

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

**April 24, 2024
Agenda item VI**

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. County Council (Since last report posted on 1/18/24)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
<i>Completed items</i>		
Res. 415-24	Authorizes payment of funds for multi-year leases of 1 forklift, 1 dump truck, 1 super duty truck with utility body and crane for SWD	Pos. rec. FC 1/23/24 Adopted by Council 2/7/24
Res. 417-24	Authorizes payment of funds for multi-year leases of 4 walking floor trailers and 4 compacting trailers for SWD	Pos. rec. FC 2/6/24 Adopted by Council 2/21/24
Res. 418-24	Authorizes payment of funds for multi-year leases of 2 trailer-mounted pumps and 1 portable pump for WWD	Pos. rec. FC 2/6/24 Adopted by Council 2/21/24
Res. 419-24	Authorizes payment of funds for multi-year leases of 2 grapple trucks for SWD	Pos. rec. FC 2/6/24 Adopted by Council 2/21/24
Res. 420-24	Authorizes payment of funds for multi-year leases of 2 backhoes, 2 wheeled loaders, 6 roll-off trucks, 7 truck tractors for SWD	Pos. rec. FC 2/6/24 Adopted by Council 2/21/24
Res. 441-24	Authorizing Mayor to enter into an Administrative Order on Consent agreement with the U.S. EPA for Countywide Wastewater Improvements	Pos. rec. GOEAC 2/20/24 Adopted by Council 3/6/24
<i>Current items</i>		
Bill 140	Requires all solid waste facilities used for disposal, collection, and transfer of household waste be operated and open to the public at least two days per week.	PCIA: Ref. to EMC and DEM 3/19/24. Comments due 5/3/24.
Bill 136/137	Operating and Capital budgets for FY 24-25.	4/11: Presentation to FC Special Meeting.

2. Legislature

DEM has tracked bills throughout the 2024 regular session of the Legislature and continues to monitor the following bills. As of April 18 the bills are moving into conference committee:

- HB 1892 HD2 SD1
 - Part II: Amends the deadlines for required upgrades conversions, or connections for certain priority level 1 and priority level 2 cesspools. Part III: Authorizes and appropriates funds to the Department of Health to retain qualified consultants as necessary to identify necessary public outreach and education resources and tools and

- develop a comprehensive public outreach strategy and website to educate homeowners and wastewater industry professionals about information and resources regarding the State's cesspool upgrade, conversion, and connection requirements and deadlines. Part IV: Appropriates funds and establishes positions for the implementation of the cesspool compliance pilot grant project. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)
- HB 1896 HD2 SD1
 - Beginning 1/1/2027, prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, and distribution for use of any food packaging, food service ware, cosmetic, or personal care product that contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, with certain exceptions. Takes effect 1/1/2027. (SD1)
 - SB 2513 SD2 HD3
 - Establishes a 3-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology demonstration and implementation pilot program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater and cesspool technology systems; implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as priority level 1 in the 2021 Hawaii Cesspool Hazard Assessment and Prioritization Tool, 2021 Report and Technical Appendices; and establish similar prioritization categories for the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau. Requires the University of Hawaii Water Resource Research Center to submit annual interim reports and a final report to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Makes appropriations. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD3)
 - HB 2743 HD2 SD1
 - Requires the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center and the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii Cesspool Prioritization Tool to identify specific priority areas in which the county sewer system or other centralized treatment system could most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or eliminate cesspools before 1/1/2050. Authorizes the counties to designate sewer improvement districts. Beginning July 1, 2025, authorizes the counties to assess a cesspool pollution fee on real properties containing a cesspool. Authorizes each county to establish a county cesspool closure and mitigation special fund. Authorizes the counties to use cesspool pollution fee revenues or other revenues, including real property tax revenues, for certain activities that eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of cesspools, including the expansion of county sewer systems and the issuance of grants and low-interest loans to property owners. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 7/1/3000. (SD1)
 - SB 504 SD1 HD3 (2023 holdover)
 - Prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, and distribution for use of any food packaging, food service ware, cosmetic, or personal care product that contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, with certain exceptions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD3)
 - HB 1396 HD2 SD2 (2023 holdover)
 - Part I: Establishes and appropriates funds for a county cesspool pilot program in the Department of Health to work with each county to identify a priority area to expand the county sewage system or other centralized treatment system to connect individual

