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HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

April 30, 2025

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Sub district #11

**Hawaii Kai
Neighborhood Board #1**
c/o Neighborhood
Commission Office
925 Dillingham Blvd., #160
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
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Fax: (808) 768-3711
www.honolulu.gov/nco

The Board meets the last
Tuesday of every month
except Dec., 7 pm, Hahaione
Elementary School cafeteria.
The public is welcome to
attend.

Tommy Waters, Chair
Members of the Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board, at its regular meeting on March 25, 2025, was provided information on the current condition of the city's waste water system infrastructure and the need for steep increases in sewer fees across Oahu to address and improve the system. Board members were also informed of a City Council proposal to offset part of the increases in sewer fees for Oahu residents by using unspent general fund dollars budgeted for city staff positions that have remained vacant through the year.

The Hawaii Kai community relies on a private waste water system, provided by Hawaii-American Water, and is not part of the city's waste water system. Hawaii Kai residents also face periodic increases to sewer fees to properly maintain the Hawaii Kai system.

In the board's discussion of the city's waste water system dilemma, the issue of a possible additional burden being imposed on the residents of Hawaii Kai surfaced. If the City Council approves the use of general fund dollars to mitigate the increases in sewer fees to residents on Oahu, Hawaii Kai residents will be paying twice – once directly to Hawaii-American Water and again, indirectly via real property taxes which go into the general fund. Does the Council's proposed short-term solution create a possibly unfair burden on Hawaii Kai residents who do not use the city's waste water system? Discussion included ways to offset this perceived inequity. For example, if the council decides to use general fund dollars to reduce the increase in sewer fees for residents for one year, might the council also consider providing Hawaii Kai residents a credit on their property tax bill for one year?

The Board was also informed that the use of the City's general funds to support the sewer system could negatively impact the City's future bond rating, resulting in higher interest rates. We have also learned that Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS) has strongly recommended against the use of general funds to subsidize the needed sewer work.

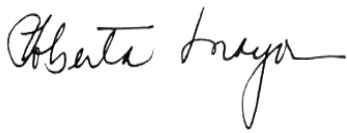
Letter to Honolulu City Council

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At its meeting on April 29, 2025, the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Honolulu City Council expressing its concerns with the proposal to use general fund dollars to subsidize the needed work to upgrade/improve the waste water management system on Oahu. The use of general fund dollars is a short-term fix, may jeopardize future general obligation bond ratings, and may inadvertently place an unfair, additional burden on the residents of Hawaii Kai.

Thank you for your kind attention to our concerns and for considering our request to refrain from using general fund dollars to subsidize the City's needed sewer system improvements.

Aloha and Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberta Mayor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roberta Mayor, Chairperson
Hawai'i Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1

cc (via email): Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City & County of Honolulu
Members of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board