

**RES26-007**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 161**

\*INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA)

**\*INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 29, 2026 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 17

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

|   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Name:<br>Johnnie-Mae Perry  | Email:<br>waianaenb569@gmail.com         | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>I wish to comment           | Submitted:<br>Apr 23, 2026 @ 10:25 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, COMMENT to RES26-007</p> <p>ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS FOR ELIMINATING LANDFILL DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.</p> <p>CMT have "expressed" at WCNB #24 and other nb meetings that landfills are "not necessary" like other countries that she has visited. It is difficult for me to "believe" this concept and/her testimony because for one: USA is NOT like other countries; two: USA is NOT discipline like Japan for example when it comes to their personal environment; and three: USA IS ABOUT MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! VS PROTECTING OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT.</p> <p>IF PEOPLE REALLY CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT - STOP SHOPPING AND STOP BEING WASTEFUL!!</p> <p>CMT WHY DIDN'T YOU SUBMIT THIS ISSUE TO THE CHARTER - CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU REVISION?</p> |  |                                       |
| Name:<br>Jessica Woodward   | Email:<br>jhgwoodward@gmail.com          | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>Support                     | Submitted:<br>Apr 24, 2026 @ 09:16 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha. As someone who grew up on the West side of O'ahu, I am disappointed in the decision to add a second landfill in Mākaīwa. I understand that no one wants trash to be stored in their backyard. With that understanding, and my observation over decades that over-consumption and the creation of trash on this island seems to go on unabated, something needs to be done to work toward evaluating what landfill-free and landfill-alternative solutions might be. Perhaps this resolution is a step in that direction. I would like to see the addition for the ability for involvement from researchers and academia on the Task Force, as well as representatives that can provide insight into Hawaiian Indigenous epistemologies and One Health as these aspects are important in analyzing community problems and envisioning creative solutions.</p> <p>Mahalo</p>            |  |                                       |
| Name:<br>Umida Stelovska  | Email:<br>umida@carbotura.com            | Zip:<br>96744                         |
| Representing:<br>Carbotura Inc.   | Position:<br>Support                     | Submitted:<br>Apr 27, 2026 @ 11:24 AM |
| Name:<br>Carmen Guzman Simpliciano  | Email:<br>kingdompathways.info@gmail.com | Zip:<br>96792                         |

|  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Representing:<br>Kingdom Pathways  | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 27, 2026 @ 01:30 PM |
| Name:<br>Tanya Kaahaaina   | Email:<br>tanyavjpuna@gmail.com         | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:31 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha mai,</p> <p>I would like to support establishing an END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE. The concept of ending all landfills is definitely something that Hawaii should consider, especially C&amp;C of Honolulu. As a 96792 resident, I am appalled at the status of Waimanalo Gulch Landfill. A task force that can help eliminate any other communities from this is ideal. My only concern would be to ensure that the taskforce and research necessary moves quickly. Our community and generations cannot wait much longer for a solution.</p> <p>Mahalo nui loa</p> |   |                                       |
| Name:<br>Stanford Kaahaaina  | Email:<br>tkaahaaina@aoshawaii.com      | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:33 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Establishing the End All Landfills Task Force is way overdue. It is important that we move forward and find a better solution than an extension to the current landfill.</p>  |   |                                       |
| Name:<br>Chris Muraoka   | Email:<br>repmuraoka@capitol.hawaii.gov | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:42 PM |
| Name:<br>Kalista Mitchell  | Email:<br>kaliskymitchell@gmail.com     | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:42 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>Oahu's landfills are not sustainable. Waimanalo Gulch is closing by 2028, and every new landfill proposal brings more</p>   |   |                                       |

worries about our health, our environment, and what's fair for our communities. We can't keep waiting for the next crisis to force bad decisions.

This task force will look honestly at the real costs, risks, and options so we can finally move away from depending on landfills. It will explore strong waste reduction, better recycling, diversion programs, and cleaner conversion technologies that actually turn waste into resources.

This work is especially important because our Hawai'i Constitution, Article XI, Section 9, clearly says: "Each person has the right to a clean and healthful environment." Landfills create tons of methane and long-term pollution. Keeping our islands locked into them goes against that constitutional promise and hurts the future we're leaving for our keiki.

I urge you to pass RES26-007 so we can start building a cleaner, healthier Oahu for all of us.

Mahalo,  
Kalista Mitchell

|                        |  |                                       |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Name:<br>Kelli Timoteo | Email:<br>k.timoteo@capitol.hawaii.gov | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                   | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:48 PM |

Testimony:

I strongly support Resolution 26-7 to establish an End Landfills Task Force for the City and County of Honolulu.

This issue has been dragging on for years, and frankly, the current approach is no longer working. Landfills are already at or nearing capacity, yet we keep falling back on the same short-term decisions instead of addressing the bigger problem.

