

Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of  
Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)  
Public Hearing  
October 15, 2012  
5:00 p.m.  
Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street  
Conference Room A

**Public Meeting Canceled Due to Lack of Attendance:**

**The meeting room was opened at 4:50 p.m. As of 5:20 p.m., no members of the public were present for the meeting. The meeting was, therefore, canceled at that time. Those present for the meeting included:**

From the Department of Environmental Services:

Manuel Lanuevo, Deputy Director  
Wayne Hamada, Disposal Branch Chief  
Suzanne Jones, Recycling Branch Chief

From Corporation Counsel:

Dana Viola, Deputy Corporation Counsel ( by phone)

Others:

Joe Whalen, General Manager, Waste Management of Hawaii  
DeeDee Letts, Resolutions Hawaii

**Status Report:**

**The following status report on the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill is provided as it would have been reported at the public meeting.**

Presentation

1. Opening and Welcome

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on October 1, 2012, and on the City's Refuse Division website, [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)

This public hearing is being held to comply with Conditions 15 and 16 of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS, certified on October 22, 2009, in Docket No. SP09-403 (the LUC Order), which states:

"15. The Honolulu City Council through the City Administration shall report to the public every three months on the efforts of the City Council and the City Administration in regard to the continued use of the WGSL, including any funding arrangements that are being considered by the City Council and the City Administration."

"16. The City Council and the City Administration shall have a public hearing every three months to report on the status of their efforts to either reduce or continue the use of the WGSL."

The complete LUC Order is available at the State Land Use Commission website: [http://luc.state.hi.us/co\\_sphonolulu.htm](http://luc.state.hi.us/co_sphonolulu.htm)

The following report covers developments during the last calendar quarter regarding the matters set forth in Conditions 15 and 16 of the LUC Order.

2. Progress Toward Another Landfill Site

A. Condition 4 of the LUC Order states in relevant part:

"On or before November 1, 2010, the Applicant shall begin to identify and develop one or more new landfill sites that shall either replace or supplement the WGSL."

The Mayor's Advisory Landfill Site Selection Committee has had ten meetings to date and an Executive Summary of the final report was submitted to the Mayor in May. The final report was recently forwarded to the Mayor and has been posted on the Opala.org website. The City is in the process of further evaluating the sites identified and will be writing letters to the landowners to see if they would be willing sellers.

B. The following tonnage chart includes municipal solid waste (MSW), H-POWER ash and residue delivered to WGSL during the last three months. There was an H-POWER maintenance diversion from August 24 – 27<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, & September 1<sup>st</sup>. resulting in an increased amount of MSW delivered to WGSL during this period.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| July 2012   | 20,697 tons |
| August 2012 | 22,319 tons |
| Sept 2012   | 21,746 tons |

There was one complaint received from the KoOlina Resort on July 16, 2012, concerning airborne plastic bags from the landfill. WMH responded with a July 17, 2012, letter explaining WMH's litter prevention program. WMH also received an inquiry from Ralph Harris, President of the KoOlina Resort Fairways Association on August 30, 2012, about increased truck traffic on the east side of the landfill. On that day, Mr. Whelan phoned Mr. Harris and explained that the activity was related to the final closure work in the area, which will continue through the month of December. A follow-up letter was subsequently sent to Mr. Harris.

3. Progress Report on Landfill Diversion

A. The H-POWER expansion project (specifically the third boiler) is in start up and testing and is currently receiving waste sufficient to perform acceptance testing.

