



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

ANDRIA TUPOLA
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT I
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5001
FAX: (808) 768-1217
EMAIL: atupola@honolulu.gov

STATEMENT ON PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASES

I am opposed to the Department of Environmental Services' (ENV) [proposal](#) to increase sewer fees annually, between 6-9% for the next 10 years, starting July 1, 2025. This adjustment, totaling a sharp 115% increase over a decade, has been justified as “necessary to address rising operating costs and fund critical projects within ENV’s \$10.1 billion Capital Improvement Program.”¹

While I acknowledge the importance of maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure, such an aggressive fee hike would impose an undue financial burden on our residents and businesses, many of whom are already grappling with the high cost of living. We cannot ignore the long-term impacts this will have on families striving to stay in Hawai'i.

My office is collaborating with an independent fact-finding team to thoroughly investigate ENV's projected costs and evaluate alternative funding strategies. We need a detailed breakdown of project priorities, timelines, and anticipated outcomes to confirm that these investments are truly critical and cannot be financed through other means.

I urge ENV to explore solutions that do not fall solely on the backs of ratepayers. This includes seeking federal grants, public-private partnerships, or other innovative financing options. I will continue to work closely with the community, stakeholders, and respective departments to address this issue.

¹ Owens, M. (2024, December 31). *City announces next two town hall meetings on proposed sewer fee increases*. Department of Environmental Services.
<https://www8.honolulu.gov/env/city-announces-next-two-town-hall-meetings-on-proposed-sewer-fee-increases/>