# City and County of Honolulu – State DOH Workshop

November 12, 2020

# Key Statistics – City and County of Honolulu

- 1st City's NPDES MS4 Permit issued in 1994
- Current permit (5th) went into effect on 9/1/2020
- Population:  974,673 (U.S. Census Bureau - 2019)
- Housing Units:  354,677 (Hawaii DBEDT – 2019)
- City Issued Permits: More than 30,000/permits/yr

Photo of Halawa Valley

# Oahu has a large, complex system:

- **10** City & County Departments
- **309** current FTEs plus @**154** unfilled positions
- Large and complex system
- Federal, state & local responsibilities including homeless encampment clean-up; federal MS4 permit compliance
- Administration of *Rules Relating to Water Quality*
- $25 million/year capital asset renewal & replacement need

## OAHU'S STORM WATER SYSTEM BY THE NUMBERS

**190,000 linear feet**/yr of drainline inspections and maintenance

**36,000 miles**/yr of street sweeping

**27,946** catch basins

**~4,000** green infrastructure features to maintain – with more to come

**>2,000** construction projects inspected

**1,563 miles** of culverts

**1,553 miles** of drainage pipe

**361 enforcement actions** in 2019

**~100 streams** require cleaning

**97** City industrial facilities

**AVERAGE ANNUAL PROGRAM COST: $91.6 MILLION**

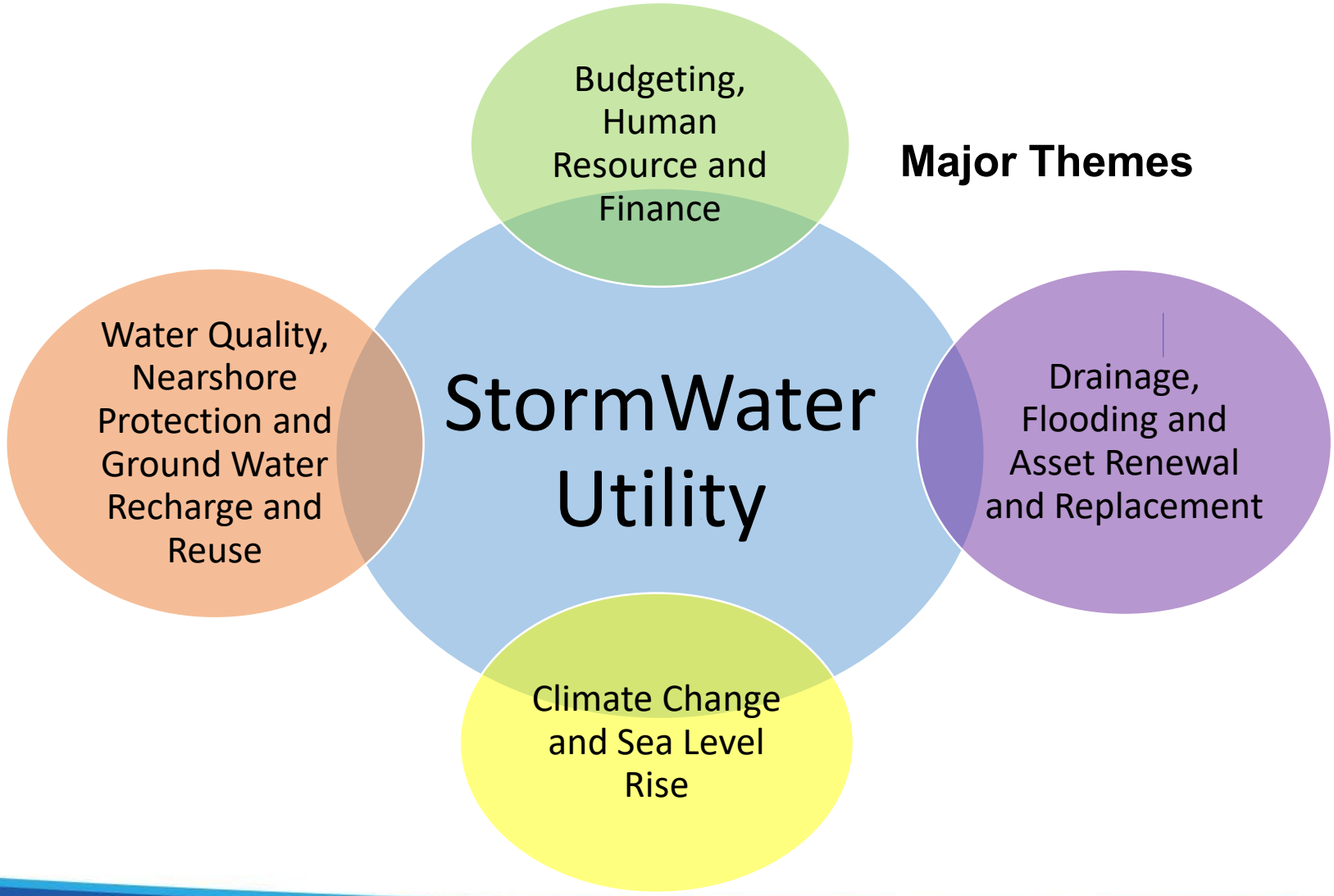
**FUNDING: $70 mil. property tax + $22 mil. Highway Fund**

