



Staff briefing on the

# **Petition to Amend the Interim Instream Flow Standards for the Surface Water Hydrologic Units of**

Honopou (6034), Hanehoi (6037), Piinaau (6053),  
Waiokamilo (6055), and Wailuanui (6056), Maui



**State of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Commission on Water Resource Management**

# Petition to Amend IIFS

## HONOPOU

- Honopou Stream

## HANEHOI

- Hanehoi and Puolua Streams

## PIINAAU

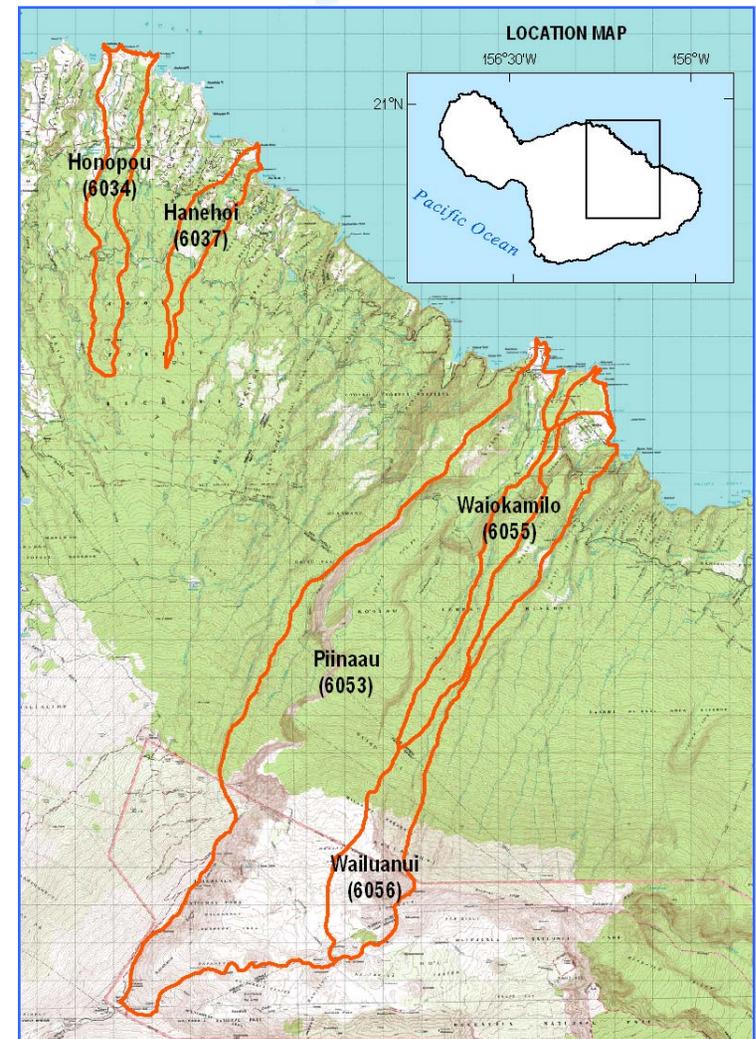
- Piinaau Stream
- Palauhulu Stream

## WAIOKAMILO

- Waiokamilo Stream
- Kualani Stream

## WAILUANUI

- East and West Wailuanui Streams
- Waikani Waterfall [Stream]



# Presentation Overview

- **Background**
  - Timeline
  - Interim IFS process
  - Adaptive Management
  - Hydrology
- **Issues and Analysis**
  - General Considerations
  - Hydrologic Unit-Specific Considerations
- **Additional Data Needs**



# Timeline

- **October 8, 1988**
  - Initial “status quo” interim IFS for East Maui streams
- **May 24, 2001**
  - NHLC filed 27 Petitions to Amend the Interim IFS
- **July 23, 2001**
  - Focus on 5 hydrologic units, 8 petitions
- **December 13, 2006**
  - Approval of Interim IFS process

