

KAUA‘I INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE PLANNING PUBLIC MEETINGS MINUTES

JANUARY 24TH – KILAUEA • JANUARY 25TH – HANAPEPE • JANUARY 26TH – LIHUE

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For R.W. Beck

SUMMARY OF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM THE THREE MEETINGS.

Troy Tanigawa opened each meeting with introductions and a statement of purpose. He said this is the beginning of “a important process; a very public process.”

Karen Luken provided an overview about R.W. Beck and the process that is being used to update the Kaua‘i Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

“We are fortunate to help you preserve this island,” she said. Solid waste management is a very dynamic issue, Luken said; R.W. Beck works across the country on this issue, and so can bring that experience, and latest technological information to bear on the Kauai plan.

As part of R.W. Beck’s work, the whole solid waste management system of the island will be inventoried. “We are looking for a program that’s sustainable and diverts as much as possible,” Luken added. She told each meeting that R.W. Beck will spend a week in February at the landfill determining the composition of the Kauai waste stream. This information will enable R. W. Beck to target specific components for reduction, recycling and/or composting.

Ultimately, no matter how much waste is diverted (recycled), some percentage will need to be disposed in some manner.

Luken outlined the plan for an advisory committee that will be made up of people from government, waste industry, schools, and citizens. The Mayor will name the advisory committee members.

The plan will include ways to reduce the waste stream, enhance recycling and composting, optimize waste collection and transfer station infrastructure. It will also consider ways to increase convenience for managing special wastes, for example household hazardous wastes and electronics.

R.W. Beck’s team will evaluate alternative disposal technologies, as well as develop a process for locating new solid waste facilities.

The plan will also look at public outreach. What are the best ways to communicate and what’s the best message?

A financial analysis is part of the planning process, so that the outcome is sustainable for the county and its residents.

Luken then asked residents to comment first on “What Works,” and followed with “What Doesn’t Work or Needs Doing?” Following are the summary comments by the residents, broken out by subject and meeting place.

WHAT WORKS

What Works: Business

Kilauea

Hanapepe

Clean equals tourist dollars.

Tour boats are managing wastes now as a result of discussions (business)

Lihue

What Works: Collection

Kilauea

Happy with trash collection

Hanapepe

Collection system works

Lihue

Garbage gets picked up every week – only thing working.

Ditto – residential pickup works well.

2 guys and driver on rubbish truck are working.

Home pick up works

Collection; billing (no cost, that works!)

Free collection

Residential collection – quiet and they take everything. Maui was noisy and they would pick and choose what they'd take.

Everyone happy with trash pick up – collection. “Ain't broke, don't fix it.”

What Works: Costs

Kilauea

Hanapepe

Lihue

A number of people at the Lihue meeting specifically addressed costs (lack of cost to residents) for the SW system as a benefit

What Works: Culture

Kilauea

People are conscious of recycling here – culture.

Hanapepe

Island is very clean – attitude —it's nice to live in a clean place.

Lihue

There are akamai people on the island – ask.

People here really love the land and want to keep it nice.

Tourists are pretty careful.

A lot of thrift stores here. People are reusing (culture)

What Works: Education/Communication

Kilauea

Once programs implemented, the ads and communication are good, word gets out.
Communication is good. Word-of-mouth high.
A lot of education on Hi5 at the beginning, less now.
Continue to educate/reinforce – communication.
I learned about recycling at school. Need to continue this.

Hanapepe

Lihue

Education/promotion is good.
Ron Wiley doing a terrific job.
Word-of-mouth – excellent on Kauai.

What Works: Green Waste & Composting

Kilauea

Green waste handling is better
Green waste/composting
Free, here, convenient
Real positive.
(need a mulch machine there, though)
Composting working in this district. (North) This is the biggest amount of waste, not a hard sell on this side.
Fabulous composting opportunities.

Hanapepe

Green waste – rational – it would be distressing if this wasn't going on.
Compost bins – works great. Might be easier if you didn't drive to Lihue to get them.

Lihue

Home-composting program works.
Personal composting.

What Works: Hi5

Kilauea

Hi5 program works but there is no support for business.
Aluminum cans, Suggests bin with school name on it at businesses. School picks up and redeems.
[Luken mentions examples of other communities where schools are involved in recycling.]

