

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

**October 30, 2024
Agenda item VII**

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. County Council (Since last report posted on 7/26/24)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
<i>Completed items</i>		
Ord 24-57 (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: 3/19 Ref. to EMC and DEM; Pos. rec. 6/4; Council: 6/19, 7/10; Mayor veto 7/24; Veto overridden 8/7
<i>Current items</i>		
Bill 214	CIP Budget, increases appropriation for Hilo WWTP Rehabilitation and Replacement project, \$116 million	FC: 10/1 Pos. Rec. Council 1 st read: 10/16
Bill 215	Authorizes issuance of up to \$150 million in general obligation bonds.	FC: 10/1 Pos. Rec. Council 1 st read: 10/16
Res. 633-24	Authorizes acquisition of private property by eminent domain re a portion of TMK 9-5-007:016 for the Na’alehu Wastewater Treatment Plant.	LAAC: 10/1 Pos. Rec. Council 1 st read: 10/16
<i>Future items</i>		
Bill -	Adopts new Wastewater Management Code	In development

2. State Legislature: The 2025 regular session will open January 15, 2025.

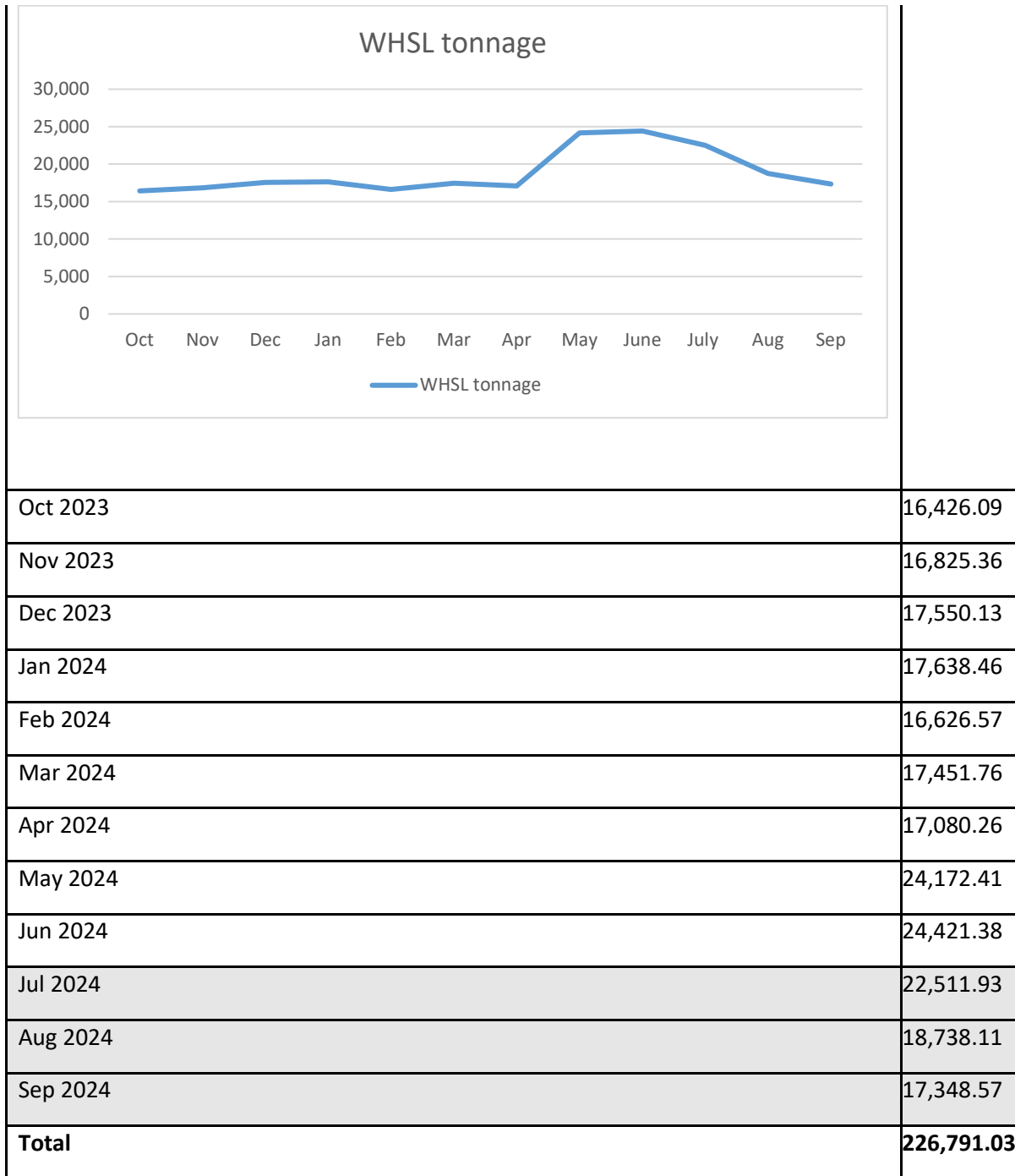
3. SOLID WASTE DIVISION PROJECTS AND UPDATES

