

Application: 421

## Anatomy of Wastewater (Children's Book)

Started at: 11/30/2020 12:11 PM - Finalized at: 12/7/2020 01:31 PM

<b>Page: NEAA Nomination Form</b>
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, December 4, 2020, 11:59 pm EST</b>
<b>All fields indicated by a red asterisk (*) Must be completed</b>
<b>Category</b> Public Information & Education: Printed Publication
NOMINATING AGENCY'S INFORMATION
<b>Name &amp; Title of Individual Submitting this Application</b> Markus Owens, Public Information Officer III
<b>Submitting Agency's Name</b> Honolulu Dept. of Environmental Services
<b>Agency Logo - Hi-Res Picture (.eps; jpg; or .png)</b> <a href="#">Download File</a>
<b>Service Area Population of Submitting Agency</b> Island of Oahu (976,372)
PROJECT / INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE'S INFORMATION
<b>Name of Nominated Project / Program or Nominee (as it will appear on the NEAA award)</b> Anatomy of Wastewater (Children's Book)
<b>Has this project / program ever been submitted for NEAA recognition in the past?</b> No
<b>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</b>

**Narrative Description: Project / Program or Individual (attach pdf, limited to 4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt)**

[Download File](#)

**Supplemental Information Included - i.e. images, video, add'l document (Optional)**

Yes

**Supporting Material (PDF, limited to 4 pages)**

No File Uploaded

**Supporting Material - Video (provide link)**

[http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/env/www\\_docs/envbookfinal.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/env/www_docs/envbookfinal.pdf)

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Please attach a third-person article (**350-400 words MS doc**) - something that a layperson would understand, describing your project / program to be posted on the front page of NACWA's website as part of our "Member Spotlight" section.

**Member Spotlight Document (MS Word)**

[Download File](#)

**Member Spotlight Hi-Res Picture (.eps; jpg; or .png)**

[Download File](#)

**Member Spotlight Hi-Res Picture (.eps; .jpg; or .png)**

No File Uploaded

### APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION

Please contact [membership@nacwa.org](mailto:membership@nacwa.org) if you do not know the name of your NACWA Representative (SUBJECT: Who is Our NACWA Primary Contact? (NEAA))

**Signature of Individual Submitting Application (pdf/jpg)**

**Name of Submitting Agency's NACWA Representative**

Timothy Houghton

**Title of Submitting Agency's NACWA Representative**

Deputy Director

**Email of Submitting Agency's NACWA Representative**

thoughton@honolulu.gov

**Signature of Submitting Agency's NACWA Representative (pdf/jpg)**

**Does this Project/Program involve another NACWA Agency?**

No

**Please review your application prior to finalizing. All fields with a red asterisk (\*) must be completed. If you have any questions in regards to submitting your application, please contact [Bredy Trombino](#) at 202.533.1820.**

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is submitting its children's book, *Anatomy of Wastewater*, for consideration in the category "Public Information & Education Award" under NACWA's National Environmental Achievement Awards for 2020.

The children's book was written in-house by ENV's Public Information Officer Markus Owens. All of the graphics, layout and design was handled by the city's Department of Customer Service. The book was revised and reprinted in 2020.

ENV expressed a need to begin educating the public, starting at the elementary school level. The book was placed in almost all of the libraries and elementary schools on Oahu in a durable hardback issue.

The book is handed out at many events and booths promoting the wastewater system.

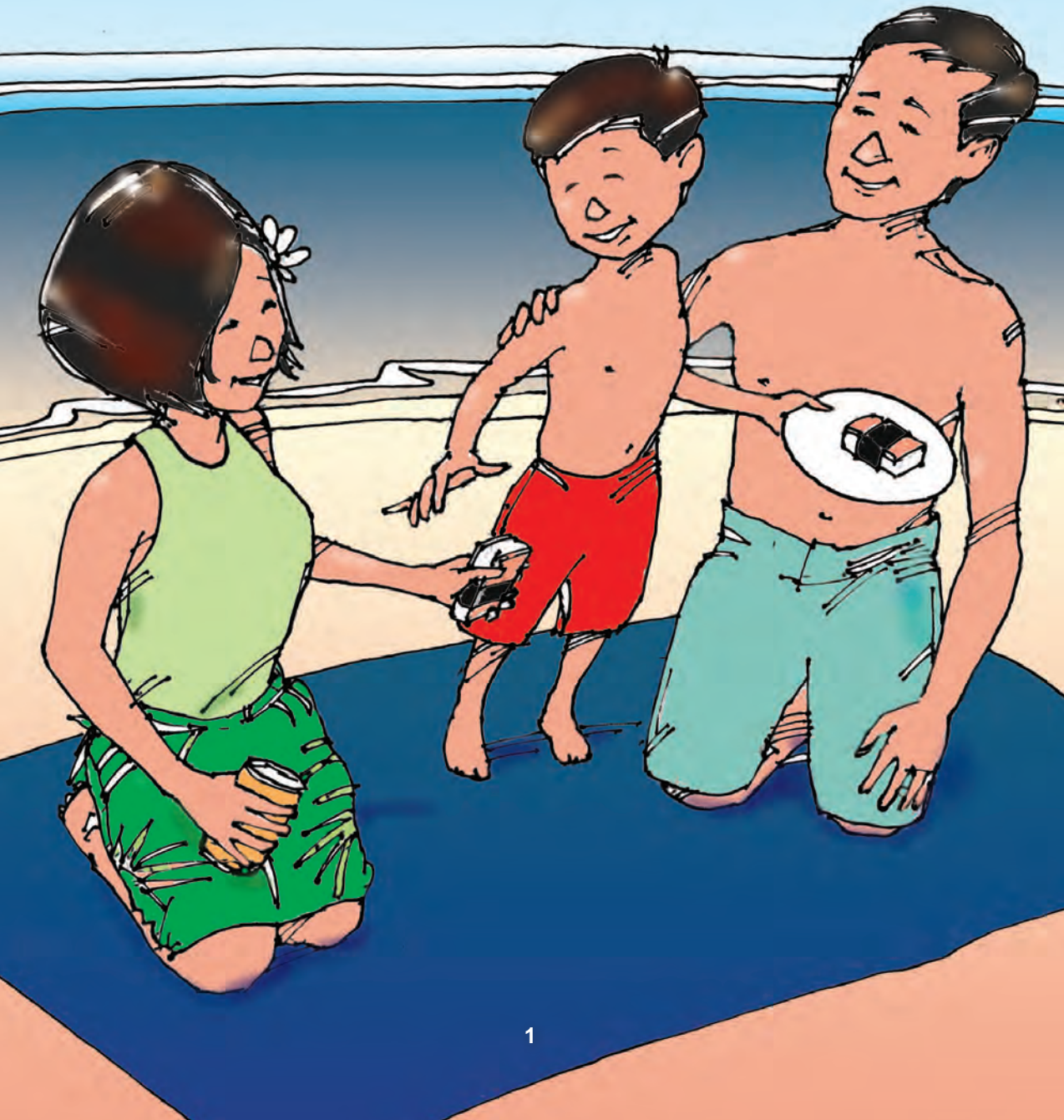
ENV envisions this as just the beginning of educating our keiki (children) so they grow up as good stewards of the environment and have working knowledge of how the island's sewer system works.



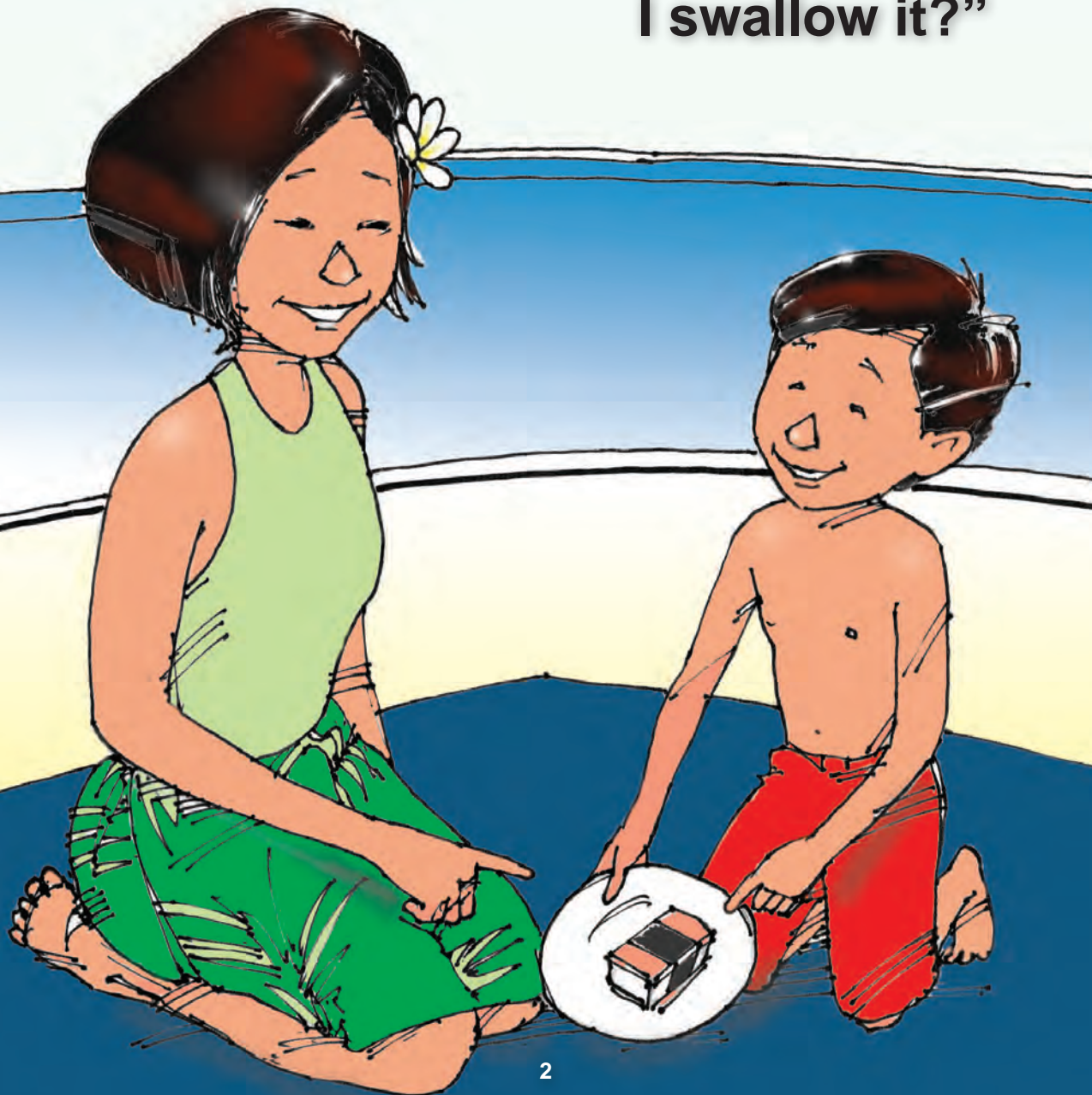
DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



