



NĀNĀKULI-MĀ'ILI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 36

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

On behalf of the Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board, we write in strong support of Resolution 26-7, filed by Councilmember Andria Tupola, to establish an End Landfills Task Force to evaluate the feasibility, costs, risks, and implementation pathways for eliminating landfill dependency in the City and County of Honolulu.

In 2023, O'ahu generated approximately 1.69 million tons of total waste. Of that total, 585,672 tons were disposed of at the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, the island's only municipal landfill, which is currently required under state land-use approvals to close by March 2028. The Nānākuli-Mā'ili community testified in multitudes requesting the closure of the Waimānalo Gulch Salutory Landfill in 2008. Although roughly 80% of municipal solid waste is diverted through H-POWER, recycling, and composting programs, the remaining volume continues to pose long-term environmental and policy challenges. Time continues to go on and something needs to be done to address this unending concern.

As outlined in the January 12, 2026 press release from Councilmember Tupola's office, the proposed Task Force would conduct a comprehensive review of O'ahu's long-term solid waste management strategy, recognizing that landfill capacity is finite and that continued reliance on landfills presents environmental, land-use, public health, climate, and fiscal challenges. For communities along the Wai'anae Coast—including Nānākuli and Mā'ili—these challenges are longstanding and impacts are noticed daily in our environment, as it sits in our backyard. Importantly, within 356 days the Task Force would submit a final written report outlining findings and recommendations to guide future Council.

Resolution 26-7 makes clear that "ending landfill dependency" does not mean the immediate closure of facilities, but it calls for a phased and responsible transition away from landfills as the default waste management solution. We support this vision of innovation, accountability, and forward-thinking policy. For West O'ahu communities, fairness and long-term relief are essential considerations. Establishing this Task Force represents a meaningful and responsible step toward ensuring that waste management policies are environmentally sound, fiscally prudent, and equitable across the island.

For these reasons, the Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board respectfully urges the Honolulu City Council to adopt Resolution 26-7 and establish the End Landfills Task Force with the request to appoint a Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board to this Task Force. Mahalo Councilmember Tupola for your leadership and your commitment to sustainable planning for O'ahu's future.

Sincerely,

Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board No. 36

Malia Agustin, Chair *Malia Agustin*

Voted in Unanimously for Letter of Support by Full Board on 02/17/26