*AECOM Cost of Service Study, 2019*

# Significant Challenges…


# Great Opportunity…

## Storm Water Master Plan



# Mission Statement

*"Storm Water Quality Division's (SWQ) mission is to empower and provide guidance on minimizing our impact on water quality in order to protect public health and the environment. SWQ works with City departments as well as public businesses, agencies, and individuals to foster shared responsibility for protection of our wai (water)."*

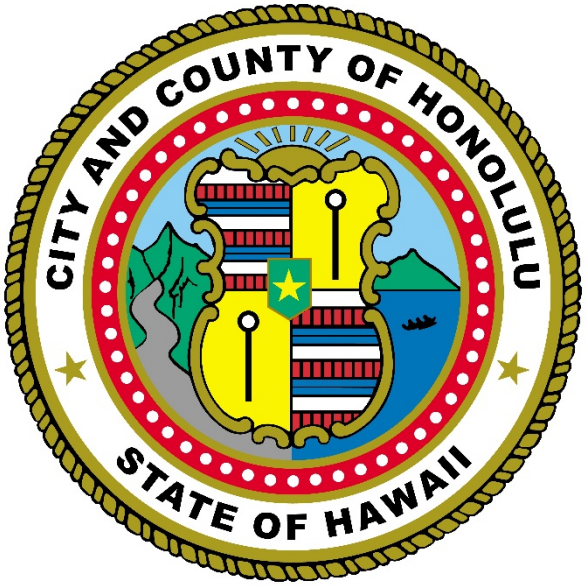
Photo from Kuliouou Valley

# Storm Water Management: A Collective Responsibility















# Guiding Principles

Fresh Water Initiative

Oahu's Resiliency Strategy

Storm Water Utility


# Storm Water Stakeholder Advisory Group

## What does a Storm Water Utility mean for O'ahu?

HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
*Amplify the Power of Giving*

### CLEAN WATER
Managing storm water runoff
Improved water quality
Pollution prevention

### HEALTHY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT
Conservation mauka to makai
Clean stream channels
Protecting ocean waters

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Deciding how funds are spent
Ensuring accountability
Meeting community needs

### SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
Everyone pays a fair share
Everyone can get credits
Everyone makes a difference

# Why Adopt a Storm Water Fee Approach?

- Predictable & **stable funding** to address challenges with sufficient year-over-year staffing, equipment
- Facilitates current and future **permit compliance**, long-range **planning**, & leveraging **grants**
- Supports **debt service** to make consistent investments in capital projects, asset renewal
- **Transparency**; Special Fund can be separately audited & reported
- Creates **public awareness** of storm water services and impacts
- In many high-performing programs: Improved **customer support** and **rebates/grants for green infrastructure**