**One sunny day, the Aloha family enjoyed a picnic at Kakaako Park.**

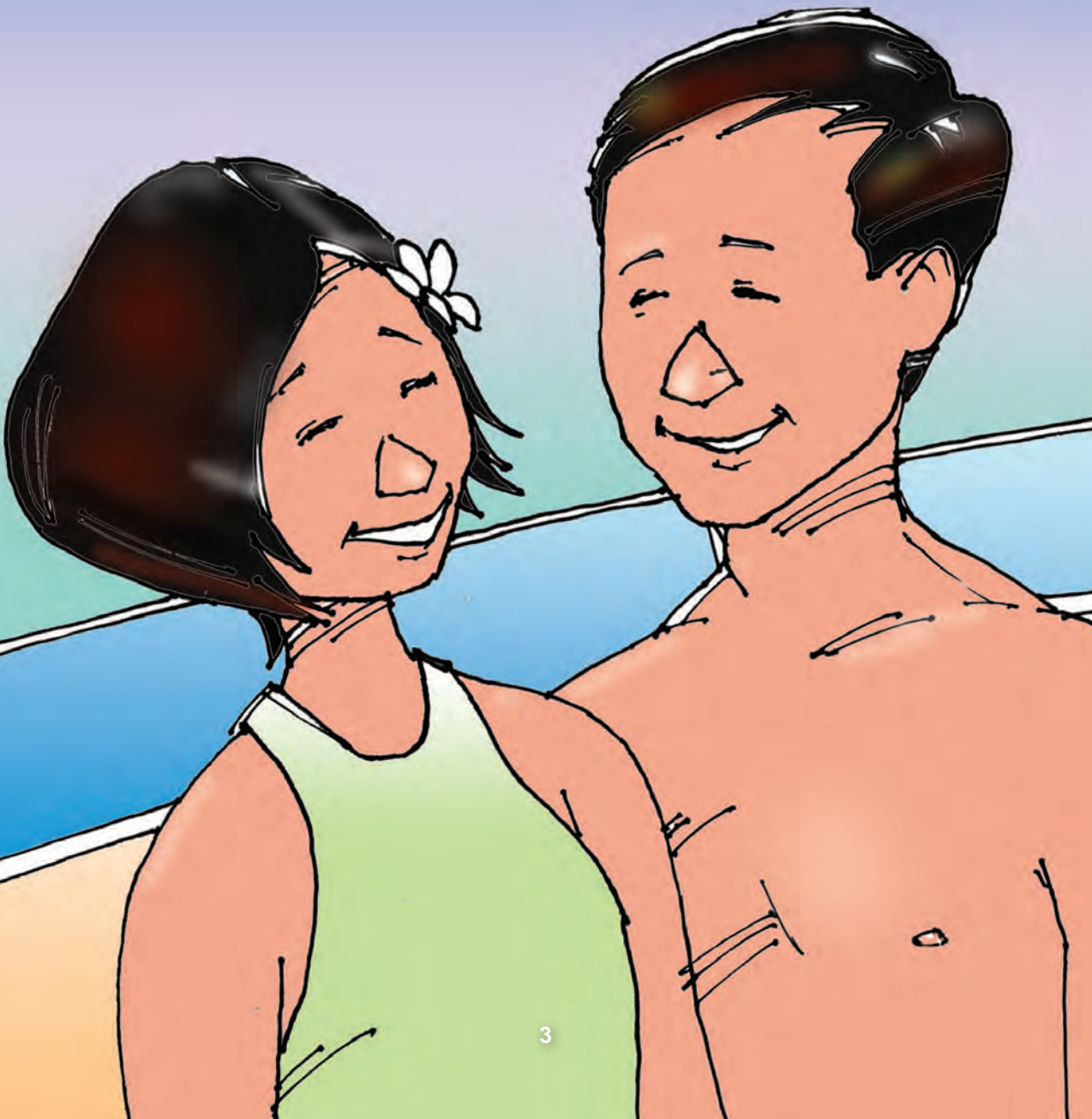


**While the family was eating,  
Kimo asked his mother,  
“Where does my spam  
musubi go once  
I swallow it?”**





His mother, a doctor, and father, a wastewater plant operator, looked at each other and thought how similar their answers would be.

