



Sewer Fee Increase

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is proposing to adjust sewer fees annually for the next 10 years – the first adjustment since 2016. Additional revenue is needed to support operations and maintenance of the city's wastewater collection and treatment system, which consists of a network of 2,100 miles of sewer lines, 71 pump stations, and 9 treatment plants, and to finance its \$6.5 billion Capital Improvement Program, including the federally-mandated upgrade of the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. ENV's wastewater program is completely financially self-sufficient, relying entirely on sewer fees to operate.

The Basics

Two-Part Structure:

- Base Charge (70%) – a fixed monthly charge
- Volumetric Charge (30%) – based on your monthly water usage

Water Use Estimate:

- Billed sewer volume is based on your monthly water consumption
- 20% Irrigation Credit:
 - Assumes that 20% of monthly water usage is for outdoor water use that does not become sewage
 - Example: If you use 6,000 gallons of water, you are billed for 4,800 gallons of sewage (80%)

Uniform Rates:

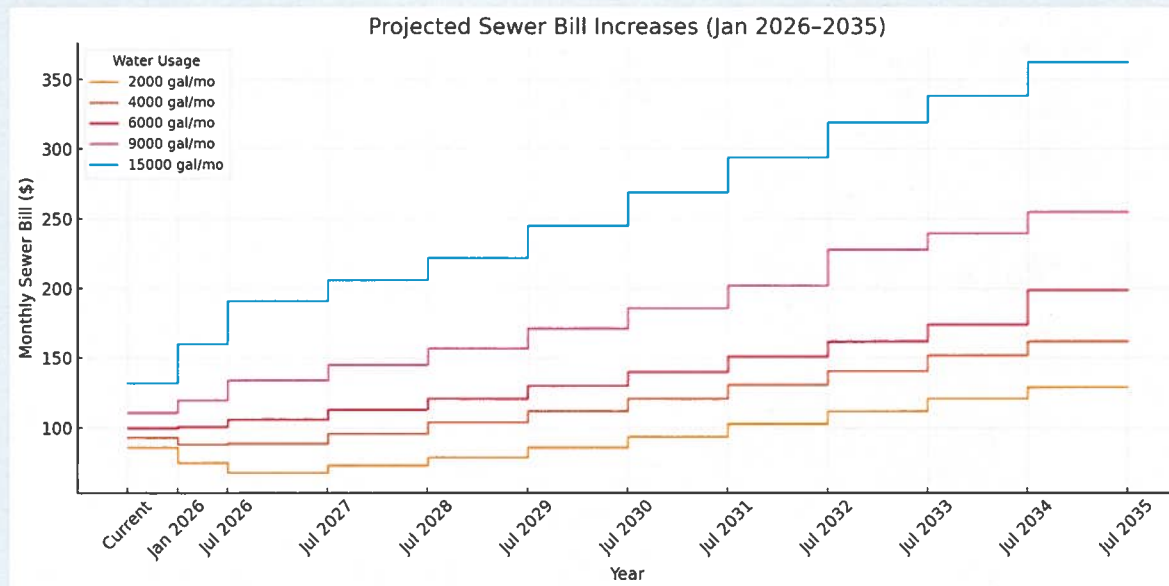
- All single-family households are charged the same monthly base charge (currently \$77.55)
- Volumetric rate applies equally for every 1,000 gallons used (currently 4.63 per 1000 gallons)

Typical Monthly Bill Example:

- A household using 6,000 gallons/month pays \$99.77 (Base: \$77.55, Volumetric: \$22.22). 50% of all single-family households use 6000 gallons per month in Honolulu.

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Proposed sewer fee increases



Rate Package

40/60 Rate Structure:

