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GARDEN ISLE
OCT 23 1992

Yukimura says she will sign sewer bill

LIHU'E—Mayor JoAnn Yukimura said yesterday that she has "no problem" with a bill that would suspend sewer fees for all residents for two months and would extend that deferral until December to residents who because of hurricane damage are not using their sewer system.

"I believe the waiver is merited and we want to do everything we can to assist our residents at this time," Yukimura said.

The mayor also announced that the active military would be leaving today. According to Task Force Commander, Col. Edward Correa, approximately 150 troops left the island throughout the week. The last group left this morning.

"They're finished over here," Correa said.

The majority of active military had been involved with Operation Garden and Final Sweep. About 2,500 troops were stationed on

Kaua'i at the height of the active military involvement.

Task force members will be here at least through Nov. 7 "depending on the need," said Correa. The mayor said National Guard troops will remain on the island for another two weeks.

In other hurricane news:

□ The county is closer to signing a contract with the Keith Companies, a local firm hired to operate the Office of Emergency Permits

and the Office of Emergency Permitting. The OEP is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

□ Operation Final Sweep has been completed in Kekaha/Waimea, Hanapepe, Koloa/Po'ipu, Haena/Hanalei/Princeville. As of yesterday, crews were finishing up in Wailua/Kapa'a. Debris should be segregated and deposited on the roadside. Hazardous wastes should not be included.

□ Fifty-eight percent of power

has been restored; around 50 workers are currently working around the island, she said.

□ Phone service is up to 73 percent.

□ The county will be holding a meeting for non-profits whose facilities were damaged during the hurricane on Monday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Lihou Plantation conference room. FEI

(See Mayor on Page 2)

Mayor (Continued from Page 1)

representatives will be present to explain available aid for organizations in this category.

□ The Department of Health is testing kids ages 5 to 10 for lead. Testing is done at Lihou'e at the

health department from 9 a.m. to noon and in Hanapepe at the health center (across from Green Garden Restaurant) from 2 to 4 p.m.

□ Thursday, Nov. 12 is the dead-

line for all SBA applications.

□ The county is currently doing a survey on damage to the island's infrastructure. The information will be used to qualify for federal aid. No figures are available yet. The

last estimate for total damage on the island was \$1.6 billion.

□ Regular water service has not been restored to Kekaha, Wailua and Hanalei.