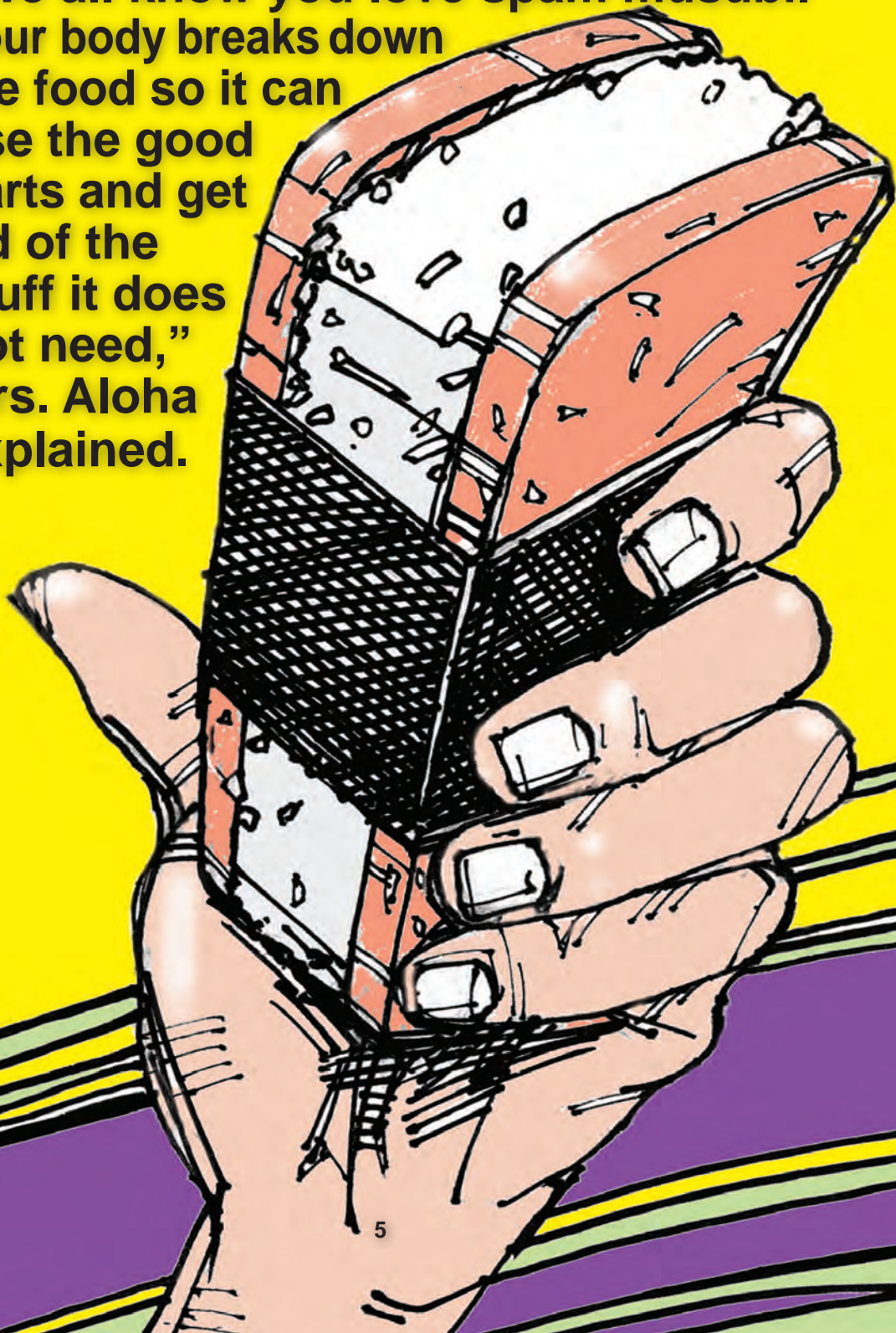




**“Your body, or anatomy, works very similar to the wastewater system,” Mrs. Aloha said.**

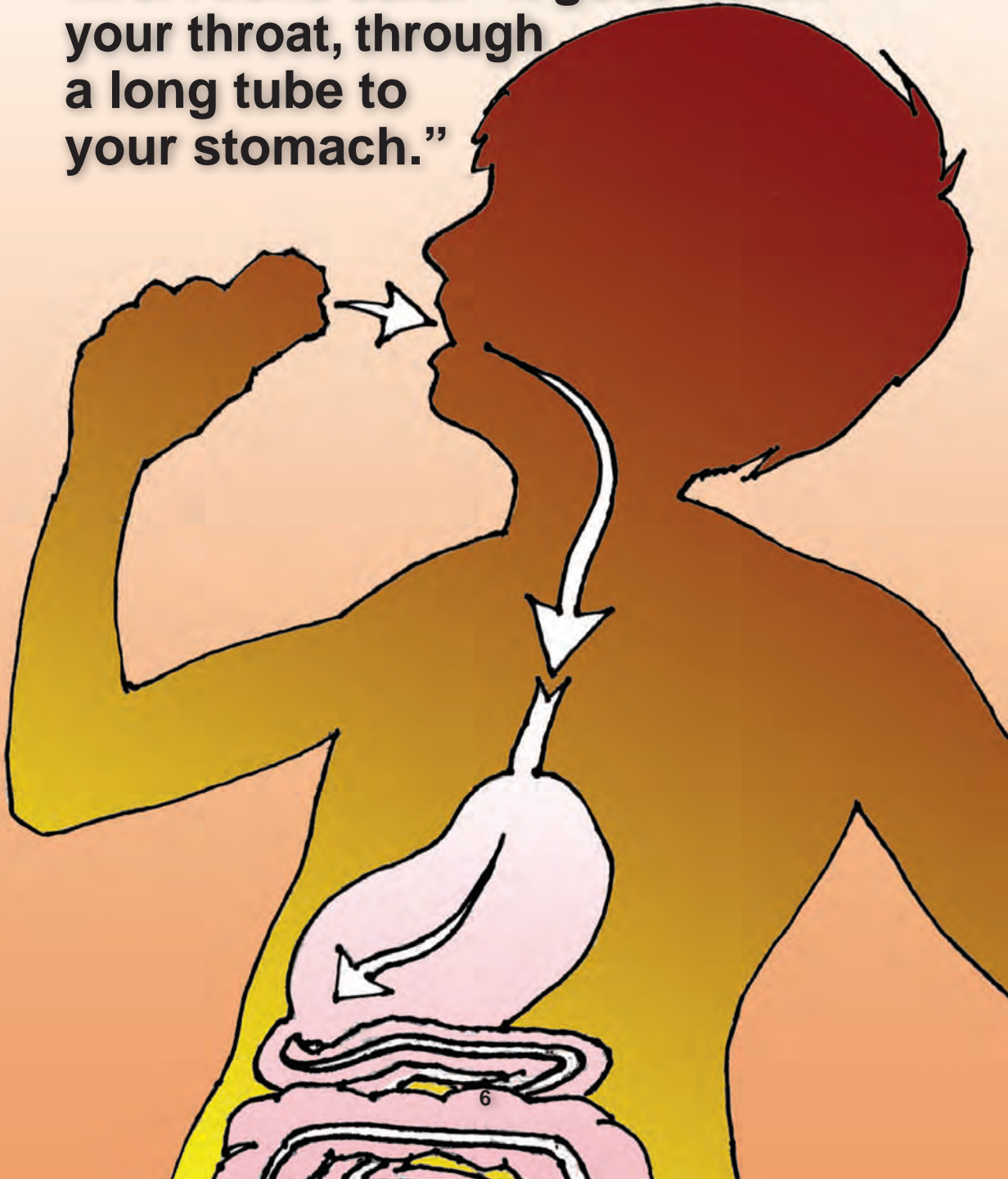


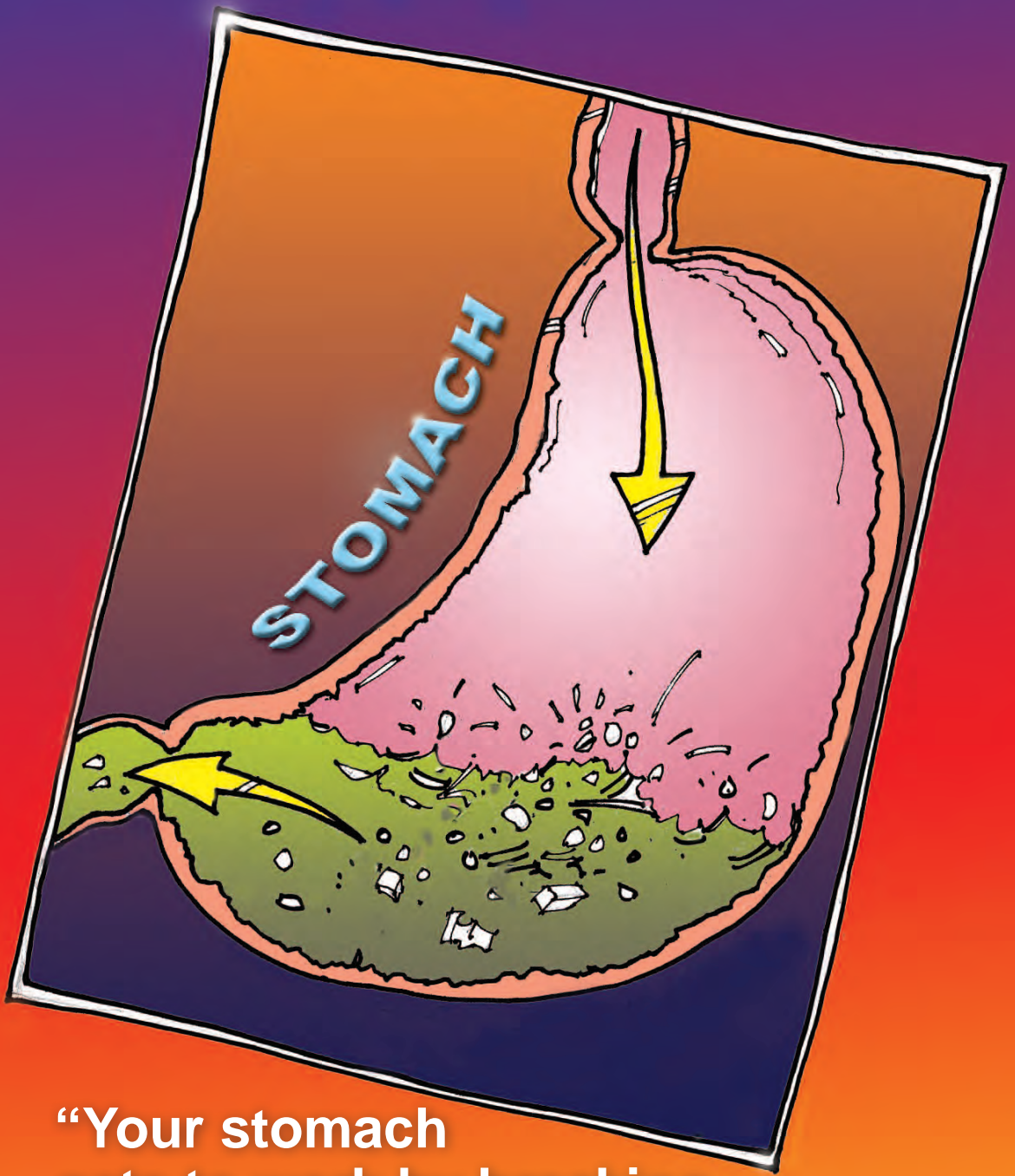
**“We all know you love spam musubi. Your body breaks down the food so it can use the good parts and get rid of the stuff it does not need,” Mrs. Aloha explained.**





**“The process begins when you chew and swallow your food,” Mrs. Aloha said. “It goes down your throat, through a long tube to your stomach.”**

