

**DIRECTOR’S QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORT
TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

**October 26, 2022
Agenda item VI**

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. County Council (Since last report posted on 7/21/22)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
<i>Completed items</i>		
Bill 200, Draft 2	Amends Chapter 20 of the Hawai’i County Code relating to vehicle disposal.	9/6 – Amended to Draft 2. Forwarded to EMC and Director for review and comment. 9/21 – Approved by Council on 1 st read. 10/4 – Positive recommendations by EMC and Director transmitted to Council. 10/5 – Approved by Council on 2 nd read.
<i>Active items</i>		
Communication No. 1034	Nominates Dell Otsuka to EMC to fill a District 3 vacancy; term ending 12/31/25.	10/18 – Positive recommendation from RAWEEMC
Bill 223	Amends Capital Budget to add \$17 million appropriation to capital budget for “Hilo WWTP Upgrades – SRF”	10/18 – Positive recommendation from FC
Bill 225	Authorizes Mayor to enter agreement for State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Loan of \$17 million and authorizing issuance of G.O. bonds for Hilo WWTP Upgrades.	10/18 – Positive recommendation from FC
<i>Future items</i>		
	Review and update of County’s zoning and subdivision codes (Chapter 23 and 25)	Planning Department is taking the first step to engage with the community for input with adoption of the code revisions anticipated in 2024.

2. Legislature

The 2023 regular session of the Legislature will convene on January 18, 2023.

2. SOLID WASTE DIVISION

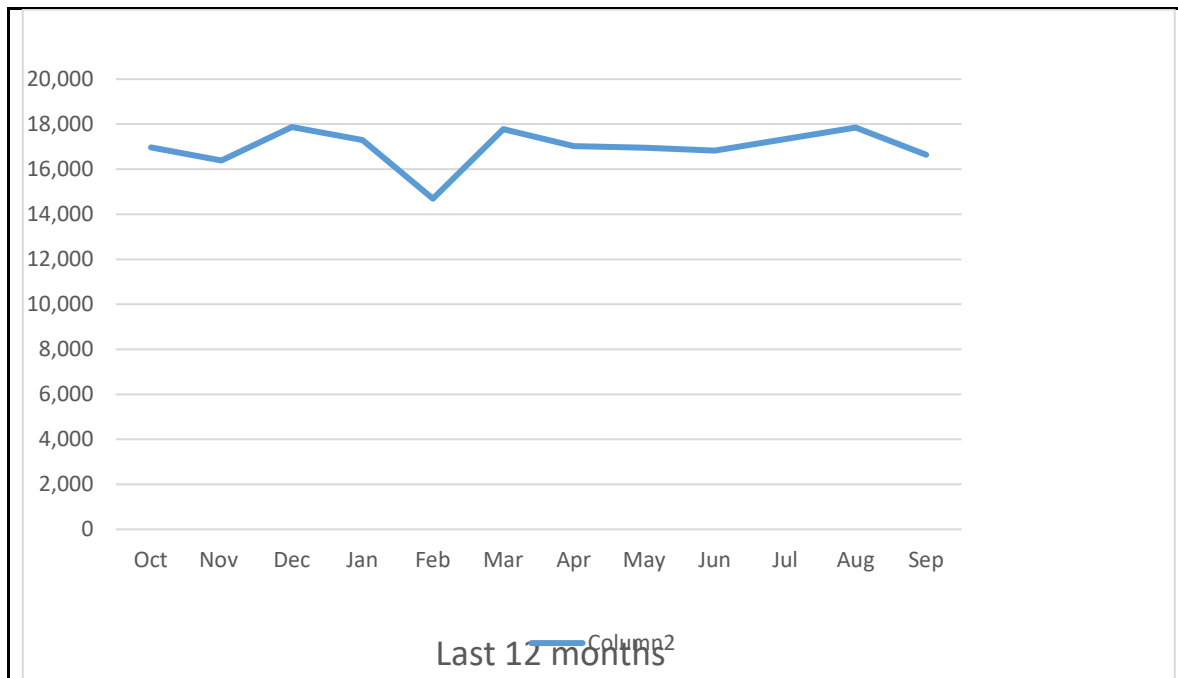
RELOAD FACILITY UPDATE (new data shaded in gray)

Month/Year	Total Tons Taken to Sort Station

Oct 2021	4,274.84
Nov 2021	4,110.58
Dec 2021	4,412.64
Jan 2022	4,119.67
Feb 2022	3,910.66
Mar 2022	4,312.99
Apr 2022	4,066.66
May 2022	4,316.79
Jun 2022	4,141.05
Jul 2022	4,109.14
Aug 2022	4,041.56
Sep 2022	3,721.44
Totals	49,538.02

When time permits, SWD staff removes the corrugated cardboard from the trash and places it in a roll-off for recycling.

