



August 24, 2020

O'ahu Storm Water Utility Study

Community Outreach Feedback Summary
ROUND 2

*Aloha and
Welcome!*



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE
STORM WATER QUALITY BRANCH

August 24, 2020



O'ahu Storm Water Utility Study

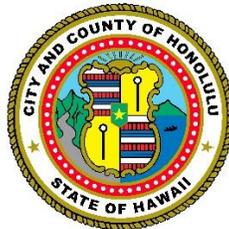
Community Outreach Feedback Summary ROUND 2

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**City and County of Honolulu
Department of Facility Maintenance
Storm Water Quality Division**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance is conducting extensive community and stakeholder outreach as part of the Storm Water Utility Study for O‘ahu. The priority has been to solicit input from the many communities across O‘ahu and the range of interests around storm water management, and to use the input to inform the core recommendations for a storm water utility. Additionally, a Stakeholder Advisory Group started to meet in Summer 2019. The Advisory Group’s charge is to provide expertise, input, and ideas to the City and County and the consultant team, and to assist in involving community members in the study.

Two rounds of outreach have been completed as part of the Storm Water Utility Study. The purpose for this second round of outreach was to report on input received during the first round of community meetings, introduce next steps for the Storm Water Utility Study, and discuss long-term storm water planning on O‘ahu. Due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the second round of community outreach was conducted virtually. From May 20-30, 2020 the City and County, with their consultant team, held nine virtual community meetings and six virtual, focused meetings with various stakeholder groups. A variety of times were offered for the community meetings to make the outreach process as inclusive and accessible as possible for O‘ahu’s many communities and stakeholders.

This report documents the input received in the second round of community outreach and presents major themes that synthesize the input. Please note that the input represents the perspectives of attendees and should not be considered representative of the opinions of the full range of O‘ahu community members in the same manner as a representative survey.

For more information about the Storm Water Utility Study, visit www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org.

Round 2 Outreach Objectives

The specific objectives for the second round of outreach were to:

- Report on the major themes heard during Round 1 outreach and next steps in the Storm Water Utility Study.
- Continue to inform community members about storm water utilities – the “why, what, how, and when” – and options for O‘ahu.
- Share the project team’s research and analysis to date, including updates to the preliminary fee estimates, possible credit opportunities and potential community benefits.



- Solicit further input from community members and other stakeholders on questions, ideas, concerns, and priorities for a potential storm water utility for O‘ahu.
- Create inclusive outreach events where all community members could comfortably participate and provide input.
- Encourage participants to stay engaged and to help involve others.

Document Organization

In this report, Section 2 provides a synthesis of the input themes derived from the Round 2 outreach. Section 3 documents the extensive publicity and notification process conducted prior to the virtual meetings. Sections 4 and 5 provide descriptions of the virtual community meetings and focused stakeholder meetings and how input was collected during those events. The appendices supply documentation of the input throughout the Round 2 process, including input from Q&A discussions, live polling, and comments submitted via email and the website contact page.

2. KEY THEMES

Reoccurring themes during the Round 2 community and stakeholder meetings were very similar to those that emerged in Round 1 (see the [Round 1 Community Outreach Feedback Summary](#)) and are listed in the box below. Approximately two-thirds of the community members who participated in Round 2 had **not** participated in the first round of meetings held in the spring; the consistency of themes between Round 1 and Round 2 indicates the importance of these issues to the community and the design of a storm water utility program. Participants asked many of the same questions and provided comments similar to those received in the first round. The overlap in Round 1 and 2 discussions is useful in confirming the community concerns and themes.

Major Community Input Themes from Rounds 1 and 2

- Revenue neutrality/property tax reduction if a utility fee is implemented
- Assurances of program accountability and fund protection
- Designing effective and equitable credits and other financial incentives
- Articulating and investing towards a long-term plan and vision for storm water management
- Providing fee adjustments for specific on-site conditions, such as pier and post construction



3. PUBLICITY AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The project team and the City utilized multiple methods to inform community members of upcoming virtual community meetings and to encourage participation.

Notification Methods

The following notification methods were employed for Round 2 outreach:

- O’ahu Storm Water Utility Study website – <https://www.stormwaterutilityoahu.org/>
- Social media announcements (Storm Water Quality Division Facebook, Stakeholder Advisory Group members’ channels) and boosted social media posts (Facebook, Instagram)
- Website postings on project website
- Email announcements including a flyer about upcoming meetings with a request to forward to others (Department of Facility Maintenance MailChimp contact list and Stakeholder Advisory Group)
- Press releases
- Emails to City Council and the Neighborhood Board Commission including flyers and a link to the website

O'AHU STORM WATER UTILITY STUDY

WHAT IS A Storm Water Utility?

A storm water utility provides dedicated funding for storm water management and water quality protection to keep our environment safe and healthy. In a storm water utility, these activities are funded by fees assessed on each property's impervious area (roads, driveways) instead of with priority fees, which only some properties pay.

Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has impacted our island communities and will continue to affect us into the future. As we work together to overcome these challenges, we look for new ways to build a stronger, more resilient island community.

The Department of Facility Maintenance is reviewing the storm water utility study, including a proposal to delay installation of fees and to include a strong equity plan for our kupauna, low-income families, and seniors. This will be addressed in upcoming meetings.

Why is the City and County of Honolulu studying the possibility of a storm water utility?

- Storm water utilities provide predictable, stable funding to meet permit requirements, plan and finance projects, and provide better services. Today's property tax-funded system places the burden for funding storm water services on O'ahu's taxable properties.
- Fees and storm water expenses are restricted, providing greater accountability and transparency on how citizens' fees are spent.
- Rebates and credits, available to all property owners, would provide financial incentives for capturing re-sewer and protecting water quality.

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT IN ROUND 2
Help shape the future of the Storm Water Utility

May					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri. Sat.	
		20 5:30 pm	21 2:00 pm	22 10:00 am	23 10:30 am
25 2:00 pm	26 5:30 pm	27 8:00 am	28 8:00 pm		30 2:00 pm

Join a Virtual Meeting
May 20th - 30th

Submit a Comment
StormWaterUtilityOahu.org
or email stormwater@honolulu.gov

For more information and to join a virtual meeting go to
[StormWaterUtilityOahu.org](https://www.stormwaterutilityoahu.org)

THEMES FROM ROUND 1
Storm Water Utility Community Meetings

Community Meetings were held at 18 locations around Oahu in February and March of 2020. The following themes / topics were frequently raised by meeting attendees.

