

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROJECT PRIORITY SYSTEM

I. GENERAL POLICY

The State priority system comprises the criteria and method used to rank wastewater pollution control projects considered eligible for SRF funding assistance. The Department of Health (DOH) gives high priority to projects protecting water quality and contributing to the Green Project Reserve and/or sustainability issues such as water reuse, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmentally innovative technologies. DOH also funds projects to achieve compliance with enforcement issues and considers the need for the project.

II. PROJECT PRIORITY LIST AND PROJECT SELECTION

The loan applicant submits a *Proposed Project for SRF Funding Form* (Form D-1 in Appendix D) for each new project to be considered for funding. The applicant provides a project description and checks off all criteria applicable to the project. Each criterion is assigned a specific number of points. The points for each project are totaled and eligible projects are compiled into an SRF project priority list in the order of a project's ranking, with highest priority going to those projects with the highest number of points.

Generally, proposed projects will be prioritized in the following order:

1. Water quality protection projects that correct surface water quality impairment or eliminate/prevent ground water contamination.
2. Green Infrastructure projects which promote water reuse, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sludge reuse, sustainable infrastructure, and/or other environmentally innovative technologies.
3. Enforcement-related projects which are necessary to achieve compliance with a federal or state compliance issue, consent decree, or court order.
4. The need for a project is also considered. Specific points are awarded for secondary treatment, sewer rehabilitation, non-point source issues, and stormwater management.

Project selection is based on the project's ranking, the project's readiness to proceed to construction, and the amount of funds available for the particular fiscal year. If additional SRF funds are available later in the fiscal year, projects are selected for funding from the current priority list. A project on the priority list may be bypassed if the project is not ready to proceed when funding is available.

III. RANKING PROJECTS WITH AN EQUAL NO. OF POINTS

In the event that two or more projects have the same number of points (often the case with sewer line repair projects) project selection will be based on the following tie-breaking criteria:

1. First criterion: Priority given to the project whose county has not had an SRF project selected for funding. If this applies to more than one county, the second criterion will be used.
2. Second criterion: Project serving the largest population will have priority.

IV. INTENDED USE PLAN

The priority list and selection of projects intended to be funded is included in an annual Intended Use Plan (IUP) which describes the intended use of federal and state funds available to the program for the upcoming fiscal year.

The IUP is subject to a 30-day public comment period during which time the public is encouraged to participate and comment on the IUP. At the conclusion of the comment period, DOH may revise the IUP as necessary, depending on comments received. The final IUP is then provided to all loan applicants and to the EPA.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE OF CRITICAL DATES

**FOR THE PRIORITY LIST/
INTENDED USE PLAN PROCESS**

October 15:

DOH requests all applicants to submit a list of proposed projects to be included on the Priority List (PL) and the Intended Use Plan (IUP).

November 15:

Applicants submit their list of proposed projects to DOH to be included in the PL and IUP.

December 1:

DOH prepares a draft Priority List and IUP, and publishes a public notice soliciting public comment on the draft IUP.

January 1 - February 1:

Public review and comment period for the PL/IUP.

February 15:

PL and IUP are finalized.

June 30:

Last day for DOH and EPA to negotiate the capitalization grant agreement based in part on the PL/IUP.

July 1 - July 30:

Capitalization grant application is revised if necessary.

August 1:

Deadline for submittal of capitalization grant application to EPA.

October 15:

EPA issues capitalization grant to DOH.