



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2398
RELATING TO LANDFILLS.**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/3/2022 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) offers comments on HB2398.
3 This bill proposes to reduce the landfill buffer zone from one-half mile to one-quarter mile.

4 During the 2020 legislative session, Act 73 was passed and, under language amended in Section
5 183C-4, prohibits waste or disposal facilities, including landfills, from being constructed in
6 conservation districts. The Act also, under language amended in Section 342H-52, states that to
7 construct, modify, or expand, a landfill must provide a ½ mile buffer zone from waste or waste
8 activity to the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line.

9 While this bill attempts to provide greater flexibility to landfill siting, the Department
10 understands that there are several bills being introduced in the current legislative session that
11 intend to further restrict landfill siting including prohibitions in agricultural districts and over
12 significant aquifers. These potential restrictions, either individually or in total, severely restrict or
13 may effectively eliminate potential future municipal solid waste landfill sites on Oahu when
14 combined with other existing restrictions.

15 Figure 1 shows a map of Oahu from a 2012 City and County of Honolulu (City) landfill site
16 selection report that provides proposed future landfill site locations. Note that this report was
17 developed prior to the passage of Act 73.

18 Figure 2 shows a map of Oahu from the City showing Conservations District lands.

1 Figure 3 shows a map of Oahu from the Department with areas above the UIC Line in light blue
2 and outlined in white. This area illustrates drinking water sources and significant aquifers.

3 Comparing Figures 1 through 3, the majority of sites are eliminated from consideration. Only the
4 upland Hawaii Kai areas may be available as a future landfill site. This location may benefit
5 from the reduced buffer zone requirement.

6 It is unclear whether any additional locations, not proposed in the 2012 City report, would be
7 considered for future landfill siting with the reduced buffer zone requirement.

8 We recommend that all of these concerns be considered holistically when owners and operators,
9 primarily counties, select a landfill site so that appropriate priorities may be placed when there
10 are various and potentially competing concerns.

11 Landfill permit applications undergo a risk-based evaluation by the Department. Under Chapter
12 11-58.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules, which generally mirrors federal regulations, the
13 Department requires that municipal solid waste landfills be sited with regards to airport safety,
14 floodplains, wetlands, fault areas, seismic impact zones, unstable areas, tsunami zones, and
15 consistency with local zoning ordinances. Landfills are designed with liner systems to contain
16 leachate and leachate collection systems to route the leachate to a sump for removal.

17 Groundwater monitoring wells are installed and a groundwater monitoring plan implemented to
18 determine any impacts to groundwater resources, regardless of whether the groundwater is a
19 drinking water source or not. Landfills are required to incorporate these and several other
20 measures to protect human health and the environment and mitigate nuisances.

