

THE MAYOR'S COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON RECYCLING

Monday, April 9, 2007

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Mililani Mauka Elementary School

GROUP MEMORY

AGENDA

- Mayor's Welcome
- Meeting Overview
- Presentation
- Questions and Discussion
- Pau

Mayor's Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Mufi Hannemann welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the first of seven community meetings in April and May sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu. The purpose of the meeting is to gather residents' input and ideas for developing a sustainable recycling system. The meetings will also serve as a venue for the City and County to explain what it is doing regarding recycling and the updating of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. New data from comprehensive studies that analyze Honolulu's solid waste stream and its programs will be presented by consultant Karen Luken from R.W. Beck.

Mayor Hannemann invited the community to share their manao, thoughts regarding this matter. He noted that whether they are lifelong residents or keiki `o ka `aina, everyone should be concerned about how we preserve our environment and develop a sustainable ahupua`a (mountain to the sea). This meeting is the beginning of this effort.

Mayor Hannemann introduced Senior Cabinet members who were present at the meeting: Managing Director Wayne Hashimoto, Deputy Managing Director Trudy Saito, Environmental Services Director Eric Takamura, Deputy Environmental Services Director Ken Shimizu, Human Resources Director Ken Nakamatsu and Director of the Department of Design and Construction Eugene Lee. Others attending the meeting included Chrystn Eades, an Administrative Assistant to the Mayor.

Mayor Hannemann noted that much has been accomplished since he has taken office including island-wide bulky item pick-up, curbside recycling of green waste, and continuing efforts to divert waste from the landfill. The City has partnered with metal recycler, Schnitzer Steel Industries, established a public-private partnership with Nike to collect used athletic shoes for recycling of rubber treads, and put out a request for proposal (RFP) to seek another alternative technology to reduce the waste stream going into the landfill and the island's dependence on oil.

The facilitator was introduced who then explained that her role was to ensure that everyone gets a chance to be heard, that questions get the best answers possible and that the discussion stays focused and on topic. The facilitator explained that comments made at these meetings will be recorded via newsprint at the front of the meeting and asked that the persons making the comments be sure that their comments were recorded accurately. The facilitator noted that input from meeting participants, including questions, will be recorded along with the group memory from each meeting and posted on the City and County's website within two weeks of each meeting. The website address is (www.opala.org).

Handouts provided included an overview of the Honolulu Solid Waste Management Plan which included a comment sheet on the last page that could either be turned in at the end of the meeting or mailed back to the address provided on the form (City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services' Refuse Division – Recycling, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 212, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707). The facilitator announced that Mayor Hannemann and his Senior Cabinet members would be staying for a half hour beyond the end of the meeting to answer questions or discuss other matters of importance to meeting participants that were not on the agenda this evening.

In addition to this first meeting, the Mayor will be convening six other community meetings on recycling:

- Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 PM to 8:30PM at Kaiser High School
- Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Kahuku High School
- Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 PM to 8:30PM at Mission Memorial Auditorium
- Thursday, May 10, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Windward Community College
- Saturday, May 12 (Youth meeting) – time and location to be announced
- Monday, May 21, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Kapolei Hale

Meeting Guidelines were presented by the facilitator and accepted by the group:

- Be courteous to each other.
- Listen as an ally. Surface agreements.
- Share the O₂. Give everyone a chance to talk.
- It's okay to disagree.

Meeting Overview

An overview of the meeting agenda was posted and reviewed by the facilitator and included a presentation by Consultant Karen Luken of R.W. Beck followed by questions and discussion.

Meeting participants were provided a survey from Qmark Research as they entered for completion. Participants were asked to pass these to the aisles for collection.

Introductions:

- Ann Hajnosz, RW Beck
- John Katahira, Limtiaco Consulting

- Karen Luken, RW Beck

Presentation

Consultant Karen Luken from R.W. Beck, has twenty years solid waste management experience throughout the United States. She recently completed the County of Kauai's Solid Waste Management Plan. The Consultant presented a Power Point presentation on the Honolulu Solid Waste Management Plan. She explained that the goal is to develop a five-year integrated solid waste management plan that includes source reduction and reuse, recycling and composting, waste-to-energy conversion, and landfilling. The City and County of Honolulu currently has curbside refuse pickup two times a week, island-wide bulky waste pickup, and curbside green waste pickup. Maui County has once a week pickup for \$12 per month with an additional fee for more pickups, and \$17 per month for a curbside recycling. Kauai County has once a week free trash pickup with all other services paid for by the consumer. Hawaii County provides no collection services.

