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News Release

For Immediate Release: March 8, 2011

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Public Works Department receives prestigious PISCES award

LĪHU'E – The Department of Public Works has been honored with a 2010 PISCES award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) expansion project.

The PISCES, which stands for Performance and Innovation in SRFs Creating Environmental Success, awards were created in 2005 to recognize the extraordinary successes of the states' Clean Water Revolving Fund programs. The program highlights successfully designed projects that further the goal of clean and safe water with exceptional planning, management, and financing.

One award is given every year in each of EPA's 10 regions.

Sheila Platt, team leader of EPA's State Revolving Fund Branch in Washington D.C., flew to Kaua'i last week and presented the PISCES award to the Chief of the Wastewater Division Ed Tschupp.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the EPA and appreciate the state Department of Health (DOH) for nominating the project," said Tschupp. "Our team has devoted a lot of effort in the design and construction of the Waimea WWTP to make the project energy efficient and to sustainably provide high quality reuse water for the community," said Tschupp.

He noted that the design/build project is a collaborative effort that includes: Austin, Tsutsumi and Associates, construction management consultant; Briant Construction, general contractor and its specialty subcontractors; HDR/Hawai'i Pacific Engineers, design consultant; and the county's public works, finance and WWTP operations staff.

In nominating Public Works for the award, DOH officials noted that the Waimea project was exceptionally green, citing its water and energy efficiency and sustainability practices.

In addition, officials pointed out that the long standing partnership the county has had with the adjacent landowner Kikiaola Land Company has resulted in the plant effluent being used as a valuable resource for the Westside community and diversified agriculture.

Currently underway, the WWTP project will include:

- Expanded plant capacity from 300,000 to 700,000 gallons per day
- A 124 kW DC photovoltaic system that will supply approximately 70 percent of the plant's energy consumption, which averages 1.023 kWh per day
- Upgraded effluent water quality to R-1 reuse standards making it potentially reusable for parks, school fields and a future golf course on the Westside.

Funding for the Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant was provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (\$7.4 million) and a Hawai'i Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan (\$8.2 million).

For more information, please call the Wastewater Division at 241-4082.

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