



# **CITY COUNCIL**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

City Councilmember Tom Berg  
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### **TESTIMONY FROM COUNCILMEMBER TOM BERG EWA-STATE SPECIAL USE PERMIT AMENDMENT APPLICATION – 2008/SUP-2 (RY) WAIMANALO GULCH SANITARY LANDFILL (WGSL)**

**(HONOLULU HALE) October 5, 2011** – West Oahu Councilman Tom Berg provided his testimony in a public hearing meeting of the Planning Commission on the Ewa-State Special Use Permit Amendment Application – 2008/SUP-2 (RY) Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill which states as follows:

“As the city councilman whose jurisdiction houses this landfill, our neighborhood boards including Nanakuli and Waianae have taken a formal stand to unite against the proposal to extend the landfill by another 15 years. I urge you stop enabling this reckless behavior that condones the broken treaties and is an affront to the economic engine of businesses thriving in West Oahu with the stipulation this landfill was to go away. Families and economic development ventures have invested their hard earned dollars into the vicinity of the landfill with the promise the landfill will have found its terminus years ago. For example, when the Dakota Sioux were given bad meat and at times no food at all in violation of treaties made, the government responded to the starving people, "Let them go and eat grass." Right here, possibly in this room, another treaty will be broken and not honored.

Please do what is just and right, and stop turning our coastline on the leeward coast into an ashtray for the rest of the island.

If you would like to view photos from this hearing, please contact the Office of Councilmember Berg at 768-5001.

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## Hawaii Reporter

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#### **Time to Show a Little Respect**

*Residents Living Near Waimanalo Gulch Landfill, Which Will Now Remain Open for 15 More Years, Should Be Relocated by City to a Better Property, Others Nearby Should Be Exempt from Property Tax*  
By Malia Zimmerman, 12/2/2004 11:05:22 AM

Six of nine Honolulu City Council members voted yesterday to extend the life of the landfill in Waimanalo Gulch by another 15 years, despite promises made to the people who live within yards of the landfill that it would be closed no later than 2008.

There were a number of other factors ignored by the majority of council members yesterday before they took the easy way out and extended the life of the landfill. They disregarded the state land board's order to find a new landfill by Dec. 1, 2004, and the plea of the residents who live nearby, some who bought homes in the area because they were assured by the government the landfill would be closed on time.

But the Council was not the only government body to ignore a pledge to the people. Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris himself swore he'd close the landfill as did his managing director, and then he turned around and told the Council he thought it should be piled higher, and then finally be once again extended.

Council Member Gary Okino told those at a hearing yesterday the dump was too lucrative to close.

Sen. Colleen Hanabusa, a Democrat who represents the area, estimates the landfill brings in \$80 million or one-third of the revenues of all property taxes for the city. Hanabusa has been fighting the landfill's placement and extension for a number of years, and says her area, which has many low-income families, has been unfairly targeted as a dumping ground for the island's trash. There are now four landfills -- three private -- in the community she represents. "That is environmental racism," she told the council in testimony yesterday.

There may be lawsuits by developers or homeowners nearby who may sue the city for health related problems or loss of income due to the environmental hazards from the landfill. But regardless, it is time for the city and the taxpayers of Hawaii to pay a little respect to the people who live there.

All people who live within a mile of the landfill should be exempt from paying property tax until the landfill is closed, starting in 2005.

The city should also pay to relocate the few dozen people living in the Kahe Point Homes, who are just yards from the trash piles. Many people living in this tiny community, all of them impoverished, have small children who have suffered severe health related problems, such as asthma, and should be moved immediately to a better property and have their moving expenses paid for.

That not only is right and ethical, it is a fiscally sound move for the city. Should any one of those residents choose to sue the city for their health problems, or the health problems of their children, the taxpayers will pay a much higher cost in court fees and damages.

In addition, those children will have spent their lives in a dump because a few government officials did not have the political will to close the landfill on time or have the leadership to commit to new technologies that reduce the amount of trash being dumped in the landfill.

*Those voting against the extension of the life of the Waimanalo Gulch include Council Members Charles Djou, Nestor Garcia and Mike Gabbard. Those in favor include Gary Okino, Donovan Dela Cruz, Ann Kobayashi, Rod Tam, Romy Cachola and Barbara Marshall.*

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting of the Planning Commission

DATE: October 5, 2011  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Mission Memorial Hearings Room, Mission Memorial Building, 550 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing notice published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on September 4, 2011.

1. EWA-STATE SPECIAL USE PERMIT AMENDMENT APPLICATION - 2008/SUP-2 (RY)  
WAIMANALO GULCH SANITARY LANDFILL (WGSL)

Applicant: Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu  
Landowner: City and County of Honolulu  
Location: 92-460 Farrington Highway, Honouliuli, Ewa, Oahu  
Tax Map Key: 9-2-3: 72 & 73  
Existing Use: Landfill and open space  
State Land Use: Agricultural District  
Existing Zoning: AG-2 General Agricultural District  
Land Area: 200.622 Acres  
REQUEST: To delete Condition No. 14 of Special Use Permit No. 2008/SUP-2 (also referred to as Land Use Commission Docket No. SP09-403) which states as follows:

"14. Municipal solid waste shall be allowed at the WGSL up to July 31, 2012, provided that only ash and residue from H-POWER shall be allowed at the WGSL after July 31, 2012."

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

To consider a petition filed by Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp. to intervene in the proceedings to amend State Special Use Permit No. 2008/SUP-2, by deleting Condition No. 14 therefrom.

MOTION TO RECOGNIZE KO OLINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND MAILE SHIMABUKURO AS PARTIES

To consider a motion filed by Ko Olina Community Association and Maile Shimabukuro for continued recognition as party intervenors or in the alternative, to intervene in the proceedings to amend State Special Use Permit No. 2008/SUP-2, by deleting Condition No. 14 therefrom.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2011.