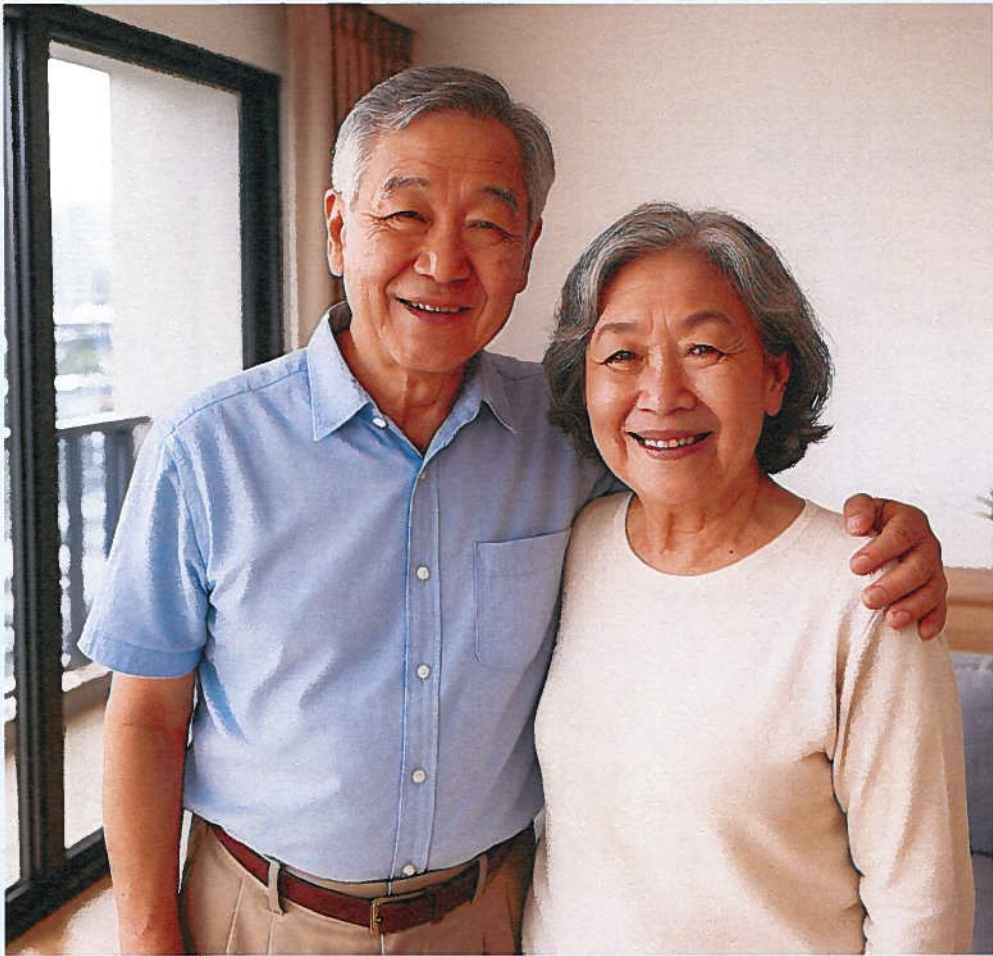
- Shifts from current 70% fixed / 30% variable to 40% fixed / 60% variable which will be phased in over 2 years
- Gives users more control over their sewer bill by linking more of the charge to actual water use
- Households that use less water will pay less, encouraging conservation and fairness

Annual Rate Increases (January 1, 2026 – July 1, 2035):

- Percentage increases scheduled each year: 1) 6%, 2) 7.5%, 3) 8.5%, 4) 9%, 5) 9%, 6) 9%, 7) 9%, 8) 8%, 9) 7.5%, 10) 7%

2,000 gallon per month user

Approximately 10% of Honolulu households use 2,000 gallons of water or less per month. A household at this level likely consists of one or two people who are water-conscious. These residents may have a small yard and with no sprinklers. They likely take short showers, wash only full loads of laundry and dishes, and rarely use water for activities like car washing or gardening. Fixtures in the home are probably high-efficiency models (e.g., low-flow toilets and aerated faucets). Households in this usage range will see a decrease in their current sewer bill on both January 1, and July 1, 2026. under the proposed rate structure.



How will my sewer bill change?

Year	2000 gal/mo	Additional \$/month
Current Charges	\$84.96	-
Jan 1, 2026	\$76.27	(\$8.69)
Jul 1, 2026	\$67.20	(\$9.07)
Jul 1, 2027	\$72.90	\$5.70
Jul 1, 2028	\$79.46	\$6.56
Jul 1, 2029	\$86.60	\$7.14
Jul 1, 2030	\$94.41	\$7.81
Jul 1, 2031	\$102.90	\$8.49
Jul 1, 2032	\$111.14	\$8.24
Jul 1, 2033	\$119.48	\$8.34
Jul 1, 2034	\$127.83	\$8.35

4,000 gallon per month user

Approximately 30% of Honolulu households use 4,000 gallons of water or less per month. This household might include three to four people living in a small home with a small yard. They likely practice regular conservation habits, including turning off taps when not in use, and using water-efficient appliances. There may be minimal outdoor water use. These homes typically reflect mindful consumption, with an eye on both environmental responsibility and utility bills. Households in this usage range will see a decrease in their sewer bill on both January 1, and July 1, 2026. under the proposed rate structure.