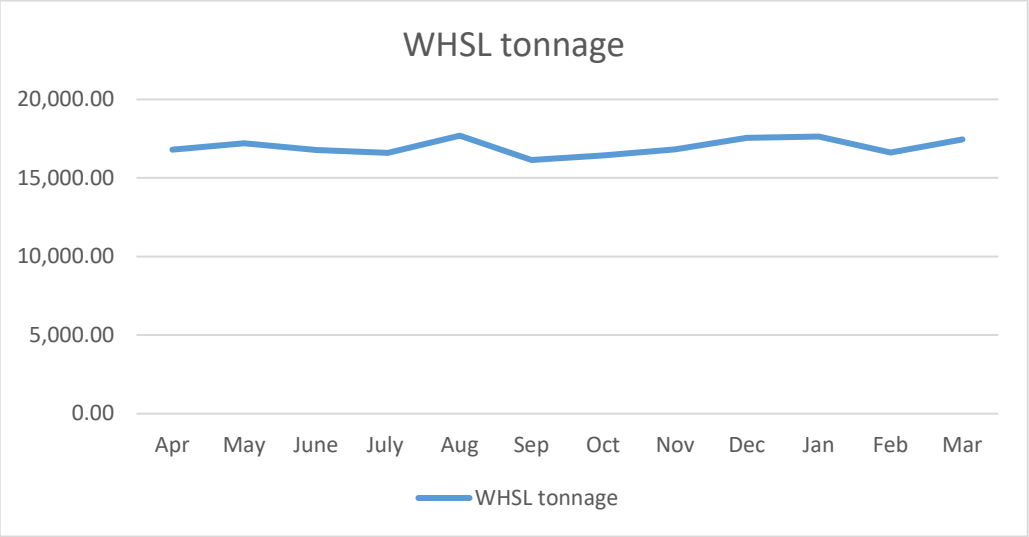
properties in the priority area and reduce or eliminate cesspools in the identified area. Part II: Creates a cesspool conversion section in the Department of Health to facilitate the conversion of cesspools within the State. Establishes and appropriates funds for positions. Part III: Requires the Department of Health to retain qualified consultants to identify necessary public outreach and education resources and tools, and develop a comprehensive public outreach strategy and educate homeowners regarding the State's cesspool upgrade, conversion, and connection requirements and deadlines. Part IV: Establishes, for all taxable years after December 31, 2023, an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a Director of Health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system. Requires that, effective 11/1/23, certain information regarding cesspools on real property be included in seller mandatory disclosures for real property transactions. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD2)

2. SOLID WASTE DIVISION PROJECTS AND UPDATES

RELOAD FACILITY UPDATE (new data shaded in gray)

Month/Year	Total Tons Taken to Sort Station
Apr 2023	3,799.26
May 2023	3,993.36
Jun 2023	4,324.80
July 2023	4,430.82
Aug 2023	4,091.16
Sep 2023	3,792.82
Oct 2023	4,125.99
Nov 2023	3,996.96
Dec 2023	4,427.42
Jan 2024	4,220.64
Feb 2024	3,642.65
Mar 2024	4,195.64
Total	49,041.52

WHSL MONTHLY LANDFILL TONNAGES

	
Apr 2023	16,809.28
May 2023	17,215.66
Jun 2023	16,789.75
July 2023	16,597.59
Aug 2023	17,693.23
Sept 2023	16,143.91
Oct 2023	16,426.09
Nov 2023	16,825.36
Dec 2023	17,550.13
Jan 2024	17,638.46
Feb 2024	16,626.57
Mar 2024	17,451.76
Total	203,304.64

MONTHLY TRANSFER STATION TONNAGES

Month/Year	EHRSS	WHSL
Apr 2023	2,940.49	3,561.94
May 2023	3,113.09	3,622.57
Jun 2023	3,412.17	3,657.98
July 2023	3,555.25	3,867.92
Aug 2023	3,180.37	3,753.74
Sep 2023	2,981.49	3,506.66
Oct 2023	3,286.29	3,632.70
Nov 2023	3,148.48	3,608.37
Dec 2023	3,556.53	3,938.45
Jan 2024	3,920.43	3,924.51
Feb 2024	2,797.54	3,564.28
Mar 2024	3,292.98	3,829.17
Total	39,185.11	44,486.29