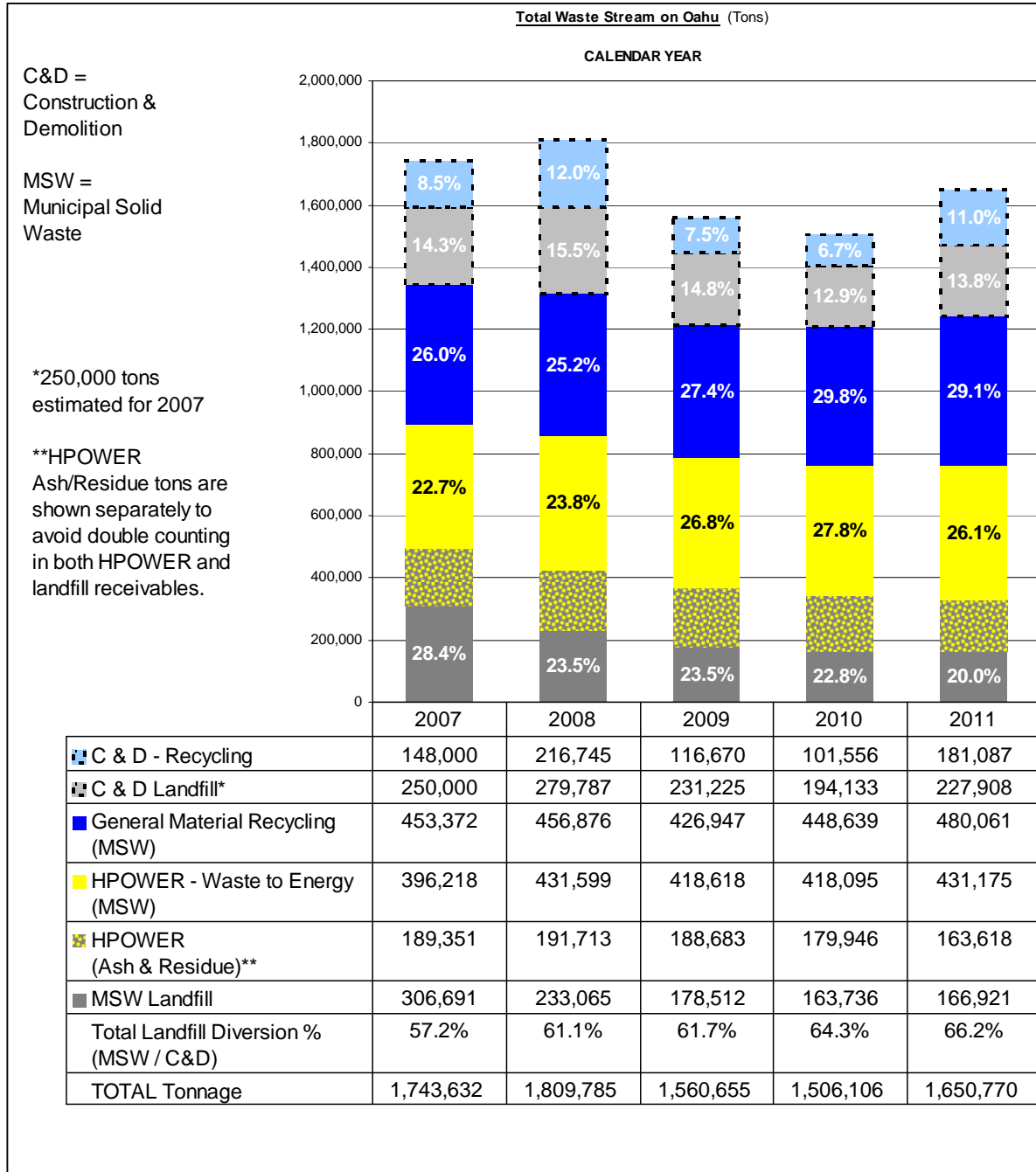
B. Interim Off-Island Shipping of MSW

No waste was ever shipped to the mainland due to various problems encountered by Hawaiian Waste Systems (HWS), the bidder awarded the contract to ship waste to the mainland. Nonetheless, HWS had accepted 20,000 tons of MSW, which it intended to ship but because it was not able to, HWS was responsible for disposing of this waste. A fire at the HWS facility on January 6, 2011, temporarily delayed disposal but by May 12, 2011, the entire 20,000 tons of MSW was disposed of. Approximately 14,800 tons were taken to H-POWER, 4,500 tons were taken to WGSL, and 1,500 tons of metal were recycled. In June 2011, the City entered into a 12-month contract with HWS to process, namely shred for disposal at HPOWER or recycle, up to 36,000 tons of MSW that would otherwise have gone to the landfill. The shredded waste that was burnable was taken to H-POWER for energy conversion and the metals and other recyclables were taken to recyclers.

As of June 7, 2012, the contract with HWS expired and over 26,300 tons of waste was diverted from landfill disposal. The closure of this contract coincides with the expansion of the H-POWER 3<sup>rd</sup> boiler, which will be able to accept the waste that was being sent to HWS without the additional processing.

C. Materials Recycling and Landfill Diversion

To present a complete waste flow picture, the most recent available data is for calendar year 2011. Although waste tracking to landfill and H-POWER is managed every month by ENV, recycling data is provided by commercial recycling companies which are surveyed annually. Recycling data for 2012 will be gathered and compiled during the first quarter of 2013, and an updated chart and analysis will be posted online at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org) mid year.