How will my sewer bill change?

Year	4000 gal/mo	Additional \$/month
Current Charges	\$92.37	-
Jan 1, 2026	\$88.99	(\$3.38)
Jul 1, 2026	\$86.13	(\$2.86)
Jul 1, 2027	\$93.43	\$7.30
Jul 1, 2028	\$101.85	\$8.42
Jul 1, 2029	\$110.99	\$9.14
Jul 1, 2030	\$121.00	\$10.01
Jul 1, 2031	\$131.87	\$10.87
Jul 1, 2032	\$142.43	\$10.56
Jul 1, 2033	\$153.13	\$10.70
Jul 1, 2034	\$163.83	\$10.70

6,000 gallon per month user

Approximately 50% of Honolulu households use 6,000 gallons of water or less per month. A typical family of three to five people might fall into this category. This includes average daily showers, cooking, laundry 3-4 times per week, and moderate dishwashing. Water is likely used outdoors for lawns and gardens. Although the family may be trying to conserve, their habits may still include occasional overuse such as long showers or partial laundry loads. A home in this range might not yet have upgraded to water-efficient fixtures or irrigation timers.

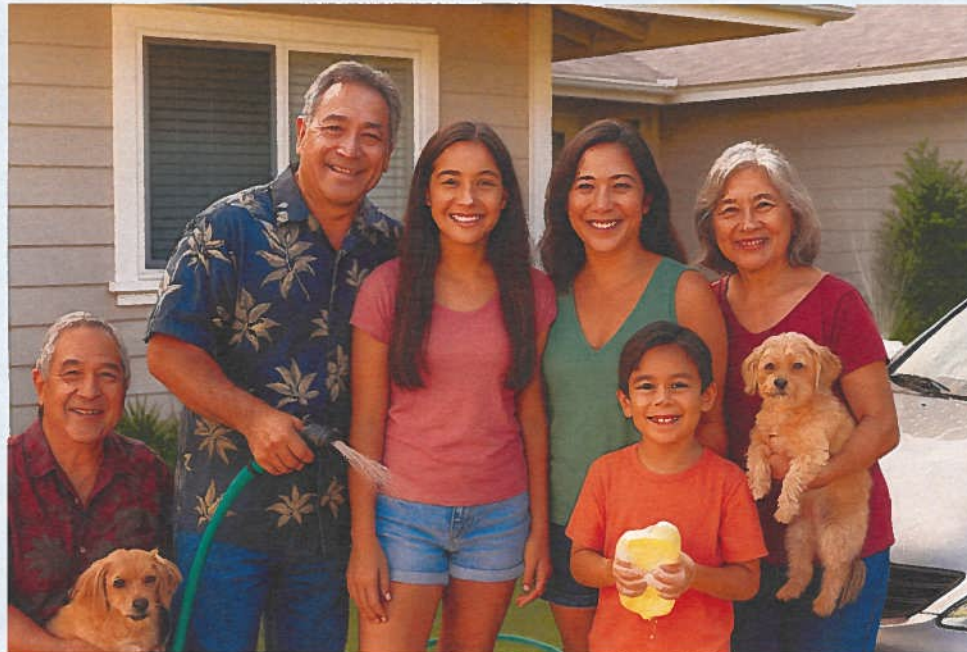


How will my sewer bill change?

