

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

News Release

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Advisory committee formed to assist with solid waste management plan

LĪHUĒ – Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste recently appointed 17 community members to the county’s Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).

“I’ve selected people who make up a diverse and balanced advisory team. Their goal is to assist us with developing a sustainable, affordable plan to deal with Kaua’i’s solid waste,” said the mayor.

The SWAC will work with county officials and representatives of R.W. Beck, Inc., the nationally known engineering and waste management consulting firm hired to update Kaua’i’s Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

Committee members include:

Business representatives – Jeffrey Deren, Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative, Larry Dill, Princeville Operating Co., Michael Furukawa, Grove Farm Properties, Ron Kouchi, Kaua’i Chamber of Commerce, and Diane Zachary, Kaua’i Planning and Action Alliance, Inc.

Environmental organization representatives – William “Bill” Covern, Kaua’i County Farm Bureau, and Rhoda Libre, Kaua’i Westside Watershed Council.

General public – Jean Camp, Anahola resident, Jeffrey Kaohi, Kekaha resident, James Trujillo, Kapa’a resident, and Kathleen West-Hurd, Hanapēpē resident.

Government representatives – Lane Otsu, state Department of Health –Solid Waste Management, Keith Nitta, County of Kaua‘i Planning Department, and Glenn Sato, County of Kaua‘i Office of Economic Development.

Waste management representatives – Steven Kauai, Garden Isle Disposal, Ray Maki, Permaculture Kaua‘i, and Peter Manos, Kaua‘i Community Recycling Services.

In January, public information meetings were held and Kaua‘i residents offered comments on the island’s current solid waste system as well as suggestions for the county’s future solid waste management plans.

Karen Luken with R.W. Beck said she was impressed with the response from Kaua‘i residents and that her company will take into consideration what was shared during the meetings before formulating a solid waste management plan for the Garden Isle.

According to Luken, R.W. Beck representatives recently met with county officials to discuss the county’s current solid waste infrastructure and have already begun an assessment of the county’s diversion or recycling programs, transfer stations and the Kekaha Landfill.

“We are looking for a program that’s sustainable and diverts as much as possible,” Luken said. “Ultimately, no matter how much waste is recycled, some percentage will need to be disposed in some manner. The R.W. Beck team will research the best, cost effective alternatives for Kaua‘i.”

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