- Making a utility "revenue neutral" with respect to the existing property tax - provide relief to property tax payers if new revenues are raised from storm water fees.
- Provide program accountability and consistent financial reporting.
- Protect storm water funds from being used for other purposes.
- Relief for kupauna on fixed incomes and low-income households.
- Develop long-term planning and strategies for watershed and water quality.
- Provide fee adjustments for properties where storm water is managed on site.
- Credits and rebates are important and desirable!
- Make targeted re-investments of storm water fees in ALL Oahu communities.

CORE VALUES FOR A Future Storm Water Utility

The Storm Water Utility Advisory Group, comprised of representatives from interests and organizations across Oahu, developed core values or guiding principles to guide the study process and the implementation of a storm water utility if it is approved by City Council.

- Clean Water**
 - Managing storm water runoff
 - Improved water quality
 - Pollution prevention
- Community Involvement**
 - Deciding how funds are spent
 - Ensuring accountability
 - Meeting community needs
- Healthy & Safe Environment**
 - Conservation models to model
 - Clean stream channels
 - Protecting ocean waters
- Shared Responsibility**
 - Everyone pays a fair share
 - Everyone gets credits
 - Everyone makes a difference

For more information and to join a virtual meeting go to
[StormWaterUtilityOahu.org](https://www.stormwaterutilityoahu.org)

An informational flyer was developed and circulated to Stakeholder Advisory Group members the Neighborhood Board Commission and the City’s e-newsletter contact list, among others.



With the transition to a virtual meeting platform due to COVID-19, additional measures to publicize the second round of meetings were employed to increase awareness and encourage participation. These measures included:

- Print ads in MidWeek, North Shore News and Star Advertiser publications
- Public service announcements broadcasted on cable station programming and streaming (Spectrum)

May					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		20 5:30 pm	21 2:00 pm	22 10:00 am	23 10:30 am
25 2:00 pm	26 5:30 pm	27 8:00 am	28 8:00 pm		30 2:00 pm

Social media posts encouraged community members to attend a virtual meeting and post text provided the website address for more information.

Notification Metrics

The publicity efforts for Round 2 reached far more O’ahu residents than the total number who attended the meetings. Print ads appeared in the MidWeek and Star Advertiser publications which have a combined average of 166,861 readers per week. The PSA was viewed over 16,000 times, both via streaming content and on the Spectrum channel. Website visit data showed considerable upticks in traffic corresponding to social media posts (particularly those with video clips), e-newsletter announcements, print ads, and public service announcements. A summary of the metrics on the campaign’s media reach for Round 2 during May 2020 is presented in the box below.



Round 2 Storm Water Utility Meetings Media Metrics (May 2020)

- **78** virtual community meeting attendees
- **1,200** website visits:
 - ~200 from e-newsletter
 - ~500 from social media posts specific to the outreach events
- **42,000** Facebook users reached per post (4 regular posts; 4 video posts):
 - ~350 website visits directly from video posts

*** Many more reached by print ads and public service announcements*

4. COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Purpose

The second round of outreach consisted of community meetings held online. These meetings were scheduled at varying days and times over a two-week period to offer community members many opportunities to participate given the uncertainty of participants' schedules with COVID-19 measures in place.

The purpose of these meetings was to share input the project team received from the community during the first round of outreach, as well as to offer new attendees a brief recap on the storm water utilities and the potential benefits to O'ahu, and to gather further community feedback.

Another essential purpose of the Round 2 meetings was to inform community members of significant adjustments made to the Storm Water Utility formation process in response to both the COVID-19 emergency and community feedback. The following adjustments were presented:

1. The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) will not itself proceed with introducing a Bill for an Ordinance to establish a Storm Water Utility in 2020.
2. DFM will continue to work through the details of a potential program and consider the exploration of four specific elements of a storm water program in 2020 and early 2021:
 - An island-wide Storm Water Master Plan to guide future investments.
 - Details of a credit program available to all property owners.
 - A hardship relief plan for kūpuna, small nonprofit land-owners and low-income families.
 - A Neighborhood Investment Plan to ensure that DFM invests storm water fees in all O'ahu neighborhoods.



Description

Nine virtual community meetings were held according to the schedule presented in **Table 1**. The schedule consisted of morning, afternoon, and evening timeslots on both weekdays and weekends to accommodate diverse schedules. A meeting was also held on the Memorial Day (Monday, May 25). Attendance ranged from three to 15 participants.

Table 1: Virtual Community Meeting Schedule		
Meeting	Date/Time	Attendance
1	Wednesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.	11
2	Thursday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.	15
3	Friday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.	12
4	Saturday, May 23, 10:30 a.m.	3
5	Monday, May 25, 2:00 p.m.	11
6	Tuesday, May 26, 5:30 p.m.	5
7	Wednesday, May 27, 8:00 a.m.	11
8	Thursday May 28, 8:00 p.m.	4
9	Saturday, May 30, 2:00 p.m.	6

Meeting Format and Activities

Each community meeting had the same format, and attendees were given the opportunity to provide input in multiple ways. By sharing information and asking for input using different methods, attendees with varying communication styles had the opportunity to participate in ways they found comfortable and appropriate.

Detailed descriptions of the meeting components follow below.

Activity 1: Meeting Platform Welcome Page

A welcome slide containing basic meeting platform instructions, an overview of the Study, and the update on the study response to COVID-19 greeted participants who logged on early.



To ensure full webinar functionality, click "Download and Run RingCentral Meetings"

Welcome

to a Storm Water Utility Virtual Information Session

About the Study

City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance began studying the possibility of a storm water utility for O'ahu in the summer of 2019.

Without proper management, storm water significantly contributes to contaminated land and ocean environments. Storm water utilities can offer predictable, stable funding to meet permit requirements, plan and finance projects, and provide better services.

Response to COVID-19

As we work together to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19, we look for new ways to build a stronger, more resilient island community. The City and County of Honolulu is extending the storm water utility study and will delay any proposal for the introduction of fees. A future proposal for fees will include a strong equity plan for our kūpuna, low-income families, and nonprofits. This will be discussed during today's meeting.



A welcome slide for the Round 2 virtual community meetings was displayed prior to the start of the presentation.

Activity 2: Presentation

The project team's facilitator opened the presentation portion by welcoming the attendees, thanking them for participating, and emphasizing the importance of community input in the process. A short video introducing the O'ahu Storm Water Utility Study was shown, followed by an overview of the meeting format and guidance on how to share input both during and after the meeting. The presentation began by summarizing the feedback from the first round of community meetings and recapped much of the background information delivered during the previous round including what a storm water utility is, how a utility could be implemented on O'ahu, how fees are calculated based on impervious areas, and several example scenarios based on the current cost analysis. Preliminary storm water fees and options for eligible credits/rebates were also presented. The project team shared that in response to COVID-19, DFM would not be pursuing the Bill for an Ordinance to establish the utility in 2020, but would instead begin to focus on further developing and fleshing out the four areas of interest identified by the community.