We need a structured, honest review of all options—including costs, risks, and alternatives—so future decisions are not just reactive. It's also important that we stop placing the burden repeatedly on the same communities.

This task force is a necessary step toward finally getting a clear, workable path forward.

Mahalo for your consideration.

|                         |                              |                                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name:<br>Tessy Kekahuna | Email:<br>tessyk81@gmail.com | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>Support         | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 12:51 PM |

Testimony:

|  |                                      |                                       |
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| In support   |                                      |                                       |
| Name:<br>Darius Kila   | Email:<br>repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov | Zip:<br>96813                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                 | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 04:11 PM |
| Name:<br>Crystal Pang  | Email:<br>crysakana@gmail.com        | Zip:<br>96792-3382                    |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                 | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 05:00 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair and Members,</p> <p>I strongly support Resolution 26-7 establishing the End Landfills Task Force.</p> <p>O'ahu cannot continue relying on landfills as a long-term solution. This Task Force is a necessary step to evaluate sustainable alternatives, understand the true costs and risks, and create a clear path forward.</p> <p>West O'ahu communities have carried a significant portion of this burden. It is time to take a thoughtful, island-wide approach that prioritizes equity, innovation, and long-term environmental responsibility.</p> <p>I respectfully urge your support of this measure.</p> |                                      |                                       |
| Name:<br>Kanekawaiola Lindsey  | Email:<br>kanekawaiola@gmail.com     | Zip:<br>96816                         |
| Representing:<br>Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs   | Position:<br>Support                 | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 06:38 PM |
| Name:<br>Shauna Kahiapo  | Email:<br>president@pkhcc.org        | Zip:<br>96734                         |
| Representing:<br>Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club  | Position:<br>Support                 | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 07:06 PM |
| Name:<br>Kamuela Werner  | Email:<br>kamuelaw@gmail.com         | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Self  | Position:<br>Support                 | Submitted:<br>Apr 28, 2026 @ 09:33 PM |
| Name:  | Email:                               | Zip:                                  |

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|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Hollie Rader  | hollierader@gmail.com                   | 96797                                 |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 29, 2026 @ 04:39 AM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in support of Resolution 26-007 to establish an End Landfills Task Force.</p> <p>This resolution is critical because it directly impacts the future of us youth. Despite the temporary solution expanding Waimānalo Gulch or relocating a landfill may provide, in 20 to 30 years, my generation will face the same crisis of landfill overcapacity. Without meaningful action, the City is simply deferring the problem to us youth.</p> <p>The City, with this task force, can address both the immediate capacity challenge and the long-term goal of reducing and eliminating landfill dependency. In the short-term, I believe waste should be temporarily redirected to Kapa'a Quarry while the City works with the community and the State to take swift steps toward zero-waste solutions. Kapa'a Quarry, as a former landfill and existing industrial site, is a more appropriate location for temporary use. While this option may face political challenges, including the need to amend Act 73, it represents a more equitable approach given the disproportionate environmental, economic, and health burdens already placed on West O'ahu families.</p> <p>By temporarily relocating the landfill, it would help alleviate this ongoing strain. West O'ahu already hosts a significant concentration of environmental and infrastructure burdens, including the Mākua Military Reservation, Lualualei Naval Magazine, Kalaeloa Military Lands, H-POWER, Kahe Power Plant, Kalaeloa Power Facilities, multiple utility-scale solar fields, PVT landfill, in addition to Waimānalo Gulch Landfill. Hence, expanding Waimānalo Gulch would only deepen this inequity.</p> <p>For decades, waste management impact has been concentrated in West O'ahu. That approach is neither fair nor sustainable. West O'ahu is not a dumping ground for the City and State's problems and its inability to act promptly.</p> <p>RES 26-007 provides an opportunity to change course. By establishing a task force, we can create accountable, community-informed solutions with clear, measurable timelines and outcomes. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please pass RES 26-007 and request an exemption to Act 73 from the State.</p> |   |                                       |
| Name:<br>Senator Mike Gabbard   | Email:<br>sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 29, 2026 @ 10:23 AM |
| Name:<br>Diamond Garcia   | Email:<br>repgarcia@capitol.hawaii.gov  | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Self   | Position:<br>Support                    | Submitted:<br>Apr 29, 2026 @ 11:36 AM |

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Umida Stelovska, and I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the Resolution 26-007:

**Establishing an End Landfills Task Force to Evaluate the Feasibility, Costs, and Implementation Pathways for Eliminating Landfill Dependency in the City and County of Honolulu.**

This is a timely, responsible, and forward-thinking proposal.