Hanapepe

Hi5 – two days a week.
Aluminum can recycling is working. Redemption may need some work

Lihue

Bottle bill is a good thing
Hi5 works

What Works: Landfill/Transfer Stations

Kilauea

Landfill management is working better
I didn't bring stuff in, because compostables were going in with other trash, now not.

Hanapepe

Transfer stations work. But what can you take? Confusion.
Landfill system works – you can take both recyclables and refuse there, but not HHW

Landfill is open 7 am to 5 pm, seven days a week.
Management of landfill by a contractor is better than county run.

Lihue

Transfer stations work IF you are lucky to be near one. Not if you live further away

Transfer stations work.

The landfill and current technology work.

Battery recycling and other recycling at transfer stations

Junkyard is fabulous – Metals recycling.

Lihue transfer station was terrific; consistent hours, etc.

[Luken note: number of transfer stations and curbside collection is unusual for the size of population.]

[Luken note: also landfill open more than most.]

What Works: NWHI Cleanup

Hanapepe

NWHI cleanup has been good. Reduction in fishnets. (dumping)

What Works: Recycling

Kilauea

Recycling is better

Competition for recycling is working

Kauai Recycles Bins

Recycling bins at beaches are emptied pretty regularly

[Allison adds, these are serviced by whoever wants the recyclables.]

Recycle bins in Hanalei are great.

Bins working, beaches and Hi5.

Pretty awesome recycling program.

We had a company that was good, picking stuff up. Curbside. Was a good way for it to happen.

Hanapepe

Parks recycle bins – wire – do not change.

Recycling is working. In '93, recycle bin was cleared once a year. Now once a week

Having a recycling coordinator is good. This is a reason recycling has increased.

Lihue

Kauai Recycles bins work.

Recycling center – **was** working and was a good thing.

Drop off bins, recycling is working.

Allison doing a terrific job.

Recycle Kauai – pick up at businesses, take to Garden Isle.

Recycling bins work – fill up fast.

Drop off bins work.

Curbside pick up that was (recycle).

Xmas tree and phone book recycle works.

What Works: ReUse

Hanapepe

Art uses for glass. Other products. It makes sense for reuse.

Salvaging – at landfill & transfer stations, some stuff being pulled out, including electronics – these can be used by others.

Any effort to salvage and reuse would be good. **Reuse** rather than recycle.

What Works: Vehicles/Metals/Electronics

Lihue

I appreciate the abandoned vehicle program. Vehicles got dumped on large landowners' property. Now, there's an option for us to get rid of them.
Computers to thrift stores works.
Car (vehicle) removal works.
Observer since '69, hulks of cars (used to be all over) improved greatly.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK/NEEDS DOING

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Businesses/Commercial

Kilauea

Commercial business has to pay.
Vacation rentals are a huge problem
Many visitors have the mindset of separating. But it needs to be convenient in the visitor industry.
Commercial side needs better service
When development is planned, a recycle center needs to be part of cost of development and adequate space put aside.
Greening the businesses – this has to be easy.
[Luken noted the coffee example 'one-cup-at-a-time.']
Event recycling – needs to be figured out
Big Box Stores, need to be more involved
[Allison – pallets are a problem, not corrugated.]

Hanapepe

Contractors need to line up places to take construction material

Lihue

Helium- people who sell should help with disposal.
Visitors want to recycle; hotels need recycling. They need to participate so that it's convenient.
Tourist trash
Businesses should have the responsibility for recycling. Jamba Juice for example, with its containers.
Construction recycling
Public events – need to be less wasteful.
Hotels need recycling. Visitors are used to it at home.
Construction trash – has to be easier. Tendency is to dump it (old appliances, debris)
Vacation rentals/hotels need to take responsibility (business)
Green business program is needed
Need recycle bags in tourists' cars (business)

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Collection

Kilauea

Hanapepe

Bulky item collection needs to be addressed
Trash truck traffic needs work.
Need to make it easier for handling all (types of refuse).
Collection Trash pickup is too early, pre 5 a.m.

Lihue

Need a bid process for pickup (collection.)
Collectors need to support waste to energy.
Remote beaches—trash, no trash cans. We need cans everywhere.
(If Kauai goes to automated pickup) Automated trash pick up is noisy.
[Luken note: not so anymore; greatly improved]
Trash pickup, some good, others not. Palm fronds left to lie there.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Evaluation

Kilauea

Commercial/residential components of trash needs to be evaluated
Growth projections—need to look at what's happening on the South Shore

Hanapepe

Lihue

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Education

Kilauea

Education needs to address non recyclables, particularly illegal stuff, at recycle centers
Need to educate on reduce as well as recycle
Educate on how Europe and other places handle.

