

# Hawai'i Free Press

"The untold story, the unspoken opinion, the other side."

Front Page Search Articles

Current Articles | Archives | Search

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

## City, State, EPA agree to Federal consent decree for Honolulu sewage treatment

By News Release :: 140 Views :: Oahu News, Oahu Politics, Hawaii State News, Hawaii State Politics, National News, National Politics



[EPA, DOJ, State of Hawaii, environmental groups, reach agreement with the City and County of Honolulu to address wastewater collection and treatment systems](#)

EPA NEWS RELEASE

(08/10/10) HONOLULU – A comprehensive settlement has been reached with the City and County of Honolulu that will address Clean Water Act compliance at Honolulu's wastewater collection and treatment systems, the Justice Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hawaii Attorney General's Office, Hawaii Department of Health, and three environmental groups announced today.

The settlement which also resolves lawsuits brought by the Sierra Club, Hawaii's Thousand Friends and Our Children's Earth Foundation, includes a comprehensive compliance schedule for the city to upgrade its wastewater collection system by June 2020. Under the settlement, the Honouliuli wastewater treatment plant will need to be upgraded to secondary treatment by 2024. The Sand Island plant will need to be upgraded by 2035, but could be extended to 2038 based on a showing of economic hardship.

Work on the wastewater collection system will include rehabilitation and replacement of both gravity and force main sewer pipes, backup strategies to minimize the risks of force main spills, a cleaning and maintenance program, improvements to Honolulu's program to control fats, oils and grease from entering into the wastewater system from food establishments, and repair to pump stations.

"Today's settlement represents a significant commitment that will address the City and County of Honolulu's aging wastewater collection and treatment systems," said Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The end result will not just be an improvement to the system's infrastructure. It will also significantly reduce both the public health risk caused by exposure to pathogens in raw sewage and the amount of harmful pollutants entering Honolulu's vibrant marine environment."

"This settlement will lead to significant improvements in water quality for the people of Oahu, and for the visitors to the island's world-class beaches. It calls for aggressive actions in the near term to upgrade the city's sewage collection system, and set outs a longer term schedule for construction of secondary treatment at the Sand Island and Honouliuli plants," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Administrator for the Pacific Southwest region. "The work is on a multi-year schedule to allow the city to spread out the costs of this critical program."

"This settlement has many positive features, and among the biggest are the collection system improvements to prevent future major raw sewage discharges, as happened at the Ala Wai Canal in 2006," said Laurence Lau, the State Department of Health's Deputy Director for Environmental Health.

In addition, the city will be paying a total fine of \$1.6 million to be split between the federal government and the state of Hawaii to resolve violations of the federal Clean Water Act and the state of Hawaii's water pollution law, such as the March 24, 2006 Beachwalk force main break that spilled approximately 50 million gallons of sewage into the Ala Wai Canal.

The settlement, lodged today in U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. A copy of the settlement document will be available on the Department of Justice Web site at: [www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html)

###

### Links

- 0000---JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST---)))))
- 000---RSS FEED Latest 25 articles---)))))
- 00---TWITTER Hawai`i Free Press---))
- 33 Minutes
- 40 Days for Life Honolulu
- 50 Voices of Statehood
- Accuracy in Media
- ACT for America-Honolulu
- Akaka Bill Reading List
- Alliance Defense Fund
- American Thinker
- Angel Group
- Antonio Gramsci Reading List
- Assoc for Improved Healthcare on Maui
- Barack Obama Reading List
- Big Government
- Big Hollywood
- Big Journalism
- Big Peace
- Broken Trust
- Castaway Conservative
- Catholic Homeschoolers of Hawaii
- Center for Global Food Issues
- Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii
- Cliff Slater's Second Opinion
- Conservative Forum for Hawaii
- December 7 Battlefields at risk
- Drudge Report
- E Māua Ola i Moku o Keawe
- Educate 808
- Fix Oahu!
- Front Page Magazine
- Get Off Your Butts!

[Global Warming "Scientists" Searchable Email Files](#)

[Grassroot Institute](#)

[Hawaii Children First](#)

[Hawaii Christian Coalition](#)

[Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling](#)

[Hawaii Coalition for Health](#)

[Hawaii Family Forum](#)

[Hawaii Federalist Society](#)

[Hawaii Firearm Community](#)

[Hawaii Fishing News](#)

[Hawaii Gathering of Eagles](#)

[Hawai'i He'e Nalu](#)

[Hawaii Homeschool Association](#)

[Hawaii Meth Project](#)

[Hawaii Rifle Association](#)

[Hawaii Right to Life -- Big Island](#)

[Hawaii Right to Life -- Oahu](#)

[HawaiiReporter.com](#)

[Hepsy's Kuleana](#)

[Heritage Foundation](#)

[Honolulu Traffic](#)

[House Minority Blog](#)

[Hump Day Report](#)

[Inside Guantanamo](#)

[Inverse Condemnation/Pacific Legal Foundation](#)

[Investigative Project on Terrorism](#)

[Jihad Watch](#)

[Kau TEA Party](#)

[KeyWiki](#)

[Kona TEA Party](#)

[Land and Power in Hawaii](#)

[Malulani Foundation](#)

[Maui Conservatives](#)

[Maui TEA Party](#)

[Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group](#)

[Men's News Daily](#)

[Middle East Forum--The Legal Project](#)

[NARTH](#)

- [National Wind Watch](#)
- [Native Hawaiian Grants Project](#)
- [NeilFile Blog](#)
- [New Zeal](#)
- [OHA Lies](#)
- [OpenSecrets.org](#)
- [Overtaxed Hawaii](#)
- [Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery](#)
- [Pajamas Media](#)
- [Positive Impact Institute](#)
- [Pritchett Cartoons](#)
- [Red County Honolulu](#)
- [Republican Party -- Kauai County](#)
- [Republican Party -- Hawaii State](#)
- [Republican Party Maui County](#)
- [Rick Hamada Show](#)
- [Save Our Doctors Hawaii](#)
- [Save The Plastic Bag](#)
- [Senate Minority Blog](#)
- [Stand for Life Hawaii](#)
- [Stop Rail Now!](#)
- [Sunrise POTUS Politics KGMB](#)
- [Support Ed Kubo](#)
- [Tax Foundation of Hawaii](#)
- [TEA Party Patriots Hawaii](#)
- [Tent City Solutions](#)
- [The Harriet Tubman Agenda](#)
- [The Long War Journal](#)
- [The Voice of Kapolei](#)
- [US Tax Foundation Hawaii Info](#)
- [USO Hawaii](#)