For too long, Honolulu's waste strategy has centered on landfills as the default solution. Yet landfills consume scarce and sacred land, create environmental and financial liabilities, burden neighboring communities, and eventually fill up - forcing taxpayers to repeat the same costly cycle again and again.

Oahu's limited land base makes this issue especially urgent. Every acre committed to landfill use is land that cannot be used for housing, agriculture, parks, conservation, or future community needs.

An End Landfills Task Force would allow the City to seriously evaluate modern alternatives and build a practical roadmap toward long-term sustainability. This includes examining technologies and strategies such as:

- [Advanced Circular Manufacturing](#) systems
- Waste conversion incentives
- Public-private infrastructure partnerships
- Revenue-generating resource recovery models

A task force is not a commitment to any one technology or vendor. It is a commitment to due diligence, innovation, transparency, and responsible planning.

Waste should no longer be viewed only as something to dispose of. Much of what is buried still contains recoverable value that can support jobs, local industry, and new revenue opportunities.

Our State has an opportunity to become a leader among island communities worldwide by creating a realistic path beyond landfill dependency.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure and move it forward.

Please help create a future where Oahu manages resources wisely, protects its communities, and reduces reliance on landfills once and for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Umida Stelovska. Resident on Oahu.  
M. 808-673-0034  
E. [umida@carbotura.com](mailto:umida@carbotura.com)



Testimony in SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS of Resolution 26-7  
Relating to establishing an End Landfills Task Force to evaluate the feasibility, costs, and implementation pathways for eliminating landfill dependency in the City and County of Honolulu.

Aloha Chair and members,

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano, from Wai‘anae, representing Kingdom Pathways.

We **support** Resolution 26-7 establishing an End Landfills Task Force. This effort is necessary and long overdue. It acknowledges what our communities have been saying for decades—that landfill dependency is not sustainable and poses real risks to our environment, our health, and our future.

However, our concern is not the intent; it is the **execution**.

For communities like Wai‘anae, this is not new. We are already living the impacts.

The timeline reflects this:

- 2010 – City knew it would take 7+ years to identify, permit, and build a landfill
- 2019 – Required to have a plan
- 2022 – Deadline missed
- 2024 – Extended, still no solution
- 2026 – Now it is being treated as urgent

This demonstrates a long-standing pattern of delay.

While this resolution proposes a 365-day evaluation process, the impacts to our communities continue in real time.

The current system’s track record raises serious concerns:

- EPA Notice of Violation tied to landfill gas systems
- Fabricated monitoring data that required investigation and verification
- Waste entering stormwater systems and reaching the ocean
- Lack of real-time air monitoring
- No asbestos monitoring
- Leachate released before test results are returned
- Lack of consistent community notification

Given this, we ask:

**What immediate protections will be implemented for impacted communities while this Task Force conducts its work?**

From a Kingdom Pathways perspective, rooted in aloha 'āina, we support the transition away from landfill dependency. However, this process must include:

- Immediate protections for frontline communities
- Real-time monitoring and transparency
- Meaningful community representation in decision-making
- A commitment to not expand or shift harm while long-term solutions are being developed

**We respectfully request that the Task Force explicitly include representatives from frontline communities, including Wai'anae, as well as Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and public health experts, to ensure decisions are grounded in lived experience, 'ike kupuna, and community impact.**

They did not run out of space, they ran out of time they failed to use.

As we move forward, this cannot become another timeline of delay. It must be a timeline of action.

We support this effort, but urge the Council to ensure it is implemented with urgency, accountability, and community at the center.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

With Aloha,

*Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano*

Co-Founder, Kingdom Pathways



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Hale o nā Luna Maka'āinana*

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

From: Christopher L. Muraoka, State of Hawaii Representative, District 45

Date: April 28, 2026

Subject: Support for Resolution 26-7 – Establishing an End Landfills Task Force

I write to express strong support for Resolution 26-7, establishing an End Landfills Task Force for the City and County of Honolulu.

The landfill issue has persisted for far too long without a clear, lasting solution. There is an urgent need to move beyond short-term fixes and take a serious, comprehensive look at what comes next. Continuing to rely on landfill expansion—especially in areas that have already carried the burden—is not a responsible path forward, particularly when existing facilities are already at or near capacity.

This task force provides a necessary framework to evaluate the full range of costs, risks, and alternatives so that future decisions are informed and balanced. It ensures a more deliberate and accountable process before committing to any long-term waste management strategy. Support for this resolution is respectfully requested.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Christopher L. Muraoka  
State of Hawaii Representative  
District 45  
Waianae – Makaha



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana*

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 28, 2026

Meeting: April 29, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Committee on International and Legal Affairs  
Regular Meeting, City Council Chamber  
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi

RE: Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-07 and Proposed CD1 TO Resolution 26-07  
ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE  
FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS FOR  
ELIMINATING LANDFILL DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF  
HONOLULU

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on Resolution 26-07 and its Proposed CD1, which seeks to establish an End Landfills Task Force to evaluate and propose ways of ending the dependency on landfills in the City and County of Honolulu.

