



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 11, 2011

Director Tim Steinberger, Director
Department of Environmental Services
1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 308
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Mr. Steinberger

The City Council recently removed \$26 million in construction funds from its budget. Those funds were for the purpose of expanding the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. As a result, your department has announced it will be forced to truck raw sewage sludge from Sand Island to the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant and other facilities.

As reported in the Star Advertiser (7/9/11), this new action will "require three 5,000-gallon trucks making two runs each per day to other treatment facilities [costing] an estimated \$1.8 million the first year." The department will be trucking unknown amounts of raw sewage sludge from an urban industrial area into a residential community, depositing it adjacent to an elementary school.

The purpose of my letter is to state that the Department of Environmental Services must prepare an Environmental Assessment, pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes before it can commence this new project. Under the decision issued by the Hawaii Supreme Court in the Sierra Club v DOT, 202 P.3d 1226 (Haw. 2009), when there may be secondary impacts, the government agency must first prepare an Environmental Assessment. Secondary impacts in this case include, but are not limited to, the odor and noise impacts upon students and residents in a residential community, the impacts upon traffic on residential roads, and the impact upon the ability of an already overstressed Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant to process additional raw sewage sludge.

Please know that I will pursue all available means to ensure that the Department of Environmental Services does not commence trucking raw sewage sludge to the Kailua plant until it fulfills its comprehensive legal requirements under Chapter 343, HRS.

Sincerely,

Representative Cynthia Thielen
Assistant Minority Leader
50th District (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay)

cc: Mayor, Council Chair, DOH director, Financial Secretary HI Carpenters Union, Sierra Club, Hawaii's Thousand Friends, Star Advertiser

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