

April 5, 2018

TESTIMONY OF ROB PARSONS

CC-19-159 "Authorizing the Council Chair to Conduct a Fiscal and Performance Audit of Anaergia Services-LLC related contracts"

Aloha Chair King and Council Members;

My name is Rob Parsons, and I am a long-time resident living in Makawao. **I speak today in strong support** of the County Communication introduced by Member Rawlins-Fernandez requesting audits of Anaergia contracts. I strongly believe that the best interests of our County, its people and environment would be served by canceling both of these ill-conceived proposals, and by re-thinking our solid waste resource and wastewater treatment options and strategies.

Since the County of Maui signed a contract with Anaergia Services to handle all the waste and resource streams currently going to the Central Maui Landfill, exactly one thousand, nine hundred and ~~thirteen~~ ^{1,954} days have passed. In that time, the contract has been renewed two or three times, yet there has been zero performance. No environmental documents have been prepared. Nothing has been constructed. No takers have been found in 5+ years for off-take users of a biogas from anaerobic digestion, or for Refuse Derived Fuel pellets, billed as a "coal-substitute" to be combusted. No landfill gas has been converted to energy. *LUCY + Charlene Brown*

The net result is not just that progress on solid waste goals in our ISWMP have been stalled, we have actually slipped backwards. We were about to expand the 3-Can Plan for curbside recycling when it was stymied by a previous DEM director. We are the only County that has not addressed Zero Waste goals. The company chosen, Anaergia, should have been rejected because they did not meet the original criteria of the RFP: to have at least two facilities in operation using the same technology for at least three years. In fact, they had never run an anaerobic digestion operation that entailed sorting municipal solid waste in a dirty MRF. (Materials Recovery Facility.)

Three years ago, [HOLD UP MAUI NEWS ARTICLE] an audit showed that this contract had a huge discrepancy in projected savings, and would be a large cost to the County. Yet, the contract continued to be renewed, with

CHICAGO

RECEIVED AT EPB MEETING ON 5/16/19
Rob Parsons (EPB-31)



zero performance. The good news is that, pursuant to the Charter, you have the power to cancel this today and help Maui County walk away from this ill-conceived project.

And, the 10-year update of the ISWMP should begin this year, providing an opportunity for community-wide discussion on our choices for the future.

I will offer 10 good reasons not to support the so-called MANA project, and to support the resolution for a financial and performance audit.

- 1) The project is currently halted by a legal challenge that the Final EIS is inadequate, in part because the tsunami zone risks were underestimated.
- 2) It is absurd to consider building a \$20M, 60'-tall digester, power plant, and 57'-tall emissions stack in the tsunami zone and sea level rise inundation zone.
- 3) Investments should be made in de-centralizing Wailuku-Kahului Waste Water Treatment, not in adding more infrastructure in a sensitive area adjacent to the shoreline and a protected wildlife refuge.
- 4) The project was pitched to stabilize, not reduce energy costs. The beginning price of 28 cents per kWh would escalate to over 40 cents by the end of the 20-year contract. That makes no sense when renewable solar PV with battery storage is now coming in around 11 cents per kWh.
- 5) The RFP should have been disallowed, because it sought processing of sewage sludge, which was already under contract to Anaergia in the landfill contract. If anyone else had responded to the narrowly-written RFP, this double jeopardy would have come to light.
- 6) Removing the sewage sludge from EKO's co-composting of green waste will leave them with an unmarketable end product of wood chips or mulch, devoid of nutrients.
- 7) On the other hand, dried, pelletized sludge is being billed as a substitute for \$100,000 in the Parks budget annually for fertilizer. But this product will face stern disapproval from our community, especially since adding irrigation water would make it stink tp high Heaven.
- 8) Raising 500 acres of sorghum to digest as a biofuel raises several issues, which might entail its own Top 10 list. One obvious one is that State DOH has verified that there is no permitted process for disposal



of digestate on ag lands, so it would entail additional treatment and costs.

- 9) Thermophilic digesters of this kind, operating under high pressure and temperature, are prone to leakage, spills and explosions. If this technology is to be tried, it should not be contiguous to the ocean, a wildlife refuge, and major urban areas.
- 10) Odors and emissions in this area are of great concern and have not been adequately addressed in environmental studies.

Thank you for your consideration of the many reasons to support these audits, or simply to cancel these contracts before we further obligate our County taxpayer funds to a couple poorly-planned proposals.

#

Rob Parsons
150 Mokuahi St
Makawao, HI 96768
808-269-6842
robparsons@earthlink.net

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Maui District Manager's Meeting

Thursday, July 26, 2018

8:30am - 11:30am

DOCARE office, Puunene Ave.

MOLOKINI revenue
400,000/yr

catch report not working

Kahului - end nehu catch
probably akele

1. Division Reports

RUSSELL
SKIPPI

A. Aquatic Resources

B. Boating & Ocean Recreation

C. Conservation & Resources Enforcement

D. **Engineering (Chair)**

E. Forestry & Wildlife

F. Historic Preservation

G. Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

H. Land Management

I. State Parks

J. Jimmy Gomez- DLNR Maui Board Members

CARS to Auction???

HONOLULU trees cut - \$45,000 JAW PLUM

2. Governor's Liaison Office

3. County of Maui

3. Other Business

4. Next Meeting Date: AUG 23RD Chair: DOFAW

5. Adjournment

CINDER MINE
OLOVALU

AUG 6th MNMRC
Artificial Reef

ROE

Peter Wynn
MAKAMAKAOLE

SONG HUN?

ANNEX- SAND

Ukumehame
Sand Study

Greens - TNC
MAN

Brownfields

Whale

Marine Debris
West Maui Greenway

343-EC