I am in strong support of this Resolution and its Proposed CD1. We need to move away from the dependency of landfills which is not sustainable. This is an archaic method of disposing of our trash which desperately needs to be replaced with more modern and up-to-date methods.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this Resolution. If you have any questions, you may contact me at (808) 586-9480 or by email at [repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Very truly yours,

Darius K. Kila  
Representative, House District 44  
Māʻili, Lualualei, Nānākuli, Honokai Hale,  
Ko ʻOlina

**Representative Darius K. Kila**

House District 44—Honokai Hale, Nānākuli, Maʻili  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 322 / Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-9480 / Fax: (808) 586-9485 / Email: [RepKila@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:RepKila@capitol.hawaii.gov)



April 29, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the Honolulu City Council Committee on International & Legal Affairs

In SUPPORT of

Resolution 26-7 - ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AOHCC) strongly **supports** Resolution 26-7 to establish an End Landfills Task Force to evaluate feasibility, costs, risks, and implementation pathways for eliminating landfill dependency in the City and County of Honolulu. The AOHCC has opposed landfills since 2004, when it adopted a resolution calling for exploration of alternatives to landfilling, including technologies such as Plasma Arc (see attached).

For decades the City has promised to close Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) but has failed to do so, inflicting ongoing environmental, health, economic, and cultural harms on Wai‘anae Coast communities and eroding public trust. Promised mitigation and benefits tied to Makaiwa Hills—most notably workforce housing—have been delayed since 2007 and are now jeopardized because the City advanced landfill plans without completing due diligence, transparent consultation, or negotiated compensation for impacted communities. Although the City publicly pledged not to site another landfill in West O‘ahu, it is proceeding with land acquisition and permitting for Makaiwa Hills without meaningful community consultation, deepening distrust.

Makaiwa Hills is sited adjacent to WGSL and would perpetuate the same concentrated corridor of impacts AOHCC has long opposed. Approving another landfill there would compound legacy harms—degraded air and groundwater quality, higher rates of respiratory illness and certain cancers, depressed property values, and reduced quality of life from odors, noise, traffic, and constrained land uses—disproportionately affecting Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian Home Lands communities. Regaining trust requires concrete, enforceable actions before any further permitting or land acquisition.

The City should withdraw the Makaiwa Hills PIM revision and suspend condemnation or siting actions until thorough, transparent due diligence and meaningful consultation are completed. The

City must commit to closing WGS� without replacing its impacts nearby, publish a citywide waste-management strategy prioritizing reduction, diversion, recycling, and composting with equity-centered siting analysis, and establish a permanent Landfill Host Compensation Program for WGS�, H-Power, PVT, and any future sites.

An End Landfills Task Force can provide the technical and equity analysis needed to implement these measures: quantify cumulative harms; compare lifecycle costs, public-health and greenhouse-gas impacts, and cultural/ecological effects of alternatives; design a phased closure and workforce transition plan; mandate meaningful community decisionmaking and Native Hawaiian and other community of impact input; and propose a funded Landfill Host Compensation Fund. The Task Force should include independent circular economy experts, public-health specialists, Native Hawaiian representatives, Wai‘anae community leaders, City staff, and fiscal analysts, and deliver an equity-centered zero-landfill strategy, costed implementation plan, enforceable closure timeline for WGS� and PVT, and compensation fund proposal.

The AOHCC reiterates that a new landfill in West O‘ahu is unacceptable. We support the City’s effort to end landfilling and urge immediate investment in safer, sustainable waste-management alternatives and formation of a Task Force empowered to secure a landfill-free future for Honolulu.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy organization. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a 501(c)(4) confederation of 60 autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and approximately 3,500 members across Hawai‘i and the continental United States.

Mahalo for your consideration.

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

NO. 2025 - 41

### **URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CREATE A LANDFILL HOST COMPENSATION FUND**

WHEREAS, every community in Hawai‘i deserves a “clean and healthful environment” as guaranteed by Article XI, Section 9 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urged the creation of an adequate buffer zone around landfills in Resolution 2019-52; and

WHEREAS, Act 73, Session Laws of Hawai‘i, 2020, established a statewide “buffer zone” law prohibiting landfills within one-half mile of residential, school, or hospital property lines; and

WHEREAS, the “buffer zone” law does not address the challenges faced by residents living near landfills, who experience decreased quality of life, lower property values, and various health issues; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i recognizes that no segment of the population should be disproportionately burdened by environmental and health impacts from development and resource use; and

