

State has wrong priorities for work at Maalaea Harbor

Thursday, June 30, 2005 1:21 PM

Here we go again.

The June 26 front-page story in The Maui News says the state can improve Maalaea Harbor by building a new terminal for private ferry businesses but can't afford to furnish a sewage pump-out facility. So in addition to the vast majority of tour boats dumping their sewage into the sea, now we'll bring in more vessels to add to the effluent being dumped into the whale's nursery. Isn't this like building a house and saying we can't afford the bathroom, so we'll just dump the sewage out in the street.

Again, congratulations to Trilogy Excursions for being first in doing the right thing, contracting a pump truck to come down to the harbor to pump out all it's boats. Pacific Whale Foundation told me it was doing the same thing, but now states that only one of their several boats is being pumped out. I trust none of the other tour boats is doing anything! Do they explain to their customers that they will be swimming and snorkeling in their own waste as part of the experience?

How about the Maui Visitors Bureau and the Hawaii Visitors Bureau? Do they use any of the millions of dollars of our taxes they are paid to explain this disgusting facet of the Maui snorkeling/diving experience? As word gets out, the Conde Nest No. 1 rating of Maui will be a thing of the past.

Mike Moran

Kihei

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