21 **Offered Amendments:** None

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

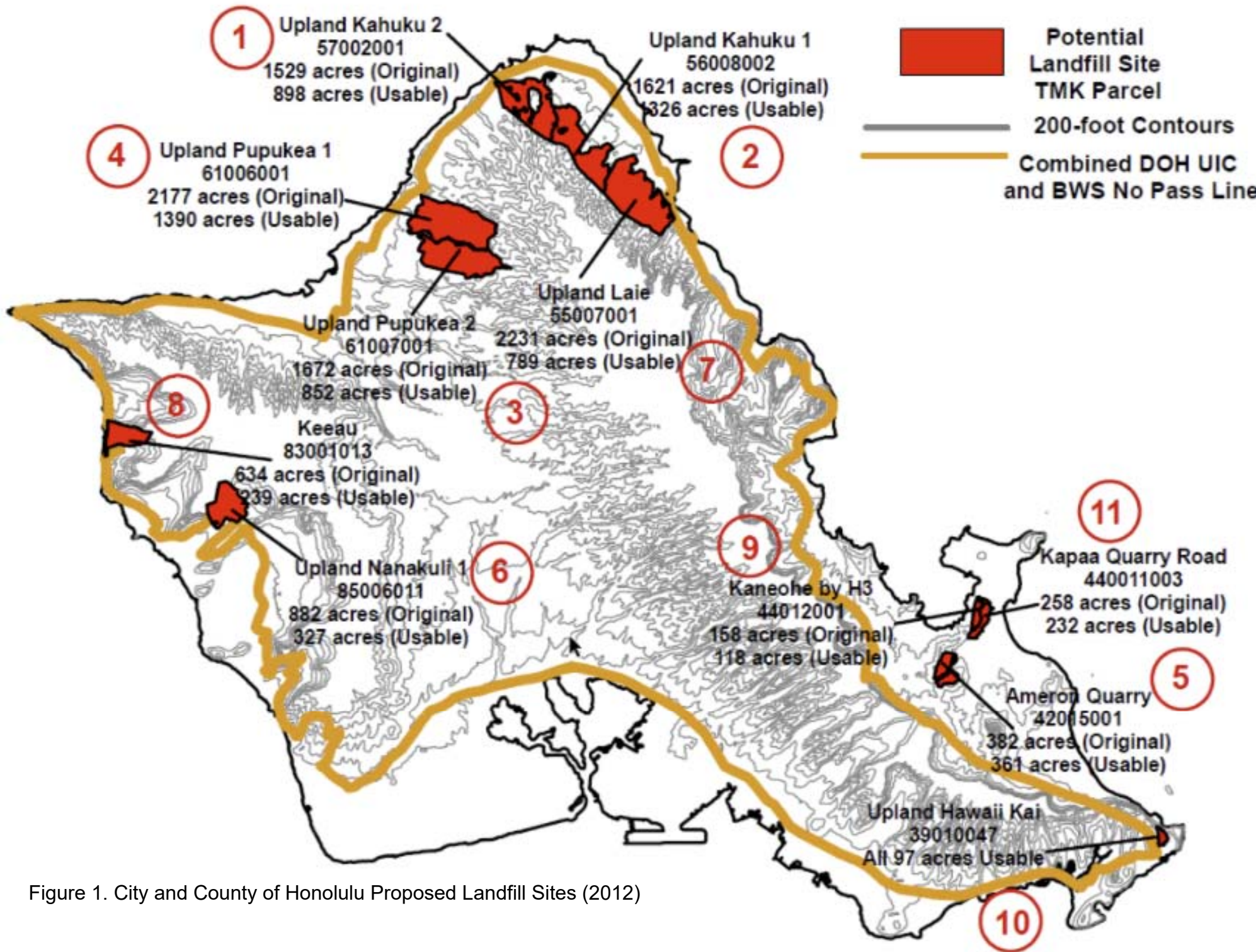


Figure 1. City and County of Honolulu Proposed Landfill Sites (2012)

Landfill Siting Interactive Map

- Combined Restrictions
- Residential Restriction
- Conservation Restriction
- Airport Restriction
- Tsunami Zone Restriction
- Federal Lands
- Developed/Undevelopable Lands
- Current Landfill

Conservation District Land Restriction
Act 73, State of Hawaii legislation, was passed in September 2020 that prohibits permitting and construction of a solid waste disposal facility located on conservation district land except in emergency circumstances.



