

Resident Testimony Letter #1:

Via Email: gtakara@honolulu.gov

May 15, 2023

RE: Community Residents Support Increased Oversight of the Landfill Siting Process

Dear Honolulu Planning Commission,

As a resident of West O`ahu, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing issues related to the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL). Over the years, our community has been adversely affected by the Landfill, and we have expressed concerns about odors, noise, dust, and truck traffic, among other issues.

Furthermore, in 2012, the Landfill released unknown quantities of municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, leachate, and medical solid waste into coastal waters. This incident highlights the urgent need for a new landfill to be identified and implemented.

The pending application for an extension to the State Land Use Commission's deadline for identifying a new landfill site is just the latest delay in a long history of delays. The Landfill should have been closed and a new landfill opened a long time ago. The LUC had ordered the Landfill to close by 2008 and a new site to be selected by 2004. However, instead of following the LUC's directives and the site selection committee's recommendation, the City selected the existing Landfill as the "new" landfill.

Despite the numerous site selection processes that have taken place since then, no site has been selected. In response to the LUC's most recent order to identify a new site by December 31, 2022, the ENV formed a new site selection committee in 2021. However, the committee determined that none of the proposed sites were acceptable after eight meetings held between October 2021 and June 2022.

Given the long history of delays and harmful effects on our community, I urge the Honolulu Planning Commission to require ENV to report quarterly in person to the Commission on its efforts to select a new landfill. This oversight will provide us with reassurance that the risks and benefits associated with the proposed designation of a new site are being properly taken into consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Name

Carina Kelly