# Mahalo to our Storm Water Utility Team!

Birchline Planning LLC
Great Waters + Great Communities

AECOM

JACOBS®

HASTINGS & PLEADWELL LLC
A Communication Company

G70

KEARNS WEST

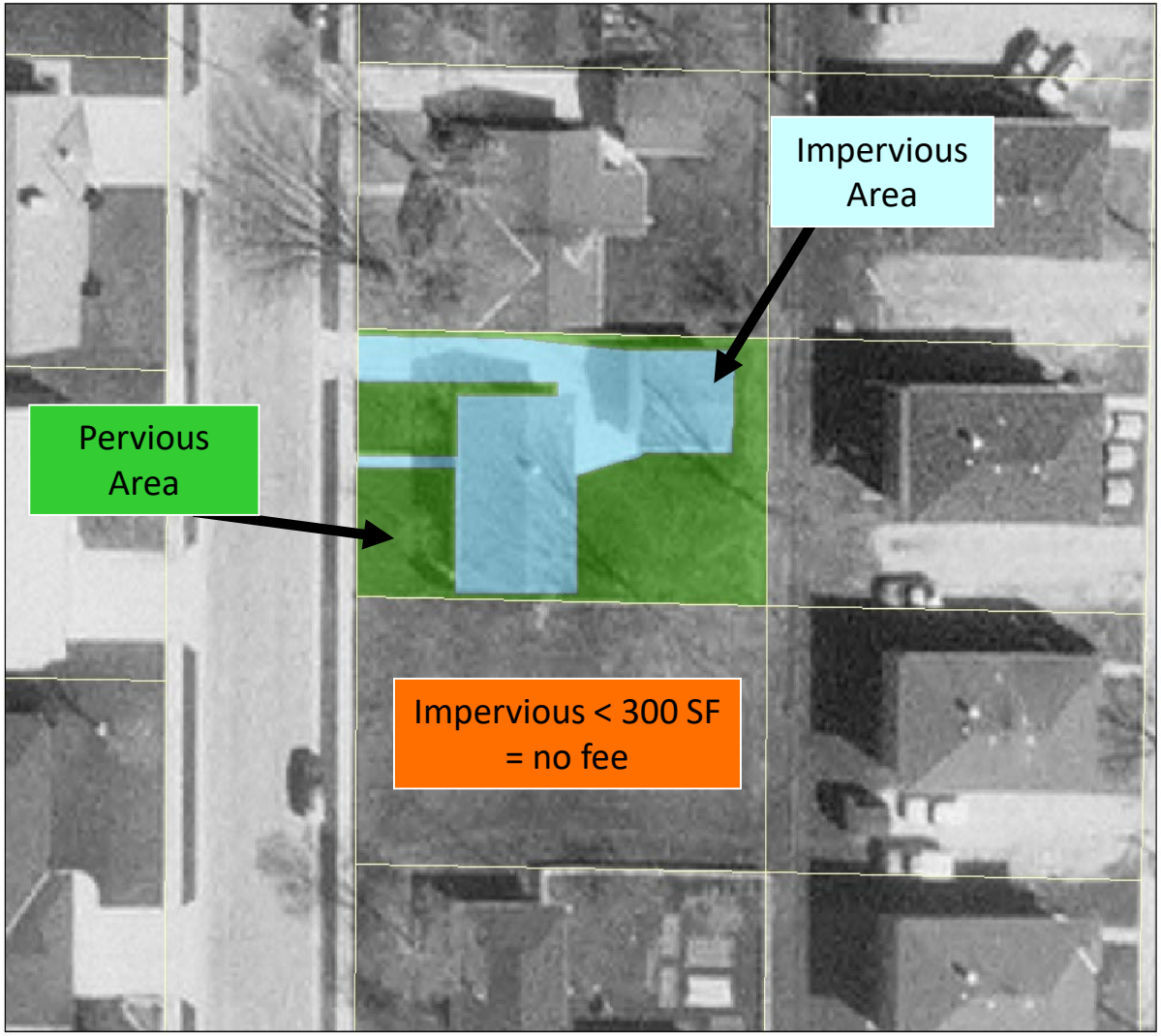
# What is a Storm Water "Utility"?