The Solid Waste Planning Process:

The planning process includes talking with stakeholders. The Public community meetings are aimed at discussing what works and doesn't work; identifying issues; identifying solid waste solutions and tailoring these solutions to specific unique needs on Oahu; identifying action items (i.e., who, what, when, where, cost); and sponsoring more community meetings where solutions can be brought back to the community for further discussion and feedback. Also, Mayor Hannemann has established a twenty-two member Solid Waste Advisory Committee, of which four members represent youth.

Effectiveness of Current Recycling Efforts:

To determine the effectiveness of current recycling efforts, the Consultant examined what is being done right or wrong as well as where the City started from regarding recycling and where it is now. The City has focused on residential and commercial recycling of a variety of materials. These materials include paper, metals, glass, plastic, green waste, tires, auto batteries, electronic scrap, wood waste/pallets, construction and demolition debris, food waste, and sewage sludge. In 2005, 612,000 tons of materials were recycled, and as a result, these materials were kept out of the landfill, H-POWER, and transfer stations.

An overview was provided of the various recycling programs (i.e., paper, plastic and glass, metal, green waste, food waste, sludge, tires and batteries, e-waste, reuse/donations, construction/demolition debris), including the specific types of materials that are being recycled, the amount generated, disposed, recycled, and captured. It was noted that there are 75 drop-off sites throughout Oahu accept paper and mixed containers (glass, plastic, and aluminum). Focus has been placed on the business sector, and on the types of paper materials (i.e., cardboard, newspaper, office paper, low grade paper) where there is a market for reusing these materials.

For plastic and glass recyclables, the Consultant explained that there are seven different types of plastic and, except for plastics 1 and 2 (i.e. soda/water containers etc.), these

materials are not easily converted back to plastic. Ferrous and non-ferrous metals are easily converted back. Also, the HI-5 program is addressing aluminum cans while steel products are being recycled. At H-POWER and at the landfill, magnets are being used to pull out the ferrous metals. The City and County of Honolulu is trying to recover green waste material by collecting, composting, and reusing (closed loop system). The curbside recycling program is the City's attempt to keep the green waste separated from other waste. By collecting, composting, and reusing green waste, it is being kept out of the waste stream that goes to the landfill.

Food waste is being recycled in different ways. Low-technology recycling of food waste goes to pig farmers, medium technology recycling of food wastes can go to composting facilities, and cooking oils are being converted to biodiesel fuel for use by city vehicles and buses. Sludge can be composted and doesn't have to go to the landfills. Tires and batteries are banned from the landfills because of the lead acid and space that it takes up. One alternative is to create a tire-derived fuel.

Another area that makes up a vast component of the waste stream is e-waste. Businesses are banned from disposing e-waste through the City system and the City is trying to partner with private businesses to develop e-waste recycling programs.

Another area of recycling is reusing/donating products to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army. This lessens the impact to the landfill. Construction and demolition debris are being recycled, diverting 20% of waste materials from the landfill.

It was noted that the City is not waiting for the Solid Waste Management Plan to be completed to increase recycling efforts. Current initiatives to increase recycling effectiveness include increasing organics composting, which is being done to optimize performance of existing curbside green waste collection and by increasing participation/recovery, and increasing other organics such as food waste. The City is trying to increase the multi-material residential recycling programs by expanding the drop-off community recycling bins (i.e., multi-material bins, HI-5 fundraiser bins). Many schools have multi-material recycling bins situated on their campuses as a means for fundraising. Other efforts have aimed at expanding bio-solids recycling (i.e., co-composting bio-solids/green waste).

Statistics were provided on Oahu's waste. The total waste generated annually on Oahu is 1.76 million tons, of which 612,000 tons were recycled in 2005 resulting in a recycling rate of 35%. This rate exceeds the national average of 27-32%. The Consultant explained that H-POWER is a waste-to-energy facility that aims to keep waste out of the landfill. Waste taken to H-POWER is converted to energy. Annually, 600,000 tons of waste are converted to electricity, thereby reducing the volume of waste by 90%. H-POWER recycles virtually 100% of the ferrous/non-ferrous metals and keeps them from going to the landfill. Minus the ash and residue (200,000 tons) from H-POWER, the total recycling of waste to energy is 1.012 million tons. Total landfill diversion from this initiative is 57%.

