

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

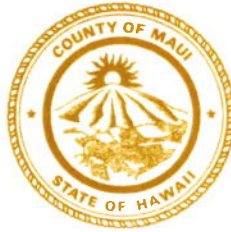
SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Director

ROBERT SCHMIDT
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division

ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**
2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

December 27, 2023

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 12-27-23
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Tamara Paltin, Chair
Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Paltin:

**SUBJECT: UPDATES ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE
AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND (DRIP-2(12))**

In response to your request for information dated December 15, 2023, your request and the corresponding answer(s) are provided below by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM):

1. Please list the determining factors for selecting the final disposition site for debris resulting from the Lāhainā burn zones.

Response:

The list below are the factors that the Department of Environmental Management utilized to evaluate a final disposition site related to environmental and public safety:

- Time to acquire land – preference was to identify public property;
- Proximity to Lahaina (traffic/public safety, alternative access) – minimize travel distances between impacted areas and the temporary staging area and the final containment area; minimize truck traffic on Pali area of the highway;

- Access into/out of site (Traffic impacts, turn movements) – preference was to use existing roads/infrastructure to make transportation safer/faster/easier;
- Distance from residences, schools, hospitals (1/2 mile buffer) – State Act 73 buffer requirement;
- Important groundwater resources – preference to locate over groundwater makai of the established Underground Injection Control (UIC) line;
- Surface water management – preference for areas with low annual precipitation and consideration of overall watershed (nearby streams, drainage path to ocean, elevation);
- Construction (stability, depressions) – preference for existing site conditions (i.e., access road, quarried area) to provide for expedited construction;
- Natural/environmental (e.g., tsunami, flooding, wetlands, seismic, drinking water source) – preference for lands outside tsunami inundation zone, floodplain, seismic/fault impact zone; and
- Adjacent Property Impacts – preference for areas distant from populated areas and with minimal population density.

2. What entity or entities will choose the site and when will the decision on the site be made?

Response:

Information is being provided and coordinated between the Infrastructure Branch/Task Force and the Mayor's office. The Mayor mentioned in a meeting on December 18, 2023 at the Lahaina Civic Center that he will make the final decision for the location of the recommended final disposition site. Currently, there is no set timeline for when the Mayor will make a recommendation for the final disposition site to the County Council for budgetary approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to forward them to the Department of Environmental Management via transmittal through the Office of the Mayor.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Robert Schmidt:
DN: cn=Robert Schmidt, o=Environmental
Management, ou=Deputy Director,
email=Robert.Schmidt@co.mau.hi.us, c=US
Date: 2023.12.27 12:37:21 -10'00'

for SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Director of Environmental Management