A copy of the [presentation slides](#) can be accessed on the Participate page of the project website. A live recording of the presentation with closed captioning can be found on the Clean Water Honolulu channel on [YouTube](#).

Activity 3: Q&A Discussion

After the presentation, participants were given an opportunity to ask questions of the project team and voice comments, ideas, and concerns. The project team provided responses during this portion of the meeting.

See **Appendix A** for participants' questions and comments asked during the Q&A discussion.



Activity 4: Live Polling

Following the Q&A discussion, participants completed the following polling questions:

1. Did you attend one of the Round 1 community meetings for the O‘ahu Storm Water Utility?
2. Please select the answer that best describes where you live.
3. How did you hear about today’s virtual community meetings?
4. When an island-wide Storm Water Master Plan is prepared, what are the top three things that you most want addressed?
5. Of the following options, which would you most likely do for a credit or rebate? You can respond for your own home, or for a place you work or gather like a school, church, or office.

See **Appendix B** for the results of live polling.

Activity 5: Email and Website Contact Page Comments

At the end of the meeting, community members were encouraged to submit any additional input via email or on the website contact page.

See **Appendix C** for the complete record of comments submitted via email and the website contact page during both rounds of outreach.

Wrap Up

At the end of each meeting, participants were encouraged to sign up for announcements on the project website and watch for announcements that the Round 2 Community Outreach Feedback Summary was available. The project team shared ways for participants to stay involved with the process, including inviting friends, family, and neighbors to attend the remaining meetings.



5. FOCUSED STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Purpose

The purpose of the focused stakeholder meetings was to have small group conversations with diverse groups that would potentially be affected through the creation of a storm water utility on O‘ahu.

Description

Six focused stakeholder meetings were held as presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Virtual Breakfast Stakeholder Forum Schedule		
Stakeholders	Attendees	Date/Time
Malls, Shopping Centers, & Attractions	2	Wednesday, May 20, 8:00 a.m.
Faith Communities	6	Friday, May 19, 8:00 a.m.
Property Management	2	Friday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.
Golf Courses	1	Tuesday, May 26, 8:00 a.m.
Environmental Organizations	4	Wednesday, May 27, 10:30 a.m.
Education Institutions	6	Thursday, May 28, 8:00 a.m.

Appendix A: Q&A Session Questions and Comments from Community Meetings

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #1

May 20, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

- Credits and fee adjustments are key incentives, as you have recognized. What is proposed to facilitate the review and permitting of green storm water retrofitting?
- How does this apply to condo buildings? In the case of a 12-story building, there are 12 homeowners above the same ground square feet.
- Who is in charge of street cleaning? I live in a large residential area where there is an association involved. I notice that trees are added that have a lot of leaves that fall on the streets/sidewalks and finally in the drainage. Public tree cutters do not cut the branches and trim enough to keep us protected from the hurricane season or just fallen large branches, etc. The cost of keeping the water safe and protected starts with the how we treat and plan our communities and highways, etc.
- Precipitation is quite variable on O'ahu. Will the amount of precipitation in different areas be used in the calculations for amount of runoff to be charged, or is it an averaged amount across the island?
- I live in a strict association; people are not always responsible. Landscapers and homeowners may not pick up the clippings they generate. More education is needed on this. People need to be responsible and clean water is important. What is being done to drive costs down? How urban areas are planned has an impact. Big trees can be a nuisance. People don't have time to sweep up the leaves. There are accountability issues with tree trimmers. Important to inspect what you pay for. In Waipio Gentry a state contractor came in and cut dead pieces off the tree and shredded it and it went all over the cars. Is there accountability for their work? Important to make sure trees are safe – not uprooting or hitting the wires. Good to have community meetings (saw ad in MidWeek). It feels like we don't pick the right trees – or replant the trees that don't disperse leaves or dead branches. When are we going to look at 'no littering' signs? We need to fine people for littering and get State people to pick-up the trash. It is free to dump trash, but it would be better to charge people to dump so people recycle more.
- It was mentioned that Kansas City has a high-performing storm water utility. What has KC accomplished that stands out?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #2

May 21, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

- A Storm Water Utility would be a great municipal practice for storm water.
- How would project money be spent, particularly for large projects, i.e. the Ala Wai Flood Mitigation to create 3 new catch basins which aren't being maintained. Would we as citizens be able to vote/participate in how the money is spent? These are smaller, normal tasks that make sense for the fee, but for any larger future projects that would address water issues over the long run e.g. (catchment basins, higher canal walls, more canals, etc.) how would that process be done and would people have the chance to approve/disapprove those larger projects?
- In Hawaii some people live in raised houses/houses on stilts. How would those issues be addressed for an individual homeowner with an aerial view?
- When the cost was broken down for where we're getting storm water funding from now (i.e. transportation making up ~20% and the larger portion coming from property taxes) is that a set amount from transportation and can that be adjusted? Or is it fixed and how is that agreed upon?
- New development requires storm water permits. I was wondering if they paid a flat rate for pollution in general.
- Thank you for the presentation and the chance to provide input. Can you elaborate on the analysis conducted to determine draft stormwater rates per 1,000 square feet of impervious surface? Was that based on meeting budgetary requirements or is this based on an analysis of stormwater runoff? Mahalo.
- Will property taxes be reduced if a Storm Water Utility is established?
- How will the Department of Facility Maintenance identify potential large-scale green infrastructure projects and prioritize them? Will the department look into restoring hardened streams? Thanks!
- Impervious area determines what your fee is, but that means very little to areas with large flows. For example, Tripler [Hospital] has a huge amount of runoff because of large grassy areas that could not absorb it. The storm water flowed into Moanalua valley and flooded houses. Will sloping be calculated into the fee structure?
- My front lawn is not lawn, it has paver blocks. How do you distinguish between paver blocks and solid concrete? Do I have input into how you calculated my fee, and do I have a chance to say you're wrong?
- I can't find any info on what incentives and credits are about on the website. I have rain barrels at my house and pavers instead of solid concrete. During the period of review will I be able to report what I have to get these credits?
- Fees will be charged to all property owners, including the federal government and, as I mentioned, Tripler. What about the state? Will they pay?
- Trees put a lot of leaves on the road. Are we going to penalize people for having big trees on their property?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #3

May 22, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

- Dams can contain storm water, contribute to island potable water and provide hydroelectricity. Are dams a possibility?
- Does your website show information on programs and funding availability for nonprofits to partner in implementing sustainable storm drain watershed management projects?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #4