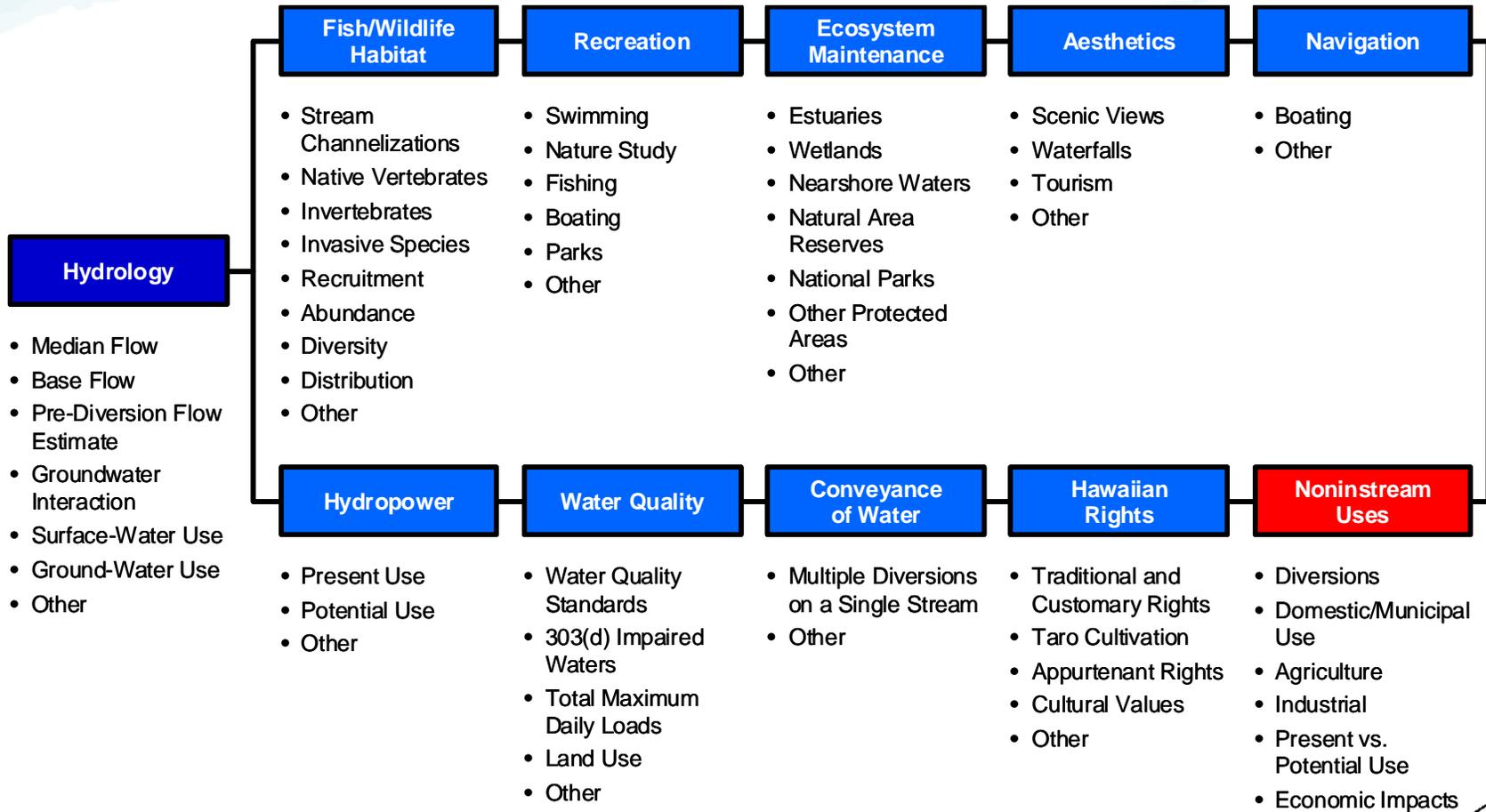


# Timeline

- **April 10, 2008**
  - Public fact gathering meeting
- **September 24 & 25, 2008**
  - Commission approval of amended IIFSs
- **Late 2009, October (Tentative)**
  - Commission meeting to see information on remaining stream petitions
  - Assess implementation of first 5 IIFSs

