

Pressure needed to keep sewage out of the ocean

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In a continuing effort to stop the tour boats operating out of Maalaea harbor from flushing their boat toilets into the sea off South Maui, a major problem always seemed to be that the state collected all the revenue generated from this second-largest small-boat harbor in the state, but did nothing to aid it.

The state has a two-phase plan to improve Maalaea. Phase I, which seems to be three years off, would install a single sewage pump-out, requiring all the boats to line up and wait their turn. Phase II, which is many more years away, would install an arterial system, which would enable each boat to hook up at its individual berth. That's the right way to go.

With no pumping station now in place, most of the boats dump the sewage into the sea. Those that dump legally, at least 3 miles from land, all use one small location that meets the law. That's over 1,000 gallons per day always dumped into one location, 365 days a year. The exceptions are Trilogy Excursions, which pumps out both of its vessels, and Pacific Whale Foundation, which is in the process of doing the same by the end of May. This involves a pumper truck at the tour operators' expense. Mahalo to them.

Contact your state representatives to speed up this process and for the other tour boat operators to start pumping and stop dumping now.

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