

## County to provide \$30,000 for pump-truck service at Maalaea Harbor

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WAILUKU – Maui County is providing \$30,000 for a pump truck that will service tour boats at Maalaea Harbor in disposing of sewage from the vessels, Mayor Alan Arakawa said in a statement released Saturday.

Arakawa said the county is providing the pump truck service to assist the boat operators in dealing with public objections to the practice of disposing of sewage outside of state waters.

“Due to the lack of a pumping facility available at Maalaea Small Boat Harbor to accommodate these vessels, and with the completion of a pump-out facility at Maalaea at least a few years away, it is imperative that the county intervene and provide such an immediate, environmentally sound program to ensure that Maui remains the best island in the world,” Arakawa said.

Lynn Araki-Regan, county economic development coordinator, said the county also is applying for a \$90,000 grant to supplement county funds for the program.

If the county is able to secure the additional \$90,000, she said, the weekly pump truck services can be contracted through the end of 2007.

The county was responding to complaints from a group of Maui residents objecting to sewage disposal in the ocean by charter boats operating out of Maalaea. Charter boats operating out of Lahaina Harbor have access to a pump-out facility, although boat operators said the pump-out station is inconvenient because of the level of traffic in the harbor.

Under federal law, a boat can pump out sewage from its heads in the ocean outside of state jurisdiction.

State jurisdiction is limited to ocean waters within three miles of the shoreline.

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