- Changes **HOW** the City & County of Honolulu funds storm water-related services
  - *Uses **fees instead of property taxes***
  - ***All properties pay** – taxable and non-taxable, including government-owned properties*
  - *All revenue & expenses in a **Special Fund***
  - *Fees must relate to the **Cost of Service***
  - ***Credits** must be given for actions that capture or reduce runoff*
- Does *not* establish a new agency or department
- Does *not* affect land use regulations (zoning) or allowed density/coverage

# How are storm water fees calculated?

***Fees reflect the amount (measured square feet) of Impervious Area on each parcel***

***Vacant parcels and sites with less than 300 SF of impervious area do not pay a fee, regardless of area or taxable value***




# How Are Storm Water Fees Calculated?

Storm water fees are based on the actual **number of square feet of Impervious Area** (roofs, parking lots, hard surfaces) on a parcel (lot).


<u>Fees are NOT determined by</u>:

- Lot area (size)
- Lot coverage (% impervious)
- Type of land use
- Building height
- Tax classification
- Taxable value

# Feasibility Study Process, 2019-2020

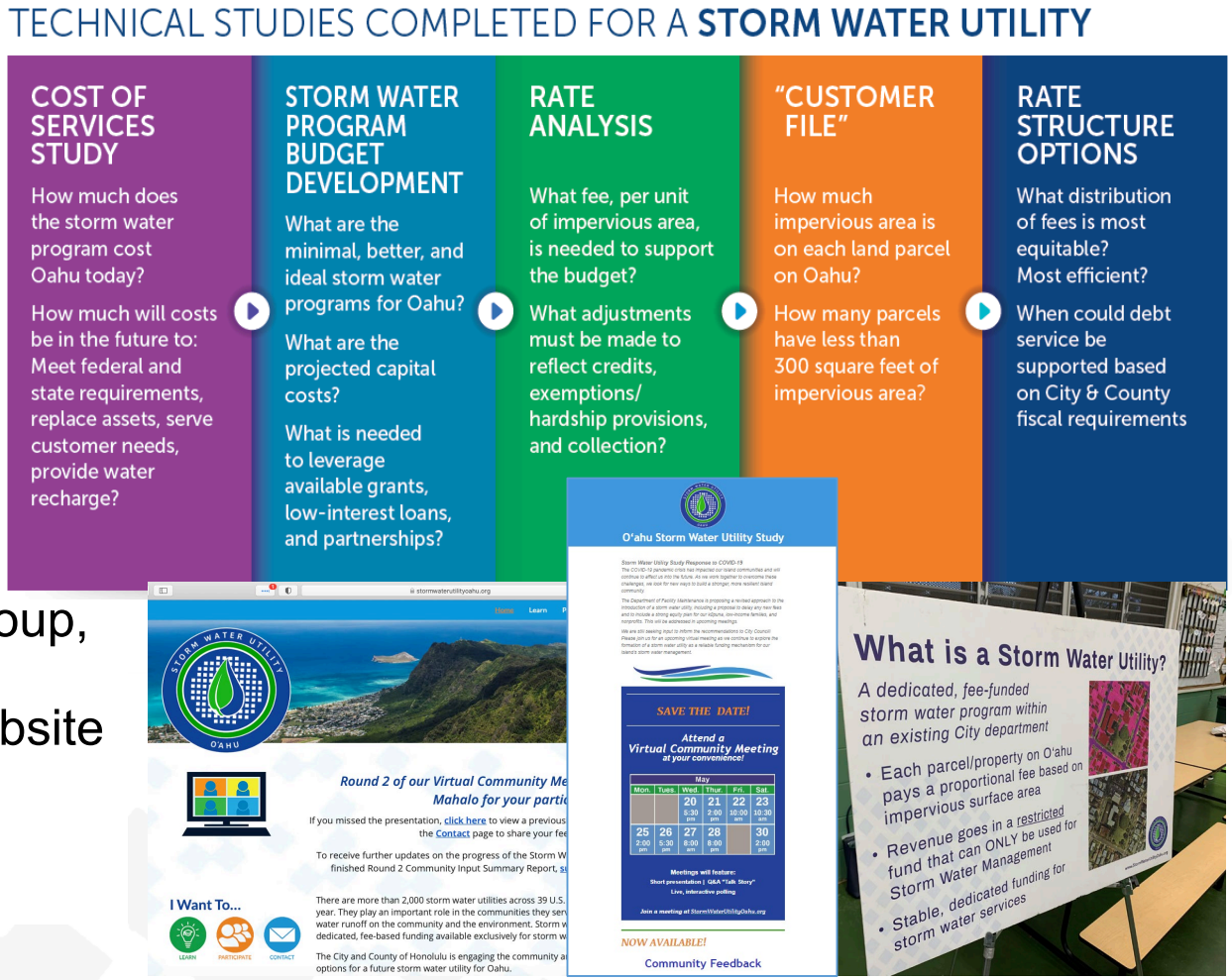
## (1) Technical Studies

Cost of service/ needs assessment, program budgets, fees & credit options

## (2) Community Engagement

Stakeholder Advisory Group, Community Meetings, Focused Outreach & Website

## (3) Findings & Recommendations

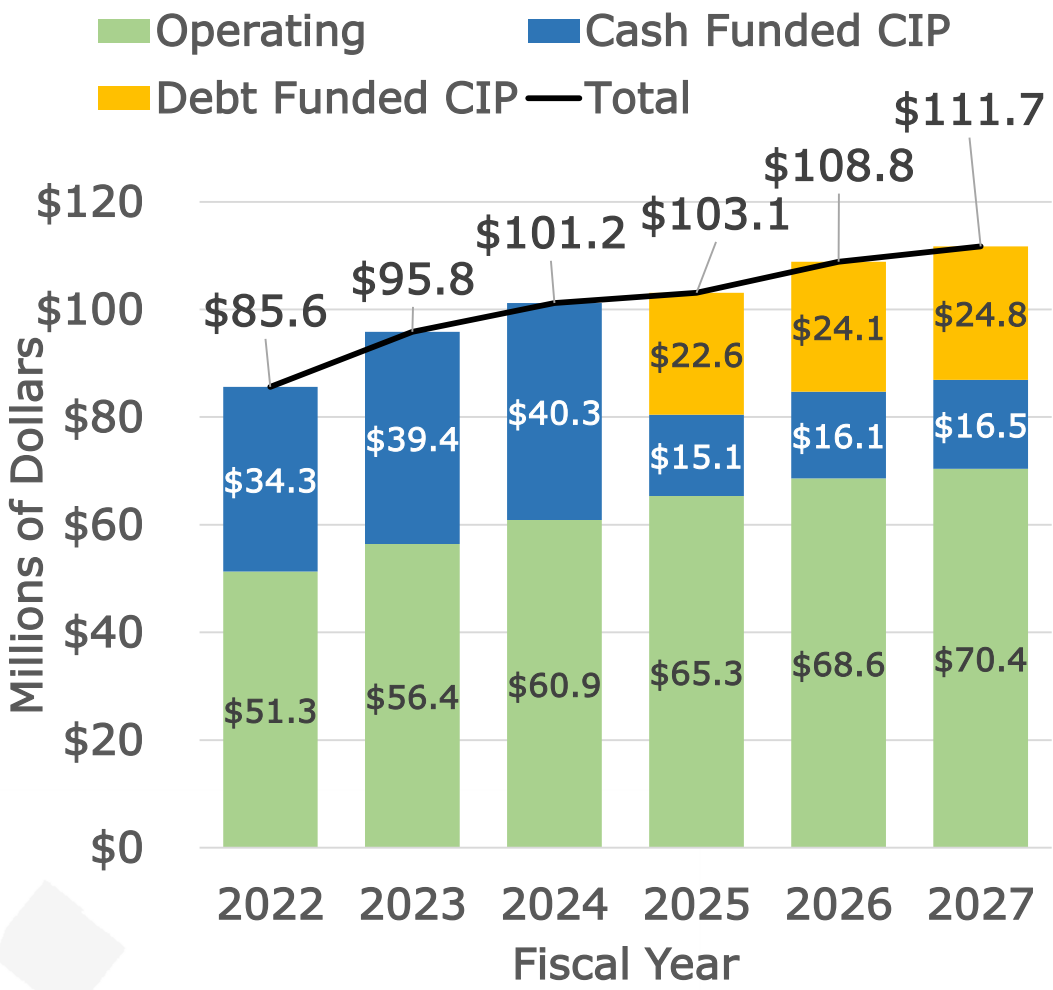


# Proposed Program Budget

- Storm water fee fixed for first 6 years
- Phases in hiring and program expenses
- Includes start-up and ongoing administrative costs
- Includes allowance for credits, non-payment