LEGEND
Conservation District Land Restriction

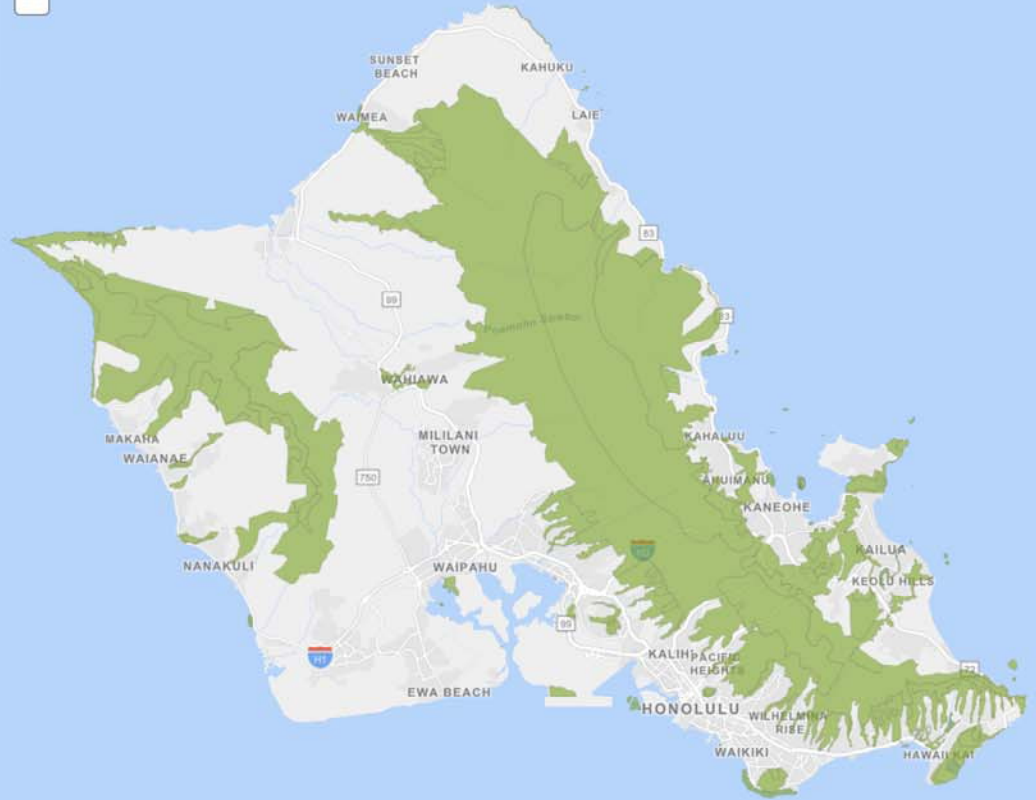


Figure 2. Conservation District Map - Oahu

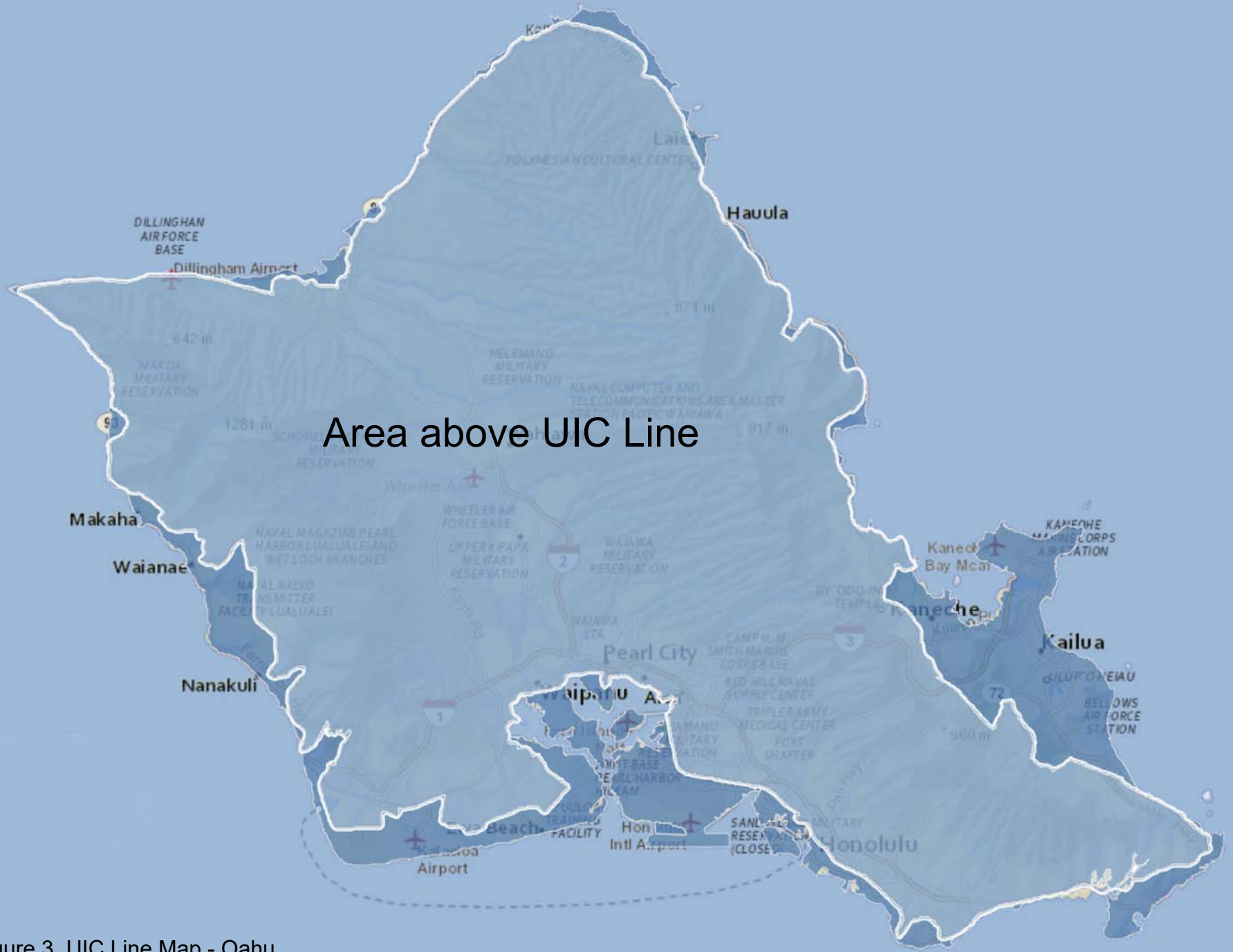


Figure 3. UIC Line Map - Oahu

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

MICHAEL O'KEEFE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 22-22

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Marten:

SUBJECT: House Bill 2398, Relating to Landfills

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services ("ENV") supports HB 2398 because it will increase the number of locations on Oahu to potentially site a landfill.

In case you are not aware, in November 2019 the Hawaii State Land Use Commission issued a Decision and Order that, among other things, requires the City and County of Honolulu ("City") to identify an alternative landfill site that is not the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill ("WGSL") by no later than December 31, 2022, and to close the WGSL by no later than March 2, 2028.