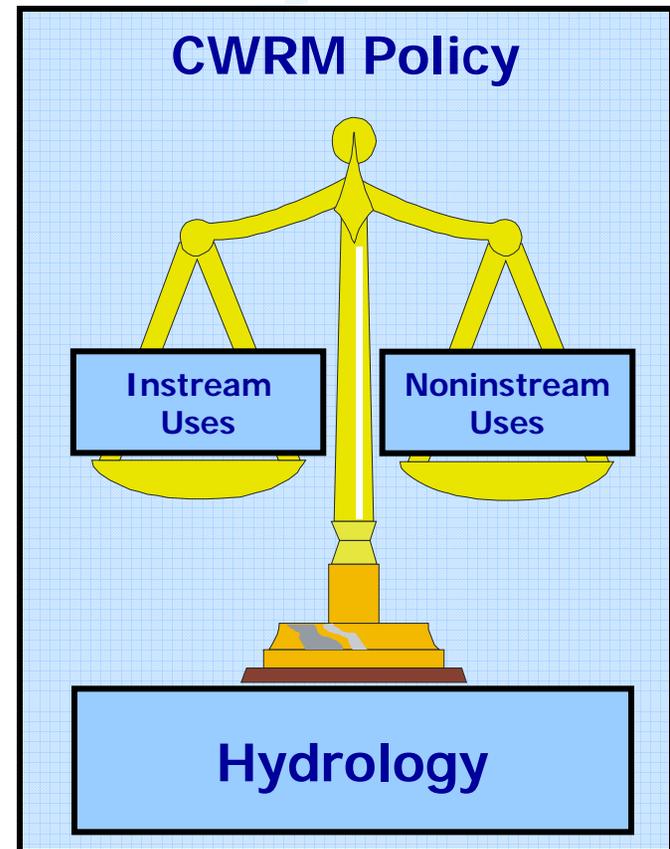


# Balancing the Needs

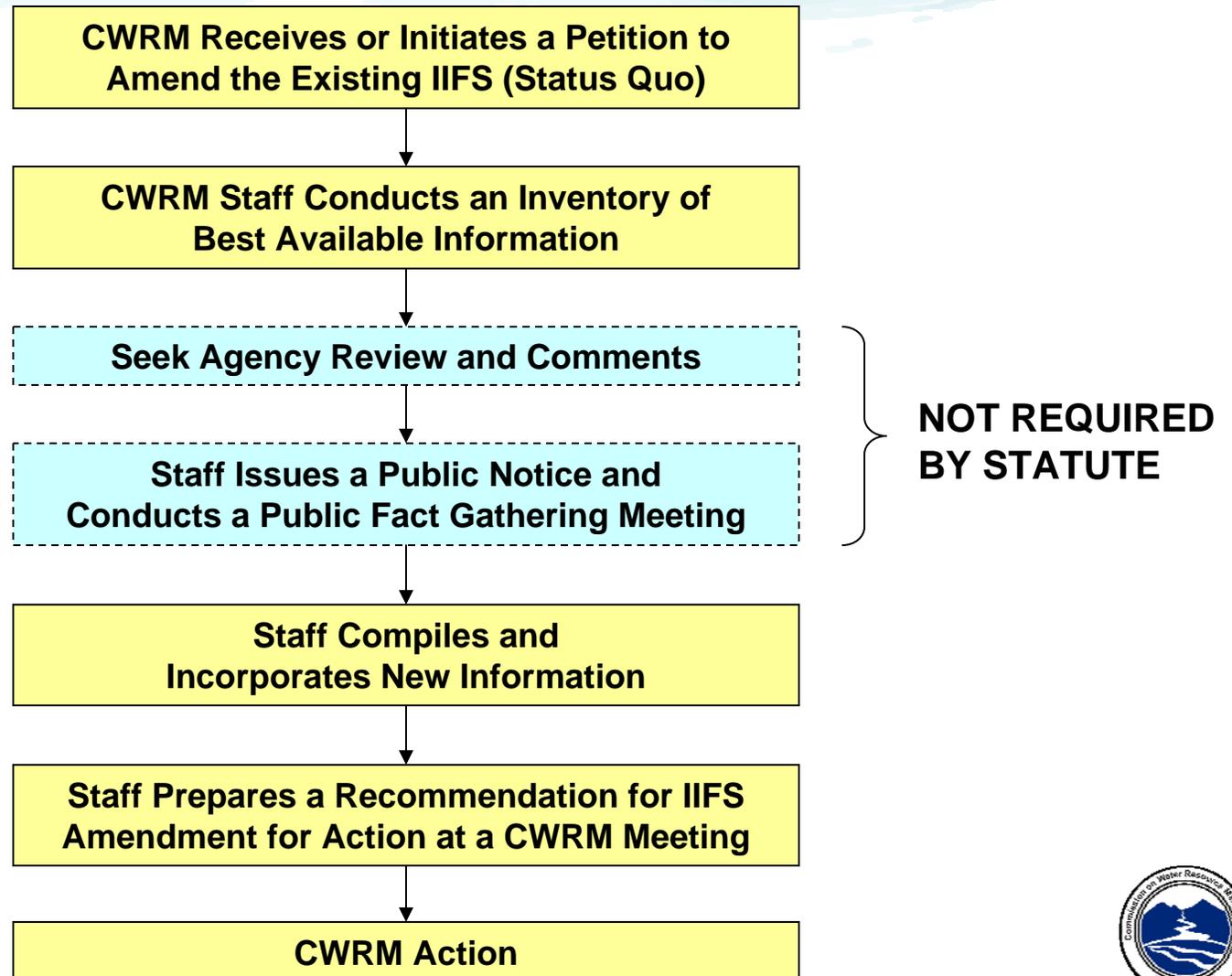


# State Water Code

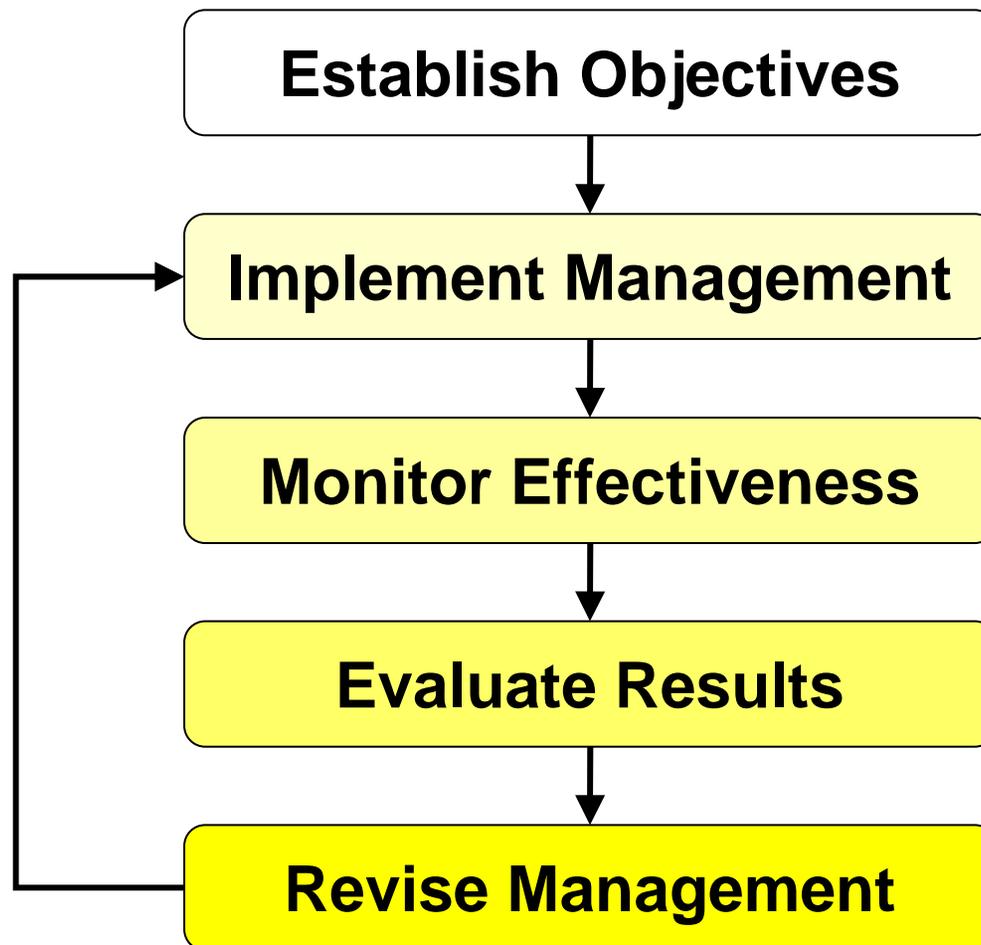
*“The Commission shall weigh the importance of the present or potential instream values with the importance of present or potential uses of water for noninstream purposes, including the economic impact of restricting such uses.”*



