



Fwd: Procedure for Disposal of Medical Waste and Landfill Concerns

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 7:51 AM

From: "Katherine Kamada" <kkamada@hawaii.rr.com>

To: gov.contact@hawaii.gov, mayor@honolulu.gov, maileshimabukuro@yahoo.com, tgabbard@honolulu.gov, gespresion@honolulu.gov

1 File (128KB)



1.14.11 E...

If you were not able to open the attached letter, here it is:

Dennis and Katherine Kamada
87-085 Kulaaupuni Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

January 14, 2011

City and County of Honolulu
Department of Environmental Services
1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 308
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

To Whom Concerned,

Tonight's KHON 2 NEWS reported that runoff from the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill included medical waste strewn along the beaches fronting the landfill and along the coastline. Workers from the landfill were shown wearing protective attire walking along the coastline picking up syringes with and without needles, vials with blood and mystery liquids plus other medical waste. They were picking up visible medical waste strewn along the coastline. What about the unseen medical waste in the water frequented by beach-goers? Imagine walking along the beach and being stabbed by a needle imbedded in the sand. How's that for an experience in paradise?

Our concern is: The proper disposal of medical waste. Why was the medical waste not incinerated? What is the procedure for getting rid of medical waste? What is the correct procedure for taking care of needles? Isn't there a separate bin for needles? Aren't needles disposed separately from other waste? How germ free was the "sterilized medical waste"? Can residents on the Leeward Coast be assured that their health and well being is not being jeopardized by "professionals" who play Jedi mind tricks?

If environmentalists, who have forecasted global warming are correct, shouldn't we be expecting more episodes of "one hundred year" storms? The Leeward side of Oahu is normally dry; however, in 1997 (Hawaii National Guards helped with clean up and evacuation), 2006 (40 days and 40 nights of non-stop rain), and now, December 2010 and January 2011, unprecedented amounts of precipitation was recorded. Is this a trend? Rather than a hundred years, it is more like every ten years or less.

Please, if you really care about the *aina*, treat it with respect. Put more thought in how *opala* is treated--more recycling or using *opala* as a source of alternative energy. And what about coal ash? What are studies showing about the hazards of dumping coal ash

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in a landfill? We follow the ongoing saga of the way the City and County of Honolulu deals with the issue of landfills and are not happy with the lack of vision from past leaders.

No more landfills on the Leeward Coast! Historically, Waianae has had more than its share of landfills without the due respect of other landfills (Kakaako, for example). Where's our park? Have you recently monitored the soil and water in the vicinity of the last landfill in Waianae?

Auwe and au hui hou!

Dennis and Katherine Kamada

cc: Neil Abercrombie, Governor, State of Hawaii
Peter Carlisle, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu
Joe Whelan, Waste Management, Hawaii
Gary Gill, State of Hawaii, Deputy Director for Environmental Health
Tom Berg, Councilman
Maile Shimabukuro, Senator
Maili and Nanakuli Neighborhood Board
Cynthia Rezentes, resident
Lily Cabinatan, resident
Carol Cox, Environmental Watch
Our *Ohana* near and far!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Katherine Kamada <kkamada@hawaii.rr.com>
Date: January 18, 2011 4:28:09 PM HST
To: gov.contact@hawaii.gov

Subject: Procedure for Disposal of Medical Waste and Landfill Concerns

Governor Abercrombie, Mayor Carlisle, and Councilwoman Gabbard,

As a residents of Waianae, we are very unhappy with what has happened with the medical waste washing down from the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill and have written a letter of concern. At almost every meeting of residents (golf course, Curves Waianae, family gatherings), what has happened at the landfill is a hot topic; therefore, this is not just our concern, but a concern of our entire community.

Please, would you read it and be informed of our concerns?

Our councilman has not been informed as he will be sworn into office tomorrow. Please pass this message on to him and others.

Mahalo for all that you do to serve our community,

Dennis and Katherine Kamada

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