Then, in 2020, Governor Ige signed Act 73 (SB2386, SD2, HD2) into law. Act 73 added the following requirement to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342-52.

(b) No person, including the State or any county, shall construct, modify, or expand a waste or disposal facility including a municipal solid waste landfill unit, any component of a municipal solid waste landfill unit, a construction and demolition landfill unit, or any component of a construction and demolition landfill unit **without first establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile around the waste or disposal facility.** This subsection shall not apply to the continued operation of an existing waste or disposal facility that is properly permitted; provided that continued operation does not require physical expansion, vertical or horizontal, of the facility requiring additional permitting review and a permit modification.

Act 73 also defined a "buffer zone" as, "the distance between the edge of waste or waste activity and the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line." Additionally, Act 73 prohibits siting a landfill in a conservation district except in emergency circumstances.

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
February 2, 2022
Page 2

Act 73 significantly reduced the amount of land on Oahu where a landfill is able to be located. Furthermore, when other landfill siting restrictions are applied along with Act 73, including a federally required 10,000 foot buffer around airports and a State Department of Health restriction on siting landfills in tsunami inundation areas, the amount of available land is reduced even more. "Attachment A" to this testimony shows the impact of the Act 73, airport and tsunami restrictions on a map of Oahu. The uncolored white areas of the map show the only areas that are not impacted by these restrictions.

The City is required to have an active solid waste landfill that is capable of receiving ash and residue from its waste-to-energy facility, H-POWER. An active landfill is also needed to accept non-combustible material that is unable to be processed at H-POWER, as well as wastes diverted from H-POWER during required annual maintenance shut-downs. Additionally, the City needs a landfill in order to receive and/or store large amounts of debris that could be generated in a natural disaster. The land area required for the new landfill site is estimated to be approximately 80 acres. This does not include the required landfill buffer zone, which could add approximately 400 hundred acres, depending on the location.

Reducing the buffer zone requirement in HRS Section 342H-52 from one-half to one-quarter mile will reduce the minimum land area required from about 500 acres to approximately 250 acres and make some additional land available for a possible landfill, but at this point it is unknown if that amount of land will be sufficient in size or otherwise able to accommodate a landfill. In order to maximize the amount of land able to be considered for Oahu's next landfill, and therefore ensure that the landfill is situated in the best-suited location, ENV respectfully requests that this committee consider amending HB2398 to remove the buffer zone requirement from Section 342H-52. However, in the absence of such an amendment, ENV respectfully requests that HB2398 be passed.

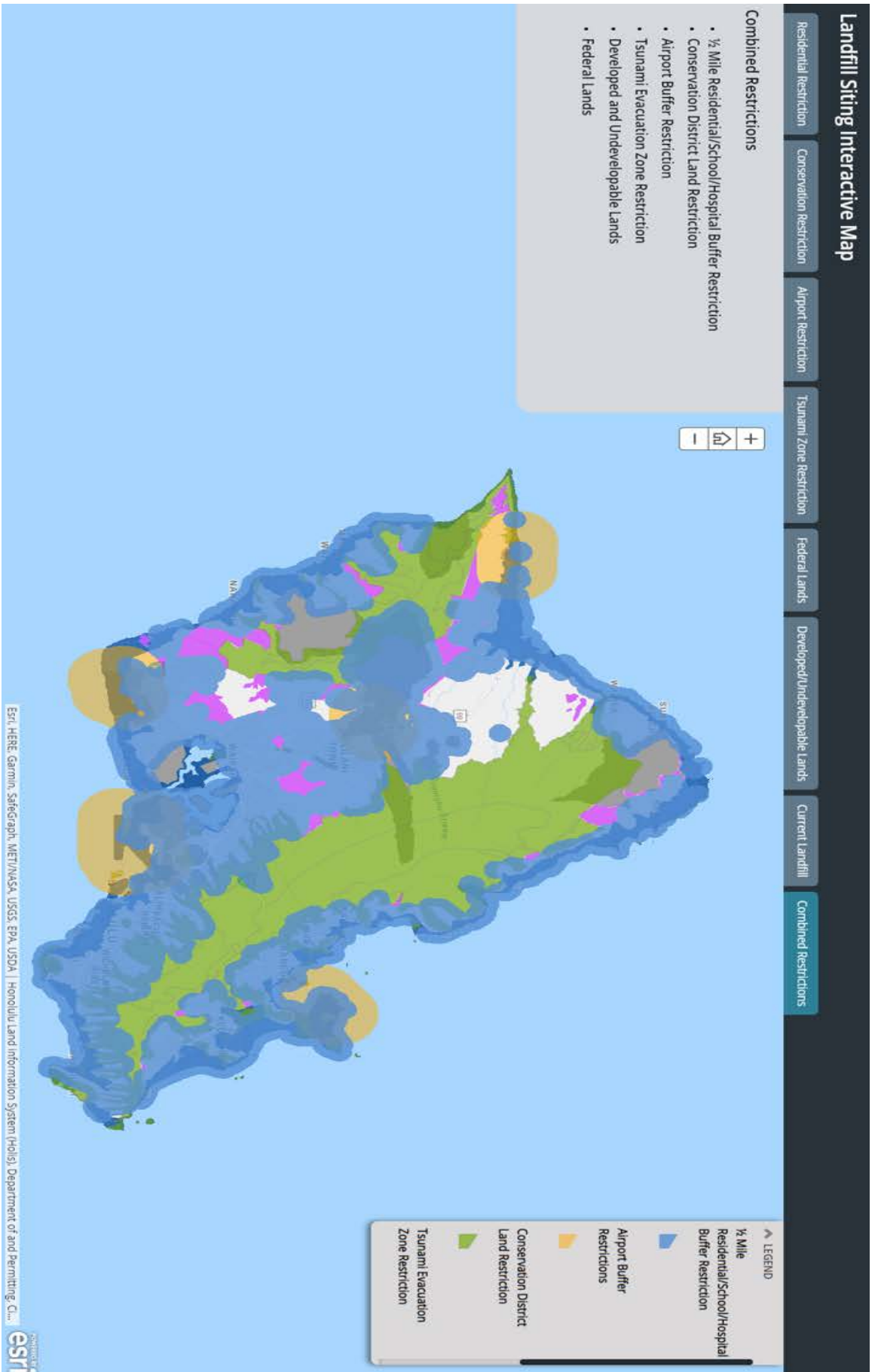
Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 768-3486.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director Designate