RELOAD FACILITY UPDATE (new data shaded in gray)

Month/Year	Total Tons Taken to Sort Station
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
Jul 2024	4,456.70
Aug 2024	4,402.42
Sep 2024	4,391.13
Total	50,848.16

WHSL MONTHLY LANDFILL TONNAGES



MONTHLY TRANSFER STATION TONNAGES

Month/Year	EHRSS	WHSL
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
Jul 2024	3,542.62	4,241.96
Aug 2024	3,547.31	3755.57
Sep 2024	3,547.44	3,815.57
Total	40,946.28	45,662.04

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

Events

- Upcoming closures: October 26 (Kealakehe TS and WHSL only for Ironman); November 28, December 25, January 1.
- December 2024: Abandoned Vehicle Auction
- March 1, 2025: Household Hazardous Waste Event in Waimea
- March 2, 2025: Household Hazardous Waste Event in Pāhoa

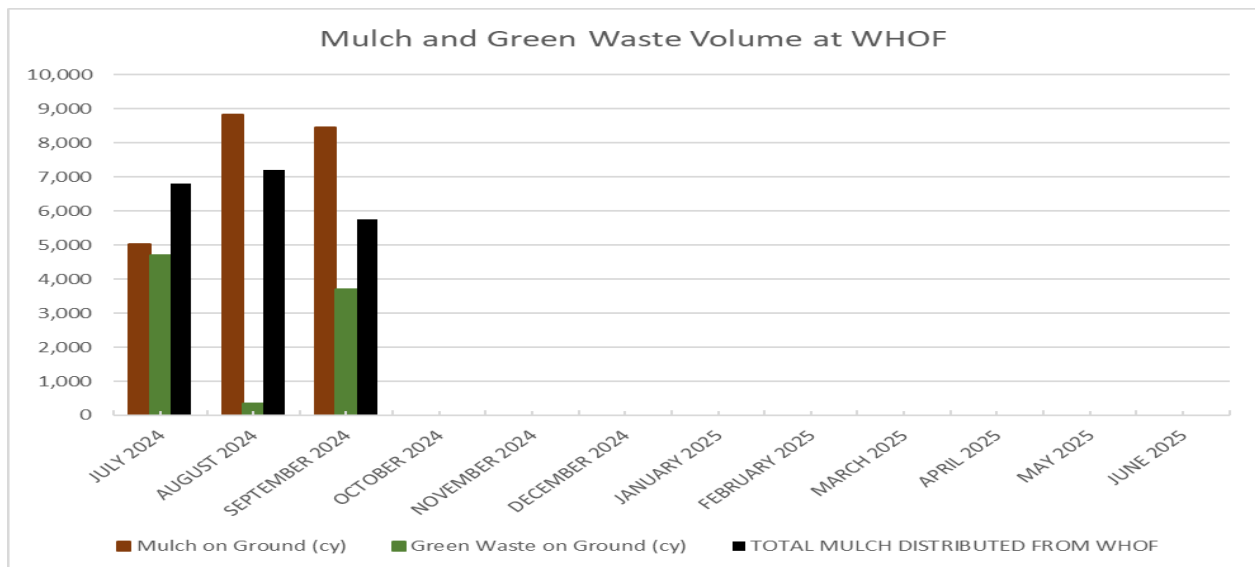
EAST HAWAII ORGANICS FACILITY (EHOF)				
DATE	GW Residential Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	GW Commercial Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	GW Transfer Stations Drop Off EHOF (Tons)	Total GW At EHOF (Tons)
JUNE 2024	571.53	302.06	161.82	1,035.41
JULY 2024	598.07	188.85	139.03	925.95
AUGUST 2024	583.53	200.71	158.86	943.10
SEPTEMBER 2024	678.52	222.53	177.28	1,078.33
OCTOBER 2024				0.00
NOVEMBER 2024				0.00
DECEMBER 2024				0.00
JANUARY 2025				0.00
FEBRUARY 2025				0.00
MARCH 2025				0.00
APRIL 2025				0.00
MAY 2025				0.00
JUNE 2025				0.00
			TOTAL	3,982.79
TRANSFER STATION GREEN WASTE				
DATE	KEAAU (Tons)	PAHOA (Tons)	VOLCANO (Tons)	TOTAL TO EHOF (Tons)
JUNE 2024	39.87	99.83	22.12	161.82
JULY 2024	45.16	68.05	25.82	139.03
AUGUST 2024	41.90	87.60	29.36	158.86
SEPTEMBER 2024	46.54	104.01	26.73	177.28
OCTOBER 2024				0.00
NOVEMBER 2024				0.00
DECEMBER 2024				0.00
JANUARY 2025				0.00
FEBRUARY 2025				0.00
MARCH 2025				0.00
APRIL 2025				0.00
MAY 2025				0.00
JUNE 2025				0.00
				636.99

