



Councilmember Todd K. Apo

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City & County of Honolulu • City Council District 1
Ewa • Kapolei • Waianae Coast



NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD UPDATE

JULY 2007

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Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill and Solid Waste

With the recent news reports about management problems, allegations of illegal activity, state health violations, EPA emissions violations and fires at the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, Councilmember Apo continues to oppose expansion of the existing landfill operation and work toward eliminating the City's daily dependence on its use.

Toward this effort, Councilmember Apo is pushing legislation to identify interim solutions such as curbside recycling and the trans-shipment of waste and discussions with the City's Environmental Services department on options to divert the waste stream away from the landfill. The City's primary goal must be to recycle and to increase the conversion of waste to energy. Remaining waste must be disposed of without further scarring of our limited island lands.

Landfill Alternatives

Resolution 07-151, CD1 regarding shipping of waste, was adopted on July 5, 2007 by the City Council. While exportation of waste may ultimately be a short term solution for Honolulu, this resolution encourages the Director of Environmental Services to incorporate off-island shipment of solid waste into the City's Solid Waste Masterplan. This resolution also suggests that the City authorize and permit the off-island shipment of at least 200,000 tons per year of solid waste by January 2008.

Shipping waste, in conjunction with other recycling and waste-to-energy programs, can ultimately eliminate waste that must be disposed of at the Waimanalo Gulch landfill.

Curbside Recycling

At the end of June, in a special Planning and Sustainability Committee Meeting, the Department of Environmental Services presented their proposed plans to implement a comprehensive curbside recycling program. This program is following through on the 2006 voter mandated City Charter amendment and Bill 72 (2005) and Resolution 05-363, CD1, which also passed through City Council in 2006.

The City plans to roll out this comprehensive curbside recycling program in October 2007 via an initial pilot program. The program will give participants three bins to sort household waste: 1) green waste; 2) mixed recyclables, which includes aluminum cans, glass, plastics numbered 1 & 2, newspaper and corrugated cardboard; and 3) general refuse. Environmental Services will do two pick ups each week: one day for general refuse and one day for recyclables, alternating between green waste and mixed recyclables.

A remaining point of debate is whether to offer the option of a second general refuse pickup for a fee. Resolution 07-207 encourages a once a week pick up in order to better implement the curbside recycling program, provided that the City provide residents a second general refuse bin if the need exceeds one-bin capacity. The City is still determining which residential area of the island will conduct the pilot program, but is looking at either Mililani, Hawaii Kai or Kailua. For more information visit www.opala.org.

JULY- AUGUST 2007

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Thursday, July 5
9 am
FULL COUNCIL

Committee Week
July 31- August 2

Tuesday, July 31
9 am
Zoning
1 pm
Planning & Sustainability

Wednesday, Aug 1
9 am
Budget
1 pm
Executive Matters
3 pm
Affordable Housing & Economic
Development

Thursday, Aug 2
9:30 am
Transportation & Public Works
1 pm
Intergovernmental Affairs
2:30 pm
Public Health, Safety & Welfare

The Office of Councilmember Todd K. Apo regularly sends out electronic newsletter updates. If you would like to receive the E-News Updates, please visit www.toddapo.org and join our mailing list. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call or email Councilmember Apo at 547-7001 or tapo@honolulu.gov.