Attachment

ATTACHMENT A





KE ONE O KĀKUHHEWA

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Hawai'i State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Pō'akolu, Pepeluali 3, 2022
Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 325
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB2398 - Relating to Landfills

Aloha Luna Ho'omalua Nicole Lowen, *Hope Luna Ho'omalua* Lisa Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Ke One O Kākuhihewa-O'ahu Council for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **OPPOSES** HB2398. This bill prohibits reduces the landfill buffer zone from one-half mile to one-quarter mile.

At its 60th annual convention, our Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, of which we are a member, adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai'i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill for an act would ensure a minimum safe distance of one-half mile from such facilities and the public. Let's make sure that such sites, including landfills, are *not in anyone's backyard*. Please leave the buffer zone intact at ½ miles.

Thus, the O'ahu Council respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** HB2398.

Ke One O Kakūhihewa-O'ahu Council, is a native Hawaiian organization made up of 24 Hawaiian civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealiikiamoku Pang, President



House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 3, 2022
9:05 am Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB2398 - RELATING TO LANDFILLS

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Martin and members of the House committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **OPPOSES** HB2398. This bill reduces the size of landfill buffer zones and moves ‘opala closer to schools, hospitals, and homes. At its 60th annual convention, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai‘i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

E aloha kekahi i kekahi
Love one another.

No community should suffer the negative health effects and decreased quality of life that are associated with waste or disposal facilities, including landfills.

The preamble argues that the ½ mile buffer zone forces any new legacy landfill on O‘ahu to be over aquifers. We believe this to be false. Please refer to the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Landfill Site Selection (2012) map which identified multiple sites across Oahu, a number of them not above an aquifer as indicated by those sites not above the combined Department of Health UIC and the Board of Water Supply No Pass lines.

Our club stands in solidarity with all those who suffer from the negative effects of waste or disposal facilities being placed too close to communities and believe that we all should have a clean and healthy environment. We have both educated and been educated by our island communities on the health hazards and negative effects of landfills. Particularly, how Native Hawaiians have faced environmental racism given the placement of the PVT Landfill in the Wai‘anae coast of O‘ahu. There, more than 18,000 people who live, work, and play daily within 2 miles of the currently operating landfill, and of those, 13,000 are Native Hawaiians. Moreover,

two homestead communities, Princess Kahanu and Nānākuli, are located less than 0.5 miles from the currently operating landfill.

On August 20, 2019, we stood in solidarity with Nānāikapono Hawaiian Civic Club and hundreds of community members in opposition to the relocation of the PVT Landfill to remain in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili - a mere 750 feet from homes - at the Nānākuli and Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board meeting. On September 4, 2019 we delivered a petition of more than 5,500 signatures in opposition of the referenced PVT Landfill relocation to a special session of the Nānākuli-Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board and later to the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting. On December 16, 2019, we presented with community leader Eddie Werner of the Nānākuli Homestead on the public health crisis in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. On February 14th, we presented at a Native Hawaiian speaker series hosted by Papa Ola Lōkahi and was invited back to elaborate at another session on April 24th. These are some of the actions that we have taken, along with hundreds of community members who labor to *mālama ‘āina* and *aloha ‘ohana* – trying to stop a landfill from being placed in a community’s backyard.

