RES24-287
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 577

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Dec 11, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Nagamine	djw2naga@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 08:54 PM

December 11, 2024

Honorable City Council Chair Tommy Waters and Council Members
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Council members:

RE: Resolution 24-287 Modification of 2010 Sewer Consent Decree – Sand Island WWTP Secondary Treatment Upgrade

Aloha! My name is David Nagamine. I support Resolution 24-287 and respectfully request your approval of this resolution.

I am a retired Civil Environmental Engineer, having worked in the City Sewer Division (former name) and ENV for 43 years, from 1970 to 2013. During this time, I was involved in the application for a waiver of secondary treatment in 1978 for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and also the City's ocean outfall monitoring program for over 20 years. I was also involved with the 2010 Consent Decree negotiations with EPA and the State DOH.

Local environmental engineers and UH scientists have long supported the City's waiver request because the City's extensive monitoring of shoreline, nearshore and in the vicinity of the Sand Island Ocean Outfall have not shown any significant impacts since monitoring commenced in the late 70s. The monitoring program was EPA approved and included bacteriological monitoring to protect public health, water quality monitoring and biological monitoring of benthic (ocean bottom) and fish populations. The Sand Island deep ocean outfall, which extends approximately 2 miles from shore to a depth of 240 feet, was designed to handle the discharge of primary treated sewage because of the prevailing off-shore currents and high dilution

Unfortunately in about 2009, during the Consent Decree negotiations with EPA, Mayor Hanneman made the unjustified decision to build secondary treatment. ENV has estimated the cost of Sand Island secondary treatment at $2.5 million, notwithstanding very high O&M costs which goes on forever for this unnecessary upgrade.

Although I have not seen the projected capital program during the 10 year sewer fee increase, I'm certain that the $2.5 billion capital cost is the main reason for the more than doubling of sewer fees. I urge you to support this resolution and have the City Administration follow through in removing the Sand Island secondary treatment project from the Consent Decree.

Sincerely yours,

David D. Nagamine

David Nagamine,
Civil Engineer PE 3378