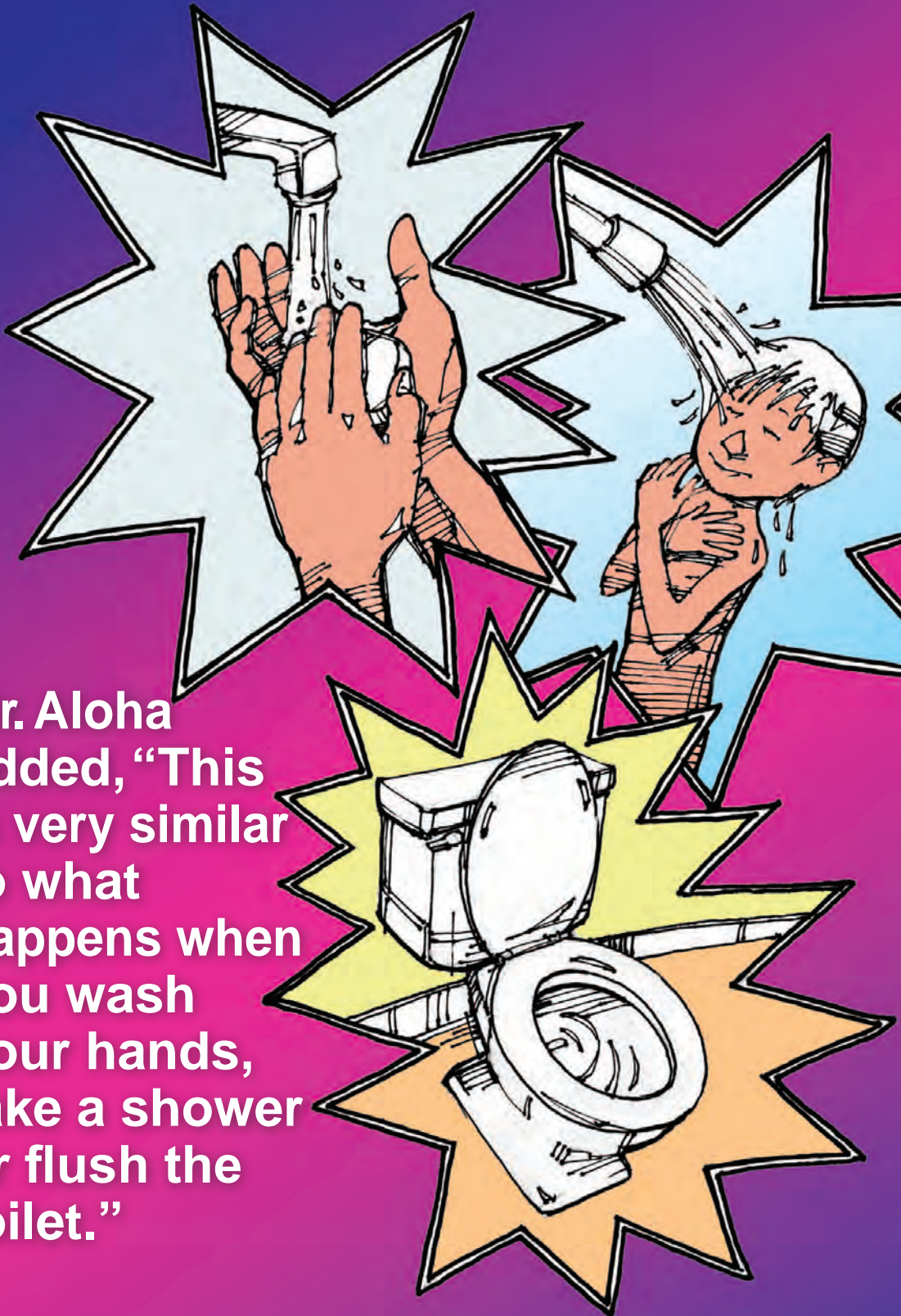


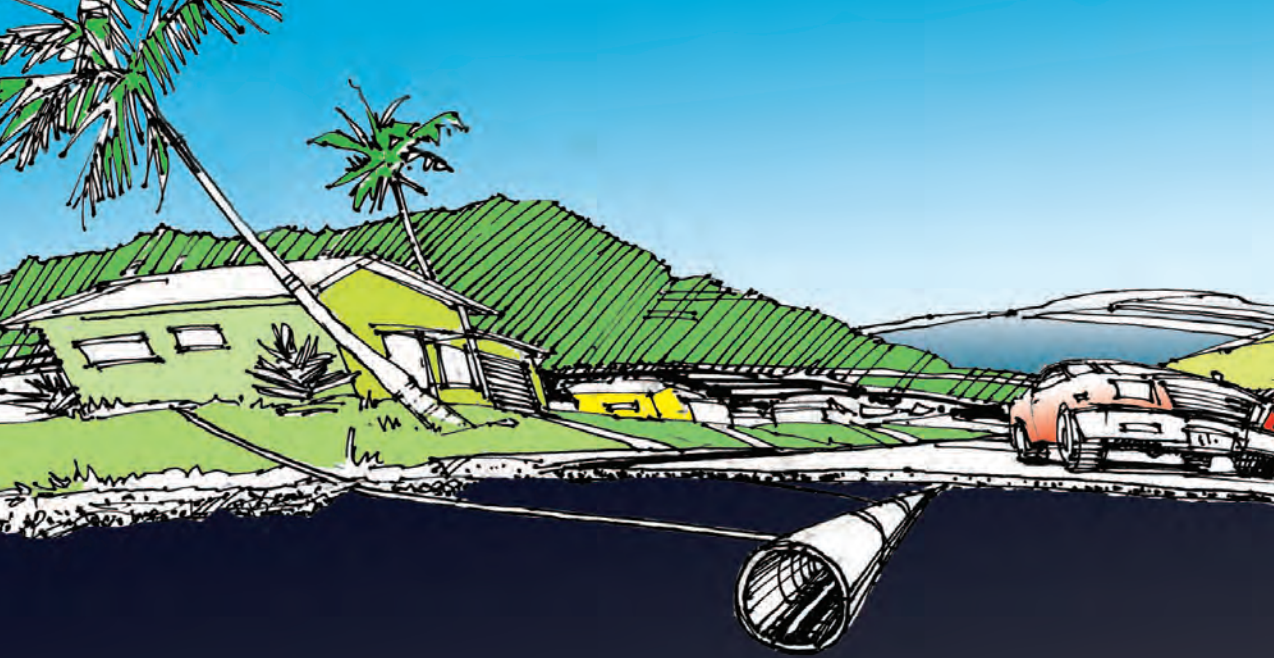


**“Your stomach  
gets to work by breaking  
down your spam musubi with  
chemicals your body produces.”**



**Mr. Aloha added, “This is very similar to what happens when you wash your hands, take a shower or flush the toilet.”**

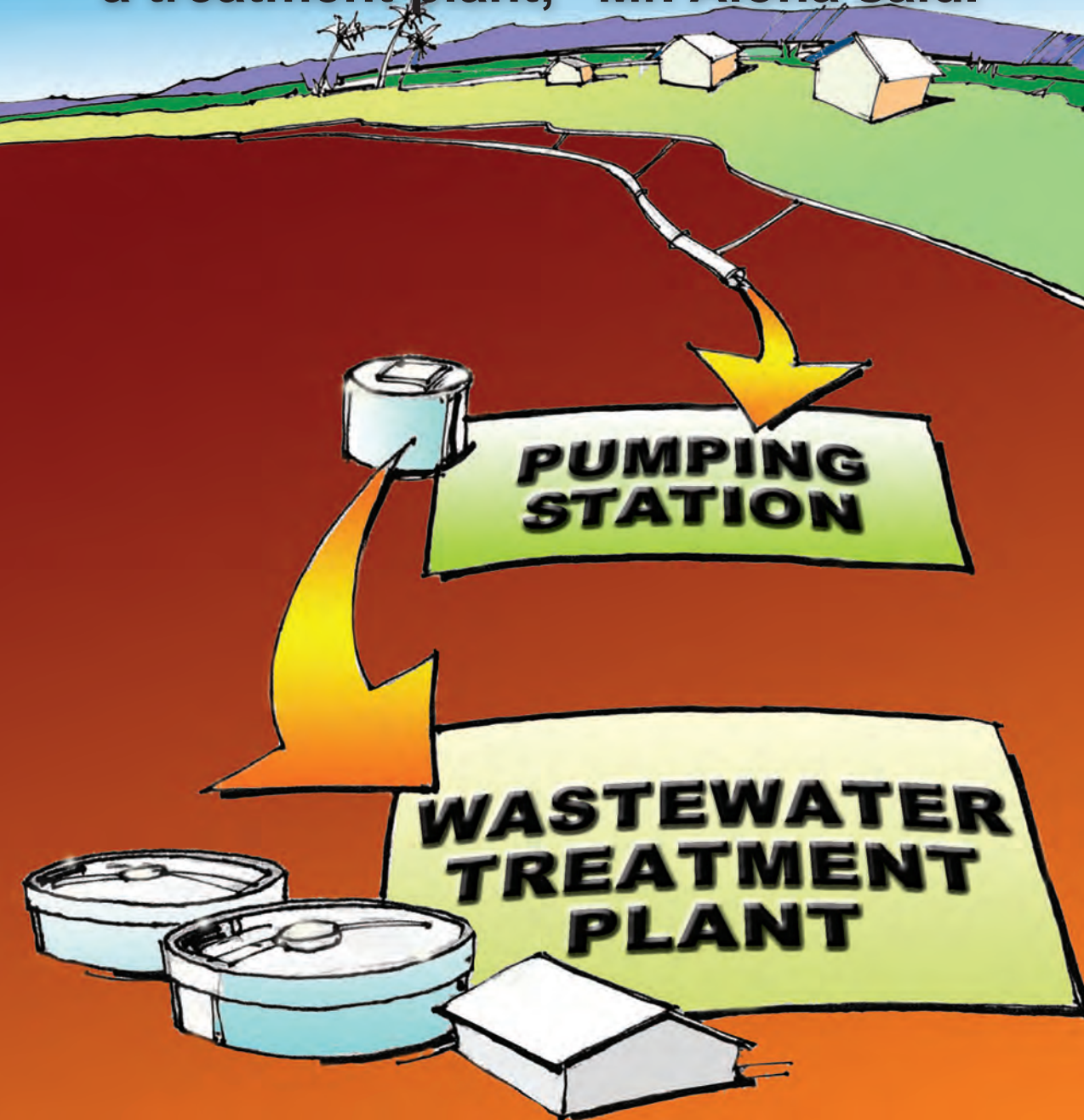


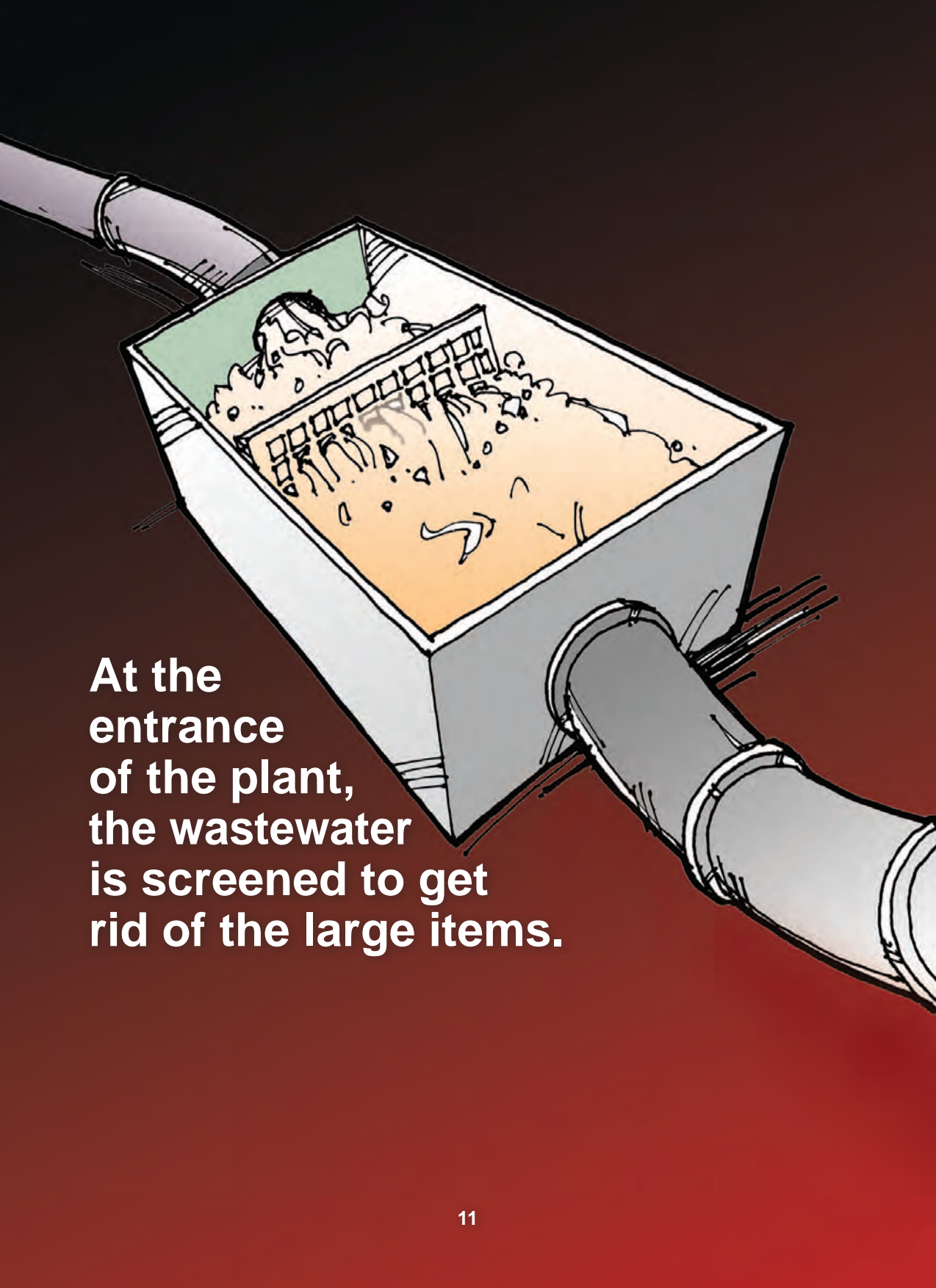