Year	6000 gal/mo	Additional \$/month
Current Charges	\$99.77	-
Jan 1, 2026	\$101.71	\$1.94
Jul 1, 2026	\$105.05	\$3.34
Jul 1, 2027	\$113.95	\$8.90
Jul 1, 2028	\$124.23	\$10.28
Jul 1, 2029	\$135.37	\$11.14
Jul 1, 2030	\$147.60	\$12.23
Jul 1, 2031	\$160.85	\$13.25
Jul 1, 2032	\$173.73	\$12.88
Jul 1, 2033	\$186.77	\$13.04
Jul 1, 2034	\$199.83	\$13.06

9,000 gallon per month user

Approximately 70% of Honolulu households use 9,000 gallons or less per month of water. Families at this level might include five or more members, including multi-generational families and/or significant outdoor water usage. Laundry and dish- washing likely occur daily, and showers may run longer than needed. Large-sized lawns or gardens may be watered daily, possibly using hose irrigation without a timer. Inefficient toilets and faucets could contribute unknowingly to this consumption.



How will my sewer bill change?

Year	9000 gal/mo	Additional \$/month
Current Charges	\$110.89	-
Jan 1, 2026	\$120.79	\$9.90
Jul 1, 2026	\$133.45	\$12.66
Jul 1, 2027	\$144.75	\$11.30
Jul 1, 2028	\$157.81	\$13.06
Jul 1, 2029	\$171.95	\$14.14
Jul 1, 2030	\$187.48	\$15.53
Jul 1, 2031	\$204.31	\$16.83
Jul 1, 2032	\$220.67	\$16.36
Jul 1, 2033	\$237.25	\$16.58
Jul 1, 2034	\$253.83	\$16.58

15,000 gallon per month user

Approximately 90% of Honolulu households use 15,000 gallons of water or less per month. This usage indicates the top 10% of water consumption, likely due to a combination of indoor and outdoor factors. A large household, possibly multi-family, may use water liberally without much attention to conservation — such as running faucets while brushing teeth, watering extensive lawns daily, or using old water-wasting toilets and showerheads. Outdoor water use may include very large landscaped areas without smart irrigation. Households at this level are rare and could greatly benefit from conservation efforts.



How will my sewer bill change?

Year	15000 gal/mo	Additional \$/month
Current Charges	\$133.11	-
Jan 1, 2026	\$158.95	\$25.84
Jul 1, 2026	\$190.23	\$31.28
Jul 1, 2027	\$206.33	\$16.10
Jul 1, 2028	\$224.96	\$18.63
Jul 1, 2029	\$245.10	\$20.14
Jul 1, 2030	\$267.26	\$22.16
Jul 1, 2031	\$291.24	\$23.98
Jul 1, 2032	\$314.56	\$23.32
Jul 1, 2033	\$338.19	\$23.63
Jul 1, 2034	\$361.83	\$23.64

Sample Bill Breakdown

Sewer Fee Increase - January 1, 2026 to July 1, 2034

Monthly Water Use (gal/mo)		2000	4000	6000	9000	15000
Current Charges	Base (70%)	77.55	77.55	77.55	77.55	77.55
	Volumetric (30%)	7.41	14.82	22.22	33.34	55.56
	Total	84.96	92.37	99.77	110.89	133.11
January 1, 2026'	Base (40%)	63.55	63.55	63.55	63.55	63.55
	Volumetric (60%)	12.72	25.44	38.16	57.24	95.4
	Total	76.27	88.99	101.71	120.79	158.95
July 1, 2026'	Base (40%)	48.27	48.27	48.27	48.27	48.27
	Volumetric (60%)	18.93	37.86	56.78	85.18	141.96
	Total	67.2	86.13	105.05	133.45	190.23
July 1, 2027'	Base (40%)	52.37	52.37	52.37	52.37	52.37
	Volumetric (60%)	20.53	41.06	61.58	92.38	153.96
	Total	72.9	93.43	113.95	144.75	206.33
July 1, 2028'	Base (40%)	57.08	57.08	57.08	57.08	57.08
	Volumetric (60%)	22.38	44.77	67.15	100.73	167.88
	Total	79.46	101.85	124.23	157.81	224.96
July 1, 2029'	Base (40%)	62.22	62.22	62.22	62.22	62.22
	Volumetric (60%)	24.38	48.77	73.15	109.73	182.88
	Total	86.6	110.99	135.37	171.95	245.1

