

# Integrated Resource and Solid Waste Management Plan

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This document provides transcribed notes from a series of public meetings held by the County of Hawaii on its draft Integrated Resources and Solid Waste Management Plan Update on June 1 through June 5, 2009. The meetings were attended by a total of 99\_ participants.

## Volcano, June 1

- Example of a good station. Kea`au? Not satisfied with any of the existing stations!
- Reduction to working hours will be a problem.
- Where do the funds from sales at the reuse centers get spent? They're used to defray costs; at this time revenues do not cover the costs of operation.
- How about "eco-centers"? This is a good concept.
- Would like to get the funds to staff stations and keep longer hours.
- Improve presentation "look" at reuse centers.
- Reuse Center will attract more use.
- Schools are a big violator - need to get them recycling more. It was explained that the State is responsible for collection contracts - the County hopes to work with them to improve on this.
- We need good home compost units.
- Thought we would get greenwaste at Volcano Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS).
- Will bags be compostable? Probably not - a good idea, but the County would need to be convinced that bags could be shipped and stored without breaking down.
- Chicago had them, w/stickers.
- Food products have a lot of packing, especially nonrecyclable plastics.
- Can we stop all nonrecyclable packaging? Very difficult to do, but many would like to see this.
- Nature's Path-recyclable?
- Could there be a minimum "free" amount?

- Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) may impact the poor, who would then be forced to illegally dump. County will explore vouchers or other way to make disposal less costly for low income residents.
- Our safety net is destroyed don't count on it.
- Coqui? The County does what it can to minimize the chance of transporting frogs from one area to another.
- Illegal dumping will be bad with PAYT!
- Get inmates to pick up litter!
- Regional bins for free, here and there might be another service that could be provided.
- How about contractors with small trailers at transfer stations?
- Need bulky waste collection.
- Start off with some "goodwill" bags - this is a recommendation in plan.
- Voluntary Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) by companies should be encouraged
- "Pay as you throw" unfortunate term, need more recycling education.
- How much will these new programs cost each household annually?
- Should we "police" the bags?
- Mainland: Some places allow bins that are "transparent", can we bring those to RTSs, instead of bags?
- Looking at waste as resources, helps create jobs, is this not true? It can be. There is a continuum, job creation to efficiency depends on resource (glass, deconstruction of buildings)
- Can we use recyclable containers, not bags?
- Hi-5 can help pay your trash fee.
- Glenwood, clean but inconvenient recycling.
- Staff at transfer stations that stare you in the face are good.
- Why not bring trash here for materials recovery?
- Kelly Greenwell (Council member) wants to compost State's garbage on Big Island
- Majority will be willing to cooperate on this?
- This is a sound basis for moving forward?
- If transfer station hours are limited, early is better.

## Pāhoa, June 2

- Concern that citizen comments be taken seriously
- Does recycling here make/lose money? Generally it costs money to recycle – metals can be a net revenue source when markets are strong.
- Government support for reuse/manufacture
- Waste-to-energy?
- Even increasing tip fees will encourage illegal dumping by businesses.
- Video surveillance might be a way to fight illegal dumping. Make it easier to do right thing. Subsidize low income residents that can't afford Pay As You Throw.
- Need bin for greenwaste in Pahoia.
- What is a good recycling rate? Model recycling communities like San Francisco and Seattle are reported to be recycling 55 percent to nearly 70 percent.
- Value-added product model.
- Greenwaste to methane compost.
- Power glass foundries.
- German system-clear, brown, green bags are good.
- More education is needed.
- Use volunteers in order to keep stations open longer.
- People will dump at gates on closed days.
- There will be areas here in Pahoia that may see increased illegal dumping.
- No waste-to-energy plant.
- Perhaps adjust rates to go down when diversion increases.
- Reward recycling with tickets/tags.
- Recycler of the month (coupon for tags/tipping fee).
- Labor issue, can't substitute private sector workers for public sector workers in many circumstances.
- Construction & Demolition landfill/reuse is important.
- What does the solid waste system cost/resident?