WHSL MONTHLY LANDFILL TONNAGES



Oct 2021	16,974.05
Nov 2021	16,392.27
Dec 2021	17,782.47
Jan 2022	17,301.02
Feb 2022	14,689.88
Mar 2022	17,780.90
Apr 2022	17,020.72
May 2022	16,947.70

Jun 2022	16,821.88
Jul 2022	17,331.84
Aug 2022	17,852.37
Sep 2022	16,643.39
Totals	203,538.49

MONTHLY TRANSFER STATION TONNAGES

Month/Year	EHRSS	WHSL
Oct 2021	3,456.17	8,716.66
Nov 2021	3,274.30	8,102.67
Dec 2021	3,446.27	9,097.38
Jan 2021	3,276.92	9,312.59
Feb 2021	3,086.50	7,125.42
Mar 2021	3,376.69	8,878.20
Apr 2022	3,158.53	8,183.80
May 2022	3,382.30	8,416.06
Jun 2022	3,232.58	7,559.68
Jul 2022	3,170.79	8,631.04
Aug 2022	3,072.41	8,320.43
Sep 2022	2,837.48	7,769.79
Totals	38,770.94	100,113.72

The above table is to include data on the waste disposed in the landfill (not the greenwaste or recycling data).

1. Life Cycle Analysis status

This study is in its final stages of analysis modeling and presentation of results and is expected to be completed by the end of December.

2. Recycling and Landfill Diversion updates

Craig Kawaguchi is the acting Recycling Coordinator as of October 17, following the departure of Sanne Berrig. He has administered the HI-5 Deposit Beverage Container Program for the County since 2004, and worked briefly at the Kea'au Reuse & Recycling Center when that site first opened.

Volcano Certified Redemption Center – The CRC is being put back out to bid soon, for the third time. This bid focuses on reaching out to nonprofits and the community sector and other business sectors. Staffing at all CRCs on our island is still an issue.

E-Waste Program – We are still evaluating the single bid received. As it remains an open procurement, nothing specific can be said. Mr. K's has been holding free collections for the past couple weeks. DEM is uncertain how long this will continue.

3. WASTEWATER DIVISION

1. Pāhala and Nā'ālehu AOC

The Wastewater Division of the Department of Environmental Management has submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency its Feasibility Evaluation Report to identify the legal and technical feasibility of four potential wastewater treatment project options to replace the large capacity cesspools in these two communities.

The report will be posted upon its acceptance by the EPA. DEM has also begun the next phase of the process, engaging with consultants to begin the Preliminary Engineering Report on the feasible options.

A public community informational meeting was held on August 31 at the Nā'ālehu Community Center. More than 30 residents of Pāhala and Nā'ālehu attended to learn about the status of the gang cesspool closure project, and to ask questions of DEM representatives in attendance.

The slides from the presentation, including a listing of the four options, are attached to this report. The next public meeting will be scheduled for February 2023 in the Pāhala Community Center.

The revised AOC may be viewed here: <https://www.epa.gov/uic/closure-cesspools-pahala-and-naalehu-administrative-order-consent-county-hawaii>

2. West Hawai'i wastewater projects

(Oral report)

3. Hilo WWTP upgrades

(Oral report)

4. Wastewater plans

1. Addition of wastewater services for the Puna District¹

The County of Hawai'i, Department of Environmental Management is evaluating the feasibility of and potential locations for the addition of wastewater services and facilities for the Puna District in the context of the Kīlauea Eruption Recovery planning process (Proposed Action). As the proposing agency, the County of Hawai'i has determined that the Proposed Action may have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, will likely require the preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS). Per Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11 Chapter 200.1-14(d)(2), the County is preparing a PEIS in accordance with Subchapter 10 and seeks public comments on the issues you feel should be evaluated in the PEIS. **See Footnote (1) for a link to the project website.**

