

Date/Context: Internal coordination meeting between UH/HCPT Overlay team (Chris, Amy, Robert in Kihei) and Maui County Wastewater staff (Scott, Eric, Adira).

Purpose: Gather county feedback on preliminary *HCPT Overlay* project area maps, ensure consistency with Carollo Engineers' "Closing America's Wastewater Gap" studies, and clarify data and cost integration for Act 217 deliverables.

Key Narratives and Findings

1. Project Scope & Goals

- **Act 217 (2021)** mandates UH's team to identify *feasible* areas for *centralized wastewater expansion* statewide and integrate these results into the Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool (HCPT).
- Project deadline: **June 30, 2026** (final report + public map release).
- Current emphasis: aligning *county and Carollo project areas* and obtaining *cost estimates* to inform feasibility rankings for presentation to legislators (Rep. Nakamura, Rep. Lōan).
- Legislative briefing planned **Friday following this meeting**, emphasizing cost-benefit clarity for lawmakers.

2. Data Coordination

- HCPT team is updating the **OSDS inventory**, correcting missing or false cesspools and aligning with Carollo's data.
- Using Carollo's density method: **≥ 50 cesspools within 1/8 mile** defines a candidate cluster.
- **Proximity threshold:** Within 2 miles of existing sewer service = "potentially feasible."
- Carollo has already mapped project areas and derived **linear footage and cost estimates**. UH team will adopt Carollo polygons and costs to ensure consistency.

3. Terminology and Communication

- Counties objected to labeling areas "*feasible*" without economic or technical context.

- *Proximity ≠ feasibility* (e.g., pump stations, elevation, capacity issues).
- Term may be replaced with “*proximal*” or “*infeasible for sewer expansion*.”
- Need clear **public disclaimers** to avoid implying guaranteed county projects or funding.

4. County/Project-Specific Details (Maui Focus)

Area	Status/Notes	Cost / Constraints
Wai‘ehu / Waihe‘e	Two <i>Wai‘ehu</i> projects in 6-yr CIP; one nearly ready to bid.	Ongoing; split into 3 projects.
Wailuku Heights	Previously proposed; <i>economically not feasible</i> due to terrain and elevation.	Very expensive; steep upslope.
Wahikuli [AI called this Wai‘okuli (Kīhei)]	EPA-funded project under design & environmental review.	Cost ballooned from \$25 M → \$130 M (~300 homes ≈ >\$400k per home). Considered economically infeasible.
Fleming Road [AI incorrectly labeled as Kihei]	Sewer line recently installed to serve cluster housing.	FEMA project; plans available for integration.
Maui Metals	Only 300 ft from sewer line but cannot tie in; would require off-site highway extension + pump stations ; nearby plant lacks capacity.	Example illustrating “proximity ≠ feasibility.”
Wailuku Heights	Historic plans (25–30 yrs old) exist; technically possible with easements but costly.	—
Waihe‘e B	Requires pump station due to downhill slope; not in current CIP.	—
Waihe‘e Ko / DHHL area	Mix of county and private systems; DHHL manages purple area on map.	—
Moloka‘i (Kānaka Kai area)	Clusters near mountain ridges incorrectly marked feasible; topography prevents sewer expansion.	Will be reclassified as “infeasible.”

Pukalani / Hāli'imaile	Private system (Hawai'i Water Service). County not involved.	Private package plant; no incentive to expand.
Makawao region	County did rough study ~6–7 yrs ago (\$300–400 M, now likely double).	\$600 M+ , not published. Corolla also reviewing.
Ha'ikū clusters	Low density; potentially suited only for decentralized or on-site systems.	To be labeled “infeasible for sewer expansion.”

5. Cross-County / Coordination Issues

- Carollo's data (project polygons + cost estimates) are critical for alignment.
 - Maui County willing to share once Carollo's *final report* is seen; wants to avoid premature publication of draft project areas.
 - Other counties differ:
 - **O'ahu:** Open to sharing data.
 - **Hawai'i County:** Hesitant, pending internal clearance.
 - Possible political pressure path: via **Rep. Heather Kimball** (Act 217 co-author).
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6. Next Actions

- UH team to:
 - Email formal request for **Carollo project polygons + cost data**.
 - Replace preliminary clusters with verified project areas.
 - Update terminology (*remove “feasible” label*).
 - Add **economic feasibility notes** (e.g., “county analysis: not economically feasible”).
 - Ensure disclaimers and language are consistent across HCPT and county tools.
- County to:

- Review and verify the **11 project areas** before public release.
 - Provide correction shapefiles (e.g., Fleming Road).
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Core Takeaways

- The Overlay will visualize the **intersection of cost and benefit** (cesspool count × conversion priority × unit cost).
- Preliminary numbers show **centralized sewer expansion = 3–4× the cost** of individual upgrades, often exceeding feasible thresholds.
- Legislative communication goal: *clarify the magnitude of the cost gap* and show that dense, high-priority clusters offer the best return on investment for cesspool conversion.