[Luken points out county power different than European Union]

Schools should pump up education on recycling

[Luken –interactive works best. Can't just send flyer home. Low rate of return.]

More funding for education

Education – info should be supplied with compost bins.

Education: especially kids. They're the future.

Hanapepe

Cultural history was “get it to the coast, it will go away.” Plantations dumped at the ocean.

Lihue

Programs are out there—keep educating – cultural thing.

More education – young learn at early age so that as adults they've got it.

Education on precycling needed.

We need to learn to be responsible consumers.

Containers #1 to 5 – some can't be recycled. Education is needed.

Russell (?) the Rooster character on Kauai – good for education.

People need to know how easy it is to compost. (communication)

Information is not nearly available enough (on composting bins and other recycle avenues.)

Grocery stores push plastic bags. Need to educate workers.

Water – why can't we just have clean water, instead of all this bottled water? We have clean water on Kauai.

Education on HHW alternatives

Change in thinking is needed to solve these problems (culture)

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Enforcement

Kilauea

Massachusetts fines for not recycling. Use clear bags.

No political will to punish illegal dumping. \$30 fine to avoid a \$50 dump fee.

Hanapepe

Lihue

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Green Waste/Composting

Kilauea

Our green waste is going to Mark Friedman (sp?) for composting, grinding. Why isn't it available to us? Isn't it double dipping? He's being paid.

And why isn't county grinding on site, they have a grinder..

[Tanigawa responds:

Contractors bound by permit conditions.

County had a grinder, but it was not big enough to handle the volume expected.

it has since been replaced by contract shredding.]

Green waste will be better handled with an islandwide program.

[Luken: Different approaches. We'll evaluate what's the best way to handle.]

Landscapers want some of it. Friedman (?) – we placed orders with him, no success

Composting, \$20,000 worth of grinding for an acre of trees.

What's regulation for on-site composting?

Thousands of tons chipped (green waste) on private property. That means leachate into the ground water and methane released. A pile of chips is very harmful top and bottom.

Burying green waste is harmful and you end up with a sinkhole. Lack of alternatives and the cost of alternatives are part of the cause for this.

[Tanigawa – 15,000 T of green waste. Shredded greenwaste, used in landscaping. It is a valuable end product.

Hanapepe

Cost to farm is high – green waste should be composted. Added value for agriculture. It is too expensive to import organic fertilizer.

Compost – it's a huge pile. It needs to be separated into cured and not cured.

Mulching machines (chipper/grinder). Feasible to have at transfer stations or landfill?

Expensive, but need to consider.

Lihue

Community-based recycling, e.g. compost.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Household Hazardous Waste

Kilauea

Household Hazardous Waste System – needs improvement. People holding it too long.

Hanapepe

Lihue

Need a permanent HHW facility

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Hi5

Kilauea

Inconvenient. Centers don't open when supposed to. (Resident relates story about need to go to 3 centers in attempt to recycle.)

Bulk recycling – Hi5 – not working.

One way is for stores to deal with it. That's how it works in other states.

Hi5 – one guy handling the system isn't working.

Consumer can't tie in recycling with any other trip, really. (dirty cans, volume...)

Incredible gas and time are used to get to recycling center. It's not worth it. It's costing you.

Rinse, Store, Haul, Wait in line. A lot aren't going to do it.

Yogurt container – can't recycle? Then don't let it on the island. They should use a #1 or #2 container, not a #5.

None of the stores want to recycle, but they're the ones making \$\$.
They (stores) should be held accountable
You have to look at the manufacturer too.
Legislature made big concessions to big business on the bottle bill.

Hanapepe

Hi5 Redemption: some types of containers are mucking up the system. In Oregon, any store had to take back. If not each store, each community should have a redemption center.
Containers should be returned to stores. It is easier to take back to stores.

Lihue

Supermarkets should have redemption centers (Hi5)

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Infrastructure

Kilauea

Accountability
County needs to create more jobs for recycling. More people power
State surplus – put some of that money into this.
Efficiency - Has to be convenient or it is not going to work here.
Some stuff not worth recycling on this island (no market.)