Start consistent capital investment:

- Issuance of $73 million in revenue bonds for capital projects
- $25 million/year dedicated asset renewal & replacement




Annual Average, 1st 6 FY: $96.7 m (2020 dollars)
"Steady State" at full hiring: $101.7m (2020 dollars)

# Key Study Recommendations:

1. **Advance a Proposal** for a Storm Water Utility to the City Council
   - Bill for an Ordinance to Establish a Special Fund
   - Bill for an Ordinance to Establish and Charge a Fee

2. Set a **fixed fee for the first six fiscal years** of the fee-based program, to fund the "Plan C" budget
   - Estimated fee: $4.85/1,000 SF Impervious Area/Month
   - Funds gradual increase towards "Steady State" budget of $102 million/year

3. Develop a **credit manual** based on treatment of the water quality volume, plus additional options for receiving fee reductions

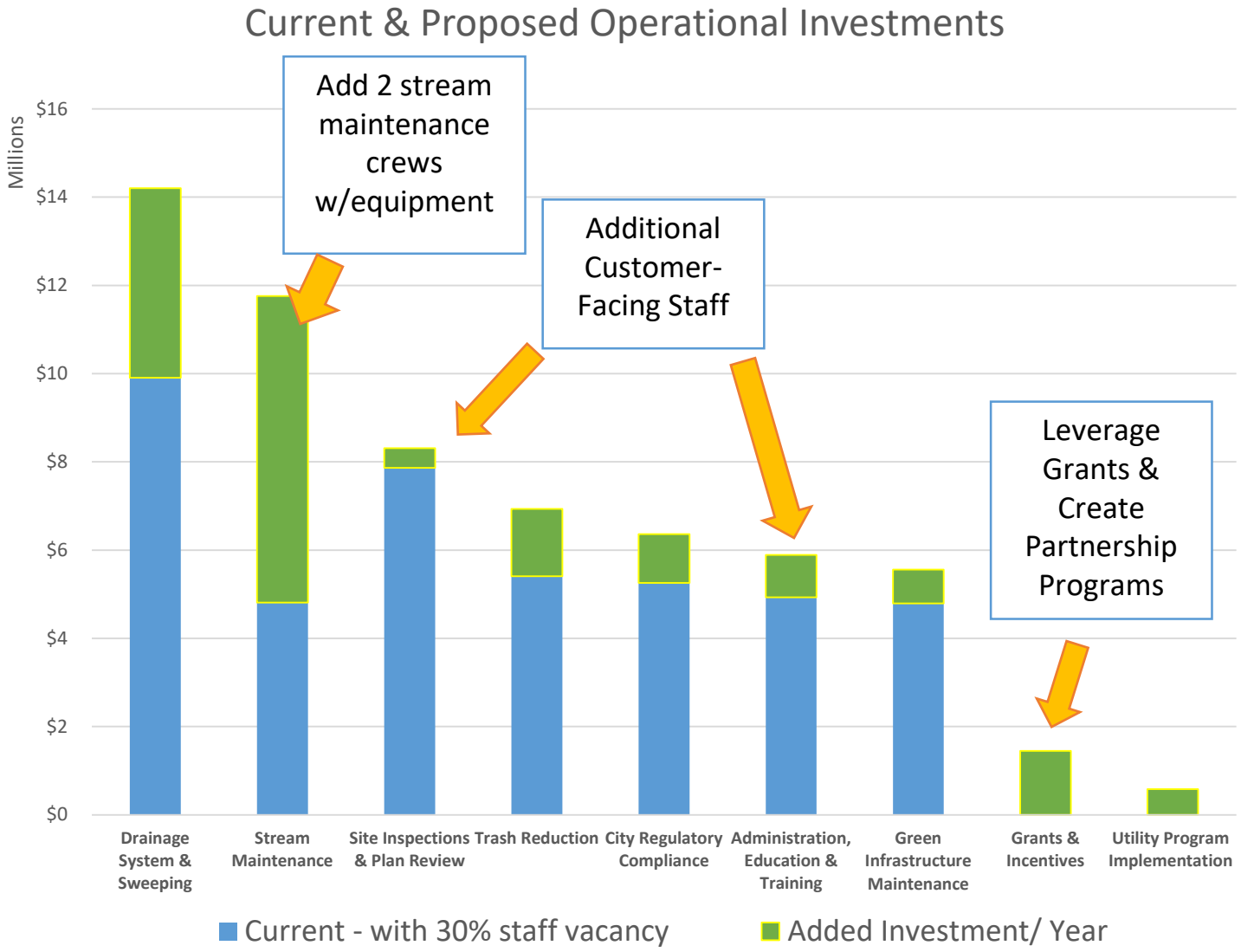
4. **Exempt public and "quasi-public" roads** (i.e. those open to public travel and eligible for DFM maintenance, even if privately owned)

5. **Invest** in proactive maintenance of the storm water system, customer-facing positions, and green infrastructure incentives

6. Continue the **Stakeholder Advisory Group**

*What Benefit Will Citizens See from this Change?*

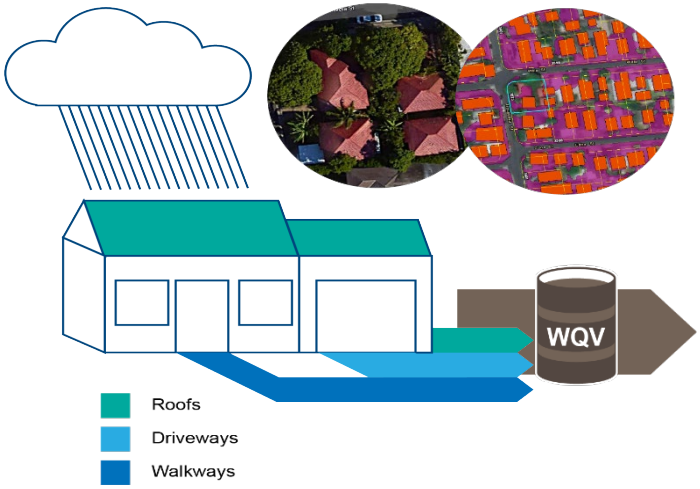
Current vs. Proposed Operating Expenses



# Water Quality Volume Credits: Up to 60% Bill Reduction (+ Off-Site Treatment)

*****BMPs for compliance with the Rules Relating to Water Quality will be eligible for storm water fee credits***

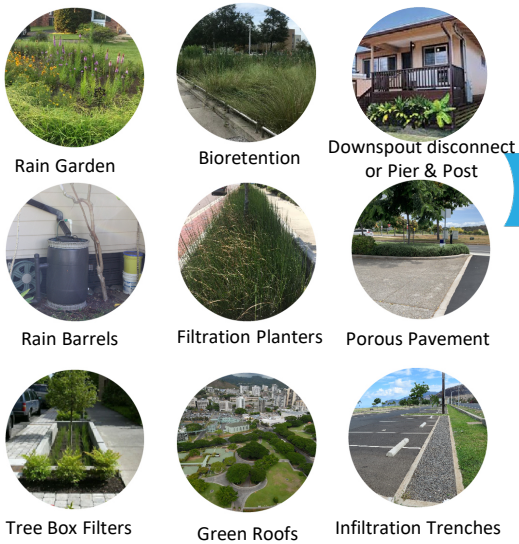
**Step 1**
For each property calculate the WQV required for the site (the volume of runoff from 1 inch of rainfall).



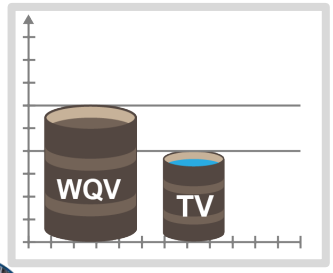

**WQV** = Water Quality Volume
= 1-inch of runoff from all impervious area
= Required Volume for your site to receive maximum credit

