



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CLEAN UP THE CITY LANDFILL; HOLD OPERATOR ACCOUNTABLE

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) called for the dismissal of Waste Management as the operator of the City's Waimanalo Gulch Landfill.

"I have always been a champion of an ethical and honest government. There is no such thing as an acceptable level of corruption. When I entered the City Council I was proud to tackle the mismanagement and ethical issues facing the Liquor Commission, and I now think the same sort of attention needs to be turned on the operations of Waimanalo Gulch. The public has a right to hold the City administration and Waste Management - the operator of the City's landfill - accountable for the multitude of problems at this dump site. The time has come to look at firing the current managers and re-bidding this contract," stated Councilmember Djou.

Within the last two years, the Waimanalo Gulch landfill has encountered problems including:

- (1) The failure to properly maintain a scale that may have caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars;
- (2) Allegations of bribery of a landfill manager;
- (3) Federal fines for clean air act violations;
- (4) State fines for health code violations; and
- (4) Fire at the landfill, creating a major health hazard.

Councilmember Djou is one of only three members of the Honolulu City Council who voted to close the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill in 2004. The other votes to close the landfill were from Councilmember Nestor Garcia and former Councilmember, now State Senator, Mike Gabbard.