**“The wastewater goes down the drain to a series of pipes usually located under the streets.”**



**“Here on Oahu, the wastewater flows down through the pipes to a treatment plant,” Mr. Aloha said.**

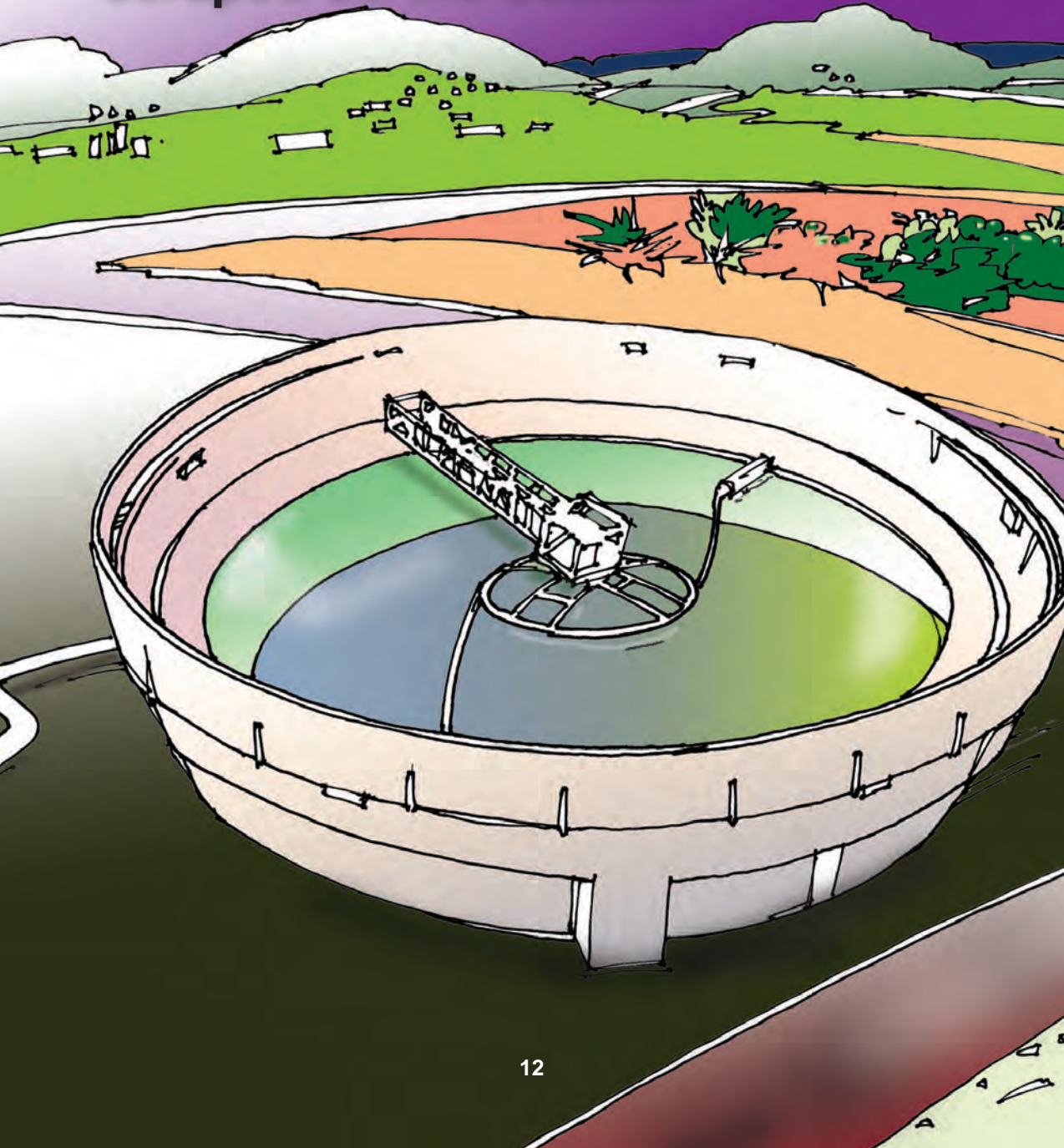




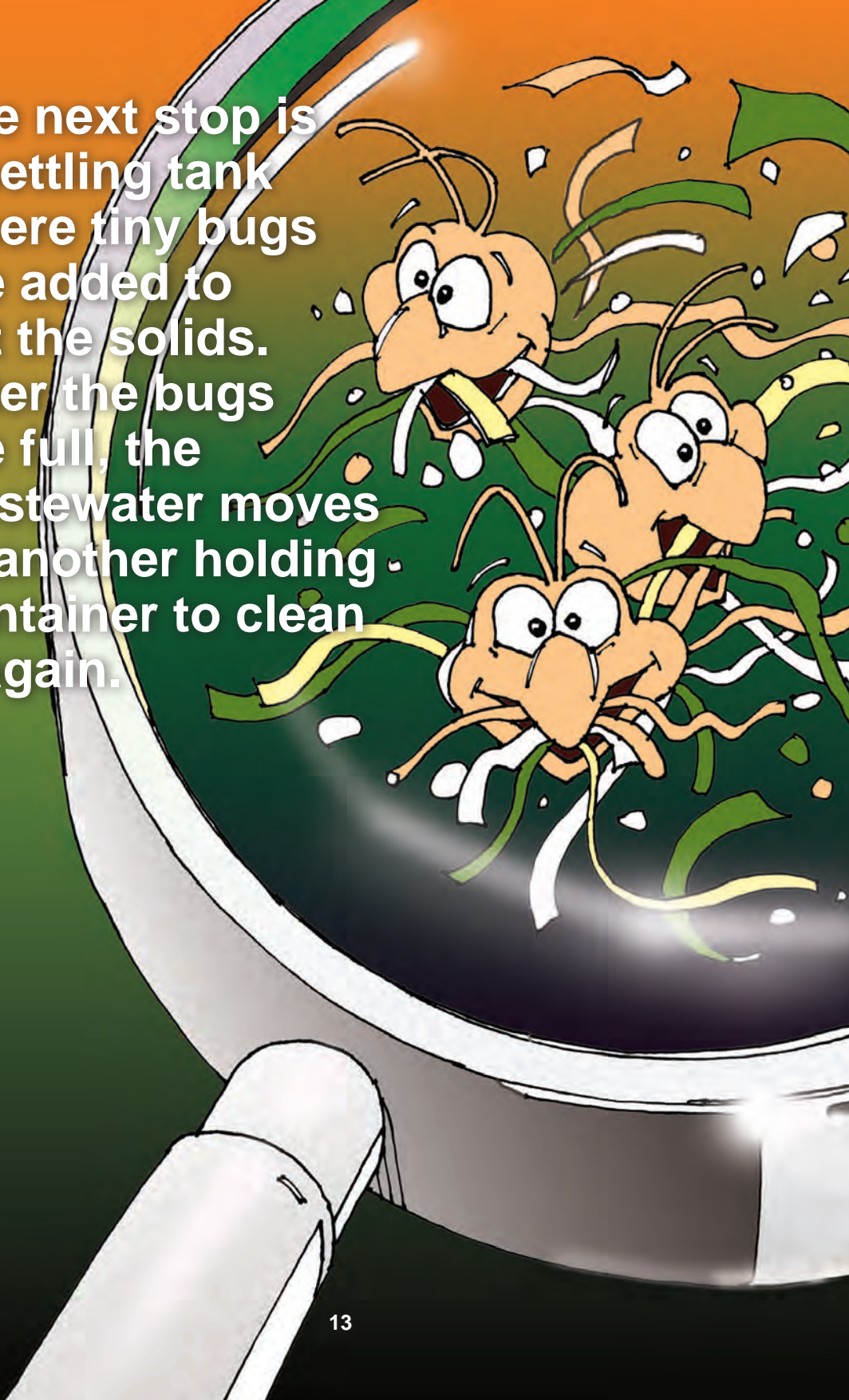
**At the entrance of the plant, the wastewater is screened to get rid of the large items.**



**From there, it goes into a giant holding container where oils are skimmed off the top and solids scraped off the bottom.**

