



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: September 19, 2008

STATE WATER COMMISSION TO HEAR RECOMMENDATIONS ON EIGHT EAST MAUI STREAM PETITIONS

HA'IKU, MAUI – The State Commission on Water Resource Management will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, in Ha'iku, Maui, to hear recommendations on eight east Maui instream flow standard petitions for: Honopou; Hanehoi and Puolua (Huelo); Pi'ina'au; Palauhulu; Waiokamilo; Kualani; Waikani; and East and West Wailuanui.

The meeting will be held at the Ha'iku Community Center, 1008 Hana Highway, in Ha'iku, Maui.

The Commission has the responsibility of establishing instream flow standards to protect the public interest in streams statewide.

Instream flow standards are essentially the amount of water required to flow in a stream for the protection of native fish and wildlife, recreation, scenic views, and other beneficial stream values. The Commission must also balance these instream uses with non-instream uses, such as water for drinking and home use, cultivation of taro, and agriculture.

The streams under consideration have been diverted by East Maui Irrigation Company for more than 100 years to provide water for sugar in the central Maui plains. More recently, diverted stream water has also gone to Upcountry Maui residents for domestic use and to farmers in the Kula Agricultural Park.

Commission staff will present their findings and recommendations at the upcoming meeting. This process is a considerable improvement from previous efforts, and is the first time that such measurable standards have been developed outside of a contested case hearing.

“The proposed recommendations clearly reflect the commitment and support of the Commission, Administration, and Legislature in advancing stream protection and management in Hawai‘i,” said Ken Kawahara, Water Commission Deputy Director.

“The process we’ve applied in east Maui provides a framework to consistently and transparently assess and balance competing stream uses. We believe that the proposed management decisions are reasonable and will allow us to proceed responsibly based on best available information,” he said.

Anyone with special needs requiring accommodations to participate at this meeting should call (808) 587-0214 or toll free from Maui 984-2400 ext. 70214 for assistance at least four days prior to the meeting. For additional information on this meeting, visit the Commission’s website at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrn>.

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