

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

**August 2, 2024  
Agenda item VII**

**1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

1. County Council (Since last report posted on 4/18/24)

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
<i>Completed items</i>		
Res. 516-24	Accepts \$200,000 from the Department of Health to DEM to fight the coconut rhinoceros beetle.	FC: Pos rec. 5/14 Council: Adopted 6/5
Ord. 24-47 (Bill 162)	Appropriates \$200,000 from the Department of Health to DEM to fight the coconut rhinoceros beetle.	FC: Pos rec. 5/14/24 Council: 6/5; 6/19
Res. 517-24, Draft 3	Authorizes acquisition by eminent domain of the land beneath Waiea Transfer Station.	LAAC: Pos rec. 5/14 Council: Approved 6/5, 6/19
Res 534-24	Accepts \$10,000 for tire recycling event	Council: Adopted 6/5
Ord. 24-49 (Bill 171)	Accepts \$10,000 for tire recycling event	Council: Approved 6/5, 6/19
Comm. 938	Performance Audit 2024-02: DAV Program	CRIOC: Filed 7/23
<i>Current items</i>		
Bill 140 (Enactment pending)	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: 3/19 Ref. to EMC and DEM; Pos. rec. 6/4 Council: 6/19, 7/10
<i>Future items</i>		
Bill -	Adopts new Wastewater Management Code	In development

2. Legislature

DEM has tracked bills throughout the 2024 regular session of the Legislature and reports one bill surviving to passage:

- Act 217 (HB 2743 HD2 SD1 CD1)  
Requires the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center and the Sea Grant College Program to develop an overlay with the Hawai‘i Cesspool Prioritization Tool to identify specific priority areas in which the county sewer system or other centralized treatment system may most feasibly be expanded or

constructed to reduce or eliminate cesspools before 1/1/2050. Makes an appropriation. (CD1)

**2. SOLID WASTE DIVISION PROJECTS AND UPDATES**

**RELOAD FACILITY UPDATE (new data shaded in gray)**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Total Tons Taken to Sort Station</b>
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
Apr 2024	4,084.12
May 2024	4,394.12
June 2024	4,510.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,912.71</b>



Arrival of new trailers for Solid Waste Division

**WHSL MONTHLY LANDFILL TONNAGES**

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
Apr 2024	17,080.26
May 2024	24,172.41
Jun 2024	24,421.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,627.15</b>

- Landfill tonnages increased beginning May 2024 due to the Hilo International Airport runway rehabilitation project.

**MONTHLY TRANSFER STATION TONNAGES**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>EHRSS</b>	<b>WHSL</b>
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
Apr 2024	3,193.07	3,718.34
May 2024	3,478.43	3,808.48
June 2024	3,635.16	3,824.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,026.02</b>	<b>44,977.26</b>

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

**August Events**

- August 3: Household Hazardous Waste Event in Hilo
- August 17: Household Hazardous Waste Event in Kona
- August 24: Hawai'i Energy Rid-A-Fridge event in Kea'au