The Public Health Crisis already occurring in Nānākuli and Mā‘ili has been likely exacerbated due to the evolving SARS-CoV-2 virus (abbreviated as Covid-19 *a.k.a.* Coronavirus Disease 2019) pandemic. We have lost many members of our community due to the negative effects of landfills coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic. We must do better.

In the spirit of *lōkahi*, we continue to advocate, not just for Nānākuli and Mā‘ili, but for all communities in our beloved Hawai‘i. Let us *aloha* each other and make sure that no community should suffer from the unmitigated ill effects of waste or disposal facilities, including landfills. Please do not undue the monumental and historic progressive legislation that ensures that our people are not within ½ mile of ‘opala. Protecting our *wai* (water) and protecting our *ola kino* (health) are not mutually exclusive. Keep ‘opala away from people.

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

PKHCC urges the committee to HOLD HB2398. #HawaiianLivesMatter

Me ke aloha,



A. Makana Paris

Pelekikena Iho Nei

Encl.

‘A‘ole PVT Compiled Community Petitions 5,500+ link: <https://tinyurl.com/rzx766e>

**Figure 6-1
Site Evaluation Results**

Report of the Mayor's Advisory Committee
on Landfill Site Selection (MACLSS)

Dept. of Environmental Services/C&C of Honolulu



Legend



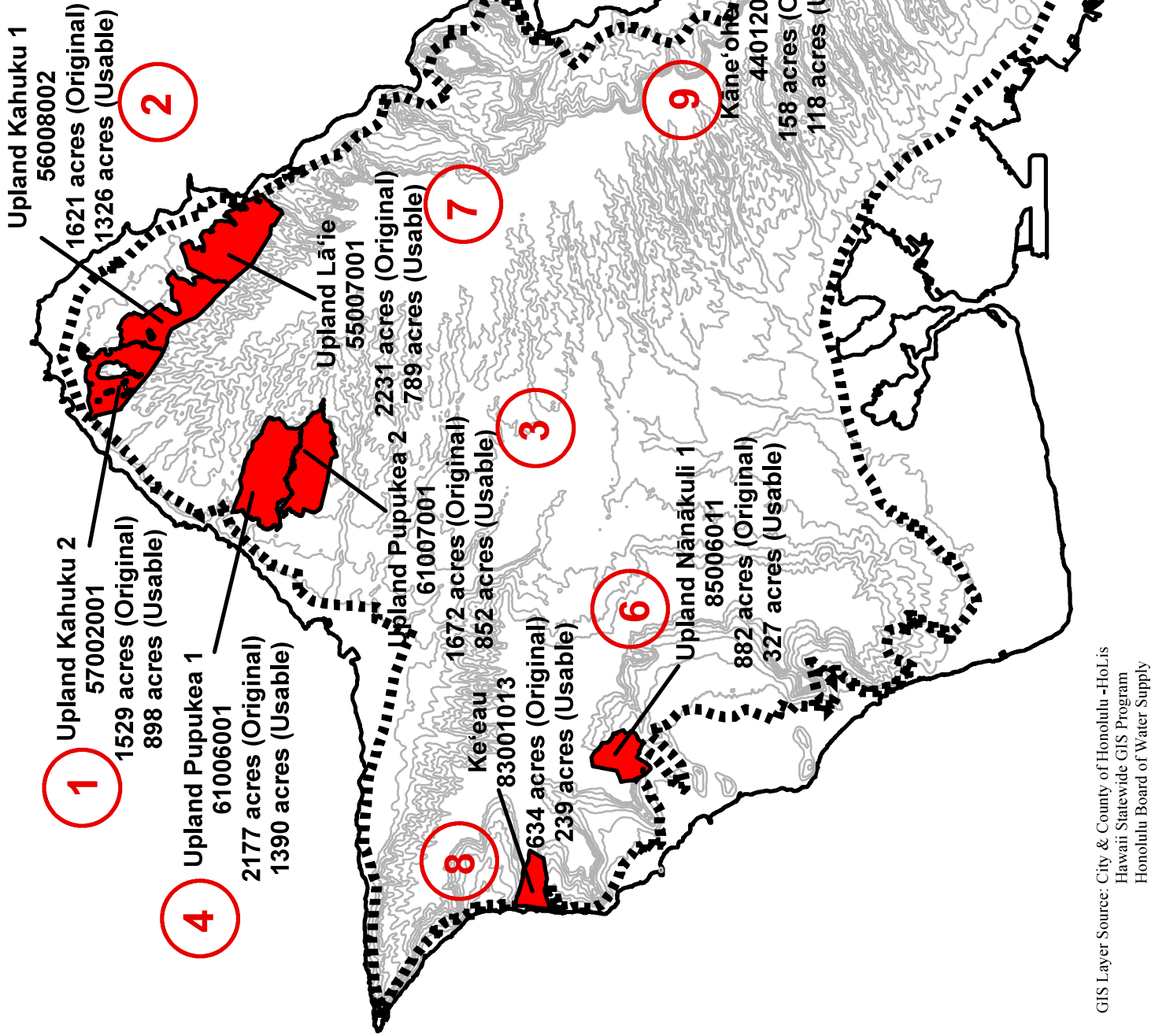
Potential Landfill
Site TMK Parcel



200-foot Contours



Combined DOH UIC
and BWS No Pass Line





House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Pō‘akolu, Pepeluali 3, 2022
Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 325
Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB2398 - Relating to Landfills

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalua Nicole Lowen, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalua* Lisa Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **OPPOSES** HB2398. This bill reduces the landfill buffer zone from one-half mile to one-quarter mile.

At its 60th annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2019-52, urging the State of Hawai‘i and all counties to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills, with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile.

No community should suffer the negative health impacts and decrease in quality of life from a waste or disposal facility, including a landfill. This bill for an act would ensure a minimum safe distance of one-half mile from such facilities and the public. Let’s make sure that such sites, including landfills, are *not in anyone’s backyard*. Please leave the buffer zone intact at ½ miles.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** HB2398.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs

located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* ‘o.

Me ka ‘oia ‘i ‘o,

Hailama Farden
Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2019 - 52

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I AND ALL COUNTIES TO CREATE AN ADEQUATE BUFFER ZONE AROUND LANDFILLS WITH A MINIMUM BUFFER ZONE OF ONE-HALF MILE

WHEREAS, there is an emergence of scientific studies affirming the health hazards of living and working near landfills, including studies published by the World Health Organization in 2015, and “*Living near a landfill may damage your health*” published by the International Journal of Epidemiology, Oxford University Press, in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i and the four counties lack landfill buffer zone requirements that adequately protect public health; and

