

Federal funds available for harbor pump-out stations

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During 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded nearly \$11 million to 23 states under the U.S. Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant program. The grants help fund pump-out stations at harbors across the country.

Unfortunately, Hawaii is not one of the states taking advantage of this federal funding. If we had, our state could have received up to 75 percent of the funds needed to install pump-out facilities at our harbors.

For years, the Pacific Whale Foundation has been actively promoting the need for pump-out facilities in Maalaea Harbor. We have attended many meetings, written letters to state and federal officials and mounted a petition drive to secure pump-out facilities at Maalaea Harbor. We are also requesting more pump-out facilities at Lahaina Harbor, because there is only one pump-out nozzle located on the busy loading dock and is difficult to use because of the high volume of traffic at the dock.

Through some research, we've learned that Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant program does have funding through next September. It is accepting applications for fiscal year 2005 until early January.

We ask the public to join us in urging our state leaders to take action on this issue. Please visit our Web site at www.pacificwhale.org and click on "Action Alerts" to learn more about the need for pump-out facilities.

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Maalaea

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