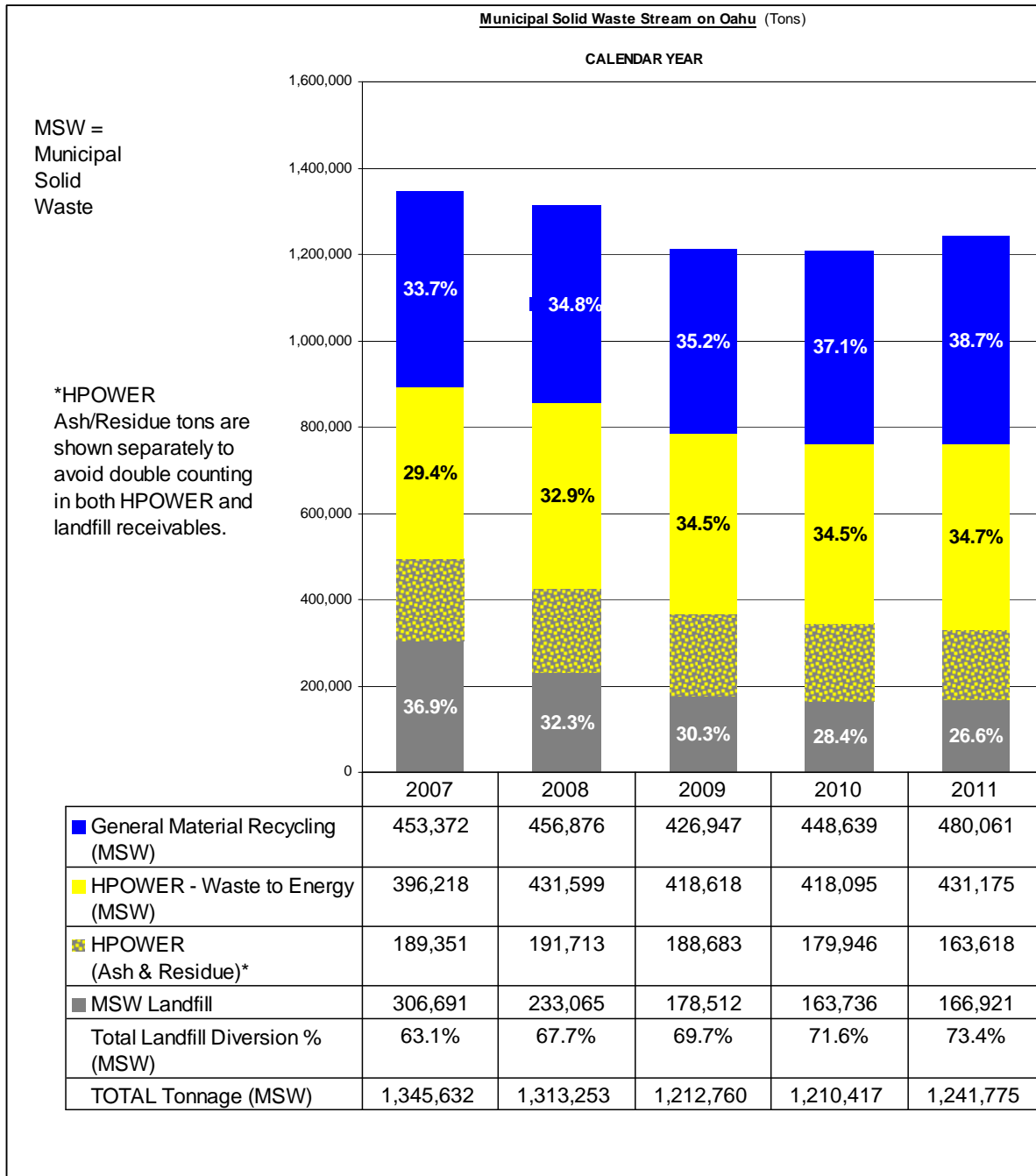


The data in the chart above presents the annual quantity of waste (in tons) that is processed through recycling, waste-to-energy or landfilling for the most recent five (5) calendar years (2007–2011).

*Brief analysis:* The data shows how Oahu's waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and waste-to-energy. The general trend shows annual increases in recycling and waste-to-energy, and decreases in landfill disposal. Note that overall waste generation decreased significantly in 2009-11, most likely due to the down-turn in the economy. Total waste generation dropped from 1.8 million tons in 2008 to 1.5 million tons in 2010, with some increase noted in 2011.