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)
JUNE 2024	644.00	1,444.00	483.96	2,571.96
JULY 2024	701.53	1,696.78	233.89	2,632.20
AUGUST 2024	723.21	1,359.66	536.95	2,619.82
SEPTEMBER 2024	701.00	1,525.20	559.66	2,785.86
OCTOBER 2024				0.00
NOVEMBER 2024				0.00
DECEMBER 2024				0.00
JANUARY 2025				0.00
FEBRUARY 2025				0.00
MARCH 2025				0.00
APRIL 2025				0.00
MAY 2025				0.00
JUNE 2025				0.00
			TOTAL	10,609.84
TRANSFER STATION GREEN WASTE				
DATE	KEEI (Tons)	KONA (Tons)	WAIMEA (Tons)	TOTAL TO WHOF (Tons)
JUNE 2024	11.00	364.94	108.02	483.96
JULY 2024	26.04	146.44	61.41	233.89
AUGUST 2024	103.67	328.99	104.29	536.95
SEPTEMBER 2024	39.42	353.78	166.46	559.66
OCTOBER 2024				0.00
NOVEMBER 2024				0.00
DECEMBER 2024				0.00
JANUARY 2025				0.00
FEBRUARY 2025				0.00
MARCH 2025				0.00
APRIL 2025				0.00
MAY 2025				0.00
JUNE 2025				0.00
				1,814.46

WHOF Mulch Backhauled			
DATE	WHOF Mulch Delivered To Kealakehe (Tons)	WHOF Mulch Delivered To EHOF (Tons)	Total Mulch Delivered (Tons)
JUNE 2024	242.22	250.90	493.12
JULY 2024	191.02	509.03	700.05
AUGUST 2024	276.58	797.82	1,074.40
SEPTEMBER 2024	829.67	0.00	829.67
OCTOBER 2024			0.00
NOVEMBER 2024			0.00
DECEMBER 2024			0.00
JANUARY 2025			0.00
FEBRUARY 2025			0.00
MARCH 2025			0.00
APRIL 2025			0.00
MAY 2025			0.00
JUNE 2025			0.00
	1,539.49	1,558	3,097.24

Mulch to Public and Commercial							
DATE	KRTS Mulch to Public (yards)	KRTS Mulch to Commercial (yards)	EHOF Mulch to Public (yards)	EHOF Mulch to Commercial (yards)	WHOF Mulch to Public (yards)	WHOF Mulch to Commercial (yards)	Total Mulch Given Out (Yards)
JUNE 2024	864	0	700	2,122	90	2,976	6,752
JULY 2024	1,082	228	838	2,332	85	3,077	7,642
AUGUST 2024	920	597	800	3,293	30	1,578	7,218
SEPTEMBER 2024	1,087	1023	820	2,377	81	1,358	6,746
OCTOBER 2024							0
NOVEMBER 2024							0
DECEMBER 2024							0
JANUARY 2025							0
FEBRUARY 2025							0
MARCH 2025							0
APRIL 2025							0
MAY 2025							0
JUNE 2025							0
	3,953	1,848	3,158	10,124	286	8,989	28,358

Provision of Mulch to Public:			
EHOF	300 tons	1,500cy	
WHOF	200 tons	1,000cy	
KRTS	300 tons	1,500cy	



2. Solid Waste Operational Study update
(Oral discussion)
3. **WASTEWATER DIVISION PROJECTS AND UPDATES.**
 1. Pāhala and Nā‘ālehu Large Capacity Cesspool Closure AOC¹

Both communities

The County of Hawai‘i Department of Environmental Management held its most recent semi-annual community informational meeting August 22, 2024, at the Nā‘ālehu Community Center. The next semi-annual meeting will be held February 2025 in Pāhala.

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 is available at the Pāhala Public and School Library. EPA approved the Final EID, and therefore the County's selection of Alternative 1, on September 27, 2024.

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. The County is currently pursuing right-of-entry agreements to allow construction of sewer improvements within affected properties.

The Implementation Plan is being submitted to EPA prior to its deadline on October 25, 2024. The final deadline for the County to close the large capacity cesspools is January 22, 2027.

