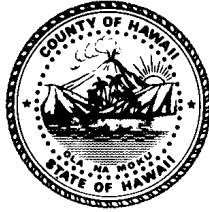


Harry Kim
Mayor



Bruce C. McClure
Director

Jiro A. Sumada
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 · Fax (808) 961-8630
www.co.hawaii.hi.us

August 19, 2008

Contact Person: Bruce C. McClure, P.E.
Director, Department of Public Works
(808) 961-8321 Monday - Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(808) 557-6437 After hours, Noelani Whittington
www.co.hawaii.hi.us Click on Public Works

Proposed amendments to County grading code

Nine major changes to the erosion and sedimentation ordinance will be presented to the Public Works and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting at the Hawaii County Council Chamber in Hilo on September 23.

“A new requirement of the Soil and Water Conservation District is a review of the conservation plan for agricultural operations every five years. This is to insure the entity is confirming to the practice. If it is not, then Soil and Water Conservation Districts may terminate the plan. Public Works would follow up with a violation notice and appropriate action under the proposed changes in Chapter 10,” said Bruce McClure, Public Works director.

Under the proposed ordinance, the County of Hawaii may require a property owner to post a performance bond to insure payment for corrective work. Lesser fines are up to \$1,000 a day for violations.

Proposed changes would require:

- Conservation plans prepared by a licensed engineer or a conservationist for Ag operations. No exemptions.
- For urban construction
 - Best management practices prevent or reduce pollution to State waters.
 - Permits posted at the job site.
 - Erosion control plans must be prepared by a licensed engineer or land surveyor would be required for grading more than 15,000 sq. ft and grubbing more than an acre.
 - Equipment operators, contractors and property owners could be held responsible for violating the law under proposed penalties and enforcement rules.

- Permit applications would also require approval by the Planning Dept. to comply with the General Plan and accepted land use regulations. This is in addition to the State Historic Preservation Division approval.
- Grading permit applications submitted to the County must be prepared by a registered engineer or land surveyor licensed in the State of Hawaii.
- A new fee increase of 30% or more in permit fees.
- Bond required for larger projects.

For a copy of the proposed ordinance and a summary of the proposed changes go online to the County website at www.co.hawaii.hi.us. Click on Projects Update and scroll to County of Hawaii.

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