

Solutions offered for sewage dumping in ocean

Thursday, October 13, 2005 1:30 PM

The problem: tour boats dumping thousands and thousands of gallons of concentrated feces, urine and chemicals into the South and West Maui waters. The water where the sewage is being dumped includes the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

Tourists are largely unaware that their money is paying to pollute the water in which they snorkel. The NOAA Sanctuary representative says they wrote a “loophole” that allows sewage in the whale and marine sanctuary.

Hawaii receives money from the boaters and tourists but fails to provide a pump-out facility at Maalaea and a poor single pump-out at Lahaina.

The immediate solution: tour boats initiate dockside pumping with any of the various pumper-truck companies available. The solution is simple and inexpensive. Although the state should pay for the costs, the boats should implement onshore pumping. Trilogy Excursions and the Pacific Whale Foundation have done just that. The vast majority of tour boats dump sewage.

The long-term solution: NOAA amend rules and enforce laws to prevent dumping in the whale and marine sanctuary. The state of Hawaii should improve the harbors and enforce laws to prevent dumping of concentrated human feces, urine and treatment chemicals in Hawaii waters.

Please urge the solutions. To get information, you may e-mail pumpdont dump@earthlink.net.

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