The general material recycling rate (shown in the darker blue) increased from 25 percent (2008) to 27 percent (2009) and to more than 29 percent (2010 and 2011). The total landfill diversion rate continued to increase from 57 percent (2006/2007) to 62 percent (2009) to 64 percent (2010) and to 66 percent (2011), with continued reductions of waste disposed in landfill.

Total waste includes all waste of all types disposed/recycled on Oahu, including construction and demolition waste. There are two landfills on Oahu: the City's Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL), which is designated for MSW, and the private PVT Landfill, which is permitted for construction and demolition waste only. When analyzing municipal solid waste (MSW) only and landfill diversion specific to the WGSL, the landfill diversion rate achieved through recycling and waste-to-energy is over 73% and the general material recycling rate is 38%. See the chart below for a fuller comparison of diversion rates for WGSL over the most recent five (5) years.



*Recycling data:* The tables below provide detail of what was recycled by material type. The City has gathered annual recycling data since 1988 (except for 1989 and 1990). Note the upward trend of general material recycling from approximately 75,000 tons in 1988 to well over 400,000 tons today. Recycling of construction and demolition materials, such as concrete, rock and asphalt, has added between 100,000 to 200,000 tons to the recycling rates. These C&D recycling rates tend to fluctuate based on the volume and type of construction projects undertaken from year to year.

| Year | General Material Recycling | C&D Recycling | Total Recycled |
|------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 483,707                    | 181,087       | 664,794        |
| 2010 | 448,639                    | 101,556       | 550,195        |
| 2009 | 426,947                    | 116,670       | 543,617        |
| 2008 | 456,876                    | 216,745       | 673,621        |
| 2007 | 453,282                    | 148,952       | 602,234        |
| 2006 | 421,072                    | 121,675       | 542,747        |
| 2005 | 417,669                    | 193,829       | 611,498        |
| 2004 | 386,338                    | 173,916       | 560,254        |
| 2003 | 366,639                    | 106,773       | 473,412        |
| 2002 | 352,699                    | 139,055       | 491,754        |
| 2001 | 367,300                    | 114,070       | 481,370        |
| 2000 | 327,710                    | 165,000       | 492,710        |
| 1999 | 314,075                    | 225,200       | 539,275        |
| 1998 | 318,690                    | 148,800       | 467,490        |
| 1997 | 313,394                    | 204,400       | 517,794        |
| 1996 | 299,574                    | 95,300        | 394,874        |
| 1995 | 294,340                    | 44,400        | 338,740        |
| 1994 | 290,412                    | 35,700        | 326,112        |
| 1993 | 241,600                    | 30,000        | 271,600        |
| 1991 | 167,152                    | 0             | 167,152        |
| 1988 | 73,992                     | 0             | 73,992         |

#### Oahu Recycling 2011

| Material Type                   | Amount in tons |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>PAPER</b>                    |                |
| Corrugated Cardboard            | 45,984         |
| Newspaper                       | 10,251         |
| Office Paper                    | 12,689         |
| Other Paper                     | 3,755          |
| <b>METALS</b>                   |                |
| Ferrous (includes autos)        | 182,393        |
| Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum) | 24,372         |
| <b>GLASS</b>                    |                |
| 24,140                          |                |
| <b>PLASTIC</b>                  |                |
| 6,161                           |                |
| <b>TIRES</b>                    |                |
| 13,504                          |                |
| <b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>           |                |
| 7,959                           |                |
| <b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>         |                |
| 2,414                           |                |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)                        | 103,666        |
| WOOD WASTE/PALLETS                                  | 10,058         |
| CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt) | 181,087        |
| FOOD WASTE  | 15,228         |
| SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)       | -              |
| OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)              | 17,274         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>664,794</b> |

### Oahu Recycling 2010

| Material Type                                       | Amount in tons |
|---|----------------|
| <b>PAPER</b>  |                |
| Corrugated Cardboard                                | 41,805         |
| Newspaper   | 12,596         |
| Office Paper  | 11,177         |
| Other Paper   | 6,944          |
| <b>METALS</b>                                       |                |
| Ferrous (includes autos)                            | 163,166        |
| Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)                     | 18,247         |
| <b>GLASS</b>  | 22,833         |
| <b>PLASTIC</b>                                      | 5,385          |
| <b>TIRES</b>  | 9,518          |
| <b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>                               | 5,383          |
| <b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>                             | 1,375          |
| GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)                        | 91,413         |
| WOOD WASTE/PALLETS                                  | 15,514         |
| CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt) | 101,556        |
| FOOD WASTE  | 26,677         |
| SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)       | -              |
| OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)              | 16,607         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>550,196</b> |



The City's efforts to increase residential recycling have continued with the expansions of island-wide curbside recycling, community recycling bin program, condo recycling assistance programs and budget commitments to support these efforts. Additionally, the City requires commercial sector recycling through mandatory laws established by City ordinance, and provides assistance to businesses to setup and expand their recycling programs.

