

## **Testimony to the Hawaii County Environmental Management Commission May 26, 2021**

Aloha Chair Adams and Commissioners,

I am Sandra Demoruelle in Naalehu and, once again, I am commenting on THE NAALEHU AND PAHALA SEWER PROJECTS. While listening to public testimony at the County Council special budget hearing on May 18<sup>th</sup>, I was struck by the number of important fiscal needs presented by the public - from Kona parks and Alii Drive sewage lines, to an arborist, ecologist and \$50,000 for your EMC high priority of a “life-cycle” analyst for our renewable solid waste. The good news is that EVERYTHING can find needed funding if DEM would only stop throwing money away on consultants designing expensive projects to close the illegal Ka’u large-capacity cesspools.

As Ka’u’s EMC Commissioner, Lee McIntosh, said in his May 18<sup>th</sup> Bill 21 and Bill 22 written testimony, just go back to the original septic conversion plan (costing the County taxpayers only \$403,000), which completed the Pahala AOC at the Senior Center on schedule on September 28, 2018, as can be seen on the Semi-Annual Report, attached.

Please urge the County Council to save the County \$31,528,000 this year alone for “designing” huge Ka’u sewer projects just to get 99 homes in Pahala and 144 homes in Naalehu off the County-owned cesspools.

Instead, please ask the Council to use this money for the good of the public to pay for an ecologist, arborist, solid waste recycling lifecycle analyst, the Kona parks and Alii Drive sewage lines – and a lot more.

Don’t allow the Department of Environmental Management to waste this \$31,528,000 paying more to the same outside contractors to design wastewater plants that are not needed.

Mahalo for your attention to my concerns.

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