



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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### **Charles K. Djou**

*Councilmember, District IV*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Councilmember Charles K. Djou

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\*Note, new cell phone number

### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY SHOULD STOP DUMPING UNDER-TREATED SEWAGE IN THE OCEAN**

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced a resolution calling for the City to fully comply with the Clean Water Act, without any waivers or variances. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a public hearing tomorrow night on its proposed revocation of the City's variance for the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant. The EPA is also expected to soon revoke Honolulu's variance for the City's other sewage treatment plant at Sand Island.

"Our natural ocean environment is so important to Oahu for tourism, recreation and fishing. It is a complete shame that the administration refuses to even come up with a plan for bringing our sewer discharge into compliance with all existing environmental regulations. While the administration prefers to fight the EPA, I think the time has come for the City to begin planning a course for coming into compliance with the Clean Water Act at our sewage treatment plants," stated Councilmember Djou. "All of our neighbor island counties and 99% of all municipal governments in the U.S. are in compliance with the Clean Water Act without the need for variances or waivers; it's about time Honolulu clean up its act."

Councilmember Djou introduced Resolution 07-132, co-sponsored by Councilmember Todd Apo, establishing as a goal for the City to come into full compliance with the Clean Water Act by December 31, 2020.

The mayor has repeatedly stated that the City's current sewer discharge does not cause any environmental damage and upgrading our wastewater treatment plants is unnecessary. Independent lab tests by the EPA, however, show the City's wastewater discharge is toxic to Hawaiian marine life and exceed the safe standards for human ocean recreational use. Rather than expend funds for environmental planning, the administration has instead spent taxpayer money to pay for newspaper ads attacking the EPA.

Note: Councilmember Djou has a new contact phone, (808) 265-2858.

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