WHEREAS, nearly all landfilling and waste processing on O‘ahu occurs in West O‘ahu, affecting communities with high concentrations of Native Hawaiians and Homesteads; and

WHEREAS, landfills in West O‘ahu contribute to air pollution and groundwater contamination, leading to higher cancer rates among nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, incineration emits harmful pollutants and carcinogens, increasing the risk of serious health issues for affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Kekaha Host Community Benefits Fund serves as a successful model for community compensation and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, both the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Landfill Site Selection (2012) and the Landfill Advisory Committee (2022) have recommended considering “Host Community Compensation Benefits” for affected communities; and

WHEREAS, this resolution has the full support of Ke One o Kākuhihewa, as affirmed by a vote of the Council at its duly noticed meeting held on August 9, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025, urging the City And County of Honolulu to create a Landfill Host Compensation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025, at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Keauhou, Hawai‘i.

*DreanaLee Kalili*

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DreanaLee Kalili, President

**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN  
CIVIC CLUBS**

**A RESOLUTION**

11 - 43

**URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CEASE OPERATIONS AT  
THE WAIMANALO GULCH LANDFILL ANY FURTHER DELAY AND TO OPEN A  
SECOND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL UNIT ON OAHU WITHOUT**

WHEREAS, the Waimānalo Gulch Landfill (Landfill) opened in September 1989, and is owned by the City and County of Honolulu (City), is operated by Waste Management of Hawaii Inc., and is the only City owned landfill on O‘ahu; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill is located in Senate District 21, which has the largest concentration of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill is comprised of approximately 200 acres, of which 78.9 acres have been used since 1979, 64.5 acres are used for land filling, and 29 acres are used for administration; and

WHEREAS, the City’s intent for the Landfill to accept two types of waste: 1) noncombustible municipal solid waste and 2) ash and residue from the H-POWER facility; and

WHEREAS, ash is defined as “the residue including any air pollution flue dust or bottom ash from combustion or the incineration of material including solid wastes”; and

WHEREAS, municipal solid waste is defined as “garbage, refuse, and other discarded materials, including solid liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, sludge from waste treatment plants and water supply treatment plants, and residues from air pollution control facilities and community activities”; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill is defined as a municipal solid waste landfill unit, the Landfill may also receive other types of waste as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which includes medical waste; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2008, the State of Hawai‘i amended the Landfill’s Special Use Permit, which required the Landfill to cease accepting any additional waste material and to be closed in accordance with an approved closure plan by November 1, 2009, or until the approved area reaches permitted capacity, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill applied for and was granted an amended Special Use Permit on December 3, 2008, which would allow a 92.5 acre expansion and a time extension for the existing operating portion of the Landfill; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2009 the Land Use Commission issued an Decision and Order, requiring the Landfill cease disposal of municipal solid waste at the Landfill by July 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010 and January 2011, Hawai'i experienced heavy rains which flooded Cell E6 and caused the sedimentation basin at the bottom of the landfill to overflow and dump storm water into the ocean on two different occasions; and

WHEREAS, the contaminated water that was released into the ocean contained garbage heavy metals and chemicals such as chlordane, fecal matter and medical waste, including vials of blood and syringes; and

WHEREAS, the beaches along the Wai'anae Coast were closed for weeks due to the release of contaminated water; and

WHEREAS, the irreparable harm caused to the Wai'anae Coast from the breach at the Landfill in December 2010 and January of 2011 is unknown since a supplemental environmental impact statement has not been completed to date; and

WHEREAS, the health impact related to the continued operation of a landfill near a rapidly developing community has not been addressed by the City or the Landfill, nor has acceptance of liability of health cost related to the continued operations of the Landfill been addressed; and

WHEREAS, the Landfill is located in an inundation zone, which creates the risk of another overflow and dump of storm water into the ocean; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of the Waimānalo Gulch Landfill is not in the best interest of the residents of the Wai'anae coast, including the large Native Hawaiian community in that area, and the continued use is not in the best interest of residents of O'ahu, and a waste management alternative is needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Convention at Turtle Bay Resort, Hanaka'oe, O'ahu, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011, urging the City and County of Honolulu to cease operations at the Waimānalo Gulch Landfill without any further delay and to open a second municipal solid waste landfill unit on O'ahu.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mayor Peter Carlisle, and the Mayor's Community Advisory Committee on Landfill Site Selection (Department of Environmental Services).



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011, at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Turtle Bay Resort, Hanaka'oe, O'ahu.