May 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

- I have some ideas for water recycling as I am trying to design new ways for water purification.
- I would hope that the new Storm Water Utility structure will operate much more effectively and openly than does our water or Rail. What kind of balanced oversight is proposed?
- It seems like a pretty serious problem with things like more flooding on the mainland. This has been very informative.
- For a specific tax rate category per square foot [of impervious area], will the rate decline with size or remain flat?
- What happens at the high end? Is 10,000 square feet of impervious the max?
- Is there any City plan to add curbs and gutters to streets with none to aid with street cleaning?
- Without getting sidetracted, I would hope that the new SWU structure will operate much more effectively and openly than does our water or rail. What kind of balanced oversight is proposed?
- For a specific tax rate category per SF, will the rate decline with size or be flat?
- Is there any City plan to add curbs and gutters to streets with none to also aid street cleaning?
- I am glad to hear that economic practicality is being considered in the taxing detail. What happens at the high end? Is 10,000 a max?
- I hope I will feel better writing a check for a fee. :-)
- I would think some of the work proposed would improve flood control too.[map comment]

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #5

May 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

- How much authority does the City and County have over drainage from agricultural and conservation lands?
- Does it have the ability to impose fees in these land use districts?
- Would the Storm Water Utility have enforcement authority?
- Would the Storm Water Utility be limited to incentives and cooperation with organizations such as with watershed partnerships?
- Recommendation for Kupuna credit. 40% off at age 65 and 0 bill at age 80.
- Condos and townhomes have been shouldering a bigger burden of storm water management and their bill would be a lot lower. I should see a big drop in my taxable amount. My opinion is that the City should bill each property owner and not the association. The City is making a cop out if they put it on the association.
- Rain barrels should receive a 1% discount per 10 gallons collected.
- Why are the fees a range and not linear?
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) varies by year and there may be expenses that come flying out of left field. What is the 5-10 year plan for maintenance?
- How will testing for different pollutants be addressed? What about the need for more testing in the future?
- The trash and plastic in the wells is against the law. What is being done about enforcement to prevent the mess before it occurs?
- The rates could have a significant increase in the future. I have some concerns about the design capacity and moving into new climate changes with rainfall. Will there be design changes because of this?
- How will the fee be collected?
- I don't think we should just give tax breaks overall based on age. Rather they should be based on need. I am better able to pay now than I was in my 40s.
- My house is a duplex and has narrow street frontage. The water runs off the roof and irrigates the grounds
- Some houses do not have storm water that goes straight into the storm drain system and little water reaches the storm drain system.
- Would subdivisions with private streets be charged a fee?
- No one likes surprises when it comes to fees! Make sure to let people know.
- The Department of Facility Maintenance is already working with the Board of Water Supply on rainwater capture and with the Department of Planning and Permitting on construction permits, but what about with the Department of Transportation Services on Complete Streets? While there is an excellent guide to Complete Streets on their website that takes storm water into consideration, mostly there seem to be lists for reviewing plans that only have a check box for planting trees. I hope that working with the Department of Transportation Services Complete Streets becomes a part of the Storm Water Master Plan.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #6

May 26, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

- Who can we report obvious violations to? New homes are diverting pool and roof water into the street. It is also being dumped into Kapālama Stream. I have tried to report this for over 5 years.
- What about chemicals being dumped into Kapālama Canal?
- Would a storm water utility increase the number of employees or would it be existing employees?
- Do you anticipate problems hiring? What if the money is there but the staffing isn't?
- If an entity like a community association has open areas as well as buildings, can the open land offset the cost for the buildings?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #7

May 27, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

- Will this presentation be available as a recorded presentation to re-review?
- Faciliator: What kind of credit actions would you like to see? One attendee responded: have a list of simple DIY homeowner projects that are low cost and simple to implement.
- Will the Department of Planning and Permitting include storm water treatment concepts in their future requirements for new builds? If so, will there be financial incentives attached to them?
- I heard about this meeting from a message broadcast from the Executive Director of the Waikiki Business Improvement District Association.
- Do you envision the applications for credits to work like Real Property Tax (where you can only apply by a specific time of the year) or will it be open year-round?
- What about permeable asphalt or concrete? Is that a product that is successfully being used on O'ahu?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #8

May 28, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

- How do the proposed fees fall in the range of other fees in other municipalities?
- How many credits could a household achieve? For example if I have a rain barrel, rain garden and redirecting down spouts into my yard, could I get credit for all of that or would there be a limit to the amount of credits I could get?
- Currently in Hawai'i Kai, there are drain inlet protections and they don't appear to be effectively maintained; the doors are stuck. A lot of debris is getting caught but doesn't seem to be getting cleared on a regular basis. Would the fee help to maintain these?

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #9

May 30, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

- What are green infrastructure features?
- How will property owners learn about the credits they would receive by making their property more permeable?
- My dad likes gardening and might be interested in the rain barrel. This is a cool opportunity for people to be creative and improve aesthetics in the community. This is a technical issue but it could also improve our community as well through placemaking.
- I just saw ad in Hawai'i Home Remodeling for rainwater catchment system, including a \$40 Board of Water Supply rebate, from Hardware Hawai'i, just FYI in case anyone is interested.
- Will this be available on demand afterward?
- City Council is hearing a bill for the first reading next week to establishing a fund for this utility, Bill 45. If that is passed, is there another step they would have to take to implement, or is that it? More information should be provided to the public about how to participate in the City Council process.
- In certain places, gates have been installed on the storm drains to stop debris from going down the storm drain. There are some in Hawai'i Kai. When there is a large event, the pressure opens them. Some seem to be getting stuck open. Do you have more information on that?
- Briefly, how do you envision seeing a master plan being written and vetted?

Appendix B: Polling Results from Community Meetings

COMBINED POLLING RESULTS

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	11
No	25

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	9
Central O'ahu	4
Leeward	9
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	8
Windward	6
Not O'ahu	3

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	12
Email from the City	10
Newspaper ad	9
Newspaper article	3
Study website	3
Facebook	2
TV news report	1
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	20
Increase green infrastructure	19
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	18
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	13
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	12
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	11
Neighborhood flooding	7
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	6

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	12
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	10
Install a rain garden	9
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	5

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #1

May 20, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	4

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	0
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	2
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	1
Windward	1
Not O'ahu	1

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	0
Email from the City	1
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	0
Study website	0
Facebook	2
TV news report	1
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	2
Increase green infrastructure	3
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	1
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	2
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	2
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	1
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	1

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	2
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	1
Install a rain garden	1
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	1

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #2

May 21, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	5
No	2

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	3
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	2
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	2
Windward	0
Not O'ahu	0

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	0
Email from the City	3
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	1
Study website	0
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	4
Increase green infrastructure	4
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	5
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	3
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	3
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	2
Neighborhood flooding	1
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	2

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	2
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	3
Install a rain garden	2
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #3

