



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 11, 2011

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Chair  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Martin:

I am requesting that the City Council reconsider its decision to remove \$26 million from the City's 2012 budget, which was intended for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion. By eliminating this project from the budget, the City will need to truck raw sewage from Sand Island to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kailua and to other facilities.

Speaking specifically about the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant (KWTP), through the years the Department of Health (DOH) has imposed numerous fines on the city for noncompliance with health and other environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act. At long last, the city is undergoing improvements to KWTP to eliminate the noxious odors and noise. One of the improvement projects is scheduled to begin shortly. If the city is forced to truck excess raw sewage from Sand Island to the Kailua plant, then those scheduled odor and noise improvements will need to be postponed for over a year or more.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Services is undergoing essential maintenance of the KWTP digester. This maintenance along with the necessary parts, replacements, or repairs must be completed promptly. Simply stated, KWTP is not in condition to receive truckloads of imported raw sewage.

You may not be aware that Aikahi Elementary School is located directly adjacent to the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant. The excessive odors (the subject of numerous DOH fines against the city) have sickened students. At times, youngsters have been sent home due to becoming ill from the fumes.

The Council's action has put the Kailua students and neighboring community at health risk. By reinstating the \$26 million into the budget, the Council can work with the Administration to construct the second digester at the Sand Island plant, while commencing a review of proven technologies for future integration into the plant.

Sincerely,

Representative Cynthia Thielen  
Assistant Minority Leader  
50<sup>th</sup> District (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay)

cc: Mayor, Department of Environmental Services director, DOH director, Financial Secretary HI Carpenters Union, Sierra Club, Hawaii's Thousand Friends, Star Advertiser