---

Soulee I.K.O. Stroud, President

**URGING THE SUPPORT OF THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY  
CALLED PLASMA ARC AND THE OPPOSITION OF LANDFILLS IN HAWAI'I**

WHEREAS, landfills on all of our islands, from Hawai'i to Kaua'i, are at capacity with no solutions by the State and County Governments to find resolutions to the filth, disease, and destruction of our sacred lands;

WHEREAS, these landfills, across the state, are being located in or near Hawaiian Homestead lands;

WHEREAS, on the island of O'ahu, the Mayor's blue ribbon committee will be submitting to the City Council of Honolulu that the top of their list for a new location for the state's largest garbage dump be moved from its present location at Kapolei, O'ahu, to the center of two homesteads on the leeward coast, Nanakuli and Princess Kahanu Estates;

WHEREAS, on O'ahu, municipal solid waste - MSW (which include 'opala from residential, commercial, and industrial sources, generate 1.5 million tons of waste each year) is transferred to a plant called H-Power which processes 600,000 tons annually sending 10% of its ash residue, after processing, to the Kapolei landfill amounting to 600 tons of ash plus another 800 tons of MSW not being able to be processed by H-Power for a total of 1,400 tons every day;

WHEREAS, the Hukupili Foundation (a non-profit organization made up of officers and board members from the Nanakuli, Wai'anae Kai, Princess Kahanu Estates and Wai'anae Valley Homesteads, in their individual capacities, organized themselves and spent four years researching alternative technologies to landfills) has analyzed in great depth the technology called Plasma Arc and find it to be the best solution to save our health, our lands, and our communities from being continually dumped on; and

WHEREAS, the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations in its annual meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2004, passed a similar resolution calling for support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on Maui, Hawai'i, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2004, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, urges the support of the alternative technology called Plasma Arc; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs support the opposition of landfills in Hawai'i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the State Government, County Government, the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on November 13, 2004, at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Maui, Hawai'i

  
President



‘Apelila 29, 2026  
1:00 PM

International & Legal Affairs Committee  
Honolulu City Council  
City Council Chamber

Re: RES26-007 - ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS FOR ELIMINATING LANDFILL DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Tupola and honorable members of the committee:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club strongly **SUPPORTS** RES26-007 and urges the City to prioritize a just and urgent transition away from landfilling on O‘ahu.

He Ali‘i Ka ‘Āina; He Kauwā ke Kanaka (The land is Chief; Humanity is its steward)

West O‘ahu—home to the island’s highest per-capita concentrations of Native Hawaiians and keiki—has disproportionately carried O‘ahu’s waste and industrial burdens. These land uses impose harms that extend well beyond budgets: measurable human health impacts, diminished community well-being, and degradation of the ‘āina. Land-use policy and zoning are not neutral. West O‘ahu already includes Makua Military Reservation, Lualualei Naval Magazine, Kalaeloa military lands, the Kahe power plant and Kalaeloa power facilities, multiple utility-scale solar fields, Waimānalo Gulch sanitary landfill, the PVT construction and demolition landfill, H-Power, and substantial heavy industry. The Governor and the Hawaii State Energy Office plans on implementing Liquid Natural Gas as a “bridge fuel” and most related infrastructure would be sited in West O‘ahu, further concentrating environmental and social costs in an area that has long borne them.

These cumulative facilities correlate with reduced life expectancy, higher rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, lower median household income, greater exposure to hazards and heavy traffic, and other indicators of environmental injustice. Given this concentrated burden, the City must eliminate landfilling and adopt a 100% circular economy target. Honolulu can lead by adapting proven international best practices and piloting innovative strategies—accepting

upfront costs where necessary—because the current system already exacts severe human and environmental harms.

The City should accelerate non-landfill solutions, including aggressive waste diversion and reuse programs, expanded recycling and composting with comprehensive food-waste diversion, and deployment of proven conversion technologies. Interim landfill use, if any, should be narrowly limited, strictly time-bounded, and conditional on measurable performance milestones. The City should support the safe, health-based reuse of H-Power ash in appropriate construction applications, advance compostable alternatives to single-use plastics, facilitate manufacturer take-back programs, and reduce barriers across the waste stream so residents, businesses, and government can more easily reduce, reuse, recycle, and repair through targeted funding, infrastructure, incentives, and clear regulatory frameworks.

Honolulu should draw from successful models elsewhere: Amsterdam’s municipal circular strategy, producer responsibility mechanisms, and reuse hubs; Copenhagen’s food-waste prevention, city-scale composting and biogas systems, and binding municipal targets; Ljubljana’s source separation and pay-as-you-throw approach that has achieved near-zero waste; San Francisco’s mandatory composting, pay-as-you-throw policies, and high diversion targets; and Seoul’s producer take-back programs, refill/reuse initiatives, and public-private innovation labs. The City should set bold targets, fund pilots, evaluate outcomes rigorously, and scale effective solutions rather than dismiss them on short-term cost grounds.