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

1. Recycling, Greenwaste, and Landfill Diversion updates

EAST HAWAII ORGANICS FACILITY (EHOF)

DATE	GW Residential Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	GW Commerical Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	GW Transfer Stations Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	Total GW At EHOF (Tons)
JULY 2023	512.15	150.39	153.17	815.71
AUGUST 2023	583.86	168.61	159.98	912.45
SEPTEMBER 2023	665.57	176.69	161.86	1,004.12

OCTOBER 2023	618.37	198.05	156.79	973.21
NOVEMBER 2023	450.55	357.19	133.88	941.62
DECEMBER 2023	488.58	191.38	117.34	797.30
JANUARY 2024	649.96	432.40	182.84	1,265.20
FEBRUARY 2024	521.29	293.18	141.56	956.03
			TOTAL	7,665.64

**TRANSFER STATION
GREEN WASTE**

DATE	KEAAU (Tons)	PAHOA (Tons)	VOLCANO (Tons)	TOTAL TO EHOFF (Tons)
JULY 2023	30.47	89.89	32.81	153.17
AUGUST 2023	37.58	101.59	20.81	159.98
SEPTEMBER 2023	45.47	89.83	26.56	161.86
OCTOBER 2023	42.51	92.70	21.58	156.79
NOVEMBER 2023	36.90	78.89	18.09	133.88
DECEMBER 2023	27.71	74.99	14.64	117.34
JANUARY 2024	44.82	110.49	27.53	182.84
FEBRUARY 2024	31.67	92.40	17.49	141.56
				1,207.42

**WEST HAWAII ORGANICS FACILITY
(WHOF)**

DATE	GW From Residential To WHOF (Tons)	GW From Commercial to WHOF (Tons)	GW From Transfer Stations To WHOF (Tons)	Total GW At WHOF (Tons)
JULY 2023	782.51	1,211.74	557.96	2,552.21
AUGUST 2023	789.98	1,793.21	565.15	3,148.34
SEPTEMBER 2023	761.87	1,937.83	537.79	3,237.49
OCTOBER 2023	704.75	1,623.14	525.26	2,853.15

NOVEMBER 2023	612.06	1,670.34	452.54	2,734.94
DECEMBER 2023	655.85	1,254.68	436.23	2,346.76
JANUARY 2024	725.95	1,526.58	542.57	2,795.10
FEBRUARY 2024	606.38	1,594.47	457.13	2,657.98
			TOTAL	22,325.97

**TRANSFER STATION
GREEN WASTE**

DATE	KEEI (Tons)	KONA (Tons)	WAIMEA (Tons)	TOTAL TO WHOF (Tons)
JULY 2023	56.04	370.69	131.23	557.96
AUGUST 2023	44.57	391.26	129.32	565.15
SEPTEMBER 2023	70.96	330.77	136.06	537.79
OCTOBER 2023	60.23	323.21	141.82	525.26
NOVEMBER 2023	27.62	301.20	123.72	452.54
DECEMBER 2023	27.16	331.50	77.57	436.23
JANUARY 2024	109.87	348.49	114.67	573.03
FEBRUARY 2024	50.03	305.44	101.66	457.13
			TOTAL	4,105.09

WHOF Mulch Backhauled

DATE	WHOF Mulch Delivered To Kealakehe (Tons)	WHOF Mulch Delivered To EHOE (Tons)	Total Mulch Delivered (Tons)
JULY 2023	274.58	7.83	282.41
AUGUST 2023	310.30	89.18	399.48
SEPTEMBER 2023	208.43	31.86	240.29
OCTOBER 2023	134.47	76.37	210.84

NOVEMBER 2023	150.73	291.61	442.34
DECEMBER 2023	221.81	387.65	609.46
JANUARY 2024	267.56	121.30	388.86
FEBRUARY 2024	150.83	154.57	305.40
		TOTAL	2,879.08

