

From: mak221@aol.com
To: [Sur, Peter](#); [mark koppel](#)
Subject: Hawaii will not be BURNING its trash
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:50:41 PM

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County of Hawai'i
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
345 Kekūanāo'a St. Suite 41 •
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July 26, 2023, 9am Meeting

Aloha Commissioners,

I start by thanking you for your service.

My name is:

Mark A. Koppel
P O Box 283
Hakalau, HI
96710

I am writing as a private citizen, including my o'hana and other friends, but not writing for any one of the several organizations I am a proud member of.

As I understand it, your consultants recommended landfilling our trash, yet you seem bent on BURNING it.

Please correct me if I am wrong, but

DRAFT ORDINANCE TO BAN RECYCLABLES FROM LANDFILLING 7/18/23
GEORJEAN ADAMS

A [DRAFT] ordinance amending THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 3, OF THE HAWAII COUNTY CODE 1983 (2016 EDITION AS AMENDED), RELATING TO PROHIBITION OF LANDFILLING OF DESIGNATED RECYCLABLE WASTES.

seems to call exactly for that.

In fact, under *current* EPA, other Federal and State laws, new incineration of trash to produce energy is illegal.

Let's start with the first problem:

1. BURNING. I keep capitalizing this because BURNING produces CO₂, the GHG that the entire world is working on lowering. There is no way around this. $C + O_2 = CO_2$. This is not allowed. I know all about HPOWER. This would never be allowed to open today, and is not allowed, according to my understanding, to burn more trash.

2. Waste from BURNING. CO₂ is not the only thing produced from

BURNING. There is something we'll loosely call "ash". It is highly toxic. Where is this supposed to go? Into the ocean? Left lying around? In a landfill?

3. Pollution from BURNING. CO2 and ash are only two. There are lots more extremely Toxic Chemicals that are produced. Especially from our ever-increasing supply of plastic. Some of them are known as "forever chemicals" because they may literally never disappear. Where they do go is into people's, especially children's lungs. Once in people's lungs, they cause irreparable damage to virtually every organ in the body. I know you honorable people don't want to be responsible for harming even a single person. Think of the lives lost; the medical costs for treatment; the disability payments for even a shortened life; the lawsuits against you.

I don't blame you commissioners at all for coming to the wrong conclusions. There is a lot of misinformation and disinformation out there. Much of it comes from corporate interests here and on O'ahu that want to BURN things just to make money. Some of it comes from legislators who have accepted donations from these corporations. You are far too honorable to bow to these interests.

What do other place on earth do? They use landfills. Even New York City sends its trash to Safe Burial landfills a hundred or more miles away.

I know waste-to-energy sounds like a win-win. In fact, it is a lose-lose.

I can guarantee you that if the County proposes burning trash, it will face years, possibly decades of lawsuits. People have awakened to the Climate Crisis which new BURNING will only exacerbate.

I trust you will think this over again and veto this totally wrong plan.
Again, thank you for thinking of the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo!!!!

Mark A. Koppel (sig.)