The Honorable Ikaika Anderson  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  

Dear Chair Anderson and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Use of Renewable Fuel by H-POWER

Thank you for your letter dated May 4, 2020, regarding supplemental fuel for H-POWER. The amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) received at H-POWER from commercial haulers has decreased from normal due to the COVID-19 situation, while the amount of residential MSW collected by City haulers has actually increased. Prior to the COVID-19 emergency, the City was on-track to be just slightly below the annual tonnage requirement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Because the overall decrease in the amount of MSW received at H-POWER is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City recently sent notices to the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) and Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture (Covanta) of a force majeure event. The City will continue to work with HECO and Covanta through the COVID-19 emergency and reasonably believes this unprecedented event warrants relief from the tonnage and energy delivery requirements in the respective contracts.

The H-POWER facility's permits and applicable ordinances limit the amount of recyclable material or green waste that can be accepted at H-POWER but we are exploring alternate sources of waste, such as recycling residue, to make up for the shortfall. We are also updating a life cycle study for different types of waste materials to determine under what conditions it would be more preferable to ship the recyclable items to distant foreign markets, or to recover the energy locally at H-POWER.

Under the Chapter 9 of the Revised Ordinances of the City and County of Honolulu, H-POWER can accept this combustible wood material from PVT at the
commercial or special handling tip fees with a current waste profile. For more information on submitting a waste profile for review, PVT can contact the H-POWER Supplemental Waste Program at 682-2099. PVT can also apply to our Refuse Division for a recycling residue discount by calling 768-3200. A recycling residue discount may be granted as long as certain requirements are met to qualify the waste material as recycling residue.

Sincerely

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

APPROVED:

Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.
Managing Director