2. Puakō and South Kohala Regional Wastewater Master Plan

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management is preparing a Wastewater Master Plan for wastewater services in the Puakō and South Kohala regional area. The regional area includes the communities of Waimea, Waikoloa Village, Kawaihae, and Puakō. The overall

¹ Puna wastewater website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50e624065fa641598326febe6316327b>

general scope of the services to be performed by the consultant (AECOM) for the project shall include recommendations for the County of Hawai'i's sanitary sewer system through the planning period, including wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal. The planning period will be 30 years (2022 to 2052). The engineering planning work shall be documented into several reports, with the major document being a wastewater master plan.

The master plan shall substantiate the need for the proposed facilities, identify feasible alternatives, and provide a systematic evaluation of these alternatives considering the unique demographic (including future growth and development), geotechnical, topographic, hydrologic, and institutional characteristics of the area. The master plan shall demonstrate that the recommendations are implementable from legal, institutional, financial, physical and management standpoints.

Deliverables and Due Dates

Notice to Proceed 7-17-22

Project Definition Report

- Draft by 4-8-23
- Final by 7-8-23

Wastewater Master Plan

- Draft by 1-18-24
- Prefinal by 8-18-24
- Final by 1-18-25

1. Information requests from Commissioners

2. (Gaffney) How does DEM respond to Water Quality Advisories regarding high bacteria counts from the Department of Health, Clean Water Branch?

Department of Health does its own testing and reporting and they don't necessary coordinate with us when and how. Therefore, when we receive a report, we investigate the site and our records to see if we had any sewer spills or blockage that caused the incident.

3. (Adams) What is the net cost for the County – median and range per appropriate quantity – to:

1. Dispose of residential solid waste and hazardous waste
2. Recycle different materials left at Solid Waste Division facilities?
3. Updates on ISWMP priorities progress and efforts to obtain EPA Infrastructure grants.
4. Thoughts on setting up an advance deposit fee on all or a subset of goods to fund SW disposal

(Oral report from Division Chief Rivera)



Pāhala and Nā'ālehu Large Capacity Cesspool Closures

County of Hawai'i • August 31, 2022 • Nā'ālehu Community Center

Agenda

- Pule and introductions
- Ground rules
- Purpose
- Wastewater treatment terminology
- Progress update since March meeting in Pāhala
- Requirements of the revised Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) signed by County of Hawai'i and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- What's next?
- Online resources
- Questions & answers

Pule and Introductions

- Welcome our kupuna - Pule
- Jessie Marques, Facilitator
- Community members and leaders
- County of Hawai'i personnel

Ground rules

- Please be respectful.
- Place cell phones on mute/vibrate.
- Please hold all questions until end of presentation.
- The facilitator will recognize one person to speak at a time.
- Pāhala and Nā'ālehu residents will be given the opportunity to ask questions first and others to follow as time permits. All will be able to provide written comments and questions.
- Questions should be held to 2 minutes.
- Profanity or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Purpose

- Engage directly with community members about the status of the cesspool closure projects within both Pāhala and Nā'ālehu.
- Reinforce the County's commitment to comply with the revised AOC.
- Ask for your cooperation and support in seeing these projects through to completion.

Wastewater treatment terminology

- AOC: Administrative Order on Consent. Legally binding agreement approved in June 2017 between EPA and County; revised in August 2022.
- Package plant: Pre-manufactured, self-contained treatment facilities used to treat wastewater in small communities.
- Collection system: The public sewer system that collects wastewater from individual parcels and conveys it to a treatment plant.
- SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act
- DOH: Hawai'i Department of Health
- Individual wastewater system (IWS): A decentralized system for treating wastewater on a parcel's property. Allowed by DOH when a parcel is considered inaccessible to a wastewater collection system. Examples include septic systems and aerobic treatment units (ATU).

Progress since March 2022 public meeting

- March 2022: Community meeting held in Pāhala to gauge potential for community support. EPA acknowledges revisions are needed to the 2017 AOC and reopens negotiations with County.
- June 2022: County signs Proposed Revised AOC. DEM engages consultants.
- July 2022: EPA signs Revised AOC on July 14, 2022 and circulates draft for public comment. DEM begins work on feasibility studies, public presentation, and website.
- August 12, 2022: Website launched
- August 22, 2022: Effective date of the final Revised AOC.