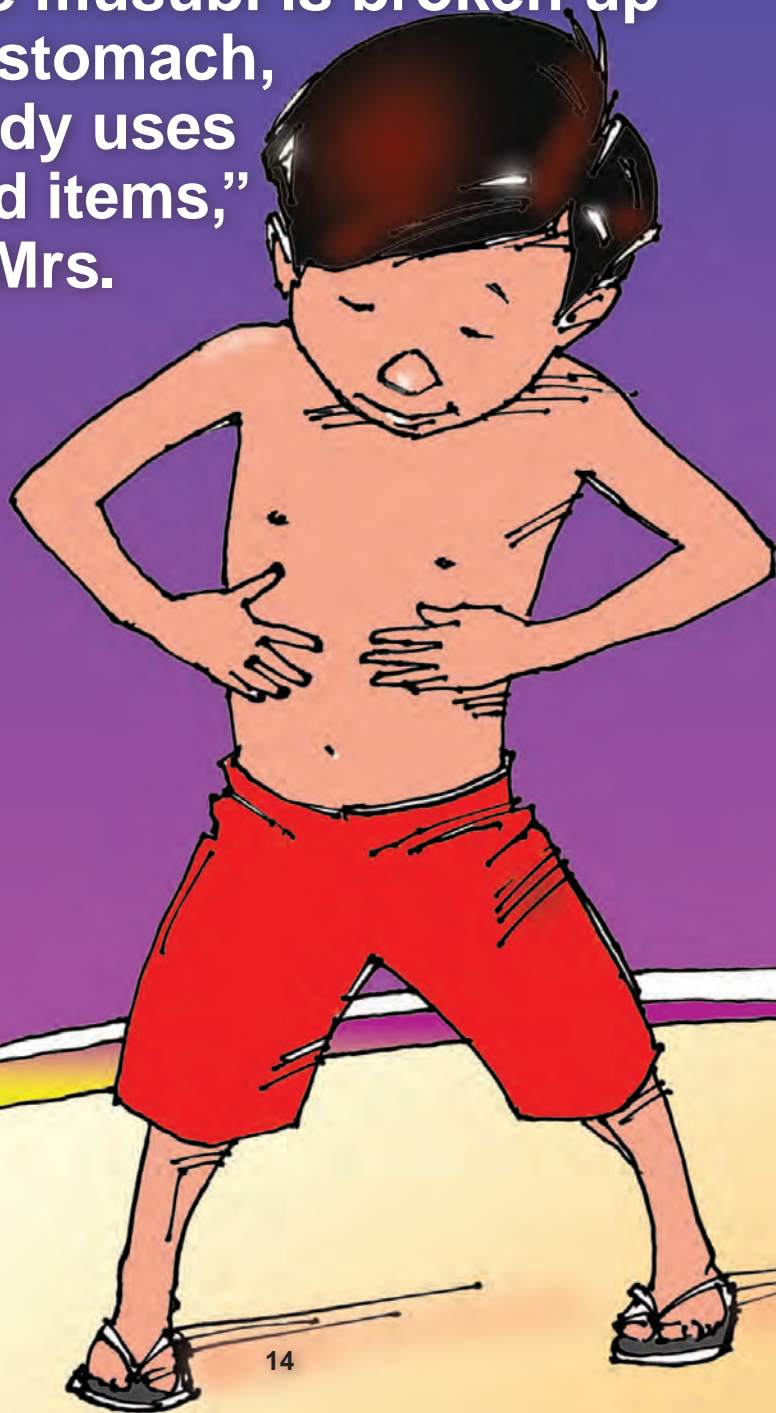


The next stop is a settling tank where tiny bugs are added to eat the solids. After the bugs are full, the wastewater moves to another holding container to clean it again.

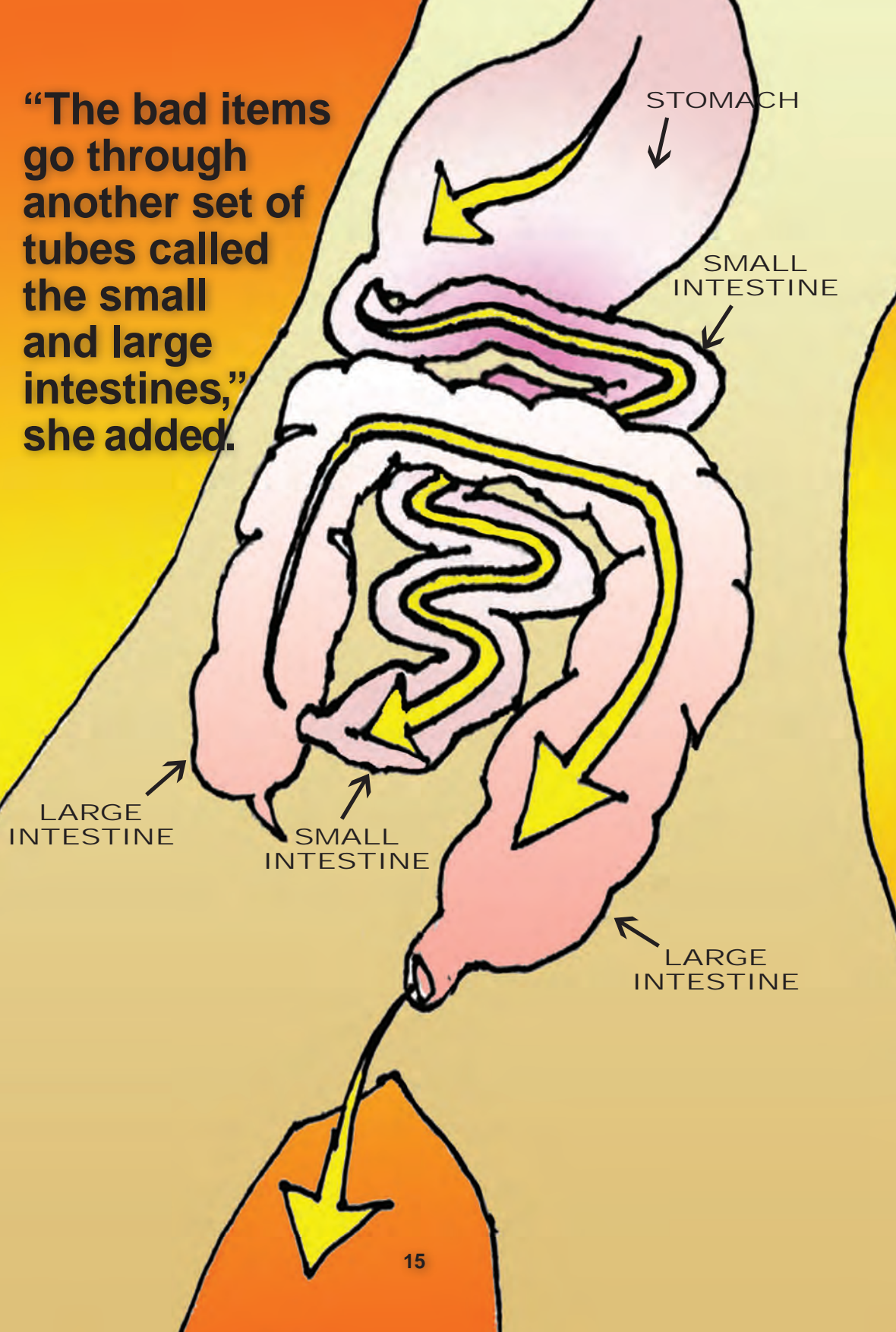




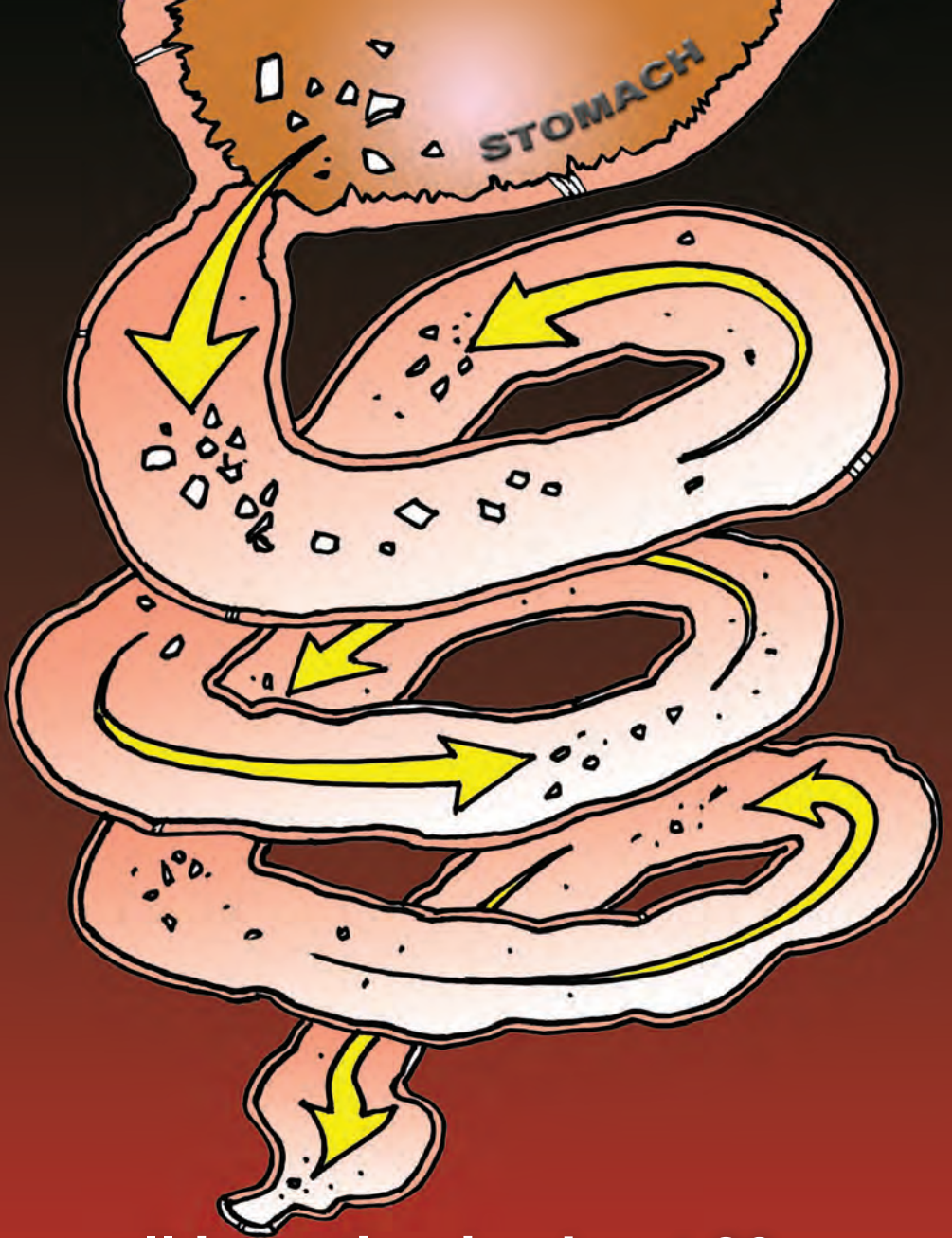
“Are these holding tanks like my stomach?” Kimo asked. “Yes, after the musubi is broken up in your stomach, your body uses the good items,” replied Mrs. Aloha.



