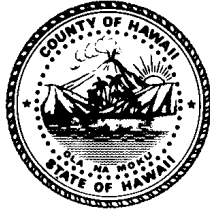


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Lono A. Tyson
Director

Ivan M. Torigoe
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8083 • Fax (808) 961-8086
http://co.hawaii.hi.us/directory/dir_envmng.htm

September 17, 2009

J Yoshimoto, Chair
And Members of Hawai'i County Council
Ben Franklin Building
333 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720

Re: Change in Solid Waste Transfer Station Hours of Operation

Dear Chair Yoshimoto and Council Members,

The Department of Environmental Management intends on implementing a change to the operating hours and days at County of Hawai'i Solid Waste Recycling and Transfer Stations (a.k.a. convenience centers or transfer stations) beginning December 1, 2009. This change will also apply to the operating hours and days for associated onsite Recycling Centers, Reuse Centers and HI-5 Redemption Centers.

The change is part of the Department's plan to increase oversight, reduce operating costs, and further the County's progress toward Zero Waste by improving facility operations and expanding services at all County Solid Waste management facilities.

While updating the County's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, consultants reported to the Department that the current operating schedule for the County's transfer stations is excessive and inefficient for the amount of waste collected. An informal survey of jurisdictions nationwide found few with transfer stations operating 12 hours a day, 7 days/week, 362 days/year which is the schedule we currently maintain at nineteen (19) County transfer stations.

The long hours of operation require the employment of private security guards at transfer stations to support daily operations. This will not be necessary under the transfer stations' proposed new hours of operation. In an effort to reduce operating costs, the Department's Solid Waste Division eliminated from its FY09-10 operating budget the continued use of local security guard contractors. In the future, contracted security guards are anticipated only to be used as necessary to maintain operations during staff shortages or special events.

Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 11-58.1 require that solid waste management facilities be supervised and secured. Installation of security gates and staffing the transfer stations with County employees are part of the Department's plan to improve facility operations, expand services and reduce costs.

Solid Waste Division staff, specifically Transfer Station Attendants, will supervise the transfer stations, perform maintenance duties, monitor waste materials deposited at the facility, provide customers information on appropriate solid waste management habits, including information on recycling and reuse. Additionally, County staff will monitor and document inappropriate use of these facilities, including commercial disposal and disposal of hazardous materials. County staff will receive appropriate training to provide these services and to support the County's progress on the path to Zero Waste.

Transfer station hours have been adjusted according to identified patterns of use. Not all transfer stations are used frequently enough to justify the costs associated with keeping them open every day. For these stations, the Department is considering two (2) schedules of alternating days that, in some cases, will allow for a station to be open when an adjacent station is closed thereby minimizing customer inconvenience.

- Schedule A: Open every even or odd calendar date.
- Schedule B: open certain days of the week, either Sunday, Tuesday, Friday or Monday, Thursday, Saturday and closed on Wednesdays.

New Operating Schedule for Recycling and Transfer Stations

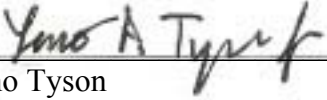
<u>Transfer Station</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Glenwood*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Hilo	6:30 am to 5:00 pm
Hawi (Kaauhuhu)	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Honoka'a	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Honomū*	8:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Kailua (Kealakehe)	6:30 am to 4:30 pm
Kalapana*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Kea'au	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Keauhou	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Ke'ei*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Laupāhoehoe *	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Pa'auilo*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Pahala*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Pahoa	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Pāpa'ikou*	8:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Puakō*	8:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Volcano*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Waiea*	9:00 am to 4:00 pm- closed alternating days, schedule to be determined.
Waimea	6:30 am to 4:30 pm
Waiohinu	7:00 am to 5:00 pm

*Stations that will be closed alternating days according to a schedule to be determined. All stations will be closed on County holidays.

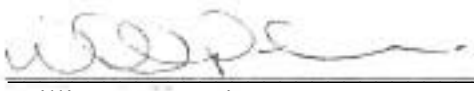
Public comment will be solicited via notices at all transfer stations. Residents will be asked to complete a survey on the Department's website at www.HawaiiZeroWaste.org or at the County of Hawai'i website http://co.hawaii.hi.us/directory/dir_envmng.htm. Residents may also mail in comments.

When the final operating schedule is determined, an educational campaign is planned to begin in early October prior to implementation on December 1, 2009. The Department appreciates your assistance to inform island residents of the forthcoming change. Sustainable management initiatives will further the County's progress on the path to Zero Waste.

APPROVED:



Lono Tyson
DIRECTOR



William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

cc: William Takaba – Managing Director
Mike Dworsky, P.E. – SWD Chief