WHEREAS, adequate landfill buffer zones provide minimum space of four miles and improvements, particularly trees and other vegetation, between a landfill’s structures used for handling or storing waste and homes, schools, and other public places; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of residents of Nānākuli Town and the Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead, thousands of students attending Ka Waihona o Ka Na‘auao Public Charter School, Nānāikapono Elementary School, Nānākuli Elementary School, Nānākuli High and Intermediate School, Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center, and thousands of members of the public go to places of worship, clinics, grocery stores, restaurants, and visit their ‘ohana at the Nānākuli kupuna housing, all within four miles of O‘ahu’s only construction and demolition landfill, the privately-owned landfill operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. (PVT Landfill); and

WHEREAS, the current buffer zone between PVT Landfill and the nearest residential units and churches is approximately 750 feet; and

WHEREAS, since the 1980s, kama‘āina offered numerous oral and written testimony at Neighborhood Board meetings in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i Department of Health public hearings, and community gatherings at churches voicing concerns over the adverse health impacts of living and working in close proximity to landfills in general and PVT Landfill, in specific; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health has still not addressed the outstanding inquiries from the community related to the long-term health effects of the debris that

runs off of PVT Landfill during heavy rains, the leachate that permeates the ground, the dust particles from both PVT Landfill and its trucks that coat neighborhood houses as they drive through the community, and the gasses released by the decomposition of waste and other landfill activities, especially the cumulative and long-term health effects on those living and working within four miles of landfill; and

WHEREAS, the predominantly Native Hawaiian communities of Nānākuli Town and Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead should no longer be subject to the adverse effects of landfills; and

WHEREAS, no community in Hawai‘i should be impacted by the adverse effects of landfills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welchu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the State of Hawai‘i and City and County of Honolulu to create an adequate buffer zone around landfills with a minimum buffer zone of one-half mile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welchu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau on the 16th day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

Handwritten signature of Hailama V. K. K. Farden.

Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President

February 3, 2022

Committee Energy and Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair



Working together for Kapolei

Thursday, February 3, 2022
9:05 a.m. via Videoconference

RE: HB 2398 Landfills

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Nanakuli, Waianae and Makaha. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce **strongly opposes HB 2398** which would reduce the landfill buffer zone from one-half mile to one-quarter mile. Currently, Act 73 (2020) prohibits landfills from being placed in conservation districts and requires a one-half mile buffer zone between landfills and residential areas, schools and hospitals. West Oahu is the hub of growth and economic development for the state because it is home to the Second City, Kapolei. Kapolei is one of the fastest growing regions in the state, yet **West Oahu has been Oahu's 'dumping ground' for decades and our residents and businesses surrounding the landfill have endured the potential health risks and ramifications long enough.** Before the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill was opened in 1989, residents of Nanakuli endured the landfill in their backyard too since the 1940's. There have been studies that have shown higher rates of cancer, birth defects and respiratory illnesses like asthma in residents who live near a landfill, not to mention the public perception of living or working near a landfill. Even after the Waimanalo Gulch landfill closes, the contaminants in the soil will be tested for another 30 years.

