



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO EVALUATE AND CORRECT EXISTING SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS IN KAKAAKO.

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu's wastewater treatment system serves a population of nearly a million, as well as various commercial and industrial facilities located within the City; and

WHEREAS, Honolulu was previously cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for illegal sanitary sewer overflows throughout the City's collection system and effluent violations from its two largest wastewater treatment plants, which violated the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and Sections 301 and 402 of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the U.S. EPA Consent Decree adopted in 2010, Honolulu was required to pay a \$1.6 million penalty, upgrade and repair its sewer collection system, and implement an improved cleaning and maintenance program to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows from the City's sewer system to meet EPA deadlines for the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant (2024) and for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (2035); and

WHEREAS, since 2007, the Council has appropriated an aggregate of \$34.5 million dollars for the *Sewer Condition Assessment Program* to monitor the structural condition of sewers, and has appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars for sewage system pipeline and sewage system upgrades/repairs; and

WHEREAS, during the past decade, residents and recreational users in the Kakaako Community Development District have complained about foul sewer odors in the Auahi/Keawe Streets intersections, in and around the Auahi/Kamakee Streets intersection, at the South/Queen Streets intersection, at the South Street/Ala Moana Boulevard intersection, at the South/Auahi Streets intersection, at the Auahi/Queen Streets intersection, and at the Piikoi Street/Ala Moana Boulevard intersection, among others; and

WHEREAS, during a July 30, 2013 community meeting sponsored by area legislators, the Hawaii Community Development Executive Director attributed the sewage gases/stench problem to the presence of the City's Ala Moana Pumping Station, which serves to transport sewage waste from most of urban Honolulu to the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant; and



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WHEREAS, the Hawaii Community Development Authority estimates that as many as 5,000 new residential units could be constructed in the Kakaako Mauka area within the next five years, and that this number could increase to 20,667 new residential units by the year 2030; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Department of Environmental Services and other appropriate departments, including, but not limited to, Facility Maintenance, Design and Construction, and Planning and Permitting, is requested to provide the Council with responses to the following questions involving noxious sewage gases/stench in the Kakaako area:

1. What is causing the noxious sewage gases/stench odors in Kakaako, including the locations identified at specific street intersections above?
2. What is the City, through its Department of Environmental Services and other appropriate departments, doing to correct and eliminate this problem, including the implementation of recommendations of the study by R.M. Towill conducted in the past year?
3. What is causing the noxious sewage gases/stench odors to emanate from the Ala Moana Pumping Station, which collects most of the sewage flowing through City sewerlines?
4. What is the City, through its Department of Environmental Services and other appropriate departments, doing to correct and eliminate this problem?
5. Why has the City Department of Environmental Services provided conditional approvals for sewer line hook-ups for pending projects to build up to 5,000 new residential units when the current noxious sewage gases/stench odors problem has not yet been resolved? What conditions have been attached to the approvals given to recent major residential projects in Kakaako?
6. How does the City Department of Environmental Services ensure that current problems regarding noxious sewage gases/stench odors are addressed when determining whether to grant conditional approvals for sewer line hook-ups to proposed new projects?

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Environmental Services is requested to provide its responses to the foregoing questions no later than thirty days after the adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force created by the Department of Environmental Services to identify the cause of the sewer odors and corrective actions needed shall include community representatives from the affected areas with experience in plumbing, engineering, sanitation, or building maintenance and shall recommend corrective actions for the problem with progress reports and preliminary recommendations for short- and long-term solutions by January 31, 2014, and March 31, 2014, respectively; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Directors of Environmental Services, Facility Maintenance, Design and Construction, and Planning and Permitting.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Fukunaga

Ann Kobayashi

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

October 23, 2013
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers