

June 27, 2023
Honolulu Planning Commission
dpp@honolulu.gov

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

Aloha:

I am a resident of West O'ahu that resides in Kapolei, and I am writing to express my support for increased oversight by the Honolulu Planning Commission of the process to reevaluate options to explore potential landfill sites outside the No Pass Zone. It has been a long road to get to this point, and the Department of Environmental Services (ENV) has not met its deadlines all along the way. The State Land Use Commission (LUC) previously ordered the ENV to close the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) by 2008 and to select a new site by 2004. Those deadlines were not met. The ENV was later ordered to begin the process of identifying and developing a new site by 2010, but no site was selected. The LUC most recently set a deadline of December 31, 2022, for the City to identify an alternative landfill site to WGSL, another deadline that was missed.

My community bears the burden of having the landfill mauka of our homes. You may recall the storms that washed medical waste from WGSL onto our beaches where our keiki play. We have housed the landfill in our community for way too long. The time has come for ENV to do its job and find a viable new location for our island's waste before the closure deadline of March 2, 2028.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Signature: Dayna Ann Sedeno Mercado

Print: Dayna Sedeno Mercado