The goal is to increase landfill diversion by increasing recycling of green waste, food waste, bio-solids, metals, paper, glass, plastic and increasing waste-to-energy. The Consultant explained that there are some general rules that can help increase recycling. First, adding programs does not always guarantee increased landfill diversion. Second, there is a need to identify existing barriers and potential motivators to recycling. To make it effective, we need to figure out how to increase participation.

Recycling takes 3C's (Commitment / Convenience / Cost) to make 3R's (Reduce / Reuse / Recycle) most effective.

The proposed curbside recycling program includes once/week refuse collection and once/week recycling collection. Recycling collection consists of alternative weekly pickups of green waste and mixed recyclables. A second day garbage collection will be made available by request (if needed) for \$10/month. Residents will have weekly refuse collection via a gray 96-gallon receptacle; green waste (i.e., grass, tree and hedge trimmings) collection every other week via a green 96-gallon receptacle; and mixed recyclables (newspaper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass, plastic (#1 and #2)) collection via a blue 64-gallon receptacle every other week.

It is anticipated that there will be a decreased need for second day collection. The average 96-gallon bin holds 72 pounds of garbage. The average Oahu household sets out 40 pounds on the first day of collection. The average Oahu household sets out 25 pounds on the second day. Participating in recycling programs will decrease total refuse set out by 15 pounds per week.

The system is not unique. By participating in the recycling program, the amount of refuse and the need for second day collection should be reduced. It is anticipated that the fee will encourage participation in the recycling program as it lessens the need for the second day by pulling out 30% of the average household's waste stream. The goal is to capture more recyclables. High participation will increase the program's effectiveness. It is estimated that curbside recycling of mixed recyclables will increase our overall rate of recycling by 2% and that most of this would most likely be paper due to the HI-5 program.

The Consultant noted that there are some considerations that need to be taken into account to achieve effectiveness. Some factors include additional tonnage recycled, high transportation costs for mixed recyclables, fluctuating markets for mixed recyclables, on-island markets for green waste, single bin versus three bins, collection frequency, and improper disposal behavior.

The Consultant shared examples of other locations where recycling efforts have been successful. For example, San Francisco, California uses three carts for refuse: blue cart for glass, plastic, cans, foil, paper, and cardboard (recyclables); green cart for yard trimmings, food scraps, and soiled paper (green waste), and a black cart for non-recyclable, non-compostable refuse. Residents pay a \$25 monthly refuse fee and are provided 32-gallon carts as opposed to our 96-gallon cart.

Another example is Tacoma, Washington where there the cost increases (i.e., \$16.69/month for 20-gallon container to \$41.85/month for 90-gallon container) as the size of the garbage container increases. There is no additional charge for green waste and mixed recyclables, which are collected alternating weeks.

Increasing recycling does not eliminate the need for more waste-to-energy capacity. The Consultant noted that additional waste-to-energy capacity is needed. H-POWER was built in 1989 and has continued to perform beyond contract capacity (562,000 tons). Capacity limitations required H-POWER to divert approximately 150,000 tons to the landfill in 2005. The City has issued a RFP for future waste-to-energy processing capacity (i.e., 200,000 to 400,000 tons per year).

Benefits from H-POWER to Oahu include production of enough energy for 40,000 homes, generation of \$30 million in annual revenues from the sale of electricity, generation of \$1.5 million from the sale of metals; reduction of reliance on fossil fuel by replacing 600,000 barrels or 7% of oil per year, and an on-island closed loop system (i.e., garbage produced, processed to energy, and used by people living here). It is also projected that recycling and waste-to-energy strategies will reduce the City's reliance on landfill disposal. With recycling increased, the potential landfill diversion rate should increase from 66% to 74%.

Q-Mark distributed a post meeting survey at this time to be returned prior to the end of the meeting.

Questions / Discussion

- Q. What will be in place for condominium and apartment complexes?
- A. Condominium and apartment complexes are responsible for their own waste collection. Private waste management companies typically provide refuse collection services. The City is willing to offer assistance.
- C. Currently there are problems with the pickup of green waste, lack of pickups on holidays. Unions have been a problem in the past, i.e. the early demonstration in Mililani will this be a problem? How will the separation of green waste and solid waste occur?
- A. Provisions will be made for holiday pickup (i.e., Christmas, New Year). Issues will be worked out with the unions prior to the start of the project.
- C. The Pilot Project that occurred in Mililani offered the City the chance to learn, and adjust, correct things that aren't working well. The new system will be implemented the same way.
- C. Need to work out things with labor unions and employees
- Q. Has any thought been given to investing in shredding machines for office paper (i.e., shredding business that sets up at worksite to shred office paper waste)?
- A. The value of shredded paper is less than the value of recycled paper. The primary reason paper shredding businesses cater to businesses is the need for confidentiality.