May 22, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	5

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	0
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	1
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	4
Windward	0
Not O'ahu	1

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	3
Email from the City	2
Newspaper ad	2
Newspaper article	0
Study website	1
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	3
Increase green infrastructure	4
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	3
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	2
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	1
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	2
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	0

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	1
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	1
Install a rain garden	2
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	2

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #4

May 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	0

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	0
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	1
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	0
Windward	0
Not O'ahu	0

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	0
Email from the City	1
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	0
Study website	0
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	0
Increase green infrastructure	1
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	0
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	1
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	0
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	0
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	0

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	0
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	1
Install a rain garden	0
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #5

May 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	2

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	1
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	2
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	0
Windward	0
Not O'ahu	0

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	1
Email from the City	0
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	0
Study website	1
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	1
Increase green infrastructure	2
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	2
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	1
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	1
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	1
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	0

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	1
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	1
Install a rain garden	1
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #6

May 26, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	0
No	3

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	1
Central O'ahu	1
Leeward	1
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	0
Windward	0
Not O'ahu	0

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	2
Email from the City	0
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	0
Study website	0
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	2
Increase green infrastructure	0
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	2
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	1
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	3
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	0
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	0

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	3
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	0
Install a rain garden	0
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #7

May 27, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	5

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	3
Central O'ahu	3
Leeward	0
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	0
Windward	3
Not O'ahu	0

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	5
Email from the City	2
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	1
Study website	0
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	5
Increase green infrastructure	4
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	3
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	2
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	2
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	1
Neighborhood flooding	1
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	1

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	0
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	2
Install a rain garden	3
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	1

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #9

May 30, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

ROUND 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE

Answers	Votes
Yes	1
No	4

ISLAND RESIDENCE

Answers	Votes
East Honolulu	1
Central O'ahu	0
Leeward	0
North Shore	0
Town/South Shore	1
Windward	2
Not O'ahu	1

WAY INFORMED ABOUT MEETING

Answers	Votes
Someone I know told me about it	1
Email from the City	1
Newspaper ad	1
Newspaper article	1
Study website	1
Facebook	0
TV news report	0
Cable public service announcement	0
A Neighborhood Board member	0

ISLAND-WIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Answers	Votes
Protect ocean waters from storm water pollution	3
Increase green infrastructure	1
Replace aging storm water infrastructure	2
Stream channel cleaning & maintenance	1
Maintenance of pipes, beach outfalls, catch basins	0
Ensuring a sustainable water supply	3
Neighborhood flooding	1
Mauka-to-makai watershed approach	2

POPULAR CREDIT+REBATES

Answers	Votes
Redirect roof downspouts to lawns or gardens	3
Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns	1
Install a rain garden	0
Replace all or part of a driveway with permeable pavers	1

Appendix C: Comment Letters Received via Website and Email

COMMENTS FROM WEBSITE

Comments from Website

- Eh, used to have street sweepers at night clean up all the rubbish off the streets so we rained neva have [REDACTED] storm wata. Now homeless stay live in the storm drains and property owners going get taxed for that? So wen homeless [REDACTED] and piss on the streets and it rains, how come you no call the EPA on them for violating the clean wata Act?
- I don't think we need anymore Fees. Maybe we should be thinking about cutting city and county worker benefits? The private sector needs to be sustainable, I think the city and county of honolulu better get their head screwed on correctly first.
- In regards to adding a utility fee to storm water run off/pollution, this is very unfair to push upon the public to come up with when we're already taxed to death here in Hawaii. Unacceptable.
- You guys are really desperate or just plain out ridiculous trying to to tax people for a natural cause that's been happening since the beginning of time ...How can you tax up for something that falls out the sky naturally???
- Aloha,
I was wondering how this process would work and how the money collected would be used. I am just brainstorming and the following thoughts have come to mind.

It seems the concern is that water has less chance of seeping back into the land due to urbanization. Thus, we need to limit the amount of concrete that covers the land near areas that collect rain water. This would involve urban planning the that does not increase the amount of land covered by concrete, but that may be a challenge. Although, we could reduce the amount of agricultural (AG) land that people want to urbanize.

An option is to use agricultural land to build water reservoirs to collect the water to seep back into the ground. Many of the AG land have small reservoirs. They do not need to be massive like Nuuanu, but be sized to be manageable and safe from overspill. Being near a stream where the water can be diverted into the reservoir would be ideal, but currently many people live by the streams.

Turning the reservoirs to potential recreation areas would be a secondary use. Raising freshwater fish for sport and consumption would add to our food supply and reduce our dependence on food being shipped to Hawaii. Wilson lake is an example of a public freshwater fishing area, but I it seems to be catch and release. The current freshwater fishing rules seem to allow private land owners to allowing fishing on their properties, but there should be a requirement that the reservoir is allowed to seep into the land.

Bottom line, if Lake Wilson and Nuuanu reservoirs are not sufficient to enable Oahu's future water supply, than additional reservoirs that will allow the water to seep into our aquifers need to be developed. Hmmm, could parts of Lake Wilson be enlarged and terraced?

Thanks for letting me brainstorm.

Sincerely, Bernard

- Hi,
I would like to know if there is an individual or individuals who are pushing for this storm water utility project or is this a joint effort from the City's Department of Facility Maintenance? I am asking because myself and community members, would like to know who is responsible for this type of decision making.
- I do understand that the cost to maintain City & County of Honolulu infrastructure and service continues to rise. But I oppose adding on another

tax/fee for homeowners. Mainly because I am retired and on a fixed income; and one of my largest monthly expense is our property tax, then water & sewer. You are already suggesting a tax/fee for rubbish pickup, however have not looked into reducing the recyclable bi-weekly pickups. I've checked with all my neighbors and most have said that their blue bin is barely 1/4 full every two weeks and their green bin capacity is season dependent (now winter so grass goes dormant).

Thank you

- How about the Mayor of the city pull his head out of his [REDACTED] and manage the available monies. Every year these incompetent politicians want to charge the working man more and more. They can't even effectively manage the bureaucracy they have. Here's an idea. Why don't the public servants who authorize development charge the Developers for the infrastructure. Screw the Mayor and his corrupt ways. Caldwell for Prison 2020!
- so...the City and County now want to tax us for rainwater. i want to know which legislator made this idea up. please answer asap. mahalo
- How does it take \$90 million per year for our storm drains? This number seems to be ridiculous but I would like to see the facts for it! Also we get taxed so much here why would you think residents want to add another bill to our monthly expenses? When will you guys (the government) help out the people so

that we all can live happy? Everyday Hawai'i loses its Hawaiians; I would think and hope that you guys are trying everything you can to stop that statistic from going up!

