

Gov. Lingle releases funds for a pump-out station, upgrades

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HONOLULU – Gov. Linda Lingle announced Thursday she had released \$1.1 million for Maalaea Harbor, including \$350,000 for design of a pump-out station and related systems for boats using the harbor to dispose of sewage.

The funding will also provide \$660,000 for upgrades to the electrical systems at the harbor to meet state and county standards, including a new meter building, new electrical lines and outlets along the piers. With \$110,000 previously allocated to the upgrades, work on the electrical systems is expected to be completed by fall 2007, the announcement said.

Lack of sewage pump-out stations at the harbor has been an ongoing issue for a number of ocean enthusiasts protesting the practice of vessels dumping sewage in the ocean outside of the 3-mile limit that delineates state waters.

Mayor Alan Arakawa last year set up an allocation to assist boat operators in using a pump truck to service commercial vessels, with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources – which is responsible for small-boat harbors – putting up \$30,000 for the interim measure.

Construction of the pump-out station and infrastructure is expected to cost \$2.95 million.

“These improvements will create a safer harbor and healthier environment for Maui’s small-boat harbor users and visitors,” Lingle said in her announcement.

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