Nā‘ālehu

The County has issued its Draft Environmental Information Document, which was released through the State’s Environmental Notice on September 8, 2024, for public review and comment. The Draft EID identifies the preferred action as a new collection system and new package wastewater treatment plant (Alternative 1). A public meeting to solicit comment on this Draft EID was held October 10, 2024, at the Nā‘ālehu Community Center. The comment period closed October 21, 2024, and the new due date for the Final EA to EPA is April 24, 2025.

In June 2024 the County began sending right-of-entry agreements to owners of affected properties in Nā‘ālehu. This agreement, when signed, allows entry by the County and its consultants onto properties to design a sewer collection system.

The final deadline for the County to close the large capacity cesspools is December 31, 2027.

2. Hilo WWTP and collection system upgrades and extensions

¹ VI.3.1: Ka‘ū - <https://www.dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects/pahala-na-alehu-large-capacity-cesspool-closures>

The County is pursuing funding authorization from the County Council in anticipation of making an award for construction of the Hilo WWTP replacement and rehabilitation project.

3. Countywide AOC submittal: Preliminary Priority Ranking for capital projects²

4. Wastewater Plans

1. Report by DEM on limits placed on IWMP's scope of work due to issues such as the *Konno decision* and other challenges.

(Oral discussion)

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

(Oral discussion)

6. **QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

1. Wouldn't it be faster to purchase the land for the Nā'ālehu sewer plant rather than use eminent domain? (McIntosh)

Yes. However, DEM does not have the luxury of time to be able to pursue solutions consecutively. The County and the landowner intend to work together to reach a solution that will protect the groundwater from cesspool pollution and preserve the parcel's significant cultural features.

2. Can Department of Research and Development provide an update to the upcoming Request for Proposal regarding Waste to Energy? (G. Adams)

R&D response: The Draft RFP is in development and is expected to be released in the coming months.

² VII.3.3: AOC submittal: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=140076>



TOSS YOUR TIRES: MAHALO HAWAI‘I ISLAND FOR A SUCCESSFUL RECYCLING EVENT

The County of Hawai‘i Department of Environmental Management is thrilled to announce the success of our Toss Your Tires recycling event on September 21, 2024. Thanks to our community's incredible support and participation, we collected approximately 5,000 tires from 472 vehicles, filling 23 roll-off containers—all in just five hours! This massive effort is a huge step in keeping our island clean

and protecting our environment from potential hazards like mosquito breeding and illegal dumping. The recycled tires are being repurposed into useful products and fuel for energy production outside Hawai‘i.

"Sustainability on our island depends on each of us playing a role in caring for our ‘āina, our community, and our invaluable natural and cultural resources," said Mayor Mitch Roth. "We are deeply encouraged by the community members who responsibly disposed of their tires this past weekend. Their actions have contributed to making our island cleaner, healthier, and more resilient."

The success of this event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, partners, and volunteers:

Department of Environmental Management, Recycling and Solid Waste
Department of Health
Lex Brodie’s Tires
Kea‘au Middle School “Greenwaves”
Big Island Scrap Metal
An Important Reminder for Future Tire Disposal

While this event was a great success, we encourage everyone to utilize existing tire disposal programs. State law requires tire retailers to accept used motor vehicle tires for recycling or disposal when you purchase new tires. This means you should turn in your old tires right at the point of sale, avoiding the need to store them at home. Turning in your tires when you buy new ones is the best way to keep them out of our landfills and our environment.

Thank you to everyone who came out and participated. Together, we have made a significant impact in protecting our ‘āina.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Chang Aiona V, Equipment Operator III
DEM Nominee, Employee of the Year



Craig Kawaguchi, Recycling Coordinator
County of Hawai'i Supervisor of the Year

HE MEA NUI 'OE award recipients

BOBBIE JO BOTELHO – WWD – Program Support Tech

ANTOINETTE "TONI" NAKATANI – WWD – Sewer Maintenance Supervisor

CHANG AIONA – SWD – EO III

LESLIE "DAWN" MILLER-SABLAN – SWD - SWFA

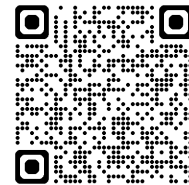
NADINE POLA – SWD – Clerk III

JUSTYNE RAFAEL – SWD – DAV Clerk III

CHANNING TOKESHI – SWD – Supervisor

BRITTANY WULFERT – SWD – DAV Coordinator, East Hawaii

Anyone may recognize any County employee for doing an outstanding job via the link below or by scanning the QR code:



<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/our-county-our-kuleana/compliment-an-employee-sep-dec-2024>