- Just curious why there is no mention in this initiative of the largest stormwater contaminant to Oahu's streams, reefs and oceans - the uncontrolled feral pig population?
- I am an owner at Seaside Towers. We are a condominium of 126 units.
Our total property, including parking deck, building, swimming pool, garden area, is 27,271 sq feet. Based on preliminary figures, how much of our total land would be considered for a monthly cost to our association? The entire 27,271 square feet? Just the building itself?

I would appreciate your help here.

Diane

- I attended the Kaiser High School meeting tonight and left with several questions. I'll try to summarize them.
How is it equitable to charge residents the same fees/taxes in an area that gets limited rainfall and doesn't require the infrastructure for run off compared to Kaneohe where the rainfall is significantly greater, there is greater need for infrastructure?

If all government entities will be paying the runoff fees/taxes, what will stop them from passing the costs on to homeowners and others?

The \$97 M in revenue currently collected / directed to cover the costs for runoff management, would these current funds be reduced by the storm water fee/tax? Or would the new collections be added to fund new infrastructure to reduce the impact (e.g. pollution mitigation) of runoff? Do you really expect us to believe you?

- I oppose this bill as where I live we are on a steep driveway right by the MauMae water conservation area the area is designed to funnel the storm runoff to this area where the board of water supply has their facility to capture it. The way this bill is written would punish us the homeowner for this.
- FAQ indicates the fee will be determined by SF of impervious surfaces via aerial photography.

Question - will the fee apply to a structure such as an outdoor wood deck that allows water to drain to the ground directly below the deck?

- I understand generally the concept of impermeable cover on the property, however, slope of the land contributes to a higher discharge rate but in the explanation this factor is not highlighted. Land use, slope and impermeable surfaces contribute to the quality and quantity of surface runoff. These factors must be considered in developing fair costs for each landowner. Water recharge unless it is in the headwaters of drainage basins should be stated as one of the aims of helping with aquifer recharge because that is not true

especially on Oahu. The majority of Oahu's water is from skimming from the Gyben-Herzberg lens beneath the island as a result of the caprock formation along the coast of Oahu. No misinformation please.

- I am opposed to any proposed additional fees related to the Storm Water Utility. The C&C of Honolulu must operate within its means. Funding for new projects should come from within the government via budget cuts or modifications, without imposing additional fees on its citizens. If the City is not able to come up with funding, then additional projects should NOT be pursued. The residents of Honolulu are already burdened with enough fees. NO NEW FEES!
- this is [REDACTED]. take your tax authority and shove it.
- 1. the name 'stormwater public utility' is misleading and confusing. what you are proposing is a 'stormwater runoff fee'. you are not proposing a new governance structure or new agency.
2. the claim that a new enterprise fund will provide more resources or more stability is false and misleading. in the past stormwater activities in the budget has not been subject to substantial amendment by the council or the mayor except as part of across the board budget actions. there is no reason to claim that resources will be more plentiful after owners are subject to new fees. the claim that it will enable access to debt is also false; debt funding now exists. perhaps

you were referring to revenue bonds; that is a technical argument that doesn't justify the fee.

3. it is likely that you now have sufficient information to enable individual owners to look up the potential amount of runoff fees they would be liable for given the existing budget for stormwater activities. i recommend that be enabled soon.

- Read the article...
 - 1) stop comparing us to programs on the mainland. Their cost of living is lower to begin with. Who has 400+ dollars to spare?
 - 2) I am close to retirement now, and you think I can afford to with all these new taxes? As it stands, last year I could have retired at 72, living modestly I would have enough to get by with a few hundred extra a year. That's all gone, and I could never stop working, you people must be insane to think that you can just keep adding taxes to solve problems.
- We do not agree with this. We cannot afford this extra cost. This can not pass it is bad for all the owners. So now you're telling us. On a \$26.00 water bill we will have to pay 3 times the amount for sewer and we are being penalized another amount \$35 to 50. for stormwater runoff. This is totally unacceptable. You are making people homeless they can't afford these rates. We conserve water we now are being charged for it raining outside and if

water runs into the storm drain. Ridiculous. This must not happen. You are hurting the people of Oahu. And by the way 1 rain barrel catchment is only 55 gallons and that will fill up in less than 25 minutes of it raining. I just spent hundreds of dollars putting a water conserving garden. Now you want to charge us for letting water run off by mother nature. Very upset homeowners. This is what you all came up with. Just another way to abuse your homeowners. Very dissatisfied with you all. We need some people who understand the homeowners point of view. We are already struggling with all these charges and fees. We do not agree with you.

- Aloha!
As a resident on Round Top Drive, we do not have city water so we are on rain catchment, nor are we connected to the city's sewer system so we maintain a septic system. Neither do we have sidewalks, drains, fire hydrants, or street lights. Yet we are taxed for most of the above. We rely on our rainwater as our sole source of water so would be unlikely to squander it as "run-off." Will this situation be taken into consideration when allocating the new fees/taxes? Please recognize and address it for residents in similar situations island-wide. . . although we are actually in "Honolulu". Thank you.
- I think that people of Oahu is paying for too much for this state and now you guys want to add more to the wound that's why we can't afford to live in this state maybe you guys can get raises for

us so we can afford to pay more bills food already is hard to buy you guys are ripping off people maybe you people get a pay cut so they get money to pay for what ever they need money for..

- Aloha Stakeholder Group ...
Were initial announcements of this new tax on everyone made last year? I don't remember seeing anything about this - and from various dates it looks like things started the middle of last year. The first meeting where members of the community could participate - for East Honolulu - was February 2 while information on this new tax was reported on yesterday's (Feb 12) evening news. Hopefully future information will be more timely.
Thanks, Claire

- Dear Director Sasamura,
I am glad to hear there will be community meetings around the island re: these proposed fees. However, I would like to add my voice to those that question the time of the community meetings your department has scheduled. You were quoted in the 2/6/20 HON Star-Adv. Kokua Line column stating that the residents can go to any meeting.

What about those who work days and after work must immediately pick up children or kupuna from school/day care? And, what about dinner for children/kupuna in the household? Small children cannot wait 'til post 7:30 p.m. for dinner. Why no SA dates? Why

no daytime meetings for those who work nights/swingshifts?

That having been said, I would like to address a few points on this proposed fee:

1. How much coordination is there between your department and the DP&P? I have seen houses being built, presumably permitted, that have very little permeable surfaces on the lot after these (monster?) structures go up. So, now your department feels that an additional fee must be imposed on all properties to help with storm water management.

What about dealing with the issue before structures are built?

What does your department have to say before the C&C grants waivers to developers in the name of supposedly increasing 'affordable housing' units?

Will a rep. from DP&P be in attendance?