Hanapepe

Lihue

Shipping is costly – we need processing/recycling in state
Single stream curbside should be implemented

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Landfill/Transfer Stations

Kilauea

Transfer station operation needs improvement. Operators not doing job. People dump (nearby)
Need transfer station in Poipu. There's too much hauling around
Landfill-- separation and processing need to be central and at same site.
Control of non recyclables at recycle centers – particularly illegal stuff
Hanalei Transfer station bins, almost always overflowing. Signs say if full don't leave. Can't they pick up more often? Why can't the guys running the transfer station call the contractor and say it's overflowing?

[Allison F. 2x a week pickup. The guys do inform the contractor. If full call me.]

Kapaa filled a lot lately

[Luken: (responding to comment that folks bring boxes and boxes at one time.) That may be an education msg. don't save up and bring all at one time. Some places, the more you put out, the more you pay. Evaluating whether this type of system will increase illegal dumping in Kauai will be part of the planning process. Maybe mix – curbside pay as you throw, and free transfer station drop off.]

Hanapepe

Transfer stations work. But what can you take? Confusion.
Landfill—a ridiculous place to put it. A beautiful place, right in the middle of water table. We need to make sure it's protected.
There needs to be longer or alternative hours at Hanapepe (transfer?) and I wish they would take mattresses. Dumping is happening in beautiful places.
If the gates are closed, you end up with rubbish in the cornfield. Dumping
Need to look at segregation before the landfill.
Residents should have somewhere to take garbage 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Separation of waste stream – where you get most profit.

Designated areas for waste brought after hours (dumping)
Find a way. Look at the legal ramifications. What are the strengths and challenges.
Problem (with above) people would dump HHW and other bad stuff.

Lihue

Landfill is beyond capacity and way behind schedule.
Transfer station fire concerns.
Need uniformity at transfer stations; what they take in, etc.
After recycling and after waste to energy, the remaining material needs to be disposed.
Transfer station needed on South side.
Don't want stockpile of white goods. Appliances.
Mattresses need to be handled.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Pay to Throw

Kilauea

Charge for garbage – provide bins
Community is resistant to pay to throw programs.

Hanapepe

Oregon also had contractor picking up garbage, curbside recyclables
SW is buried in our taxes, no incentive.
Illegal dumping is a good reason not to jack up fees
Pay to throw worries me. Could cause more dumping. Should be incremental.
[Luken suggests it could also be no charge at transfer station.]
Pay to throw – incrementally increase for excessive waste.

Lihue

Support pay-to-throw option.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Politics

Kilauea

Political Concern: fear that program is already decided.
[Luken responds: R.W. Beck won't work that way. No preconceived solutions, except trying to identify cost effective and sustainable strategies to reduce the waste stream.]
Lack of political will
Community is resistant to pay to throw programs. No political will to punish illegal dumping. \$30 fine to avoid a \$50 dump fee.
Previous SWM efforts were derailed. Leaders need to be put 'on the record'

Hanapepe

Cancellation of recycling center contract – we're going backward. It's unacceptable. One recycling company rats on another, leaving us with nothing. That's bad, rotten government.
We don't see a vision of what's to come from the politicians.
Solid Waste decision-making process needs to be looked at.
Politics We don't want this plan sitting on a shelf, need to implement.
Concern over lack of implementation after \$\$ is spent on planning.

Lihue

We have to decide if we want more out of it – energy, etc
Concern: if you want SW plan to work, you have to get it into law. Politics takes over. Has to be enforceable. Plans put in place have been a waste of paper. Need ordinances.
Government needs to step up as a model. There is no recycling evident at the airport. At county meetings, etc., where's recycling?
A lot is in the old plan – politicians and leaders need to support it.
Every step, politics.

Got to get together, ordinance
Entities need to work together.
Zero Waste Alliance – county should adopt.
Mandate recycling for all schools.
County should mandate all buildings recycle.
Support needed for staff to effectively administer recycling system.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Recycling

Kilauea

Need curbside recycling. Need convenience of it.
County-subsidized curbside
Curbside isn't likely to come to rural areas. It's got to become more equitable.

Hanapepe

Ease of Recycling equals more recycling
Recycling – had private company, at curbside. This would be a better run. County should do it as last gasp. (This resident would be willing to pay \$20 a month.)