**“The bad items go through another set of tubes called the small and large intestines,” she added.**





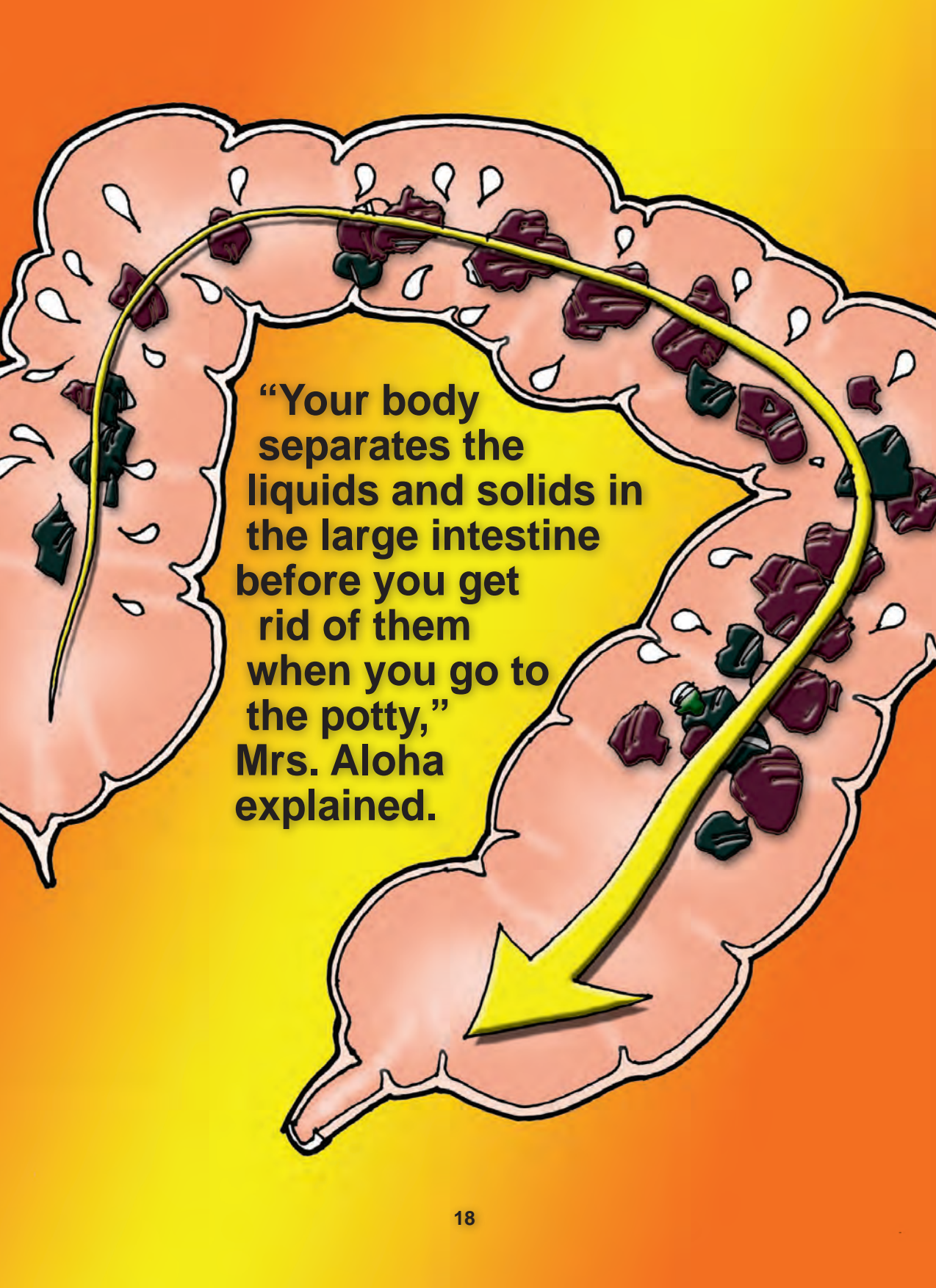


**The small intestine is about 20 feet long and receives chemicals from other organs in the body to break down the food even more.**

**The small intestine then connects to the 6-foot long large intestine. This is where food ends up if your body cannot use it.**

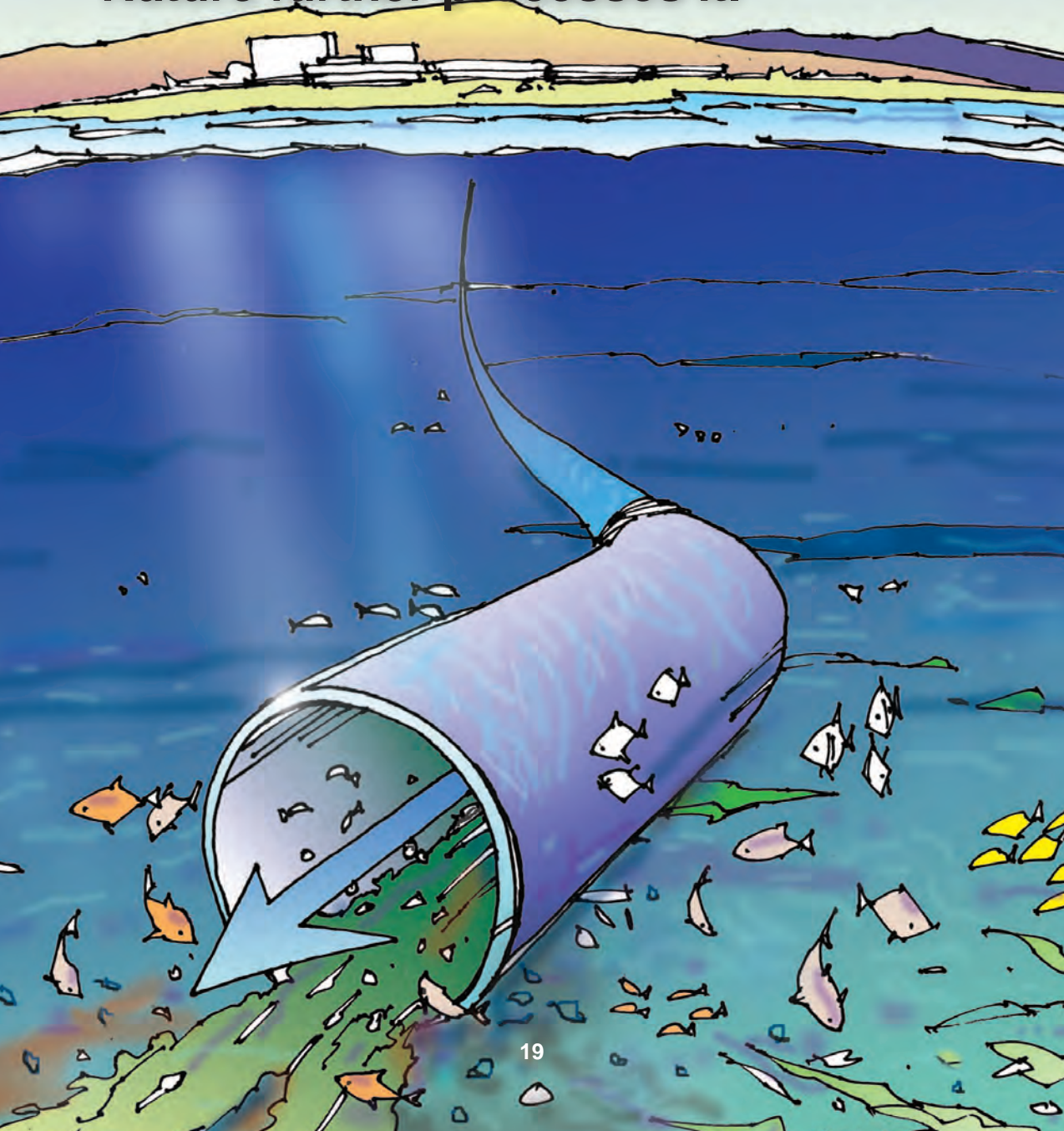






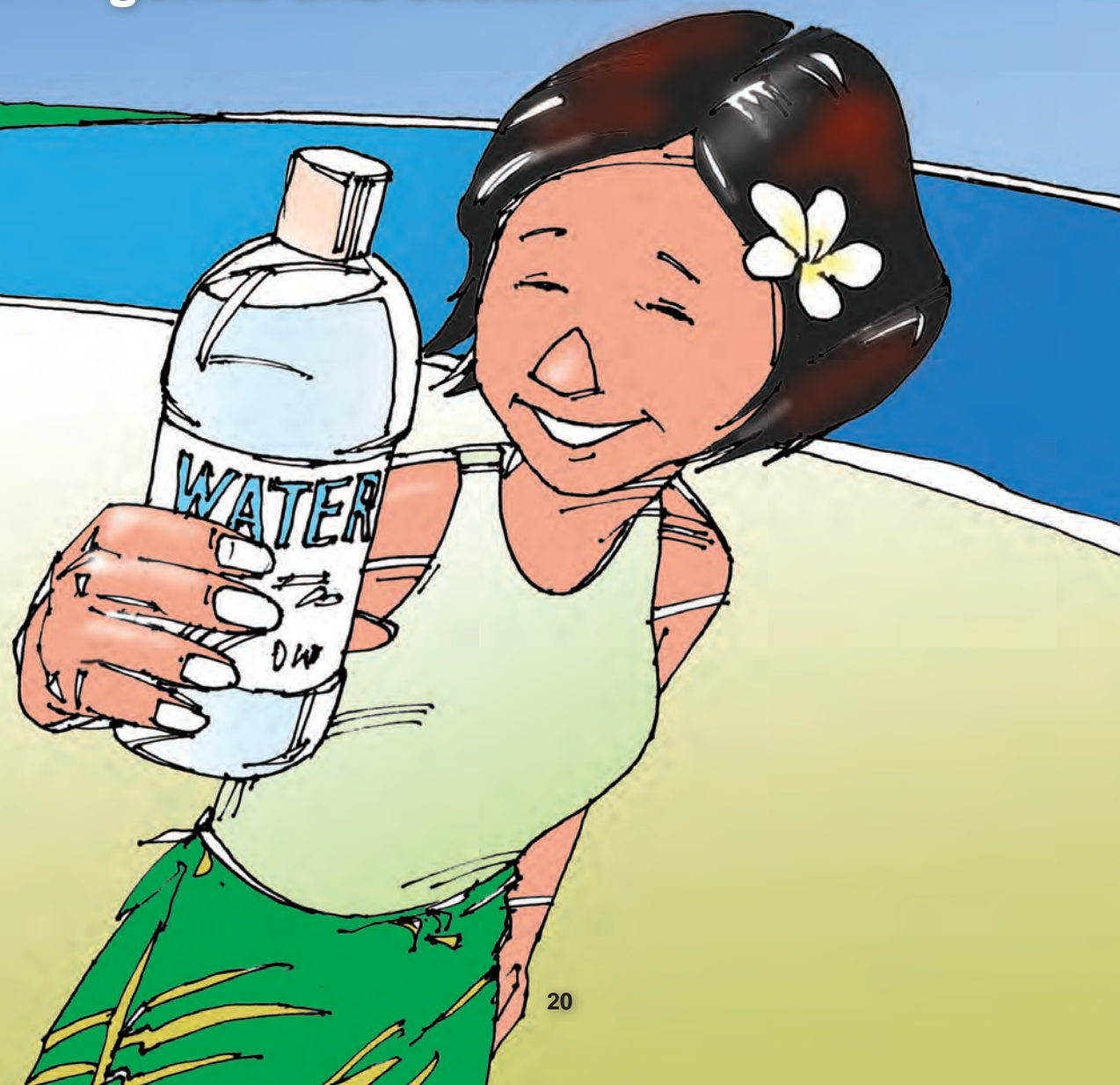
**“Your body separates the liquids and solids in the large intestine before you get rid of them when you go to the potty,” Mrs. Aloha explained.**

**Kimo's dad jumped in, "After a treatment plant cleans the wastewater, it is then released back into the environment where Mother Nature further processes it."**





Mrs. Aloha added, “Water is our most precious resource on Earth; however, treating wastewater is extremely important to keep people from getting sick from germs and bacteria.