Mulch to Public and Commercial

DATE	Kealakehe Mulch to Public (yards)	EHOFF Mulch to Public (yards)	EHOFF Mulch to Commercial (yards)	WHOF Mulch to Public (yards)	WHOF Mulch to Commercial (yards)	Total Mulch Given Out (Yards)
JULY 2023	653	892	2,051	222	996	3,269
AUGUST 2023	731	850	2,257	225	1,686	4,168
SEPTEMBER 2023	673	893	1,988	273	2,208	4,469
OCTOBER 2023	657	810	1,737	264	1,002	3,003
NOVEMBER 2023	662	786	1,954	312	666	2,932
DECEMBER 2023	752	642	1,757	270	618	2,645
JANUARY 2024	614	775	1,711	207	624	2,542
FEBRUARY 2024	757	725	2,413	210	2,028	4,651
	5,499	6,373	15,868	1,983	9,828	27,679

2. Solid Waste Operational Study update

The consultant reports that data gathering and review is complete. The process of documenting current facility activities, programs, and interviews is near completion. Data analysis, recommendations, and writing the draft report are currently in progress. Overall project remains on schedule.

3. WASTEWATER DIVISION PROJECTS AND UPDATES.

1. Pāhala and Nā'ālehu Large Capacity Cesspool Closure AOC (Monthly on this project are posted at dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects); an abbreviated version is reprinted below)

Both communities

The County of Hawai‘i Department of Environmental Management held its semi-annual community informational meeting in Pāhala on February 29 to give an update regarding the closures of the large capacity cesspools in Pāhala and Nā‘ālehu. DEM discussed the County’s tentative identification of the preferred option of a wastewater treatment plant for Pāhala with a new collection system and encouraged public input. An update was also provided for the large capacity cesspool closure project in Nā‘ālehu.

Pāhala

The County released the Amended Draft Environmental Information Document for a public review and comment period that ended April 15. The Amended Draft EID explores and compares environmental impacts for each of the four feasible options, and discusses the County’s tentative selection of the preferred option of a wastewater treatment plant with a new collection system (also known as Alternative 1). A community meeting to receive comments on the Amended Draft EID was held April 10 at the Pāhala Community Center.

Nā‘ālehu

The County is engaging with the public to solicit feedback on the options explored in the Preliminary Engineering Report in preparation for the Draft Environmental Information Document. The Draft EID remains under development and will be released later this year, at which time the County will solicit public comment.

(Verbal reports on the following:)

2. Countywide Wastewater AOC
3. Hilo WWTP upgrades
4. Wastewater Plans
 1. Integrated Wastewater Management Plan and Public Engagements¹
 2. Puako and South Kohala Regional Wastewater Master Plan²
4. Status of existing staff vacancies



Hilo Reusable Foodware System Workshop – April 16, 2024

¹ VI.4.1 – IWWMP - <https://www.dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects/integrated-wastewater-management-plan>

² VI.4.2 – Puako/S. Kohala - <https://www.dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects/puako-and-south-kohala-regional-wastewater-master-plan>



Department Overview/Objectives for FY25



Business Services Section

Analyze sewer rate fees, solid waste tipping fees, vehicle disposal rates, and address delinquencies to cover expenses. Recruit to fill vacancies. Review organizational structure to become more efficient and ensure an appropriate level of staffing.



Solid Waste Division

Completion and release of Solid Waste Operational Analysis to drive policies and procedures that best fit our County.



Wastewater Division

Award Hilo WWTP construction project; develop Integrated Wastewater Management Plan to establish sewer service areas and road map for the public on their cesspool conversion options through DOH. Meet compliance deadlines in Administrative Orders on Consent with EPA, DOH.



Vehicle Disposal

Coordinate removal of vehicles that have been classified as derelict or abandoned from public and private roadways.

Highlights

- ▶ **Asset Management Implementation:** NEXGEN tracks performance, anticipates repairs, optimizes resources, and prevents emergencies.
- ▶ **Enhanced Website:** Improved accessibility, transparency, and communication with the community.
- ▶ **Kicked off Countywide Wastewater AOC** – received executed document March 27, 2024
- ▶ **Development of components of Integrated Wastewater Management Plan**
 - ▶ Cesspool Conversion Master Plan
 - ▶ Facility Planning
- ▶ **Pāhala Large Capacity Cesspool Closure project:** \$10 million grant for Pāhala sewer collection construction, going out to bid in 2024.
- ▶ **Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project:** Going out to bid by May 2024; award to follow.
- ▶ **Secured \$1M in federal funding for Wailoa Sewage Pump Station renovations and \$2M for Onekahakaha (Zoo) SPS renovations.**

