



element environmental llc  
environmental · engineering · water resources

September 29, 2023

Commissioner Dell Otsuka  
Email: [otsukadell@gmail.com](mailto:otsukadell@gmail.com)

**Subject: County of Hawaii Solid Waste System Operational Analysis COH**  
**Contract #: C.011064**

Commissioner Otsuka:

As the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) member, Element Environmental LLC (E2) is conducting the Solid Waste System Operational Analysis on behalf of the County of Hawai'i and would like your input on how you would like to be a part of shaping the Solid Waste Operation System in the future.

Your input may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Current and future solid waste system operations required improvements and visions
- Current and future solid waste initiatives you would like to advise on

We will hold one (1) hour interviews, to gather your input, on October 16, 18, and 19, 2023 between 8 am and 3 pm. The interviews will be held at the Department of Environmental Management's West Hawai'i office, which is located at 75-5706 Kuakini Hwy, Suite 101, Kailua Kona, HI 96740.

You can either attend in person, or we can set up a teleconference. Please let us know by October 6th, dates and times that work for you so that we may schedule your interview accordingly.

If you are unable to attend in person or virtually, you may also email your response to the above topics to [lmason@e2hi.com](mailto:lmason@e2hi.com).

Please note that we will abide by the Sunshine Law, which means that we will avoid sharing the results of your interview with any other EMC member prior to the release of the final document. Additionally, EMC members cannot discuss with each other their provided input nor what happened in the interviews, outside of a properly noticed meeting.

We look forward to meeting you, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-225-9077.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Mason, P.E.  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Element Environmental, LLC  
Phone: 808-225-9077

98-030 hekaha street, unit 9, aiea, hawaii 96701 **tel:** (808) 488-1200 **fax:** (808) 488-1300  
[www.e2hi.com](http://www.e2hi.com)

Lindsay Mason, P.E.  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Element Environmental, LLC

SUBJECT: **Feedback on County of Hawaii Solid Waste Systems  
Operational Analysis COH Contract #C.011064**

Dear Lindsay Mason,

I hope this message finds you well. I appreciate the effort your team is putting into the operational analysis plan for the County of Hawaii.

However, I'd like to express my concerns regarding the timing and approach of this review. The current 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (plan in question?), was meticulously developed and subsequently approved, reflects the collective expertise and insight of various stakeholders. It's disconcerting to see a new consultant engaged so soon after its implementation. I believe it is crucial to allow sufficient time for the plan's recommendations to be put into action and evaluated for their effectiveness, before initiating a critique.

Equally important is the absence of input from key stakeholders, including county contractors, vendors, and employees from **ALL** levels who are instrumental in the day-to-day operations. Their perspective and experiences are invaluable in ensuring the plan's success. I strongly recommend involving them **NOW** and for any future assessments.

Furthermore, the timing of the request for input raised some concerns. It came to my attention only two days after I had highlighted the issue of delayed notifications during our September 27, 2023 EMC meeting. Your two week timeframe and one-hour window for feedback provided very little room for a comprehensive and thoughtful evaluation.

I believe that a thorough and well considered review process is essential for any operational analysis. I genuinely appreciate the dedication and resources invested in this endeavor, and I trust that my feedback will be taken into account constructively.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Dell Otsuka, Commissioner  
District 3, County of Hawaii