



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUN 28 2004

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. These tiny particles – about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair – have been scientifically linked to serious human health problems. Their ability to be suspended in air for long periods of time makes them a public health threat far beyond the source of emissions. An important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air deals with reducing levels of this fine-particle or PM2.5 pollution.

In February, Hawaii submitted its recommended boundaries for PM2.5 attainment and nonattainment areas. This letter is to inform you that at this time the EPA agrees with your recommendation that the entire State of Hawaii be designated attainment/unclassifiable. We intend to make our final designations in November.

The Bush Administration has made the reduction of fine-particle pollution a critical element of a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines. This rule is an important component of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards, and will allow many areas of the country to achieve cleaner air.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM2.5 standard. Should you have any questions, I invite you to contact me or have your staff call Deborah Jordan (415-947-8715) at our Regional Air Office. Again, we congratulate you on the clean air fine-particle status that Hawaii has achieved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Nasti", written over a white background.

Wayne Nasti
Regional Administrator

cc: Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D., Director of Health
Wilfred Nagamine, Clean Air Branch, Department of Health