While landfills remain, impacted communities must receive equitable treatment through enforceable monitoring, transparent public data, remediation funding, and a legally binding host-community benefits package modeled on the Kekaha Host Community Benefits program. Transitioning decisively away from landfills will protect public health, uphold cultural and environmental responsibilities reflected in the ‘ōlelo no‘eau, and advance Hawai‘i’s climate and equity objectives. For these reasons, the PKHCC supports the resolution.

Founded in 1964, the Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club was established to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry. Its objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and professional fields.

Mahalo for your consideration of our position.

Me ke aloha,

Shauna Kahiapo, Esq.  
Pelekikena

[president@pkhcc.org](mailto:president@pkhcc.org)

International & Legal Affairs Committee  
Honolulu Council  
Honolulu Hale

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.

Re - Resolution 26-7 - Establishing a City End Landfill Task Force

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Tupola, and fellow committee members:

I **support** the City establishing a task force that explores how to make them obsolete on our island.

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Tupola, and committee members:

I strongly support Resolution 26-7 to establish an End Landfills Task Force to evaluate feasibility, costs, risks, and implementation pathways for eliminating landfill dependency in the City and County of Honolulu.

My name is Kamuela Werner. I live in Kapolei, am from Mā‘ili, and graduated from Nānākuli High School. I hold a B.S. in Natural Resources Management and an M.P.H. from the University of Hawai‘i. My work has included public-health research at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, service as a Native Hawaiian Congressional Fellow, and teaching and farming at Nānākuli High and Intermediate School. I speak for my ‘ohana and neighbors who live, work, and attend school near existing landfill operations. Landfills should not be in anyone’s backyard.

*Why the Task Force is needed*

- Landfills are not neutral, they negatively impact the ‘āina and the communities around them for generations.
- The proposed New O‘ahu Landfill at Makaiwa Hills would replace Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) with a roughly 150-acre disposal footprint and up to 350 additional acres of support infrastructure, with land acquisition planned to begin in March 2026 and a \$55M allocation in FY27–28 — this matters because it represents a long-term commitment of land, budget, and emissions that could lock communities into continued exposure.

- That plan reverses previous commitments to close WGSL and to avoid siting a landfill in West O‘ahu — an action the Task Force should scrutinize because breaking prior promises undermines public trust and warrants independent review.
- West O‘ahu already hosts a disproportionate share of O‘ahu’s waste infrastructure while containing the island’s highest concentration of Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian homesteads — this is an environmental-justice concern because it concentrates health, economic, and cultural harms on communities least able to absorb them.
- Scientific and epidemiologic evidence links residential proximity to landfills and waste emissions (including hydrogen sulfide from construction and demolition debris) with adverse pregnancy outcomes, respiratory illnesses, neurological symptoms, psychological distress, and elevated risks of certain cancers and mortality — the Task Force should assess these health risks to inform protective policy and monitoring.
- Local monitoring and oversight are limited; approving another large landfill would lock in more exposure without reliable, independent health protections — the Task Force can recommend strengthened, independent monitoring and enforceable safeguards.

*What the Task Force could evaluate*

- Technical and economic feasibility of phasing out landfilling across O‘ahu, including diversion targets, required recycling/composting/processing capacities, timelines, capital and operating costs, and financing mechanisms — to determine whether and how a landfill-free system can be built and sustained.
- Public-health and environmental risk assessments for existing and proposed landfill sites, with independent air, water, and soil monitoring plans and community health safeguards — so risks are quantified and mitigated before any new approvals.
- Equity and environmental-justice impacts, centering affected Native Hawaiian and working-class communities in West O‘ahu; recommend compensatory Host Benefits and mitigation where impacts are unavoidable — to ensure policy decisions do not perpetuate disproportionate burdens.
- Alternatives analysis and implementation pathways: expanded reuse/repair programs, mandatory source reduction, organics diversion and commercial composting, material recovery facilities, toxics-out programs, advanced processing technologies, and waste-to-product strategies — to identify realistic substitutions for landfilling and the investments required.
- Land use and siting transparency: require the City to publish full siting analyses, scoring matrices, and reasons for excluding or prioritizing sites (including federal lands at Waipio and West Loch, Hawaii Prince Golf Club, parcels under 100 acres, and HC&D quarries) — so the public can verify that siting decisions are evidence-based and equitable.

- Legal, permitting, and timeline implications for any condemnation, rezoning, or land acquisition; consistent application of condemnation/reuse standards across site classes — to ensure legal actions are justified, transparent, and applied consistently.
- Community engagement and governance: meaningful public review, independent technical and environmental-justice audits, and delay of any acquisition, rezoning, or condemnation until independent review and robust consultation are complete — to center affected communities in decision making and prevent premature irreversible actions.

