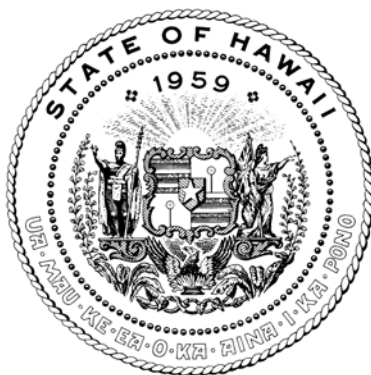


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**PLAN TO IMPLEMENT SO CALLED "PUMP-DON'T DUMP" STATIONS, WHERE MOBILE
PUMP TRUCKS PUMP SEWAGE FROM VESSELS AND TRANSPORT THE SEWAGE TO
LAND-BASED SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES**



Prepared by

**State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources**

**In Response To
House Concurrent Resolution No. 58, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1
Regular Session of 2007**

**Honolulu, Hawaii
November 2007**

PLAN TO IMPLEMENT SO CALLED "PUMP-DON'T DUMP" STATIONS, WHERE MOBILE PUMP TRUCKS PUMP SEWAGE FROM VESSELS AND TRANSPORT THE SEWAGE TO LAND-BASED SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the Legislature in response to House Concurrent Resolution 58, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2007, which requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) develop a plan to implement so called "pump-don't dump" stations, where mobile pump trucks pump sewage from vessels and transport the sewage to land-based sewage treatment facilities, and submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Department supports all federal regulations pertaining to dumping of treated and untreated sewage in ocean waters, and would follow federal recommendations on any prohibition of sewage dumping in the federal waters surrounding the main Hawaii Islands, especially in the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. While there is no clear evidence that dumping of treated, macerated waste presents a hazard to marine life, the Department would prefer to err on the safe side.

Even though dumping of treated waste is legal outside of protected harbors, the Department discourages purging of sewage in areas frequented by SCUBA and snorkel tours for health and safety reasons.

This is evident when one considers the effort and expense the Department has expended to promote the use of pump-outs whenever possible and to make facilities available at state-owned small boat harbors (SBH).

Currently there are pump-outs at Nawiliwili on Kauai; at Waianae, Heeia Kea, Ala Wai and Keehi harbors on Oahu; at Lahaina on Maui; and the Kailua-Kona pier on the Big Island.

The Department has plans to build three pump-out sites in the County of Maui, at Maalaea SBH on Maui, at Manele SBH on Lanai and at Kaunakakai SBH on Molokai. Once these pump-outs are in place, each of the main Hawaiian Islands, with the exception of Niihau, will have a pump-out facility. The planned facility project closest to being undertaken is at Maalaea SBH.

Maalaea SBH is located on the south central coast of Maui, and serves both recreational and commercial boaters. Plans for the Maalaea SBH pump-out facilities, currently in the design phase, are extensive. The construction contract for this project is expected to go out for bids in the summer of 2008. When this multi-million dollar project is completed, the Maalaea SBH will have one pump-out dedicated for use by the Maui Ferry. While the Ferry is not in Harbor, any vessel will be able to use this pump-out. A second pump-out will be installed and available for public use. As many as 17 slips on the south mole of the Harbor will have direct access to a dockside sewage receptacle. Boaters occupying those slips who choose to retrofit their vessels will be able to pump their sewage into the receptacle while tied up at their assigned slips.

In the interim, until the Maalaea pump-out project is completed, there is no installed pump-out facility along that coastline with the exception of facilities in Lahaina. However, since early in 2006, the Department has participated in a cost-sharing program with the County of Maui. Up to \$30,000 per year in department funding is matched with county funds to support sewage truck pump-outs for commercial vessels at Maalaea SBH. Recreational boaters have also been able to take advantage of this free service offered by the Department and the County of Maui.

One key feature of Maalaea SBH is its direct access to waters of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. In fact, many of the Department's harbors equipped with pump-outs provide direct or nearly direct access to Sanctuary waters. These include Haleiwa SBH and Heeia Kea SBH on Oahu, Lahaina SBH on Maui and the Kailua-Kona Pier on the Big Island. Similarly, pump-outs planned for Lanai and Molokai will be located in harbors serving as gateways with direct access to the Sanctuary. Facilities in these strategic locations are free to use and available for public use, but under current federal regulations, state statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the public cannot be forced to use them.

All of this work would be for naught if the Department did not encourage boaters and commercial operators to voluntarily use pump-out facilities. A great deal of time and effort was invested in designing a brochure/map to detail the locations of existing facilities and explain the benefits of using pump-outs. DOBOR capitalized on an available grant and printed the completed brochure in January of 2006. Two versions of the full-color brochure were produced, a folded paper version for literature racks and a laminated version for wall mounting that is weather resistant. This pump-out literature is distributed and prominently displayed whenever DOBOR erects an exhibit at public forums and events. It is also continuously available at each of the Division's harbor and administrative offices and a digital copy (suitable for printing) has been posted on the Division's web site.

CONCLUSION

The Department is continuously looking for forums to meet the boating public and distribute literature. Each year, in the months preceding whale season, DOBOR representatives distribute information about Marine Sanitation Devices when there are public discussions about avoiding whale strikes. The same literature is distributed at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event at Koko Crater on Oahu each September and, as of 2007, the Fishing and Seafood Festival held on Oahu each October.

The Department plans to continue planning, installing, and promoting public and commercial use of pump-outs to reduce potential harm to marine species and the environment. The Department will also monitor and assess the needs of recreational boaters and commercial operators so facilities can be developed for future growth and, if necessary, interim services like the mobile pump-out service at Maalaea SBH can be contracted.

The Department would, of course, support any initiative to modify federal regulations regarding dumping of sewage in ocean waters. In the Department's assessment, however, existing federal regulations, state statutes and HARs may be sufficient to insure the health of the marine environment if the Department can increase its education and outreach efforts. The goal would be to have all boaters and commercial operators voluntarily comply with existing federal regulations, statutes and HARs and additionally refrain from dumping sewage of any kind in marine life

conservation districts, areas of high value corals and marine life as well as those areas frequented by SCUBA, snorkel, kayak and other marine excursions.

DOBOR is currently contributing comments to the CORAL Hawaii project to suggest environmentally ethical behavior standards for all SCUBA, snorkel and boating commercial tour operators operating in Hawaii. Contributions like these, small as they seem, can have lasting impact and resonate amongst the growing number of eco-tour groups based in Hawaii. The next step would be to export such a program to communities in the Pacific Rim and beyond so there is a lasting, global impact.