

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember Todd K. Apo
(808) 768-5001 or 781-7761
Councilmember Nestor Garcia
(808) 768-5009

**CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES SUPPORT THE
CLOSURE OF WAIMANALO GULCH AND
USAGE OF LANDFILL ALTERNATIVES**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, September 28, 2009 - The Hawaii State Land Use Commission (LUC) gave a clear message last Thursday that the City has until July 2012 to close the municipal Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, located on the Waianae Coast.

"I believe the Council will do all it can to solve our solid waste and landfill issues," said Honolulu City Council Chair Todd K. Apo. "There have been significant strides toward solutions, and the Council has set a priority of waste-to-energy conversion and recycling," said Apo, who represents District 1, encompassing Ewa, Kapolei and the Leeward Coast.

The Council has continued to appropriate funds toward alternative methods of handling our island's trash. Recycling, the third boiler expansion for the H-Power facility, and off-island shipment of waste are programs in place for the Administration's further development.

"While I personally believe that we can reach a point of not needing a daily municipal solid waste landfill, the Department of Environmental Services continues to claim that we will always need such a landfill. If that is the case, it is incumbent on the department to begin the effort for a new landfill immediately," stated Apo.

Although the LUC granted the City's landfill permit extension for two and a half more years, the Commission also expressed disappointment with the City's failure to reach their initial target date closure of the Waimanalo Gulch as promised.

"It is time to set the definitive timetable for closing Waimanalo Gulch," stated Council Vice-Chair Nestor Garcia. "I will not support any effort to keep the landfill open beyond what the Land Use Commission has just granted. If we can close the landfill before that deadline and still meet our waste management responsibilities, I am all for that," he said.

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