- The City wants what is the most beneficial to the City
- Q. What impact does H-POWER have? What relationship does it have to the electricity bill?
- A. Energy is sold to HECO.
- Q. Where does 35.1 million dollars do? Why not pump it back into the program?
- A. Monies generated are used to offset the tipping fees at the facility and as a revenue source to pay for labor, trucks, gas.
- Q. Why not keep trash pickup at two times per week?
Why not keep green waste pickup at one time per week.
- A. Green waste currently is at 2 times a month and if the City adds mixed recyclables pick up it would have to replace a general trash pick up for cost reasons.
- Q. Why do we have to pay for a second rubbish pick up?
- A. Added cost for second trash pickup can serve as a motivator for getting higher recycling participation and help defray costs of another pick up.
- C. Need to provide more cost information and post it at opala.org website.
- Q. Can you provide any research that has been done on positive incentives for recycling (i.e., rebates)?
- A. There is not much out there. Most jurisdictions use disincentives for the generation of trash – i.e. fees for pick up – higher fees for larger receptacles, etc.
- Q. Please consider maintaining current two times per week waste pickup and limiting the proposed green waste and recyclable pickup per month.
- A. It will not create the incentive necessary to get the majority of the population to recycle.
- C. Need more discussion of reduce and reuse
- Q. How are you going to educate young students to take a more active role?
- A. Education is a key issue; it is VERY IMPORTANT, the Mayor has included youth on his advisory committee and also will be doing a youth only informational meeting.
- Q. Is there any incentive to use containers that are recyclable? Big Box stores (i.e. Costco) should look at using smaller sized containers that are recyclable.
- A. The City has no control over this issue.
- C. Need to look at other innovative ways to recycle harder-to-recycle materials
- Q. How will the extra pickup fee (additional \$10) be used?
- A. The extra pickup fees will be used to cover additional labor costs, fuel costs, and vehicle maintenance costs.
- C. There may be a need to develop a color code system to keep track of those with additional collections.
- C. The HI-5 program should be discontinued. (It was pointed out that HI-5 is a state program not a County program)
- Q. What are the colors for the different types of refuse?
- A. The color-codes for the different containers are gray for refuse, green for green waste, and blue for recyclables.
- Q. How will larger families be accommodated?
- A. If it is verified by the City that they are fully participating in curbside recycling and still have a need for more rubbish pick up, they will be given a second gray cart to fill for the once a week pickup.

- Q. How will this affect senior citizens who are on limited incomes?
- A. Generally, they will not generate sufficient waste to need a second weekly refuse pickup, if they participate in the curbside recycling program.
- C. The program needs to take into account how to accommodate different family sizes and senior citizens.
- C. Refuse needs to be picked up two times a week because of the smell.
- C. Some people use recycling containers located at schools as a way to help schools. People need to look at recycling as a means to help schools raise extra funds; more people need to do the same.

Community Meeting on Recycling
Mililani Mauka Elementary
April 9, 2007
Written Comments Submitted after Meeting

Comment Sheet 1

- Presentation is too long. Maybe slides and information can be incorporated into the answers to the questions
- Cut out the background of plan and get to proposed curbside recycling program a lot sooner
- Goodwill does not pick-up curbside in Hawaii. Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Cerebral Palsy and National Kidney Foundation and Salvation Army does pick-up curbside
- Presenter very knowledgeable and passionate about subject
- \$10 fee will be largest barrier (in my opinion)

Comment Sheet 2

Okay, I spoke with one of your people after the Q&A session at Mililani Mauka. I learned that it's because of the voice of the voters for curbside recycling program that this is happening. The City is now having to act on developing a curbside program.

Let's go back to the question on the ballot. When I voted for curbside recycling, I was not informed that it was even a REMOTE possibility that we would have to sacrifice one day of trash pickup and/or pay for a second pickup. I think the question needs to be posed to the voters with all the conditions set on the table. Do you want a curbside recycling program implemented if it means that household trash pickup would be reduced to once a week? I think one of the local television stations once asked this question and got an overwhelming NO (something like 90% plus).

