

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Voting Members:

Ann Kobayashi, Chair; Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ikaika Anderson, Nestor R. Garcia, Gary H. Okino

Committee Meeting Held
January 12, 2010

Honorable Todd K. Apo
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Infrastructure, to which was referred Resolution 09-361 entitled:

"RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD WITH IDEAS AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE CITY'S PROBLEMS WITH THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE, INCLUDING HOW TO DEAL WITH LANDFILLS,"

introduced on December 22, 2009, reports as follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to encourage and request companies and individuals to provide the City with ideas, proposals, or prospective technologies that may provide creative solutions to Oahu's waste management needs and energy demands.

Your Committee considered and approved a proposed CDI version of Resolution 09-361 to:

1. Request that the innovative solutions and technologies for the disposal of waste include those for ash; and
2. Extend the deadline for the submittal of ideas and solutions by the public from January 31, 2010 to March 31, 2010.

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JAN 27 2010

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7

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Your Committee on Public Infrastructure is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 09-361, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 09-361, CD1. (Ayes: Kobayashi, Anderson, Dela Cruz, Garcia, Okino - 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,


Committee Chair

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JAN 27 2010

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD WITH IDEAS AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE CITY'S PROBLEMS WITH THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND ASH, INCLUDING HOW TO DEAL WITH LANDFILLS.

WHEREAS, historically, the method of disposing of waste in Honolulu has been via landfills, where our refuse was simply dumped on the ground, and later covered with dirt; and

WHEREAS, our society has become much more aware of the danger of landfills polluting our ground and our water and potentially leading to cancers and birth defects; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 342G, and Section 9-1.13, ROH 1990, a 25-year Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) was developed in October of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the city reports an estimated 1.8 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) are generated per year, and estimates that 2.1 million tons of waste will be generated on the island of Oahu by the year 2015 and an estimated 2.4 million tons by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the current H-Power Waste to Energy (WTE) facility incinerates roughly 33% of our MSW, leaving about 338,000 tons of waste to be disposed of at Waimanalo Gulch Landfill (located in Kapolei); and

WHEREAS, the current WTE facility has been in existence since May 1990 and there is uncertainty as to its remaining life span, its capacity and ability to continue to provide an alternative means of managing MSW disposal and the growing future demand for waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill is the city's only MSW landfill on the Island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, the expiration dates of the permits for the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill have been extended several times, and no other site has been selected as a replacement or as a back-up; and

WHEREAS, the city reports 2,200 tons of MSW per day is processed at the H-Power facility resulting in the generation of approximately 7% of Oahu's production of electricity or about 46 megawatts; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the city reports a 90% reduction in volume of MSW processed through H-Power leaving 10% residual waste and ash which are currently disposed of at the Waimanalo Gulch landfill; and

WHEREAS, the city has recently entered into an agreement to allow 100,000 tons of MSW per year to be shipped off-island. This agreement is scheduled to expire in three years; and

WHEREAS, the city has approved and funded a third boiler to the existing H-Power facility to process part of the excess MSW currently being disposed of in the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill, currently at a rate of over 300,000 tons per year; and

WHEREAS, to remain consistent with HRS, Sections 342G-22(a) and 342G-24(b), the city formed a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). In its findings and recommendations, the SWAC recognized a continued need for the evaluation of additional waste-to-energy resources and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the city has indicated a definitive need to continue to operate and maintain a landfill beyond the designed life of the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill on the island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, the city council acknowledges the expressed wishes of many Oahu residents and businesses to close the existing Waimanalo Gulch Landfill operation as was initially indicated by former and current city administrations; and

WHEREAS, the city council acknowledges the expressed concerns of many citizens regarding any future plans to site a new MSW landfill within their community; and

WHEREAS, the city council recognizes Oahu's MSW, including ash, as a potentially valuable resource that could impact the economy and the environment as well as create new local industries and economic stimuli; and

WHEREAS, the city council acknowledges a responsibility to reduce the dependency on conventional methods of disposing of Oahu's waste, including ash, as it may cause further harm to our communities and our environment; and

WHEREAS, the city council acknowledges prospective technologies and companies both domestic and foreign who have expressed both their interest and capabilities in providing innovative solutions to Oahu's waste management needs; and



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WHEREAS, the city council acknowledges that these prospective technologies and companies may possess certain processes and strategies that are proprietary and unique in nature, which may prevent them from participating in the conventional RFP process; and

WHEREAS, the city council recognizes that although limited in land resources, due to the confines of our seashores, Oahu is abundant in natural resources, such as solar, wind, water, wave, and thermal energy, and human resources, including creative individuals that continue to push the barriers of emerging technologies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu, recognizing the intent of the city and the wishes of the public at large to address the growing concern of managing its waste, including ash, and reducing its dependency on fossil fuel, that it hereby encourages and requests companies and individuals to provide the City and County of Honolulu with such ideas, proposals, or prospective technologies that may provide creative solutions to Oahu's waste management needs and energy demands; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the ideas and proposals shall be delivered in written form to the respective City Council members prior to end of business day, March 31, 2010.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ann Kobayashi

Todd Apo

Charles Djou

Donovan Dela Cruz

Nestor Garcia

Rod Tam

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 22, 2009
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers