

December 17, 2024

MEMO TO: David M. Raatz, Jr., Director of Council Services

F R O M: Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst *JPP*

SUBJECT: **THE WAIVERSE: FRESH WATER LEARNING CIRCLE SERIES**
(PAF 23-021(38))

This report provides a summary of the August 28, 2024, Hawai'i Community Foundation's "The Waiverse" webinar, which was co-hosted by Funder Hui and Kamehameha Schools. This is the third part of "The Waiverse" webinar series focusing on water reuse practices and emerging technologies.

Statewide, about 19 million gallons of wastewater are recycled per day, or 15 percent of the total wastewater generated in the State. The City and County of Honolulu recycles 11 MGD, Maui County recycles 3.9 MGD, Kaua'i County recycles 2.7 MGD, and Hawai'i County recycles 1 MGD.

Panelists suggested using gray water for onsite, small-scale use, but advocated for constant monitoring due to health and safety concerns. Gray water includes water used in dishwashers, showers, and bathroom sinks.

Panelists considered using recycled water to support wetlands and ecosystems. Some were open to this idea but expressed caution about introducing water with high contaminant levels into the environment.

Panelists also discussed emerging technologies such as atmospheric water generation and R-O water treatment.

Policy proposals recommended by the panelists included dual plumbing system installation, requiring gray water use for new development, water conservation, and increased funding on environment and water reuse. Cost and liability are key obstacles for increased water reuse.

To view the full webinar, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/1003849238>

I hope you find this information useful. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information related to this matter.

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cc: Deputy Director of Council Services