## Hilo, June 2

- What price for Pay As You Throw?
- What is EPR? (Extended Producer Responsibility)
- Instead of bags, could you do Pay As You Throw with tickets maybe, with volume or weight value
- Look at tipping fee ordinance
- Why \$2 per bag?
- Tipping fees should not be such a large part of revenue stream – more from property tax.
- We are not like Mainland, Pay As You Throw is not a good idea
- Who will be responsible to clean up rubbish?
- What about white goods?
- How about cleanups by homeowners of roadsides?
- Education can work. We need to work together.
- Living on an island presents many challenges.
- The County should try to encourage small cleanups without incurring cost.
- Recycling won't work.
- How do commercial haulers deal with customers who do not separate trash for recycling? This is a practical problem for haulers.
- Have recyclers pay for it?
- Commercial haulers will lose business if you mandate recycling and implement bans. Don't change our job description; we throw away bags, period.
- Rephrase recycling requirement for permits so that it's clear that service must be offered, but not necessarily accepted and clarify commercial haulers' responsibilities.
- Don't require haulers to pick up recyclables. Maybe should combine with recycling company?
- Concern with 7-acre expansion.
- Smells coming into farm lots.
- Any revenues from recycling?
- Any savings from reuse?
- Labels for HI-5 issue – why do they mandate intact labels? Should County help change law to allow unlabelled bottles to be redeemed?

- Are there economic stimulus \$ available? There is \$60M, isn't some for Counties for solid waste.
- Use federal, not taxpayers money if possible
- What is support for zero waste with Council/Mayor?
- Will County do recycling themselves?

### **Na`ālehu, June 3**

- Support for Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Support for Reuse Centers.
- Want more opportunity for businesses to bid on jobs.
- Term source separation is confusing.
- Green core support.
- Pay As You Throw
  - Some support
  - Some opposition
  - A new tax
    - Has a problem with that
    - Would rather have property taxes which hit others in NY, etc.
  - Concern about low income folks
  - Concern about illegal dumping
  - Consider giving \$ for recycling
- OceanView is ongoing problem
- What does the solid waste system cost per day per person?

### **Laupāhoehoe, June 4**

- Did alternatives evaluation include thermal? Yes.
- Do other Counties agree with the concept of promoting take-back programs? The County will be investigating this.
- Greenwaste: Is there concern over invasive species transfer? (in mulch)
- Equipment may be a challenge for commercial haulers to acquire to set up recycling.
- What is cost of transfer station repair?
- Mattresses at mile marker 9 on Saddle Road.
- How does O`ahu Waste To Energy facility work?

- What are “transfers from general fund?” Transfers that pay for about 2/3 of the cost of the solid waste system.
- So additional funding can come from either tip fee or taxes? Yes.
- Hi-5, sales point should not have to store returns.
- Likes the idea of waste to energy.
- Businesses should recognize that it costs money to do this, but they have a social responsibility.
- How does HI-Power take care of pollutants?
- What is a differential tip fee?
- What do you mean by “opportunity to recycle” legislation? All new residential and commercial businesses must have space identified for recycling bins.
- What do you mean by “change school collection to include recycling?” Currently State contracts allow for garbage only, and not recyclables.

#### **Waimea, June 4**

- Is there federal money available to support new programs? Possibly, but not readily available.
- Can the county float bonds for transfer stations? Yes it does each year.
- What is the possibility of getting the State to require recyclable packing materials, and to put a tax on any that don't meet the requirement?
- How much of HI-5 materials are being recovered? About 90 percent in Hawai'i County.
- Overall people don't want to see County government get bigger, private enterprise can do it better.
- Manufacturing is limited by zoning laws and regulations; more could be done if laws/regulations were modified.
- What is happening to recycled materials, if sold where do funds go? Do some go into landfill? Material from multi-material bins go to west coast for processing; glass goes to various markets with some local use in construction markets; green waste stays local.
- In support of changing zoning to support composting on Agriculture lands.
- Also in support of public-private partnerships to enable recycling.
- Is there a mechanism to put out an open Request For Proposal for waste-to-energy solutions? This has been tried.
- There is a need to collect information on new technologies. A comprehensive review was done as part of this plan.
- Bulldozer fiasco in Hilo-bad experience.