Revised AOC requirements – Pāhala cesspool closure milestones

- Launch webpage – 30 days after Aug. 22 (Sept. 21, 2022) ✓
 - Launched Aug. 12, 2022
- Initial public meeting – 45 days after Aug. 22 (Oct. 6, 2022) ✓
 - Tonight
- Feasibility Evaluation Report – 60 days after Aug. 22 (Oct. 21, 2022)
- Preliminary Engineering Report – 180 days after approval of FER
- Environmental Information Document – 180 days after approval of PER
- Implementation Plan – 30 days after approval of EID
- **Large Capacity Cesspool closure – No later than July 21, 2026**

Revised AOC requirements – Nā‘ālehu cesspool closure milestones

- Launch webpage – 30 days after Aug. 22 (Sept. 21, 2022) ✓
 - Launched Aug. 12, 2022
- Initial public meeting – 45 days after Aug. 22 (Oct. 6, 2022) ✓
 - Tonight
- Feasibility Evaluation Report – 60 days after Aug. 22 (Oct. 21, 2022)
- Preliminary Engineering Report – 300 days after approval of FER
- Environmental Information Document – 365 days after approval of PER
- Implementation Plan – 60 days after approval of EID
- **Large Capacity Cesspool closure – No later than Dec. 31, 2027**

Revised AOC requirements – Options being evaluated in the feasibility report

- Package plants and new collection systems for each community
- Package plants connected to the existing collection systems in each community
- A maintenance contract model individual wastewater system program for both communities
- An operating permit model individual wastewater system program for both communities
- The County may evaluate additional project options.



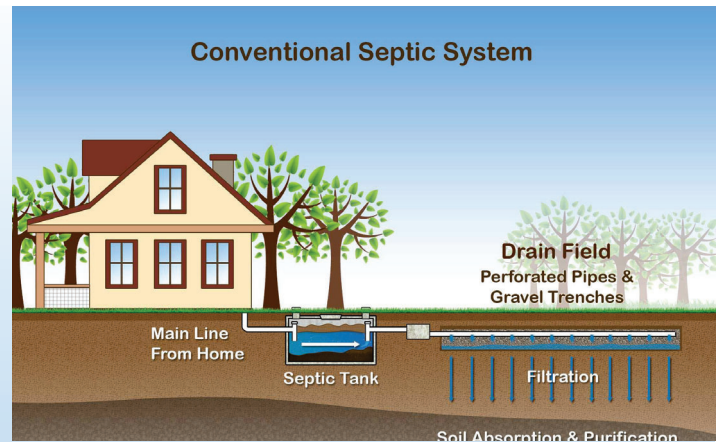
A **package plant** is a small centralized wastewater treatment plant. Unlike the Individual Wastewater Systems shown on the next slide, wastewater is conveyed to a package plant through sewer laterals and mains.

*The images on this slide and the next slide are for illustration only. The County has not made any decisions regarding the merits of one option or another.



Orencia 1,500-gallon tank and block-lined seepage pit

Individual Wastewater Systems can be designed to fit different sizes of lots.



- Above left: Septic system for a small lot (the tank and seepage pit will be buried)
- Above right: Conventional sized septic system & leach field
- Right: An aerobic treatment unit, or ATU, is a type of individual wastewater system designed for small developments not accessible to a centralized sewer system.



What's next?

- Public outreach meetings will be held every February and August.
- February 2023 meeting in Pāhala (date to be announced)
 - Share the progress of the County's most recent semi-annual report to EPA.
 - Update on the Feasibility Evaluation Report
 - Update on the Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Notices will be mailed and emailed to people who have signed in, posted to newspapers, the County webpage, and the two community centers in Pāhala and Nā'ālehu.

Resources for More Information

- County website
 - <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/departments/environmental-management/pahala-naalehu/>
- EPA website
 - <https://www.epa.gov/uic/closure-cesspools-pahala-and-naalehu-administrative-order-consent-county-hawaii>
- Reminder: Sign in to receive notice of future meetings



Mahalo for your participation in tonight's meeting

Open for Questions

<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/departments/environmental-management/pahala-naalehu/>

808 961 8099

cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov

brenda.iokepa-moses@hawaiicounty.gov