Curbside Recycling -- ENV completed the final phase expansion of the fully-automated 3-cart curbside recycling program in May, 2010. There are currently 160,000 homes participating in the program, and capturing material at a rate of 20,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 50,000 tons of green waste per year. In November 2011, the City completed an evaluation of the first year of full operation, which indicated that the program had achieved a 77% capture rate for green waste and 53% capture rate for mixed recyclables. Increased public experience with identifying and sorting recyclables should produce higher results for the mixed recyclables as the program continues to mature. The program continues to be evaluated to identify strategies for improving participation and efficiencies. Additionally, the City is moving forward to further expand curbside recycling to the remaining 20,000 homes around Oahu still serviced with a manual collection system, starting with a pilot program on the North Shore tentatively scheduled to start early 2013.

Community Recycling Bins -- The City formerly maintained approximately 100 Community Recycling Bin sites on Oahu, but is phasing out this drop-off program in favor of more convenient recycling systems with greater potential to further increase recycling rates. The program started with 20 sites more than two decades ago and was expanded over the years as a mainstay of residential and school recycling. With the implementation of curbside recycling, recovery rates decreased significantly in the bins. The service contract closed at the end of June 2012, and the City is increasing efforts to further expand curbside recycling, develop recycling programs in condos, and assist schools and the State Department of Education in establishing campus recycling systems.

Condo Recycling -- The City continues to promote condominium recycling through a program that reimburses condominium properties for costs associated with the start-up of a recycling program, and additionally provides technical assistance, educational materials, wheeled carts and guidance in establishing collection services.

Electronic Waste (e-waste) -- State law requiring manufacturers to provide take back programs for electronic waste went into effect January 1, 2010, and is administered by the State Department of Health (DOH). In general, the covered electronics included computers at the start in January 2010 and expand to include televisions in

January 2011. City ENV will continue to work in collaboration with DOH and local e-waste recycling companies. DOH is looking for ways to strengthen the collection programs and proposed a bill to the 2012 State Legislature to establish an advance recycling fee (ARF) on electronic devices, which resulted in the formation of a task force.

Business Recycling Programs -- The City continues to provide assistance to commercial sector recycling efforts and to ensure compliance with mandatory recycling policy established in the mid 1990's, which requires office buildings to recycle office paper, bars/restaurants to recycle glass and a variety of food operations to recycle food waste. Disposal site bans/restrictions divert materials from landfill and H-POWER, including green waste, cardboard, metals, tires, auto batteries, e-waste. The City provides technical assistance to businesses for designing and implementing recycling programs through how-to guides, workshops and on-site support, and works collaboratively with the State's Green Business Program.

Public education regarding recycling is ongoing--distribution of brochures and print materials, opala.org website, WasteLine e-newsletter and annual events including Tour de Trash and Discover Recycling. In October 2009, ENV and Oceanic Time Warner Cable launched "Opalavision" on The Green Channel at Oceanic 332 and online at opala.org. Short stories about the City's recycling initiatives and programs are featured in 3-minute episodes that educate and entertain. New episodes are produced monthly with an archive of dozens to keep viewers entertained. The format is interactive, supporting 24/7 viewing of all episodes on demand. City ENV supports recycling education for our youth through school recycling projects, classroom activity books and recycling education shows presented by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. The third season of performances are in the works, with a theatre presentation scheduled for November/December plus a traveling show to local schools entitled "Sort It Out!" for January through March. The shows include distribution of Opala IQ Books and educational materials to students and teachers.

D. Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan

Funds are available to initiate the next update of the plan.

4. Special Use Permit (SUP) Amendment

The current SUP dictates that WGS� stop accepting MSW for disposal as of July 31, 2012. As stated in Condition 14 of the SUP, "Municipal solid waste shall be allowed at the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill up to July 31, 2012, provided that only ash and residue from H-POWER shall be allowed at the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill after July 31, 2012." While some types of MSW may be disposed of at H-POWER, certain wastes such as sewage

sludge, animal carcasses, and treated medical sharps cannot be disposed of at H-POWER. Moreover, because H-POWER's operating permit requires a permitted landfill as a back-up disposal option, it is conceivable that H-POWER will have to shut down if WGSL is required to stop accepting MSW.