- Pay-as-you-throw is just another tax.
- What is the estimated cost per family per month for Pay As You Throw? What is system of implement?
- Is there a mechanism to recycle small engines?
- At legislature they passed a special purpose revenue bond to build Waste To Energy at Keahole.
- Does this plan prioritize transfer station reconstruction sequence? No, other than funds have been set aside for Pahoa and design is under way on a couple of other stations.
- Review of new waste processing technologies should be conducted more frequently to account for rapid technology change.

### **Kona 1, June 5**

- Does Pay As You Throw mean you have to pay to recycle? No, recycling at Rural Transfer Stations would still be free.
- What about new technologies–carbon reduction or plasma arc? Is it possible to build in Hawai'i? This was evaluated in plan and is not recommended for this 5-year planning cycle, but it is recommended that they be re-evaluated each planning cycle.
- I heard that the Florida plasma arc facility is almost complete? No, they have not yet applied for air quality permits from state and have not begun construction.
- I think plasma arc is necessary to move forward.
- Solar condenser can produce higher temperature than plasma–no need for electric power. Planning to Research &Development in Hawai'i–2 to 3 years from implementation of demo.
- Why rebuild only one Rural Transfer Station per year? Available funds.
- Does the plan address Construction &Demolition waste through deconstruction? Yes.
- How has feedback been on Pay As You Throw? Some positive, some negative.
- Because aesthetics is so important to economy, the value of clean areas without litter is something to consider.
- Many families will not be able to afford Pay As You Throw.
- More police action is not good.
- Consumers purchase without government input but expect government to deal with it after.
- Single stream is an option that will work.
- Solid waste is opportunity not problem.

- Due to election, opportunity, to do research and development will increase. Solar-plasma based destruction technology.
- Where are producers getting material?
- Would like to have opportunity to demonstrate new solar-fusion-plasma technology.
- Kelly Greenwell described his vision for composting solid waste from other Counties to improve soil and protect near shore reefs. All islands working together for economy of scale.
- The smell at closed Kailua Kona Landfill is greenwaste decomposing.

## **Kona 2, June 5**

- Let public know about Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) requirements for RTs, and how that effects the need to have staff to monitor what goes into the landfill.
- What is different between compost and mulch in terms of raw source material? Mulch is from green waste, compost can be from a variety of feedstocks.
- Are there more ways to create incentives, like plastic bag bans? How about discount if you bring your own bag?
- Where is new 65-acre parcel located? At the Hilo landfill site.
- Noticed cows at the closed Kailua-Kona Landfill. They're there to keep grass down which makes monitoring more effective.
- Is Construction & Demolition waste addressed in the plan? Yes.
- Where do they put Construction & Demolition waste? Mostly in the landfill, but Arc of Hilo and others provide locations for reuse.
- When is Kona Landfill remediation planned? Feasibility testing shortly – then a plan will be made.
  - Are fires always in same place?
  - How much material is in the Landfill?
  - Does it need to take that long?
- Pay As You Throw won't work because people will resist.
- How about a discount on products that have take-back programs?
- If you give people incentives then you will be at 90%
- Advanced disposal fees upon purchase.
- Set up program similar to H1-5 for other materials?
- How about re-useable bottles like the old days?

- Closing of the Kailua Landfill, look at Kaka`ako as an example
  - Don't get wrapped up and stuck on the problem
- Hawai'i Department of Health will ultimately make landfill siting decision, like was done at the West Hawai'i Landfill.
- How about commercial sector? How does problem get solved?
- Large hotel recycling, how does business recycle given RTS limitations?
- Can recycling centers accommodate containers from hotels?
- Need to increase tipping fees 2 to 3 times to create incentive to recycle.
- Diversion credits-how does that work?
- Geoplasma decision in 2008, Hawai'i turned them down because technology is too new
  - St. Lucie Florida site-is County looking at this for an example?
- Not enough people for economy of scale.
- Hitachi did pilot program in Japan in 1999.
- Need to include waste management in development of convenience lifestyle and visitor industry.
- Would like to have a technology exchange meeting in Hawai'i.
- Japan requires use of clear garbage bags, encourages people not to dispose of recyclables.