

U.S. SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

Improving Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Hawaii

Hawaii's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure received a D+ rating in the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2019 Report Card.

- ✓ Hawaii is expected to receive at least \$210 million over 5 years through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to improve wastewater and drinking water systems.

Many small, disadvantaged, and rural communities in Hawaii heavily rely on technical assistance to access clean drinking water as well as finance and manage wastewater systems.

- ✓ \$75 million over 5 years for technical assistance and training to help small public water systems comply with national regulations.
- ✓ \$375 million over 5 years with at least \$250 million in technical assistance grants for non-profits to help water operators comply with Clean Water Act standards.
- ✓ \$50 million over 5 years for an EPA Circuit Rider Program to provide on-site help for owners and operators of small and medium publicly-owned treatment works.

Hawaii has an estimated 88,000 cesspools that result in 53 million gallons of raw sewage entering our groundwater and surface waters every day. The average cost to convert a cesspool to a septic system in Hawaii is \$23,000.

- ✓ \$250 million over 5 years to nonprofits to assist low and moderate income households with the construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater systems with priority given to those without access to sanitary sewer disposal systems.
- ✓ \$200 million over 5 years to publicly-owned treatment works or nonprofits to cover the cost of connecting a household to a municipal or private wastewater system.
- ✓ \$25 million over 5 years to promote workforce development in the water utility sector.

Much of Hawaii's infrastructure will need to be moved to be protected from rising sea levels.

- ✓ \$500 million over 5 years to help drinking water and waste water systems become more resilient to natural hazards, cybersecurity threats, and extreme weather events.

Lead-contaminated drinking water is plaguing communities all across the country. Hawaii is currently testing water at public schools and childcare facilities for lead.

- ✓ \$200 million over 5 years to detect lead contamination in school and child care facility drinking water.