*Requested actions and accountability*

- Commission an independent technical and environmental-justice review concurrent with Task Force work — so findings are validated by impartial experts and community advocates.
- Publish all prior and current siting documents, scoring tables, and the City’s rationale for site exclusions or prioritization — to provide transparency and allow independent scrutiny.
- Require a public Host Benefits Program for communities already burdened by waste facilities (WGSL, PVT, H-Power) — to secure tangible, enforceable compensation and community investments where impacts persist.
- Delay Makaiwa Hills acquisition or condemnation until the Task Force and independent reviews conclude and community consultation is complete to avoid irreversible land transfers or construction before thorough evaluation and consent.

In conclusion, support for Resolution 26-7 is support for an equitable, health-centered transition away from landfill dependence. The Task Force can map realistic, priced out pathways to eliminate reliance on landfills while protecting frontline communities and ensuring transparent, accountable decision making. I urge the committee to pass Resolution 26-7 and charge the Task Force to prioritize public health, equity, and open review as the City moves toward a landfill-free future.

Mahalo.

Ke aloha ‘āina

Kamuela Werner, MPH  
Kapolei, O‘ahu

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD

21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT



KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO,  
KALAELOA, AND PORTIONS OF  
FERNANDEZ VILLAGE AND EWA

CHAIRMAN  
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER JUDICIARY

MEMBER

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

April 29, 2026

### **In Support of Resolution 26-7 – Establishing an End Landfills Task Force**

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Resolution 26-7.

As the Senate Chairman of the Agriculture and Environment Committee for ten years, I fully support this measure because it takes an important step toward addressing one of the most difficult challenges we face on Oahu—how we manage our waste in a way that is sustainable, fair, and responsible.

With the planned closure of the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill in 2028, we are at a critical point. We know that continuing to rely heavily on landfills is not a long-term solution. At the same time, we also know that the path forward is complex and requires careful planning.

This resolution creates a space to bring people together—government agencies, industry, and community voices—to take a serious look at how we can reduce and eventually move away from landfill dependency. That kind of coordination and long-term thinking is exactly what’s needed right now.

Just as important, this conversation needs to include the communities who have been most impacted. For many years, West Oahu has carried a disproportionate share of this burden. Moving forward, we have to do better, and that starts with listening and planning together.

While there are no easy answers, this task force is a step in the right direction. It allows us to take a broader, more thoughtful look at alternatives—whether that’s increasing recycling and diversion, exploring new technologies, or rethinking how we manage waste across the island.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for Resolution 26-7.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



Mike Gabbard  
State Senator, District 21

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 201 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: 586-6830 | Fax: 586-667 | Email: [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana*

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 28, 2026

Honolulu City Council  
Committee: International & Legal Affairs  
City & County of Honolulu  
530 S King Street, Suite 202  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Written Testimony – Support: Res. 26-007**

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I'm testifying in strong support of Resolution 26-007, “ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS FOR ELIMINATING LANDFILL DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.”

For far too long, West O‘ahu has borne the brunt of our island’s waste. As Resolution 26-007 acknowledges, “WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu (“City”) relies on landfill disposal as a primary component of its integrated solid waste management system” that reliance has consistently placed the greatest burden on the same communities decade after decade. Act 73, passed by the State Legislature in 2020, along with other laws and regulatory decisions, has forced the City to repeatedly site waste facilities in West O‘ahu. On behalf of the families of Kapolei, Ho‘opili, and ‘Ewa, I firmly and unequivocally oppose the placement of yet another landfill in our West O‘ahu Community. At this moment, planning for a new landfill represents outdated thinking. With advances in technology, modern waste disposal methods, and proven waste mitigation strategies, there should be no need for another landfill on O‘ahu. Other states and countries have successfully implemented waste-to-energy solutions and advanced diversion systems that produce very little residual waste. Hawai‘i should be pursuing those pathways, not repeating the failures of the past.

Resolution 26-007 does not mandate a single outcome. Instead, it brings together experts, labor, industry, policymakers, and community stakeholders to evaluate feasibility, costs, and implementation pathways in a transparent and accountable manner. That is responsible governance. I appreciate Councilmember Tupola’s leadership in moving this conversation forward and acknowledge the seriousness with which she is approaching this issue. I look forward to working with her and the Council on future enforcement and implementation efforts so we can move toward a cleaner, healthier, and more just future for our people. Supporting Resolution 26-007 is about fairness, follow-through, and ending the practice of concentrating harm in the same community generation after generation. I strongly support this resolution and value the lasting impact this task force can have for O‘ahu. Please pass Resolution 26-007.

Ke Akua Pū.

Warmest Aloha,

**Representative Diamond Garcia**  
*Minority Floor Leader*  
District 42: Kapolei, Ho‘opili, ‘Ewa  
House of Representatives