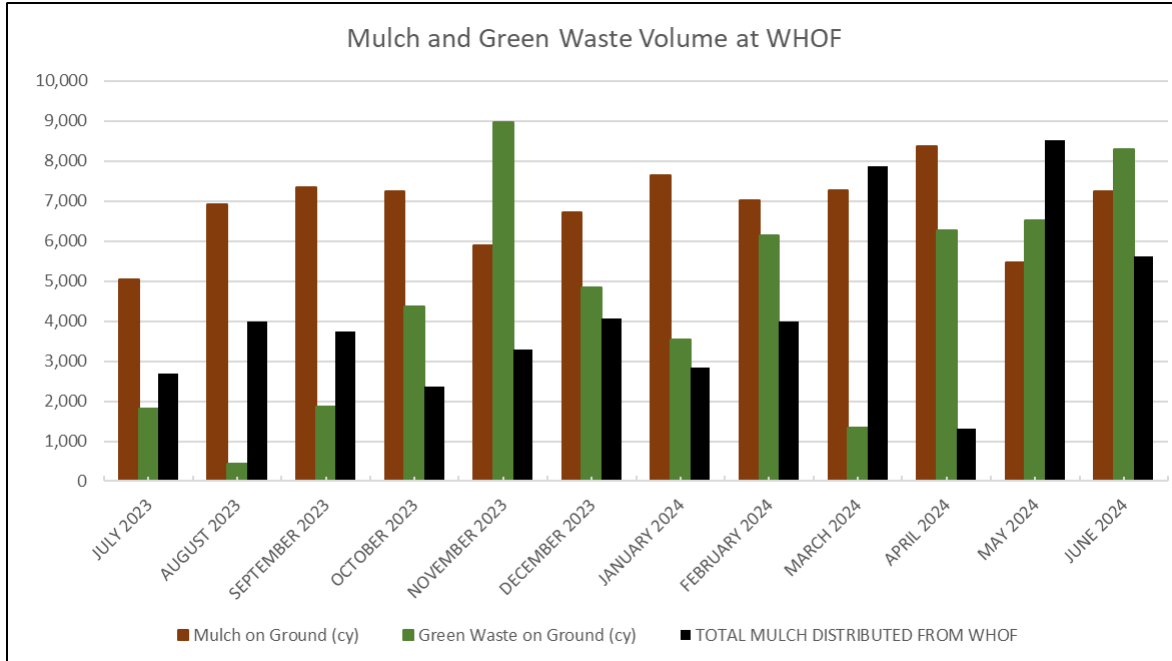
<b>EAST HAWAII ORGANICS FACILITY (EHOF)</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>GW Residential Drop Off EHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>GW Commercial Drop Off EHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>GW Transfer Stations Drop Off EHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>Total GW At EHOF (Tons)</b>
JULY 2023	512.15	150.39	153.17	815.71
AUGUST 2023	583.86	168.61	159.98	912.45
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	606.38	141.56	1,269.23
MARCH 2024	499.17	225.22	134.21	858.60
APRIL 2024	495.80	120.67	144.02	760.49
MAY 2024	499.11	257.61	137.34	894.06
JUNE 2024	571.53	302.06	161.82	1,035.41
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,527.40</b>
<b>TRANSFER STATION GREEN WASTE</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>KEAAU (Tons)</b>	<b>PAHOA (Tons)</b>	<b>VOLCANO (Tons)</b>	<b>TOTAL TO EHOF (Tons)</b>
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
MARCH 2024	31.72	77.32	25.17	134.21
APRIL 2024	41.28	86.53	16.21	144.02
MAY 2024	40.60	78.30	18.44	137.34
JUNE 2024	39.87	99.83	22.12	161.82
				<b>1,784.81</b>

<b>WEST HAWAII ORGANICS FACILITY (WHOF)</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>GW From Residential To WHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>GW From Commerical to WHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>GW From Transfer Stations To WHOF (Tons)</b>	<b>Total GW At WHOF (Tons)</b>
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	293.18	1,594.47	457.13	2,344.78
MARCH 2024	576.42	1,382.13	486.41	2,444.96
APRIL 2024	504.30	1,603.26	389.86	2,497.42
MAY 2024	497.00	1,408.00	371.56	2,276.56
JUNE 2024	644.00	1,444.00	483.96	2,571.96
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,803.67</b>
<b>TRANSFER STATION GREEN WASTE</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>KEEI (Tons)</b>	<b>KONA (Tons)</b>	<b>WAIMEA (Tons)</b>	<b>TOTAL TO WHOF (Tons)</b>
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
MARCH 2024	34.39	353.55	98.47	486.41
APRIL 2024	43.17	253.19	93.5	389.86
MAY 2024	71.08	221.93	78.55	371.56
JUNE 2024	11.00	364.94	108.02	483.96
				<b>5,836.88</b>

WHOF Mulch Backhauled			
DATE	WHOF Mulch Delivered To Kealakehe (Tons)	WHOF Mulch Delivered To EHOFF (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
MARCH 2024	171.54	163.87	335.41
APRIL 2024	0.00	0.00	0.00
MAY 2024	1,112.53	219.05	1,331.58
JUNE 2024	242.22	250.90	493.12
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,039.19</b>

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	366	2,028	4,807
MARCH 2024	1,004	800	2,174	366	1,724	4,264
APRIL 2024	936	744	1,570	183	1,119	2,872
MAY 2024	876	800	1,849	315	1,290	3,454
JUNE 2024	864	700	2,122	90	2,976	5,188
	<b>5,499</b>	<b>7,917</b>	<b>19,612</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>12,671</b>	<b>38,425</b>



**March 2024:** private haulers and SWD taking mulch to KRTS and EHOE.

**May 2024:** private haulers, SWD and DPW taking mulch to KRTS and EHOE.

**June 2024:** private haulers and SWD taking mulch to KRTS and EHOE.

## 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

#### **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. **The next semi-annual community informational meeting will be scheduled for 6 p.m. August 22, 2024, at the Nā'ālehu Community Center.**

### **Pāhala**

In compliance with the federal consent order, the County has released the Final Environmental Information Document. The Final EID explores and compares environmental impacts for each of the four feasible options, and discusses the County's selection of a wastewater treatment plant with a new collection system (also known as Alternative 1). The Final EID will be available at the Pāhala Public and School Library.

