

Waimanalo Gulch Landfill Expansion  
Community Meetings  
Responses to Questions and Comments

The following questions/comments were raised by community members at the **August 10, 2006 meeting at Kapolei Hale**. Responses were provided by the Department of Environmental Services except where noted.

**Q:** Who is responsible for the maintenance of Farrington Highway in front of the Landfill?

**A:** The State Department of Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of Farrington Highway fronting the landfill.

**Q:** What is the status of the current fines at the landfill?

**A:** To be provided by Waste Management of Hawaii.

**Q:** Who monitors the landfill and what are the monitoring criteria and schedule?

**A:** *The response below is provided by the State Department of Health.* The state Department of Health regulates solid waste management facilities, including landfills. Under state solid waste regulations, and the landfill's permit, the owner and/or operator of the landfill are required to monitor the performance of the landfill, with oversight and independent inspections by the Department of Health for compliance. For example, the owner/operator is responsible to conduct groundwater and explosive gas monitoring, and submit results to the Department for review. The Department reviews the monitoring program and results for compliance with state regulations and permit conditions. In the case of Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, groundwater monitoring is to occur on a quarterly basis, while gas monitoring is to occur on a monthly basis.

**Q:** What is the process for visiting the landfill should anyone want to go?

**A:** Landfill visits should be arranged with Russell Nanod, Community Affairs Manager at 668-2985 or 479-5140.

**Q:** Why is the city not honoring its commitment to close the landfill in 2008?

**A:** The City acknowledges that commitments were made to close Waimanalo Gulch with the implied understanding that a new landfill could be located and permitted on the island to accept waste. The issue of selecting a new landfill that would be operational, despite having been reviewed by several parties, could not be accomplished by the May 2008 deadline when the current State Special Use Permit (SUP) Amendment, will expire. The parties reviewing this matter included the Department of Environmental Services, the prior

administration's Mayor's Advisory Committee on Landfill Siting, the current Administration, and the Honolulu City Council.

As a result of these deliberations, the City has determined that it is in the best interest for all communities of our island to continue use of Waimanalo Gulch until all space available is filled.

- Q:** Why did the previous assessment of landfill sites not include excavation costs for the expansion as excavation was needed for the current site?
- A:** Assessment of landfill sites evaluated all sites on a level field. All sites would require some amount of excavation; however, precise costs could not be determined with the information available, so excavation costs were not used as part of the evaluation criteria for all sites.
- Q:** What were the provisions of the contract between Mayor Harris and Waste Management that impact on the current expansion?
- A:** Amendment No. 5 provides increased time for landfill operations; adjusted unit prices for operating fee, composite liner, and excavation; extended post closure maintenance period to 30 years; and provided contractor to design, construct, and finance expansion and obtain all permits required for construction and operations.
- Q:** Why was the rock berm built at the landfill and will the expansion create the need for more of these?
- A:** Answer to be provided by Waste Management of Hawaii.
- Q:** Has the capacity at the landfill been exceeded if so why was that allowed to happen?
- A:** Answer to be provided by Waste Management of Hawaii.
- Q:** Has the capacity of H-POWER been exceeded?
- A:** The contracted capacity at H-POWER is 561,600 tons annually. H-POWER has processed about 600,000 tons annually for sixteen years. On July 18, 2006, H-POWER accepted its 10 millionth ton of waste.
- Q:** What is the status of permit modifications and have they been utilized to negate prior violations – if so why?
- A:** Answer to be provided by Waste Management of Hawaii.
- Q:** Was a portion or all of the tipping fees suppose to be earmarked for developing alternatives and if so how much and was this fund used for other purposes by the Harris administration and if so what and why?
- A:** We do not know of any plan to earmark a portion of the tipping fees for developing alternatives.