

ZERO WASTE CAMPAIGN MAUI

IF YOU'RE NOT FOR ZERO WASTE, HOW MUCH WASTE ARE YOU FOR?

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Testimony for Maui County Council Committee on Infrastructure and Environmental Management– Item IEM – 32 and IEM-68

Aloha Councilors:

We are writing regarding IEM-32, entitled “Green Waste Services,” and IEM-68, “AUTHORIZING COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A SITE LEASE RELATED TO AN ELECTRICITY GENERATING FACILITY AT WAILUKU-KAHULUI WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY. It is our hope that you will vote to defer or deny both items. We believe that the Council has not yet finished the work it has undertaken to review the auditor’s report on the original County/Anaergia Agreement regarding the Waste-To-Energy (WTE) facilities and programs proposed and promoted by the current County of Maui administration.

We are on the record via written and verbal testimony to the Council and its committees regarding these matters. We believe that our detailed objections to the environmental and economic dangers of this program, and the other County/Anaergia deserve a full hearing and investigation. This is the only way our community can acquire the information and knowledge necessary to support whatever decisions the Council makes.

In addition to the matters we have already included in our previous testimony these two items under discussion raise even more questions and concerns:

If the “Green Waste Services” item is approved what will this mean to the existing ECO compost operation? This successful project has diverted over 1 million tons of green waste and converted it into value-added products. In addition, ECO has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to the County. The summary of the Anaergia Project audit indicates it will cost the County money. This despite claims by the administration that the project would not cost the County anything. What does the County gain by shutting down the long-running and profitable ECO project? Where will the “waste” product of this project end up? Will this valuable material just be used as landfill cover or be just buried along with our other waste streams?

As outlined in IEM – 68 why are we considering building another industrial facility in a tsunami inundation zone?

Was the RFP written so as to favor Anaergia? How many other bids were submitted? Should this item be voted on favorably what would happen if Anaergia became unable to perform? If this occurs what recourse will the County have? Will Anaergia have the right to sell the lease? Given the complete lack of success that Anaergia has experienced with the Hawaii PUC why should we believe that they will be able to go forward with the other elements of their plans.

Is it wise for you to approve a lease before the potential lessee has completed an Environmental Assessment, (EA) and a Shore-line Management Assessment (SMA).?

The WTE proponents have said for 3 years that they are negotiating “off-take” contracts for the products of their WTE program. Even given the small number of prospective users/off-take partners, how can this process go on so long with not a single signed customer?

The current County administration has demonstrated over the past several years that they are committed to eviscerating our successful recycling programs. They believed that their actions would result in failure of remaining programs and success for their WTE plans. Mauians have demonstrated their commitment to recycling. With this in mind we hope that your deliberations on these issues will be complete, fair and will help guide the administration to a more sustainable, environmental and fiscal future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues. More information is available on our website at <http://www.zerowastemaui.net>.

Jeff Stark

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