

# County Council Environmental Management Committee Meeting Notes – March 2, 2009

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## Agenda

In accordance with the agenda, this meeting included a presentation by Dan Pitzler, CH2M HILL and discussion on the following topics:

- Plan status
- Zero Waste and ISWMP Crosswalks
- Value Model and Risk Analysis of Residuals Management Options
- Initial Draft Implementation Planning

## Public Statements

- None.

## Council Member Comments

**Pete Hoffman** – Was pleased to see the integration of zero waste study and Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) Update. He expressed support for mini-MRFs (material recovery facilities) at some recycling/transfer stations rather than just one each in East and West Hawai`i. Dan responded that services would still be provided at recycling/transfer stations it was just more economic to do processing in two locations rather than six. Pete requested that we think carefully about the advantages of more mini-MRFs.

**Guy Enriques** – Wanted to know if we had an implementation timeline in mind. He's concerned about overwhelming the public with too many changes at one time. Dan replied that we would consider phasing and implementation carefully, and that changes would need to be accompanied by an extensive social marketing campaign to inform and promote program advantages to the public.

**Dominic Yagong** – New technologies will be important to consider. In considering Extended Producer Responsibility programs, he wanted us to think carefully about the burden such programs place on retailers. The retail business community is having a very difficult time in the recent economic downturn. Mandates on business will ultimately be passed on to the consumer.

**Brenda Ford** – Suggests that we have different timelines for different aspects of the plan. This would spread out implementation.

**Donald Ikeda** – Expressed support for having the private sector develop a disposal facility using its capital and the County paying a tip fee. Why is this not included in the options being considered? Dan said that there are implementation challenges with this type of option: for example, if the project fails, the County will be asked to pay more money to fix it

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and/or have to come up with another option. Dan agreed to discuss this with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) tomorrow.

**Brenda Ford** - Expressed support for keeping the County's options open about new technology. She doesn't want the County to get pinned down to just a single technology.

**Dominc Yagong** - Also doesn't want SWAC to limit the technologies being considered in the plan. He noted that the Council ultimately must approve the plan recommendations.

**Dennis Onishi** - Agreed that we should consider private sector involvement, and that we should take more time to evaluate technologies if needed.

**Donald Ikeda** - We should let the private sector bear the expense of getting rid of waste - let them spend their own money and the County pays them a tip fee.

**Kelly Greenwell** - Addressed his fellow Council members to consider the scale of the options being evaluated. We should consider state-wide options where waste from Hawaii County is combined with waste from other County's and used to make a valuable product. We should have a profit driven model much like a public utility. Solid waste is a profitable resource. He and others are going to Washington D.C. to request recovery funding or Farm Bill funds to process waste into a valuable product with beneficial use. Now is not the time to tighten our belts, we should go get federal funding for a broader vision of improving our environment. If we make the project interesting and exciting enough, we can succeed with this vision.