Highlights

- ▶ **Solid Waste Operational Analysis:** Anticipated to be complete by end of 2024.
- ▶ **Keep up with equipment inventory list** for replacement and major repair.
- ▶ **Hilo Reusable Foodware Program** to be funded by EPA grant is currently in design
- ▶ **Landfill gas collection system expansion** to begin in FY 2024
- ▶ **Training highlights**
 - ▶ Quarterly wastewater certification trainings being held
 - ▶ Wastewater Division staff attended a pretreatment conference in Arizona
 - ▶ Begun Project Management Training for staff: In-person and Webinars
- ▶ **FY 24 Supplementals**
 - ▶ **New Positions (To be allocated):** SCADA program manager, Departmental Contracts Assistant, Wastewater Division Chief, Civil Engineer V, Construction Inspector (2)
 - ▶ **Equipment (ordered):** 4-door pickup (SWD), Sampling pumps, Chairs & fall protection harness
 - ▶ **Waiea Transfer Station land acquisition** (In Progress)
 - ▶ **Warehouse rental for East Hawai'i Line Crew** (Relocation complete)
 - ▶ **Kailua Landfill Fire Control** (Work has been completed to remediate the exterior slopes)

Department Staffing

Staffing levels continue to be a challenge; however the Department continues to work on allocating new positions and filling vacancies.

	Total Positions:	Filled	Vacant	Unfunded
• Admin/Business Services	32	20	8	4
• Wastewater Division	101	59	40	2
• Solid Waste Division	140	110	20	10
• DAV Program	5	3	2	0

Total positions: 278
Total vacant: 86

Information accurate as of 3/1/2024.

Budget Overview

Three special funds
SW Fund \$52.1M
WW Fund \$26.4M
VD Fund \$4.6M

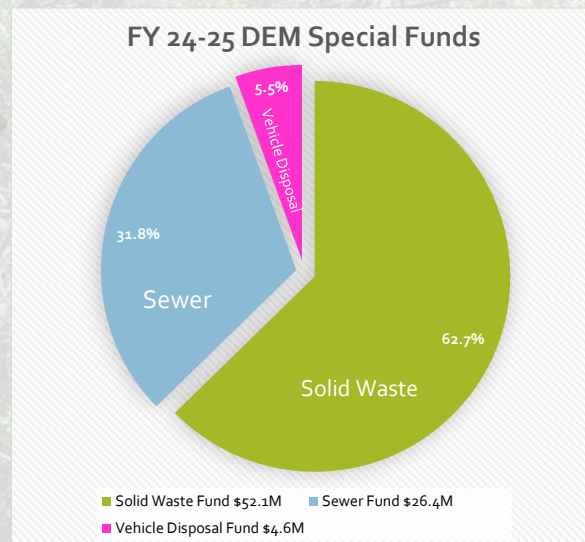
Transfers from General Fund
SW Fund \$30.6M
Sewer Fund \$5.9M
VD Fund \$0

Solid Waste Fund:
\$3.9 million increase
(+8.1 percent)

Sewer Fund:
3.2 million increase
(+14 percent)

Vehicle Disposal Fund
\$380K decrease
(-7.6 percent)

The special funds cover the \$2.2M Admin Division budget
(+8.2 percent)



Supplementals FY25

- **Admin:**
 - First Aid (AED) Trainer Equipment
 - Office Signage
- **Wastewater Division:**
 - Increase Consulting Services by \$300,000
 - Trades Helper positions (2)
 - Mechanical Repairer Helper positions (2)
- **Vehicle Disposal:**
 - Clerk III position
- **Solid Waste Division**
 - Allowance for tipping fee waivers for community cleanups
 - Solid Waste Supervisor II position for Pu‘uanahulu Landfill
 - Solid Waste Supervisor position for Ka‘ū
 - Pump truck lease financing (11)

What's new for FY25

- Finalize structural reorganization of the Department
- Compliance with all Administrative Orders on Consent
- Initiate policies and procedures based on:
 - Solid Waste Operational Analysis report
 - Integrated Wastewater Management Plan
 - Sewer Rate Study
 - Wastewater Pretreatment Program