I recycle at the school bins – they get money for it. Why would I want to recycle curbside if it means I gotta pay for a second day of trash pickup? I don't want the recycle pickup (I won't make any money from it) – I want a second trash pickup without having to pay \$10 a month. Is that an option? Why can't I have that option?

Also take into consideration, it could very well be that the people who need the second pick up and cannot afford to pay for it will overflow their bins once a week – flies, cats, roaches and rodents will have a weekly feast. I've seen maggots in my trash bin when garbage is left too long.

And yes Mr. Mayor, we do pay for these services – compare the water bill on the Big Island to the water bill on Oahu. They don't have a sewer fee charge. Their water bill is way low. And they don't pay as high property taxes that we pay. Just as the speaker from RW Beck emphasized, what works on the neighbor islands will not necessarily work for Oahu. I grew up on the Big Island – we burned our rubbish. We fed leftovers

to the animals. We could dump green waste across the street in the bushes. Don't compare us to the neighbor islands; don't go there. You'll only bring up the issue of the high property taxes we pay to run the City government now.

Anger the people and they will contaminate the recycle bins – it's happened before and you can get on it happening again. And we have people like that in Mililani.

If the vote is what is mandating the program, then you need to FULLY inform the general public before asking the question. Not ask first then throw out conditions later – you just piss off the general public, which is exactly what is happening now.

Comment Sheet 3

1. Once a week pick up is reasonable. I understand that the second pick up for \$10 is something being offered to placate the unhappy residents. I would like the City to consider "taking it off the table". The problems (and cost/bureaucracy) of issuing stickers, handling payments and routes ... (not to mention neighbors using the second pick up without permission or sharing the cost "11:00 PM drop-offs in the neighbors bin"). It is just not worth it...

2. Green waste is a problem for us... We have too much of it and can't keep track of the schedule. It is hard to schedule yard work around the pick up days. A good 80 percent of our yard trash ends up in the "regular" pick up. It is too bad we can't individualize our trash collection. We would be happy with once a week "regular" and once a week green. We have very little "mixed" recyclables, newspapers get taken to the school bin and we do collect our \$.05 back for our glass bottles.

Comment sheet 4

I do not object to once a week general trash pick up, but I do have a number of concerns regarding green waste, which probably makes up 75% of my refuse.

Previously, I was able to bag my green waste and put it out on the curb. Whatever amount I had in the two-week period was picked up, even Christmas trees. Then we were asked to put out green waste into the blue containers, and this has been very unsatisfactory for the following reasons:

1. The container is too small. It was meant for mixed recyclables, and doesn't even accommodate an average amount of yard waste for one week, much less for two weeks. When you try to maximize the amount of green waste, and have a few leaves peaking out the top, they won't pick up the trash at all. What kind of message does that send?
2. The instructions tell you to overflow your green waste to the gray container. Yet, you aren't supposed to put yard clippings in plastic bags, so where exactly does the green waste go while you are using the gray container for general garbage? Moreover, it is ridiculous to advise people that you can put out their general

- garbage, and the next day use the container for green waste, when the green pick up is every other week. What do you do with the green waste in between? It is as if we are to schedule our yard work around trash pick-up days; what about other priorities such as work and family time? Yard work is not something that has a regular amount of trash each week.
3. This past Christmas, it took me six weeks to get rid of a single average-sized Christmas tree, and at the exclusion of any other green waste going into recycling. Do you know how inconvenient it is to chop up the tree and have branches and needles waiting a month to go out in the recycling container?
 4. Apparently only after you have filled up a blue container, and then tried to use a gray container, you can request a green container. Why can't we just turn in the blue container, and receive a green container to use instead? The blue containers were a bad investment from the previous administration, but why saddle us with the problem?
 5. I have just taken to putting the bulk of my green trash in bags and sending it out with my general garbage. This, after years of recycling nearly 100% of my green waste!

I will find it difficult to make do with one green trash pick up every other week, even in a regular sized green container. I think the green waste should either be collected manually every other week, so that any amount can be accommodated, or pick up on an automated basis once a week. Please don't tell me to go to a convenience center to take my yard trash. The convenience center is fine for big jobs, large housecleaning projects, etc., but should not be used for regular amounts of trash or yard waste. Most of us do not have trucks to take such waste to a convenience center.

The City needs to show its commitment to curbside recycling by offering realistic alternatives, and getting the public unions (UPW) to "get on board".