It is not lost on me that ALL of us may have to pay this fee when the new (monster) homes were permitted to be built.

Also, the C&C on one hand allows ADUs and now comes in and says, oops, you may have a high storm water fee.

2. What about equity given that many structures were built before current building codes and are those homeowners now meant to pay for having followed those old codes when, in many cases, it is newly-permitted

structures that are causing run-off problems?

3. My home is on a CPR lot. As such, part of the property between me and the other CPR home is considered "common area". Your drone flyover would not accurately define the permeable surface sf on my lot. How is your department planning to address these situations?

4. Will you be presenting your department's budget (say for last three (3) years) so that we may see how you have been spending C&C funds to address the storm water run-off issues to-date?

I look forward to hearing your presentation.

Regards,

B.A.

Kailua Resident

- I oppose the forming of another regulatory entity to manage a process that is already managed by two agencies. I believe that the current process to manage stormwater runoff is already overly regulated and creates a tremendous cost to construction in Hawaii. What needs to be managed more closely is agricultural runoff which generates far more pollutants to our waters than any other activity. Another area that needs to be managed better is the clearing of existing waterways and drainage canals. This does not require the forming of another agency, it

requires better managers that are responsible.

- I was encouraged by the Governor's State of the State address this year when he addressed the high cost of living in Hawaii. He said he is going to investigate ways to reduce the impact on the middle class and trying to find ways to keep our kids here. And Then! - I read the article a few weeks ago in the paper about Storm Water Management (hidden at page 3 of the business section). So, I did some reading up on the issue and I do not think it is a necessity for Hawaii. I feel that we are taxed enough, and the current tax money received is not managed well enough. Therefore, I do NOT support this creation of a Storm Water Utility and this increase in our government bureaucracy.
- I attended the Kapolei meeting on establishing a storm water utility on Oahu. The information provided did not support establishing a storm water utility on Oahu. The job and funding are already supported by 92 million dollars of tax payer money. The new fees recommended are more taxes on home owners on Oahu, regardless of how you explain a fee is not a tax. We have to pay it.

Your proposal would increase the cost of living in Hawaii. Governor Ige, Kimberly Pine and several other politicians are trying to reduce the cost of living, your program does not do this.

It seems you have a disgruntled city department trying change the way it is funded.

Do not establish a storm water utility on Oahu.

- I missed the meetings in Kaneohe, where I wanted to make comments. Looking at your website I cannot see how much you intend to try and raise each year, but I recall something like \$130 million being raised each year. That is more than \$100 from EACH resident of Oahu of any age on average. I also see mentions of looking at a specific number of square feet of non permeable areas on a lot as being a trigger. How about a very large lot that may exceed square footage but have a small percentage of the total lot as impermeable material? Should that not be taken into account? If such a large lot were subdivided, the square footage of impermeable areas would go up substantially. Finally, if such funds were raised, would we see proper maintenance of existing storm drains and their pollution, such as along Kaneohe Bay Drive from the Saddle Road to MCBH, and would the funds be used to clean up previous damage and siltation caused by lack of maintenance and poor design of these drains, such as at Kaimalu Place and along the shoreline from Kokokahi to MCBH where shoreline dredged channels have been silted up and deltas of silt have been built up on top of the mud flats? There are lots of things to consider in this kind of operation, and we do not have

confidence that proper management and spending allocations will be done and that the money will not be just wasted or diverted.

- Aloha- I attended your McKinley HS meeting. I serve as Chair of the Hawaii Building Code Council which is subject to sunshine laws and is open to the public. If you'd like to attend our March 17 meeting and speak, invite you to briefly describe the program and ask, "Might any aspect of this be integrated into a building code." The advantage of addressing this audience is that all four county building division managers are present, as are members of the building community, professional design organizations and union representatives. This way, you'll get feedback from The Experts. Please let me hear!
- I am disgusted with the thought of now having to pay for our water runoff. What is the reasoning for this? Why does this city continue to burden the tax payer with one more expense? How will the calculation be established for the amount one will pay for their properties runoff? If the city can not handle the water that comes off its approved developments then stop all development on Oahu. The costs of living on Oahu continue to squeeze the middle class and Mayor Caldwell has driven up our costs beyond what is acceptable or reasonable. I am disgusted with this idea and feel that we are already covering the costs for a 10 billion dollar rail project- a project that has not been completed.

- Would like to learn more about the rebates/credits for property owners
- Aloha,
I live at [REDACTED]. There is a storm drain directly in front of my house and when it rains, it does not drain. Please assist me in finding out organization does maintenance on them. I have called board of water supply and sewer department, each of them point to the other in finding a resolution. Thank you.
Noah
- As to funding and increase in homeowners fees, I am for an increase providing I can see where and how the funds are spent. This means a detailed plan, not just saying clean runoff, but what the work is
- Aloha,
Question: Is this "Storm Water Utility" already in existence? If so I believe this is a bad idea. The City (and State) governments are just wasting money as anyone can see. Just check any crew working outside city hall and you will see 5 men/women standing around and one person working and two trucks. Why is this? Because the union is too strong here in Hawaii. I was a union guy when we were trying to improve pay and working conditions but now it is unreasonable. I see this "Storm Water Utility" as just another unnecessary tax because the city can't manage their budgets/money.
Mahalo,
Byron

- Aloha;
I am a property planner for small projects. I have several land owners wishing to take previously CPR'd parcels and move forward to completing their developments. Many are 1 acre to 5 acres in size wishing to build several single family homes on the parcels.

I am looking for the bill or ordinance that establishes the Oahu Storm Water Utility. I understand the this effort is at a community input stage. However, I have not been able to locate on the C&C HRS or ROH sites. I do have the Storm Water Control design parameters presented in Appendix E1 and the draft of updates E2. But, I am very interested in the wording of the bill or ordinance for the Oahu Storm Water Utility...I know it will affect future small developments.

Can you please forward to me the link to secure this -- or possibly send to be the pdf of same.

Thank you; staying safe!!

Randy



- The storm drains for neighborhoods around the Honolulu Country Club (HCC) feed into the privately-owned ponds of HCC. I've called previously regarding "violations" of discharges into the ponds by perimeter residents. How is the proposed storm water utility going

to work as far as the ponds of the Honolulu Country Club which eventually flow into the moanalua stream?

I understand that part of the fee will be used for stream maintenance, removal of invasive vegetation, etc., responsibilities which are now tasked to HCC. HCC is home to many endangered water birds who nest all year long and use invasive vegetation to forage and build nests.

I was greatly disappointed that there was no meeting scheduled for residents of Salt Lake.

