

## LANDFILLS AND THE WAIANAE COAST

The battle cry of "Not In My Backyard" can pose no stronger meaning than for the residents of the Waianae Coast who have been dealing with the solid waste landfill issue. For years, the residents have been asked to carry the burden of Oahu's disposal of solid waste products. No other community on the island of Oahu can say that they have, in their backyard:

1. A state-of-the-art waste water treatment plant;
2. A solid waste convenience center; and
3. An overburdened solid waste landfill

Because of the large amount undeveloped land in the Waianae and Lualualei Valleys, the Waianae Coast also leads the county in the number of unauthorized, illegal dumpsites.

The recent issue with Sphere, LLC, requesting a special use permit to use the existing site in Maili to recycle non-hazardous construction material rekindled the cry for "Not Again In Our Backyard." In a recent Land Use Commission (LUC) meeting (March 2, 2006) at Kapolei Hale, the LUC voted unanimously to deny the special use permit. This effort was lead by community leaders and other government officials.

A report released by the City and County Department of Planning and Projects again identifies 3 of 4 proposed landfill sites to be located along the Waianae Coast. (See the listed sites on the links below):

<http://www.honoluluodpp.org/planning/projectinfo/2004PIM-2.pdf>

<http://www.honoluluodpp.org/planning/projectinfo/2004PIM-1.pdf>

<http://www.honoluluodpp.org/planning/projectinfo/2004PIM-3.pdf>

If the issue of replacing the existing landfill at Waimanalo gulch with a site on the Waianae Coast comes up again, the community now has the experience to mobilize a response quickly and efficiently.