

# Hawaii Reporter

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## **Hawaii Kai Sewer Rate Increase Should Be Rejected**

By Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai, 4/17/2008 2:59:18 PM

The cost of living in Hawaii has skyrocketed over the past five years. On Oahu, we are paying over 86% more for basic services than we did just five years ago, including 57% more in sewer fees.

Hawaii American Water's request before the Public Utilities Commission would increase the average residential sewer bill from \$33.60 in 2002 to \$63.65, a staggering 89% increase.

This rate increase request comes on the heels of other issues that the Hawaii Kai community has had with HAWC, namely the emission of excessive odors from the sewer plant across from Sandy Beach.

In January, the Public Utilities Commission heard testimony on HAWC's inability and unwillingness to address the odor problem.

HAWC must also adhere to its 2006 commitment to adopt the recommendations made in the Odor Management Plan and eliminate the strong odors emanating from its plant across from Sandy Beach.

In view of the present cost increases of gasoline, property taxes, electricity, etc. this is not the time for the PUC to be raising Hawaii Kai residents' sewer fee.

(A copy of the latest cost of living figures in Hawaii released by the Governor's office in February is attached below.)

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**IS THE COST OF LIVING GOING UP—OR WHAT???**

**Estimated Total Annual Expenditure on Water, Sewer, Electricity and Gasoline (Family of Four on Oahu)** 2

	2002	2007	Percentage Increase (2002 - 2007)
<b><u>WATER AND SEWER</u></b>			
Average water rate (dollars per 1000 gallons)	\$2.07	\$2.51	
Average sewer rate (dollars per 1000 gallons)	\$2.76	\$4.36	
Estimated daily usage (gallons)	400	400	
Average monthly water bill (dollars)	\$25.24	\$30.51	
Average monthly sewer bill (dollars)	\$33.60	\$52.91	
Total monthly water and sewer bill (dollars)	\$58.84	\$83.42	
<b>Total annual water and sewer bill (dollars)</b>	<b>\$706.06</b>	<b>\$1,001.99</b>	<b>41.90%</b>

<b><u>Gasoline</u></b>			
Average price of gasoline (dollars per gallon)	\$1.64	\$3.06	
Estimated annual gasoline consumption (gallons)	720	600	
<b>Total annual gasoline consumption (dollars)</b>	<b>\$1,180.58</b>	<b>\$2,212.99</b>	<b>87.40%</b>

<b><u>Electricity</u></b>			
Average electricity rate (dollars per KWh)	\$0.13	\$0.24	
Estimate monthly electricity usage (KWh)	600	600	
Average monthly electricity bill (dollars)	\$78.01	\$143.72	
<b>Total annual electricity bill (dollars)</b>	<b>\$936.14</b>	<b>\$1,724.64</b>	<b>84.20%</b>

<b><u>Property Tax (~2000 ft residential home with exemptions)</u></b>			
Property tax rate (dollars per \$1000 assessment)	\$3.65	\$3.29	
Homeowner's exemption (dollars)	\$513,900.00	\$1,033,600.00	
Total annual property tax (dollars)	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	
<b>Total annual property tax (dollars)</b>	<b>\$1,437.74</b>	<b>\$3,005.74</b>	<b>109.10%</b>
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE (Water, sewer, electricity, gasoline and property tax)</b>	<b>\$4,260.52</b>	<b>\$7,944.36</b>	<b>86.50%</b>

**MATSON FUEL SUR-**

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