Lihue

Recycling is NOT working
Culture of recycling takes a long time.
Recycling works to an extent. Needs more convenience.
Styrofoam and other plastics should be included in recycle
[Luken note: Recycle market is volatile]
Has to be easy, convenient. Example, curbside pickup in San Francisco.
In the long run, recycling may not be the best option.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Reduce/Recycle

Kilauea

Reduce what comes on the island e.g. junk mail, containers
How do we get people to reduce first. Need to educate on reduce as well as recycle.

Hanapepe

Lihue

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: ReUse

Kilauea

Biodiesel -- is needed on 'little people' level – need grants.

Hanapepe

SW industry, there are a lot of accidents. Salvaging should happen before you get to the landfill.
Scavenging is against state permit (salvaging)

Lihue

Convert all that junk into \$\$\$. Plastics to building material, e.g. playground equipment. Stay on the island in product form. (Reuse)
Waste to Energy.
Methane gas from landfill. Use it.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Vehicles/Metals

Kilauea

Vehicle plates – tax on the highest owner, not the person on the bottom who can least afford. (last guy's option is to abandon.)

[Troy, county accepts vehicles for free, but the owner has to get it there.]

Dealers should be responsible.

Hanapepe

Metals and vehicles – abandoned, dumped. County makes it hard to get where it should go, and it costs money.

Scrap metal recycling is not set up.

You make it hard, go 25 miles. - vehicles

Abandoned vehicles

Restart the e-waste recycling (electronics)

Lihue

Auto parts recycling needed.

Appliance recycling – no one knows about it.

Need a permanent electronics recycling program.

What Doesn't Work/Needs Doing: Waste-to-Energy

Kilauea

Hanapepe

Lihue

Collectors need to support waste to energy

Need waste-to-energy

Got to look at waste as a resource. Waste to energy is a potential benefit but will require legislation. Private collectors need to be on board

Waste-to energy – we need to be very precise in looking at the various technologies.

Reuse, Recycle to the max, first (before waste-to-energy.)

H Power -- \$64 million for a new boiler. That would be very costly for Kauai. (waste to energy)

Barge our trash to Honolulu's H-Power. (waste to energy)

Be careful choosing the best technology for waste to energy.

Where does waste (ash) go? How dangerous is it?

Comments Submitted in Writing at Meetings:

Card 1

People want information about the Advisory committee, the process and how to apply to become a member. – (from Kilauea meeting)

Card 2

Pay to throw won't fly past the administration cost. Curbside will only be initiated in incorporated areas — those that already have adequate access to recycling options. Rural areas are too spread out. Contracts are too slow to start, too slow to pay, and frequently are not open to upstarts.

Card 3

Recycling for homeowners — we love recycling our plastic and it's no longer available. Help us continue this along with all the other household recycling materials.

Needs: More products recycled on island (full loop). More convenience for residents in rural areas. Hi5 needs more districts. Planners need to make recycling systems be part of new development. Resource center back on line.

Card 4

Zero-Waste Policies:

- Processing on island for recycling.
- Curbside recycling – single stream
- Pay as you Throw – incentive to reduce waste
- Waste-to-energy – best technology, what are negative impacts on env, air/water pollution?
- Kaua‘i Resource Center model
- Recycling in schools
- Mandate all buildings recycle
- Permanent HHW and electronic recycling facility.
- Education empowers consumer power – reduce
- Education on HHW alternatives – comprehensive guide
- More education on TV
- Vacation rentals & hotels – take responsibility
- Incentives for businesses to reduce - green business program.
- Adequate staff and funds to effectively and efficiently administer programs – support.

Card 5

The recent closing of the Resource Center (airport) was a bad decision. Have you found that competition among private enterprises is better for a small community -vs- a monopoly? I fear that is what's happening, leaving a vacuum and the possibility that the citizens will end up enhancing the coffers of one long time family. Have you considered curbside green waste? A lot of us don't have trucks. (from Lihue meeting)

Card 6

My most important concern is recycling. The timing of your study coincides with the closing of our recycling center – very bad, political move – so detrimental to our island. We now have no where to take 1s and 2s or plastic bags. The sole recycler, left here, is not functioning as they should. I've been recycling for 12 years – also give composting lectures as a master gardener. If you have trouble finding folks for the advisory committee, I would be happy to assist in this effort. (from Lihue meeting)