

WINDWARD AHUPUA`A ALLIANCE

From the Peaks of *Na Ko'olau* to the Outer Reefs

Community-Based Planning
Sustainable Economic Development
Restoration, Preservation, Protection & Public Access
Educational & Cultural Programs

Honolulu City Council Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Bill 15 - CD2

EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET - July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

Department of Environmental Services

Object Code #3049 - #17 Off-Island Shipping \$10,000,000

My name is Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a 501c3 non-profit which focuses on a wide range of solid waste issues ranging from illegal dumping to recycling to waste-to-energy to landfills.

Today I am here to testify on the *Administration's* Operating Budget request for \$10,000,000 to ship approximately 10% of Honolulu's municipal solid waste across the *Pacific Ocean* to the *Roosevelt Regional Landfill* in Washington State.

Although *WAA* has raised objections to shipping Honolulu's solid waste for the past four years on environmental grounds, today I want to address the financial implications of doing so and what changes need to be addressed by the *Council*.

I've spoken with many of you individually; however, I did not raise the issue at the the Regular Council Public Hearing on April 22 and the Special Budget Committee meeting on May 18 because I couldn't be in two places at the same time.

However, after receiving additional information about pending legal actions against the *City* in the past two weeks, we've now modified our position.

Although we continue to object to shipping solid waste across the *Pacific Ocean*, we acknowledge it is necessary because the *City* has petitions before the *State Land Use Commission* and the *City Planning Commission* to expand the *Waimanalo Gulch Landfill* and to extend its lifespan by an additional 15 years.

To support the two applications, the *City* says that rolling out its comprehensive curbside recycling program, funding *H-Power's* third boiler, and shipping trash demonstrates its willingness to reduce the landfill's negative impacts upon the community.

However, these applications have been challenged by at least three Leeward Coast elected officials, at least two community groups, and at least one major landowner. They argue amongst other issues that the ruling by the *LUC* on March 7, 2008, shutting down *Waimanalo Gulch* on November 1, 2009, should prevail.

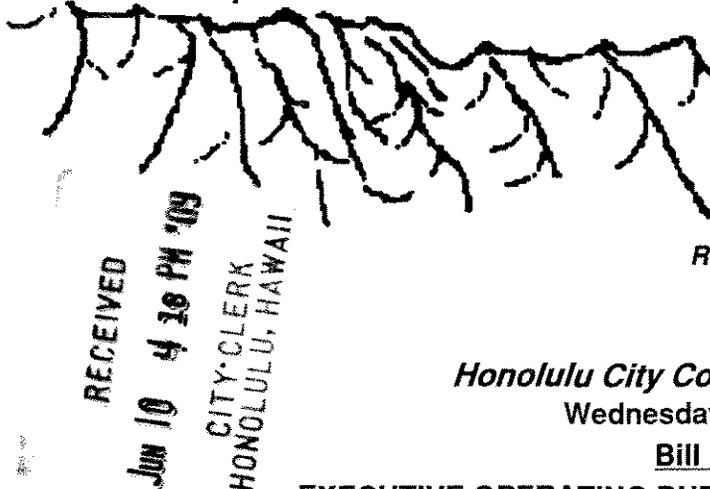
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COUNCIL



I urge that this *Council* take the time to inform itself about these two likely and mutually exclusive scenarios.

The two administrative bodies will be holding a series of hearings and meetings over the next 60 to 90 days - including one this afternoon at 1 pm. A final decision is expected before November 1.

And then there's the volatile petroleum market which has seen a 25% increase in bunker fuel over the past three months since the budget was submitted. Even assuming that the *City* prevails in its two petitions, it still has to deal with this issue. The amount currently allocated will not cover the costs and will run out well before the fiscal year does.

The alternative scenario is that the intervenors will prevail and *Waimanalo Gulch* will close down on November 1, 2009. That unleashes a whole new set of actions which need to be addressed.

Therefore, I urge that you raise Object Code #3049 - #17 Off-Island Shipping \$10,000,000 to at least \$20,000,000 to cover additional shipping costs if the *City* prevails.

However, if the *City* is forced to close down *Waimanalo Gulch*, then this *Council* needs to get ready to fast-track the process to select another site and to get it ready to meet *EPA* and *Department of Health* standards while allocating sufficient funding to ship approximately 80% of Honolulu's municipal solid waste to the mainland over the next several years.

A conservative estimate through June 30, 2010, would be \$100,000,000 and each year thereafter through June 30, 2014.

In closing, I again want to make it very clear that, although the *Windward Ahupua'a Alliance* still opposes the shipping of solid waste across the *Pacific Ocean*, we understand the necessity of doing so and urge that you increase the funding now to reflect what is happening in the world petroleum markets and that you be prepared to deal with other financial issues should the challenges to *Waimanalo Gulch's* expansion and extension prevail.