On June 28, 2011, ENV filed a SUP Amendment Application with the City Department of Planning and Permitting, to delete Condition No. 14 of the SUP. This will allow WGSL to continue accepting municipal solid waste until the landfill reaches its capacity as permitted by the State Department of Health.

The City and County of Honolulu Planning Commission (Commission) convened a public hearing on October 5, 2011, to consider ENV's application to delete Condition No. 14 of the SUP. The Commission heard public testimonies and granted petitions to intervene in the SUP proceeding to Ko Olina Community Association, Maile Shimabukuro, and Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp. With the granting of the petitions to intervene, the matter proceeded as a contested case. A pre-hearing conference to discuss procedural and others matters in the contested case was held on October 12, 2011. A contested case hearing began on December 7, 2011, with opening statements given by ENV and intervenors. The contested case hearing continued on January 11, 25, February 8, March 7, 14, April 4, 11, 23 and May 25, 2012. On May 25, 2012, the Commission stayed the matter for six (6) months in light of the Hawaii Supreme Court's (Supreme Court's) decision to strike Condition No. 14 of the SUP described below.

The City had filed an appeal to the Supreme Court on February 22, 2012 to delete Condition No. 14. On May 4, 2012, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the City and struck down Condition No. 14, which was the condition imposed by the State Land Use Commission. The Supreme Court further ordered that the matter be remanded to the Circuit Court and the Land Use Commission for action on the SUP consistent with the Supreme Court decision. The State Land Use Commission convened on July 5, 2012, to discuss procedural options only, in light of the Supreme Court remand and stayed Commission proceeding. The landfill will continue operations under the current SUP while the deadline for receipt of MSW is resolved by the State Land Use Commission.

Upon request by ENV, the LUC directed the parties to file written briefs regarding the proper procedural steps. ENV argued that the case decided by the Supreme Court remain with the LUC for decision-making. The intervenors argued to remand the Supreme Court case back to the Planning Commission with a request to consolidate the amendment application and the Supreme Court cases. The LUC decided at its meeting on September 14, 2012, to remand the Supreme Court case to the Planning Commission with a recommendation to consolidate the two cases. The landfill will continue operations under the current SUP while the deadline for receipt of MSW is resolved by the Planning Commission and the LUC.

5. Relevant City Council Resolutions and Bills

| RESOLUTION NO. | DESCRIPTION  | STATUS   |
|----------------|--|--|
| 10-004         | City auditor conduct an audit relating to delays in shipping City's municipal solid waste to mainland                                    | Resolution filed 1/5/11.No change                                      |
| 10-111         | City administration promote Freecycle Honolulu<br>City administration conduct public education regarding proper disposal of bulky wastes | Resolution filed 5/7/11.<br>No change.                                 |
| 10-242         | City Council's continuing support for the shipment on an interim basis of solid waste.   | Resolution adopted 10/13/10.   |
| 11-055         | City fast track permitting and approvals for new solid waste disposal and recycling facilities.  | Resolution filed 2/10/12.  |
| 11-100         | City create and fund a solid waste technology liaison position.  | Resolution filed 3/31/12.<br>Resolution deferred in committee 9/28/11. |
| 11-260         | To establish a City policy to continue the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill as an Oahu landfill.  | No change.   |
| 12-290         |  | First reading in committee on 10/10/12.                                |

| BILL NO.            | DESCRIPTION   | STATUS                                  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 43 (2010)           | Regulate use of non biodegradable plastic bags                                      | Bill filed 8/12/12.                     |
| 44 (2010)           | Require recycling or reuse of construction and demolition wastes                    | Bill filed 8/12/12.                     |
| 47 (2010), CD 1     | Terminate recycling residue discount Reinstates a discounted disposal fee           | Bill passed into law effective 5/31/11  |
| 36 (2011), CD1, FD1 | for residue from recycling operations at 50% FY12, 35% FY13, 20% FY14.              | Bill passed into law effective 7/1/11   |
| 10 (2012),CD 1      | Regulate use of nonbiodegradable plastic bags and other bags provided to customers. | Bill passed into law effective 5/10/12. |

All resolutions and bills, and video of Council meetings, can be found at the City website, [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)

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Public Comment:

There were no public comments because the public meeting was canceled due to the fact that there were no members of the public in attendance.