

Land Use Commission Meeting
August 8, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
Airport Conference Center



Re: SP09-403 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu (Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill) (O'ahu)

LUC Chair Dan Giovanni and LUC Members,

I support SP09-403 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu (Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill) (O'ahu) which will grant the City and County of Honolulu an extension to select a new landfill site. I support giving the City an extension to find a new landfill site as soon as possible.

The residents of Oahu need a landfill and the City is required by law to have one. We cannot close the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) and leave us without one. If WGSL closes in 2028, where is the new landfill site? WGSL was in operation since 1987, prior to any new development.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell opposed building a new landfill on Oahu and supported a strategy to divert waste which would extend WGSL until 2038. With much of the municipal solid waste being diverted to H-Power, recycling, and composting, there is much less going into WGSL. WGSL can serve our island community to at least 2038 and with new technologies of possibly recycling ash and more efficient ways to process waste, it could last even longer.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi, at his May 2, 2024 Town Hall Meeting at Nanaikapono Elementary School, promised a large group of Westside residents that there would be no more landfills on the Westside. Mayor Blangiardi, in his Honolulu Civil Beat July 3, 2024 Candidate Q&A, said that "First, as a matter of equity and environmental justice, we committed to no landfill on the west side. I will not go back on that promise,"

The PVT construction and demolition landfill was put in the heart of the Nanakuli community in 1985 in the middle of existing homes. For the health and safety of the residents, the construction and demolition waste, which was diverted by the City years ago, needs to be reclaimed by the City. The CDC U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project - USALEEP study found that those living in the two census tracts around PVT landfill lost 10-years of life expectancy, 72 years compared to the state average of 82 years. Residents of the Nanakuli community have been working for 30 years to have PVT relocate from Nanakuli to a site away from where people live. The people of Nanakuli deserve better!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of approving SP09-403 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu (Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill) (O'ahu).

Sincerely,
T. George Paris
60 year Resident of the Leeward Coast