

Advisory Committee Memory

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Landfill Site Selection County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works

Meeting 6
October 7, 2008
7:45 am to 9:00 am

Attendance:

Committee Members: Gary Pacheco, David Sproat, Ted Inouye, George Costa, Mary J. Buza-Sims, Jose Bulatao, Jr., Michael V. Layosa, Edward Kawamura, Keith Nitta, Palmer Hafdahl, Glenn Frazier
Members Absent/Excused: Mike Curtis, Diana Simao, Kathleen Hurd
County DPW: Donald Fujimoto, Troy Tanigawa, Emily Ishida
Consultant: Brian Takeda
Facilitator: Dee Dee Letts

The Group convened to discuss the removal of the Kumukumu site from consideration as a landfill site. The Committee had previously sent a letter to the administration asking that they reconsider the removal of this site. The meeting began with a presentation by the consultant on the Kumukumu site based on information provided in studies by Earth Tech, Inc. The consultant presented maps of the area that showed the proposed agricultural subdivision around Kumukumu and the other areas within the same geographic location that the Earth Tech, Inc. studies noted as possible landfill sites after applying the exclusionary criteria. The consultant also presented maps for the area that identified State Land Use District Boundaries, Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawai'i (ALISH) boundaries, and soil types.

Both the Department of Public Works and the consultant apologized to the group for the late removal of the site. They noted however that the exclusionary criteria used by Earth Tech Inc., included proposed urban subdivisions but did not look at proposed agricultural subdivisions such as Kumukumu thus resulting in the oversight that created the need to remove this site.

The Department discussed with the Committee that the Kumukumu site was removed because it had received final subdivision approval from the County. This meant that the County could be exposed to liability from a potential lawsuit if it was continued to be considered. The Committee understood the County's concerns and stated their reservations about its removal. A key concern was that this would result in the removal of a site that is roughly located within a population center of the island. The Consultant advised the Committee that this would not necessarily be the last time that this type of situation might arise. Once the sites are prioritized and more detailed investigation of the

sites begins, other factors affecting individual sites will become known which could also lead to their removal. The decision to remove sites, however, should be made after the Committee has completed its ranking of the sites.

Following the discussion it was decided that the County will submit a letter to the Committee indicating the removal of the Kumukumu site for the reasons stated. The Department then asked the Committee if they wanted to suggest another site in the area. The Committee reminded the Department that they had agreed to develop criteria from a community perspective that should be considered when evaluating sites and to go through a double blind process ranking the sites that had been identified in the earlier Earth Tech studies. They noted that they are not engineers or solid waste experts and that the identification of potential sites should be made by professionals and not lay persons such as themselves. The Committee summarized by stating that it was not within the scope of their responsibility to choose new sites and that they would proceed to rank the remaining seven sites.

The meeting adjourned for a field trip to tour the potential landfill sites. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 28, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, but may change depending on the progress of applying the criteria to the seven sites.