Monthly Water Use (gal/mo)		2000	4000	6000	9000	15000
July 1, 2030'	Base (40%)	67.82	67.82	67.82	67.82	67.82
	Volumetric (60%)	26.59	53.18	79.78	119.66	199.44
	Total	94.41	121	147.6	187.48	267.26
July 1, 2031'	Base (40%)	73.92	73.92	73.92	73.92	73.92
	Volumetric (60%)	28.98	57.95	86.93	130.39	217.32
	Total	102.9	131.87	160.85	204.31	291.24
July 1, 2032'	Base (40%)	79.84	79.84	79.84	79.84	79.84
	Volumetric (60%)	31.3	62.59	93.89	140.83	234.72
	Total	111.14	142.43	173.73	220.67	314.56
July 1, 2033'	Base (40%)	85.83	85.83	85.83	85.83	85.83
	Volumetric (60%)	33.65	67.3	100.94	151.42	252.36
	Total	119.48	153.13	186.77	237.25	338.19
July 1, 2034'	Base (40%)	91.83	91.83	91.83	91.83	91.83
	Volumetric (60%)	36	72	108	162	270
	Total	127.83	163.83	199.83	253.83	361.83

Bill 60 Alternative Rates 5/22/2025

Rates - 5/22/25; Council Chair Alternative						
Monthly Base Charge						
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Residential - Single Family/Duplex - m	\$77.55	\$67.50	\$72.05	\$76.92	\$82.11	\$87.65
Residential - Single Family/Duplex - n	\$110.89	\$96.22	\$102.72	\$109.65	\$117.05	\$124.96
Residential - Multiple Unit - metered '	\$53.32	\$46.40	\$49.54	\$52.88	\$56.45	\$60.26
Residential - Multiple Unit - not on Ci	\$86.65	\$75.42	\$80.51	\$85.94	\$91.75	\$97.94
Non-Residential - Domestic Strength '	\$77.55	\$67.50	\$72.05	\$76.92	\$82.11	\$87.65
Non-Residential - Domestic Strength '	\$77.55	\$67.50	\$72.05	\$76.92	\$82.11	\$87.65
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Consumption Charge - All	\$4.63	\$4.02	\$4.30	\$4.59	\$4.90	\$5.23
Revenue Projection						
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Base	\$334,697,099	\$291,306,906	\$310,962,124	\$331,967,536	\$354,369,435	\$378,280,900
Volume	<u>\$122,334,395</u>	<u>\$106,216,905</u>	<u>\$113,615,097</u>	<u>\$121,277,510</u>	<u>\$129,468,366</u>	<u>\$138,187,664</u>
Total Revenue w/out OTAT	\$457,031,495	\$397,523,811	\$424,577,221	\$453,245,046	\$483,837,801	\$516,468,565
Percent increase in sewer fees	0	-13.0%	6.8%	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%
Cumulative Increase in sewer fees	0	-13.0%	-7.1%	-0.8%	5.9%	13.0%
Base Split	73%	73%	73%	73%	73%	73%
Volume Split	27%	27%	27%	27%	27%	27%

Bill 60 Alternative Rates 5/22/2025

Comparison of Total Revenue							
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total FY 26-30 Revenue
Council Chair Alternative 5/22/25	\$457,031,495	\$397,523,811	\$424,577,221	\$453,245,046	\$483,837,801	\$516,468,565	\$2,275,652,444
		-13.0%	6.8%	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%	13.0% Cumulative
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total FY 26-30 Revenue
No Rate Increase	\$457,031,495	\$457,031,495	\$457,031,495	\$457,031,495	\$457,031,495	\$457,031,495	\$2,285,157,473
		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0% Cumulative
	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total FY 26-30 Revenue
6% Option	\$457,031,495	\$484,453,384	\$520,787,388	\$565,054,316	\$615,909,204	\$671,341,033	\$2,857,545,325
		6.0%	7.5%	8.5%	9.0%	9.0%	46.9% Cumulative
Alternative 5/22/25	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total FY 26-30 Revenue
OTAT estimate	\$0	\$0	\$49,000,000	\$49,000,000	\$49,000,000	\$49,000,000	\$196,000,000
Total Revenue w/OTAT	\$457,031,495	\$397,523,811	\$473,577,221	\$502,245,046	\$532,837,801	\$565,468,565	\$2,471,652,444
Percent increase in sewer fees		-13.0%	19.1%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%	23.7% Cumulative
Shortage							\$385,892,881