It is evident that this measure's intention is to open more possibilities for potential landfill sites on the west side and potentially lay the groundwork for the argument that the landfill must stay in West Oahu.

1001 Kamokila Boulevard, Campbell Building Suite 250, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

The recent water contamination event at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Tank Facility has also elevated the urgency ensuring there are no contaminants in near proximity to Oahu's water supply and the Board of Water Supply's December 14, 2021 Presentation, "Oahu's Groundwater/Aquifer and Siting New Landfill" also placed further restrictions that are being taken into consideration in the pending decision as to where to locate the new landfill site. It also should be noted that there are other considerations aside from the buffer zone and the water supply that must be taken into consideration **including federal laws and regulations** regarding the proximity of a landfill to airports, to include Kalaheo airport, Kalaheo, Oahu. (Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 106-181)). Additional restrictions include *Developed and Undeveloped lands, "Land that has existing commercial, industrial, and other use, or land on which future development is planned. Other use development includes, but is not limited to, photovoltaic solar and wind farm renewable energy projects."* (<https://www.honolulu.gov/opala/newlandfill.html>)

The struggle to close current Waimanalo Gulch Landfill as it reached capacity is a long one. The Waimanalo Gulch Landfill original closing date was slated for 2004. The most recent decision made by the State Land Use Commission in October of 2019 to extend the current permit to 2028, and the City and County of Honolulu must cease operations of the landfill by March 2, 2028. The City and County of Honolulu has established a Landfill Advisory Committee to assist in identifying the future site and the future site must be named by December 31, 2022. (<https://www.honolulu.gov/opala/newlandfill.html>)

A recent Civil Beat Story ["The Next Community To Host Oahu's Landfill Can Learn From The Westside", October 21, 2021](#) outlines the long journey of trash and troubles that our beautiful Leeward Coast has endured and the journey ahead to find a new landfill site. **There are reasons why federal and state restrictions have been placed on where a landfill should be located, to protect the safety and welfare of our workers, our residents and our future keiki.** For all these reasons and more, this buffer should not be altered and changed.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,



Kiran Polk
Executive Director

HB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:53:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members:

Please do not put 'opala closer to people, keep the buffer zone at 1/2 mile or consider increasing it. Mahalo.

Henrietta Paris

Kapolei, HI

HB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:55:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melvin Paris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators:

Don't put trash next to where we live. Keep the buffer zone. Mahalo

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, HI

HB-2398

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:34:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Martin and members of the House committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

My name is Kamuela Werner. I come from a predominately Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community in Nanakuli that has hosted the PVT Land Company Landfill in our backyards since the 1980s. From first hand experience, I can emphatically attest that no community deserves to live, work, and play within one-quarter mile of any landfill. I and my ohana **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB2398 which reduces the landfill buffer zone from one-half mile to one-quarter mile

Current public health studies associate living in close proximity to landfills (1 to 4 miles away) with adverse pregnancy outcomes, increases in infant low birth weights, increases in the risk of birth defects, self-reported headaches, sleepiness, respiratory and central nervous system problems, psychological conditions, and gastrointestinal issues (see *Health effects of residence near hazardous waste landfill sites: a review of epidemiologic literature*, Environmental Health Perspectives, 2000; *Health effects associated with the disposal of solid waste in landfills and incinerators in populations living in surrounding areas: a systematic review*, The International Journal of Public Health, 2013).

Construction and Demolition landfills in specific contains tons of gypsum drywall which breaks down to produce hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas (see *Hydrogen sulfide generation in simulated construction and demolition debris landfills: impact of waste composition*, The Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 2006). Residential exposure to H₂S within 3.1 miles of a landfill is associated with lung cancer deaths as well as with death, disease and hospitalizations from respiratory illnesses (see *Morbidity and mortality of people who live close to municipal waste landfills: a multisite cohort study*, International Journal of Epidemiology, 2016).

Please do not reduce the public health protections that Act 73 affords all in Hawaii.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

HB-2398

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:35:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2398 because of the numerous landfills legal and illegal in the Waianae Community and reducing the buffer zone DOES NOT CREATE A HEALTHY BREATHING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE RESIDENTS!

Thank you for your wise consideration of my testimony.