

Dell H. Otsuka, Commissioner
County of Hawai'i, District 3

Environmental Management Commission
Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Agenda Item VII.5 Status of existing staff vacancies and recent hires

Addendum to Written Testimony on DEM Staffing

Upon review, I wish to include additional context to underscore the urgency of addressing DEM's staffing shortages.

In August 2023, the Department reported a total of 37 vacancies. This year, that number has grown by 49, resulting in a total of 86 vacancies-a substantial increase. This escalating trend underlines the critical need for proactive measures to recruit and retain staff to ensure the continued functionality and safety of our environmental services,