homestead areas.

The data collected from this survey is expected to provide an accurate information for officials to determine appropriate funding mechanisms to assist families in complying with Act 125.

Mahalo for your kokua and participation in responding to the cesspool survey. Should you have any questions, please call Kelbert Yoshida, Land Development Division at 620-9286.

Aloha,


Stewart Matsunaga, Acting Administrator
Land Development Division

C: East Hawaii District Office