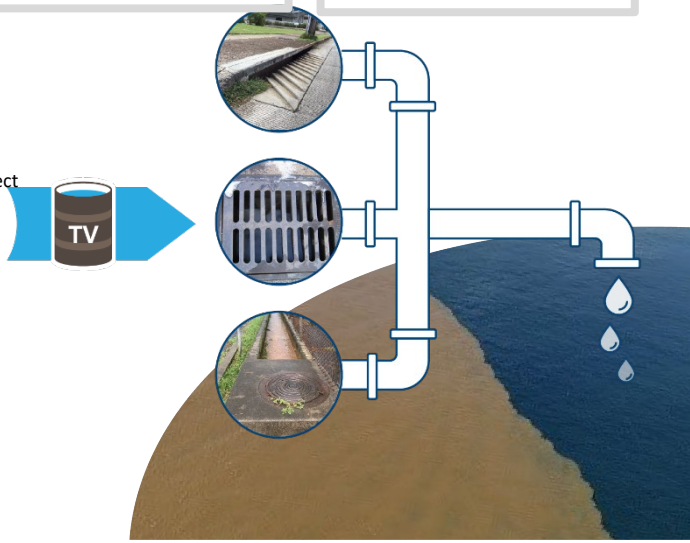
**Step 2**
Determine TV (treatment volume), the total volume that is captured by stormwater devices on the site.

**TV** = Treatment Volume
= total volume treated by various stormwater devices on your site




**Step 3**
Determine credit for your site, as a ratio of total treatment volume provided to water quality volume required (TV/WQV) times the maximum credit allowed (60%).



# www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org


Frequently Asked Questions

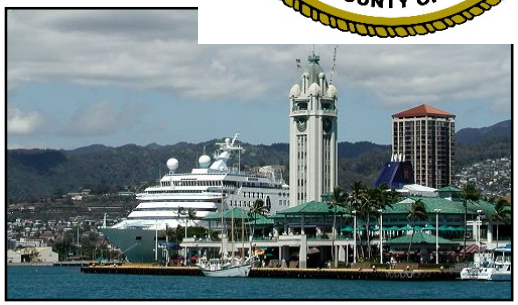
Rain — millions of gallons — flushes down rooftops, streets and other hard surfaces collecting dirt, debris, trash, and more pollutants along the way. Then, as storm water, it makes its way into ditches, drains, and channels that flow into streams and the ocean.

## www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com

# Insights and Lessons Learned

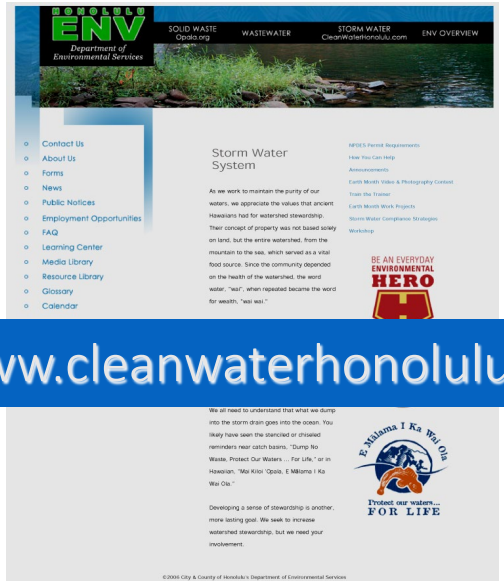
- Regulators can be your ally
- Using your NPDES MS4 Permit to your advantage
- Important to identify a Champion early and gaining the support of your Management and Administration
- Public Outreach and Timely Communication is key
  - Still trying to figure out effectives ways of reaching certain demographics and under represented communities
  - Need to do a better job of educating the media and elected officials so that constituents are not getting mixed messages
- Stakeholder Advisory Groups are a good sounding board and provide a pulse of where your direction is heading towards.
  - Selection of representatives is critical to ensure consistency and leveraging of resources
- Storm Water Utility provides future opportunities and possibilities of functioning as a true comprehensive storm water management program
  - Change from basic Permit Compliance and Emergency Response to customer centric
  - Asset Management (i.e. Infrastructure Renewal and Replacement)
  - Long Range Planning (i.e. Storm Water Master Plan-Green Infrastructure Plan)
  - Workforce Development

# QUESTIONS



# THANK YOU

**For More Information:**




www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com

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**Department of Facility Maintenance**

Environmental Concern Line

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