Landfill

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Sen. Mike Gabbard, D-Waikiki, said it's a "false impression" that the city should be doing more to handle its trash situation. The Wai'anae Coast residents getting the brunt of the city's trash dumping are fed up with having landfills in their community. "When I was on the City Council, that's when I really got an understanding of the whole trash situation," he said. "It's all for us." City Council Chairman Ace Apo said he wants to facilitate the expansion of the city's waste-to-energy conversion facility by 2012 and ship more than 100,000 tons of trash to the mainland each year so the need for a landfill is eliminated.

He said city land-use commissioners made it clear during the March 2008 proceeding that the city had to stop sending trash to the landfill when the 18-month permit expires in November 2009. "There is a big disconnect with what is going on and what is right," Apo said. "When you look at the landfill, it is overcrowded, it is overpromised, under-supplied, under-scheduled. We are asking the city to look into this landfill and what was promised, under oath by the city in 2003, and you add the fact that there are real solutions that the city is implementing, there is no reason to even attempt dumping waste into the land for another 15 years," Apo said. "It doesn't match up. Starting the shipping (of trash), budgeting over $100 million for the expansion of H-Bower, and yet it appears the administration is not putting those two pieces into a plan to get out of landfilling. They are intent on continuing to dump waste into the ground."