

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Erica Perez
Chair

Wesley R. Segawa
Director, Department of
Environmental Management

County of Hawai'i

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

345 Kekūanāo'a St. Suite 41 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Ph: (808) 961-8083 • Fax: (808) 961-8086

MEETING AGENDA

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, this meeting will be online with a location available to the public. The public may attend either in person, online, or by telephone.

DATE: Wednesday August 27, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
IN PERSON: Hilo Council Chambers
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1401, Hilo
ONLINE: Via Zoom <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612028078>
(Meeting ID: 161 202 8078)
PHONE: +1 669 254 5252 (Enter the meeting ID, see above)

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: To ensure timely delivery to commissioners, written testimony must be submitted before 12:00 noon on the business day prior to the meeting by (1) email to cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov or (2) facsimiles to (808) 961-8086. When submitting written testimony, please specify for which agenda item it is being submitted. All written testimony will be part of the permanent record. Pursuant to HRS §92-3, interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so either at the time the Commission takes public statements on items on the agenda, or at the time the specific agenda item is called, subject to applicable statutes and rules of procedure.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR June 25, 2025¹

¹ II – Minutes - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/150113/Page1.aspx>

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER: Welcome new Commission Member Justin Canelas, District 6.

IV. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR REMAINDER OF 2025
Former Vice-Chairperson Dorothy “Dot” Norris resigned due to a change of district; therefore, the Environmental Management Commission (“EMC”) will elect a new Vice-Chairperson to serve for the remainder of the 2025 term.

V. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
The public may provide testimony at this time or at the time the agenda item is called. Public testimony must be related to an item on the agenda and pursuant to Commission Rule 1-5(i)(2), the Chairperson may limit the length of any person’s testimony as long as each speaker is accorded a minimum of three minutes.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Consideration of Draft Letter:** The EMC will consider whether to adopt a letter entitled *Recommendation to use the Puakō Cesspool Conversion Project as a model for cesspool conversion*. The letter recommends that DEM take the Puakō Community proposal to the Cesspool Task Force be used as a model for scalable cesspool conversion.²
2. **DEM’s Request for EMC’s Review:** the Department of Environmental Management (“DEM”) would like the EMC to provide comment on documents related to DEM’s application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is due August 2025. Specifically, DEM would like the EMC to comment on DEM’s standard operating procedures related to pre-treatment and fats, oils, and grease.

VII. UPDATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- A. DEM’s final list of legislative bills enacted in 2025 that relate to DEM.³
- B. Update regarding DEM’s preliminary priority ranking report submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The report details the priority status of certain DEM projects. The final report is due Dec 31, 2026.⁴
- C. Update regarding DEM’s public Communications and Engagement
- D. Cesspool Task Force update.
- E. Update regarding future agenda items before the Hawai‘i County Council that relate to DEM’s functions.⁵
- F. Update regarding DEM’s budget for Fiscal Year July 2025 through June 2026: DEM will provide an update regarding which projects are funded; the dollar

² VI.1 – Draft letter - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/150573/Page1.aspx>

³ VII.A – List of Enacted Bills - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/149747/Page1.aspx>

⁴ VII.B – Preliminary Priority Ranking Report - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/149748/Page1.aspx>

⁵ VII. E – County Council - <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/county-calendar>; [Hawaii County Streaming Media Archive - Granicus Content](#); [Council - Laserfiche WebLink](#)

amounts of each funded project; and necessary projects that don't have funding. DEM will also discuss its budget process and ideal times for EMC to provide input.

- G. DEM will provide an update regarding its reporting requirements to the State of Hawai'i Department of Health and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").
- H. Staffing update: DEM will provide updates regarding current vacancies at DEM, recruitment, and operators training program.⁶
- I. Solid Waste Division Updates:
 - i. Priority efforts underway
 - ii. Follow up on planning to address the need for a new landfill
- J. Wastewater Division Updates:
 - i. Update regarding EPA's Administrative Orders of Consent, including the 2025 and 2026 deadlines.⁷
 - ii. Update regarding the Kahalu'u Cesspool Study that focused on the South end of Ali'i Drive.
- K. Integrated Wastewater Management Plan Updates.⁸
 - i. Schedule for completion of the plan.
- L. Update regarding areas where the EMC could provide comments and recommendations.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Commissioners and members of the public may email items for consideration on the next agenda to Chair Perez by Friday, September 5, 2025.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. The EMC has Commissioner vacancies for Districts 2, 5 and 8.⁹
- 2. Closing Americas Wastewater Access provides *no cost technical assistance to communities with failing septic systems or without existing wastewater infrastructure*.¹⁰
- 3. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, at Kona Council Chambers (Building A), West Hawai'i Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole, Kailua-Kona and via Zoom. Please contact the Board Secretary or review the agenda posted on the County Calendar within six days of the next meeting for confirmation.¹¹ See the current schedule for EMC meetings for 2025.¹²

⁶ VII.H – Current Vacancies - [Job Opportunities | Sorted by Job Title ascending | Welcome to the County of Hawai'i's Jobs Website](#)

⁷ VII.J.i – EPA AOC - [20240326 EPA AOC Docket No. CWA-309\(a\)-24-003 COUNTYWIDE - Laserfiche Weblink](#)

⁸ VII.K – IWMP - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/143917/Page1.aspx>

⁹ IX.1 – Boards and Commissions - [Boards and Commissions | Hawaii County, HI](#)

¹⁰ IX.2 - CAWA - <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/closing-americas-wastewater-access-gap>

¹¹ IX.3 - Hawai'i County Calendar - <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/county-calendar>

¹² IX.3 - 2025 schedule - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/1/doc/140699/Page1.aspx>

X. ADJOURNMENT

Note: A meeting held by interactive conference technology shall be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication when audiovisual communication cannot be maintained with all members participating in the meeting or with the “in person” location identified in this agenda. The meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication is restored, or audio-only communication is established after an unsuccessful attempt to restore audiovisual communication. If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting as provided in this subsection within 30 minutes after an interruption to communication, the meeting will be in recess and will attempt to reconvene at 1:00 p.m. on the same day, using the same meeting ID listed on Page 1 of this agenda. If at that time a quorum of remote members and the in-person members are unable to establish and maintain at least an audio-only connection by 1:15 p.m., then the meeting shall be automatically terminated. The regular meeting place is accessible to persons with disabilities. To request an auxiliary aid or language translation, please call (808) 961-8083 five days prior to the meeting date. Comments may be sent to the Department of Environmental Management, 345 Kekūanāo‘a Street, Suite 41, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720, or emailed to cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov.

Notice to lobbyists: If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai‘i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. [Chapter 2, Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai‘i County Code.] A lobbyist means “any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials.” [Chapter 2, Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai‘i County Code.] Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720.