Sincerely,
Carrie

- Really? Still forcing this agenda? I will forward my pending unemployment checks to DFM. How do you build a stronger, more resilient island community with bleeding the tax payer dry. You will fund storm water utilities even if results can not be promised. If you dont pay, you and your family will have a lean your home and will face criminal charges. Another boondoggle project with no transparency. I do not want another monthly bill on top of the already storm water funding that we are already paying. No thanks. We barely make it as it is.
- As to funding and increase in homeowners fees, I am for an increase providing I can see where and how the funds are spent. This means a detailed plan, not just saying clean runoff, but what the work is

- If the storm water utilities are currently being funded from property tax levies. There would need to be a commensurate reduction in property tax to offset the cost to fund a separate utility.

It's no secret that the cost of living in the State of Hawaii is extremely high and over the span of 17 years, I have not only seen those costs increase at rates far higher than the average inflation rate, but I have seen additional fees being levied; it amounts to a financial death by one thousand cuts.

Creative initiatives for the good of the environment or infrastructure are great, but care should be taken that it doesn't come at the cost of quality of life.

What is the current fee being proposed and will I see an equivalent reduction in my property tax?

- Aloha,
Thank you for the informative community presentations and for the opportunity for conversation on the SWU.

I attended the meeting today (5/21) and was interested in the specific court cases that JB Hinds referenced with regard to impervious surface area as a determinant of runoff. Can I get the specific cases she's referring to? I'm interested for my own research purposes.

Thanks,
Aida

- Aloha, I was not able to save your chat reply responses from this meeting.
 - 1.) Do you have any info on programs and contacts that are available which provide funding for community partnerships for nonprofits to review and apply for that address storm water runoff sustainable abatement programs & project funding, i.e. low impact erosion control, storm water catchment system development projects, SWRO (storm water runoff) educational awareness programs.
 - 2.) Can you provide any info access to benthic studies of near shore waters that identify storm water runoff impact? Or information that would show results of properly implemented SWRO Best Management practices.
 - 3.) What are the main indicators the DFM considers as successful for storm water abatement programs and best use of the tax funding.
 - 4.) Will you provide written responses to the questions asked during the meetings on your website.
 - 5.) The presentation was informative. May I use the info and connecting link in our (HoK) non-profits news letter to help inform the community?
Mahalo, Jeff Harris
Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University, Maintenance Manager
President, Hui O Ko'olaupoko
- Sloped properties such as Tripler present a high risk of storm water damage to the drainage system. A huge 50 year storm that passed over Oahu about 15(?) years ago, displaced about

150(?) feet of buried 36(?) inch drainage pipe primarily due to the runoff from Tripler. The displaced pipes were on Tripler proper. Besides the damage to the pipes, the runoff also over ran the city's open drain ditches and damaged many homes in Moanalua Gardens. Large sloped properties must be considered in the fee structure.

Although drinking water is not within the purview of storm water management, it is related. I suggest that this initiative include storm water collection by creating ponds behind new dams for storm water control and future drinking water.

For residential communities especially single family homes, there is little rainwater that reaches the City's storm water system. Most of the rain is absorbed on property. With this in mind this effort of a storm water fee based on impermeable surfaces less credits seems a waste of time with credits offsetting most of the fees. Since the burden is on the homeowner to apply for credits, it seems that the City is hoping that property owners will not apply for credits. With that in mind, I charge that the City must audit each and every piece of property and include all of the credits as part of the fee analysis. The proposed fee system is set up to be easy for the City but will be a burden for the property owner.

To me it is strange that the presentation says that the average homeowner pays more towards the storm water system

through the property taxes than the proposed system. A net saving of about \$20 per month. Legislators are rarely amiable to reducing revenue.

Presentation also indicates that large building owners and non-taxable entities do not pay a fair share of the storm water system costs. I propose that the average homeowner property taxes be reduced by about \$20 per month, the owners of large buildings pay a more equitable share of the costs, and that non-taxable entities start paying for storm water system usage. I'm sure that there are ways to allocate \$21 per month of property taxes to a specific fund and add the non-taxable entities fees to that fund for the storm system's semi-independence from the general fund.

To me the storm water proposal being discussed at this time is way more complicated that it needs to be. I have worked in both the State and Federal governments (private too) so I have a basic understanding of funding streams. The Bureaucracy is forever!!

- Storm water management is necessary, but taxing home owners based on driveway area just complicates the bureaucracy.

Life guards are necessary but I don't pay by the number of times I go to the beach. Schools are necessary but I don't pay tax based on the number of kids I have. Street traffic lights are necessary but I don't get taxed based on the number of times I drive.

You are making it a divisive issue when it should not be.

We all benefit from police and fire departments without a divisive tax; we should benefit from a storm water department the same.

- Penalizing home owners for having a cement lanai, while promoting yards with lush lawns, is misguided and maybe even totally backward.

The rain run off from my cement lanai is way cleaner and better for the environment than the run off from my neighbors yard filled with pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer.

Stop making storm water a divisive issue; just do what is necessary to protect the environment, and pay for it with the general fund.

- Aloha,
Will a virtual meeting be available on demand? I've scheduled several that have been held this past week, and each time something else came up.

Pedaling Toward a Bicycle-Safe Hawaii -
- Same Roads, Same Rules, Same Rights

A hui hou, Natalie

[REDACTED]

- You bunch of crooks are at it again. You just want more money to piss away on useless projects. Your history of misspending funds is well known. You need only to look at the absolutely useless train project; billions of \$ down the drain. Keep your hands off my badly

abused wallet. All you know is spend, spend, spend; waste, waste, waste.

- We have facilities that are already built relish onsite retention and other factors to mitigate storm water. Will those properties be provided a reduced fee?

There seems to be no recognition that many homes and businesses have large lots and currently retain and absorb onsite any impervious surface runoff. However, it appears that the fee calculation methodology provides no credit for this existing condition, only for future suggested improvements (water barrels, detention structures, etc.). Please provide your rationale for ignoring credit for pervious ground area as your current fee structure is nothing more than a convenient method to calculate a new tax.

There also needs to be discussion of what constitutes an impervious surface. Area calculations that are made from Google Earth images can be very misleading. For instance, will a lot area consisting of pervious paving or pavers with grassed areas between pavers be considered impermeable because it will be interpreted from the images as pavement?

I am a huge supporter of this idea, but I would like to know how incentives for property owners to reduce impervious surfaces on their properties ties into the current floodplain management plan that requires property owners in the floodplain to increase impervious surface area to more effectively convey water through

their properties. There seems to be a major disconnect between these two policies. Although this practice does increase water flow, it dramatically reduces natural ground absorption. This doesn't make any sense since it pushes water from newer homes to older homes, yet it is the preferred method for engineers and city planners alike since it seems to check the FEMA boxes.

How will you coordinate with floodplain managers and city planners so that there is a more consistent and balanced policy?