Mr. Aloha ended by stating, “Kimo, a treatment plant is the last line of defense we have against water pollution.”



**After their ono picnic at the park,  
Kimo said he needs to use the  
restroom before they drive home.**

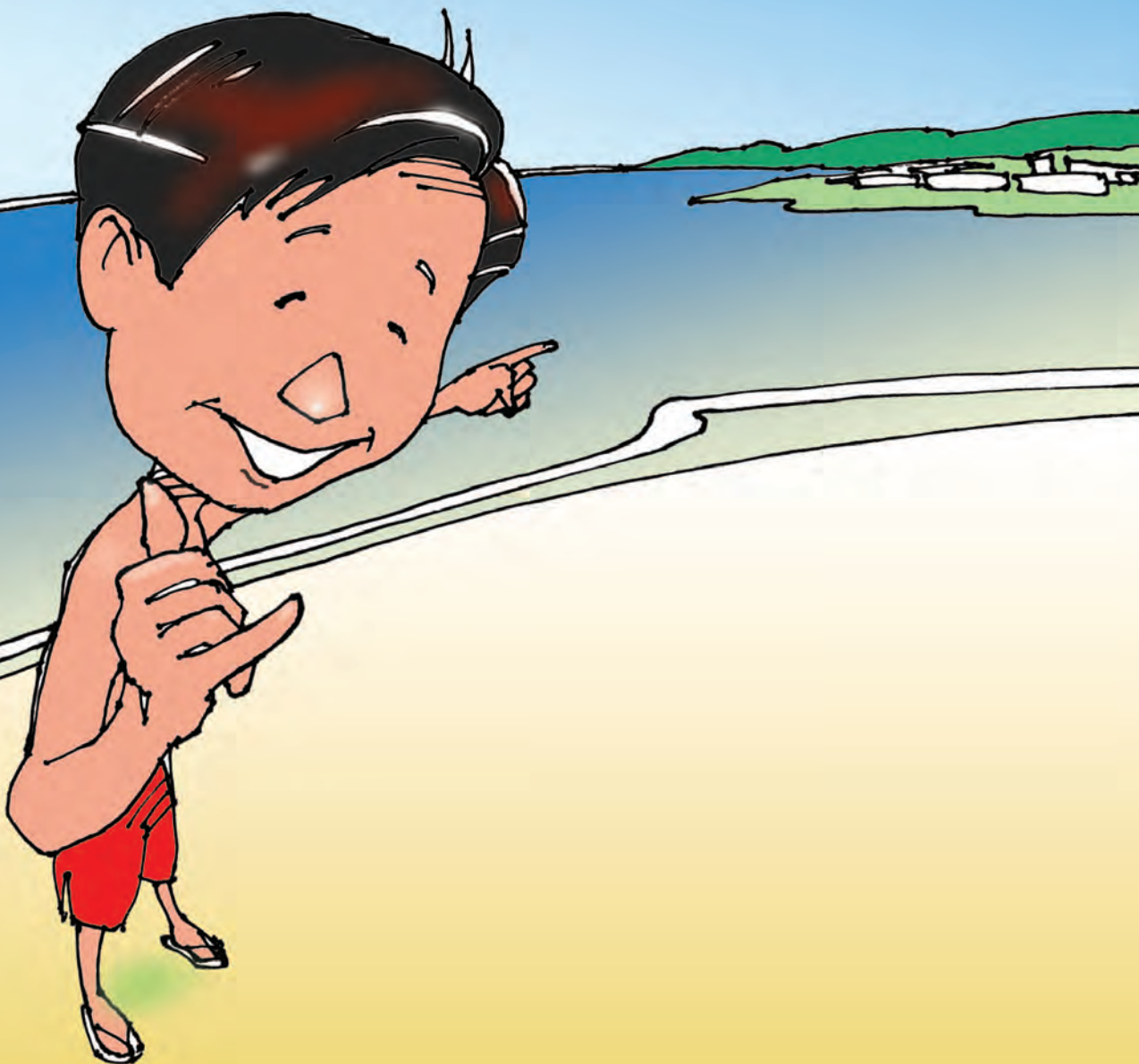




Kimo's mother quizzed,  
"So, what happens after  
you flush the toilet?"



**Kimo gave a big grin and yelled,  
“I remember! My spam musubi  
goes there,” pointing to the  
treatment plant across the bay.**





**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
**Department of Environmental Services**  
**[www.envhonolulu.org](http://www.envhonolulu.org)**

**Text by Markus Owens**  
**Graphic Designs & Illustrations by Printing Services Branch**  
**Customer Services Department**  
**Printed in Hong Kong by Hagadone Printing Company**  
***Paid for by City and County of Honolulu taxpayers***

**Printed on 100% Recycled Paper**



## Anatomy of Wastewater – Overview

The children's book, *Anatomy of Wastewater*, is an in-house production developed by the Department of Environmental Services and the City and County of Honolulu's Design and Print Center at the Department of Customer Services.

The book is for the sole purpose of educating our keiki, or children, of how similar the human body is to Honolulu's wastewater system.

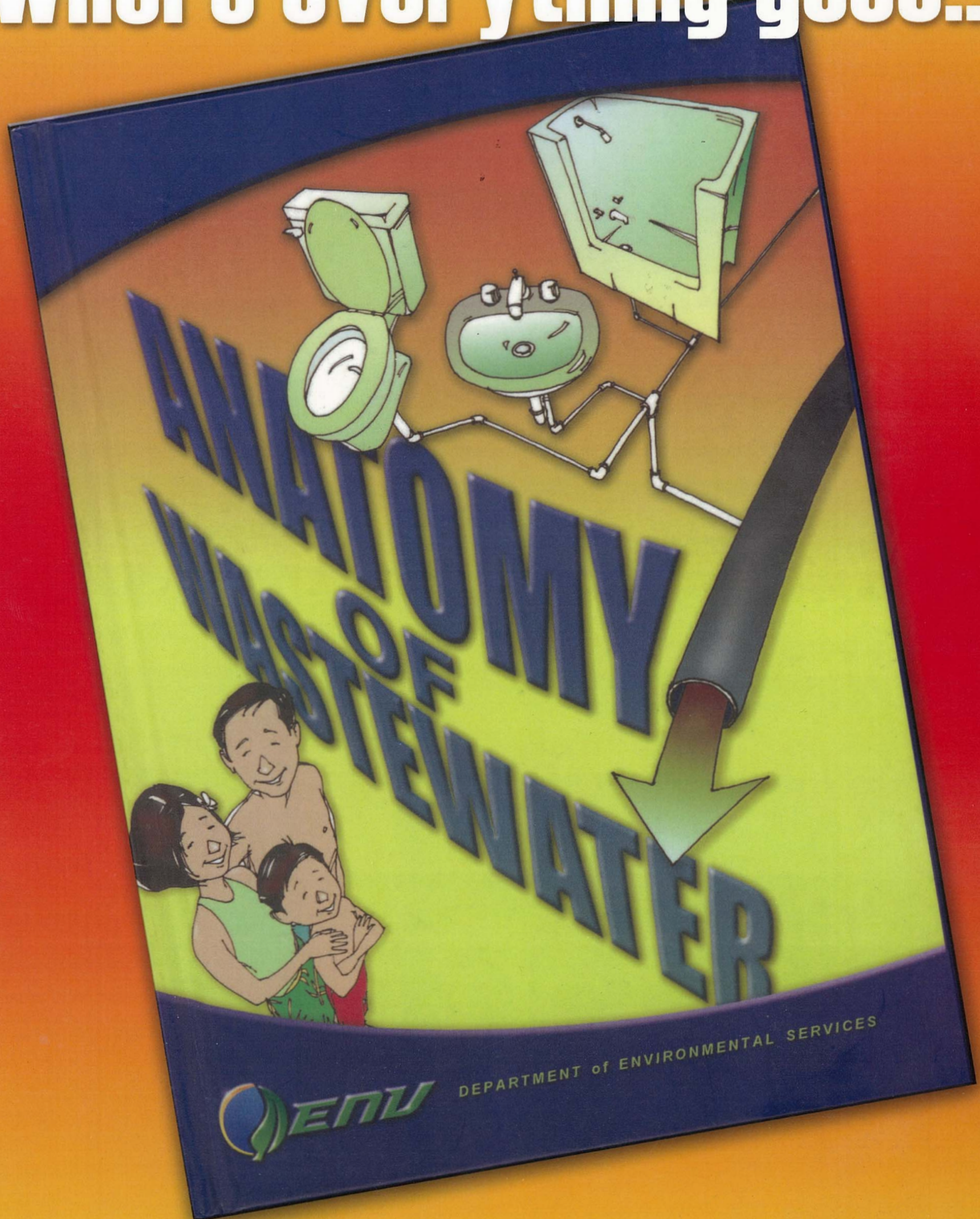
The book was published several years ago with a revised and reprinted version this year. The book has been placed in almost all of the public libraries on Oahu and provided free of charge to nearly all of the elementary schools in Honolulu.

It follows a local family at the beach where the parents help educate their inquisitive child who begins asking what happens after he eats his musubi (rice and spam wrapped in dry, roasted seaweed). The mother is a doctor and the father works at the wastewater treatment plant.

The parents provide a simple explanation within both of their disciplines to provide a clear picture to their child.

It's a very simple primer to the wastewater system.

# We want you to know where everything goes...



[ENVhonolulu.org](http://ENVhonolulu.org)



Scan here to