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NEWS BRIEF

U.S. EPA and Hawai'i Department of Health present award to the County of Kauai *County receives "Pisces Award" for wastewater system work*

HONOLULU – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawai'i Department of Health today honored the County of Kauai with the 2011 Hawai'i Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project of the Year Award.

The project, upgrading and expanding the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant with a photovoltaic system and a water reuse component, is financed by a total of \$15.6 million in federal funding, a \$8.2 million loan from the Hawai'i Clean Water State Revolving Fund administered by the Hawai'i Department of Health, and \$7.4 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding.

The county's effort is a green project promoting water and energy efficiency that will increase the plant's capacity from 300,000 to 700,000 gallons per day. The wastewater will be treated to standards that will encourage its reuse on parks, school fields, and a future golf course in the Waimea area. The county will install a photovoltaic system supplying about 70 percent of the power needed to run the expanded plant. This will offset the additional power demands, resulting in increased capacity while providing better reuse water using renewable energy.

The "Pisces Award" recognizes the most innovative and effective clean water loan projects. States could nominate one project for the award and the project needs to be in compliance with the Clean Water Act, demonstrates financial integrity by showing no financial problems with the project, and has high health benefits.

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