The County is overseeing the design and engineering, and the acquisition of necessary land and easements, for the collection system, treatment plant, and disposal system.

Under the 2024 Revised AOC, the next step, the Implementation Plan, is due to EPA within 30 days of EPA's acceptance of the Final EID. The final deadline for the County to close the large capacity cesspools is January 22, 2027.

### **Nā'ālehu**

In compliance with the federal consent order, 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. In late October 2023, public preference surveys to gather input on the four feasible options were mailed out to 194 lot owners in the LCC closure area. A public meeting was held November 16, at the Nā'ālehu Community Center to engage with the public to solicit feedback on the options explored in the PER, and to provide a general overview of the EID being prepared. A second round of surveys was mailed out to owners of affected lots in February 2024. The survey collection period remains open.

**In late May 2024 the County began sending right-of-entry agreements to property owners in Nā'ālehu. This agreement, when signed, allows entry by the County and its consultants onto properties to design a sewer collection system. This agreement expires at the end of 2024. Due to an error in the mailout, a second version of the agreement was sent out shortly after.**

The Draft EID remains under development and will be released later this summer, at which time the County will solicit public comment. The Final Environmental Information Document is due to EPA on October 22, 2024. The final deadline for the County to close the large capacity cesspools is December 31, 2027.

(Verbal reports on the following:)

2. Countywide Wastewater AOC
3. Hilo WWTP upgrades

Bids on this project will be unsealed August 15. Phase 2 remains in design.

4. County's application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant.
5. Wastewater Plans
  1. Integrated Wastewater Management Plan and Public Engagements<sup>1</sup>

4. **STATUS OF EXISTING STAFF VACANCIES AND RECENT HIRES**

1. Recycling Coordinator, others
2. Other vacancies

5. **QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

1. What is the impact to Department of Environmental Management operations and finances of opening Kalapana Transfer Station two days a week? (Adams)



Sea Engineers Inc. used a dive boat to inspect the ocean outfall at Puhi Bay, July 11, 2024.

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

Our very own transfer station bee colony at Wai'ōhinu.



Edition 2

July, 2024

# 'ŌPALA'OLE WITH DEM



From the sewer to the landfill, we are building a sustainable Hawai'i.



## A bee-utiful rescue mission at Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station.

On Wednesday, June 26, Ka'ū Working Supervisor Gale "Dido" Merseburgh stumbled upon an unexpected surprise—an active bee colony nestled below a defunct trash chute. Concerned for the safety of his team and the public, Dido swiftly took action, reaching out for assistance to relocate the bees. DEM's Sandy Shore tapped into her gardening community network and connected with Cisco Villa, Wastewater Plant Maintenance Manager and lifelong Pāhala resident. Cisco immediately contacted seasoned apiarist (beekeeper) Ryan Williamson of the Bee Boys. The following morning, at the early hour of 4:30 a.m., Ryan and the Bee Boys relocated 99% of the colony, including their queen. When I checked in on the bees, Ryan shared that they are "doing well in the new location we have for them at our apiary."



## INTRODUCTION

Aloha, I am Christy Swafford, your new Information and Education Specialist and the author of this newsletter. I joined DEM in June with goal of strengthening your team's connection to the community through public information and educational outreach. Over the past 18 years, I have served as a public school administrator and teacher in Alabama and Colorado. My educational work with children and adults focuses on the development of innovative programs, schools, and district-wide initiatives to provide learning that meets the needs of the communities they serve. I have a Master's in Education from the University of Alabama (roll tide) and an endorsement in Executive Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Denver. I look forward to meeting everyone as I visit our stations and facilities.

## I'M EAGER TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS!

I'm all ears for amazing stories and pictures from your teams for our upcoming newsletters. The buzz-worthy bee story above was shared by a DEM team member. Whether it's an exciting event, a standout achievement, or a teamwork triumph, I'm eager to share with our department and community. Feedback and questions on the newsletter are always welcomed too! Email or text anytime.

**CHRISTY.SWAFFORD@HAWAIICOUNTY.GOV**  
**808-937-5001**

*Updates* 

- ▲▲▲ Congratulations to Craig Kawaguchi promoted to Recycling Coordinator
- Welcome to the team Jesse Kiefer Scale Attendant at Pu'u'anahulu
- Hilo WWTP Rehabilitation & Replacement Phase I Bid opens August 15
- Kalapana TS now open Wed/Sat