# Interim IFS Process

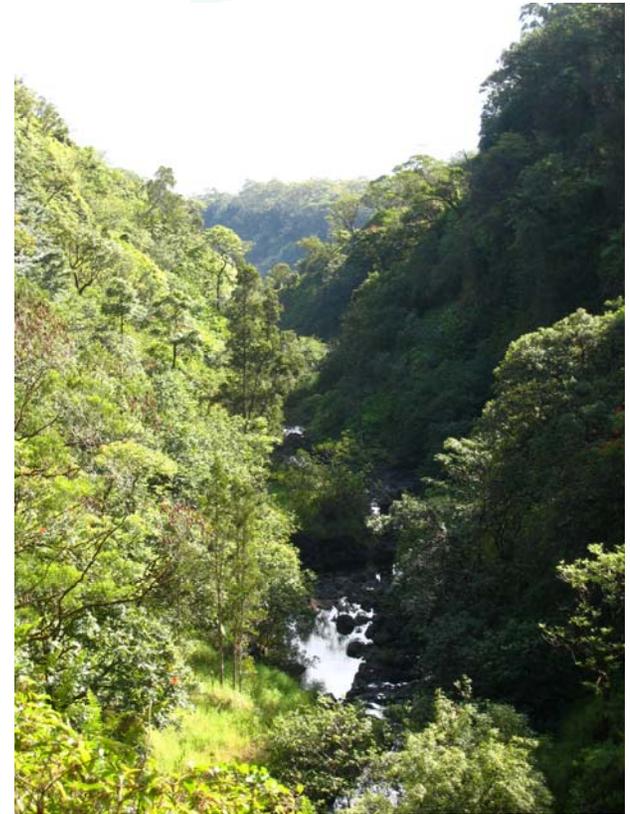


# Adaptive Management



# General Considerations

- **Sustainability**
  - Agriculture
- **Public health**
  - Health risks of stagnant water
  - Nutrition
- **Decreased streamflow**
  - Reduction in ground water storage and recharge
  - Decreased annual rainfall
  - Increased water demand
  - Climate change
  - Landcover change



*East Wailuanui Stream, Maui*



# General Considerations

- **Ongoing water issue**
  - Dates back to the 1881 petition
- **Status quo interim IFS**
  - Initial establishment
  - Differing opinions
  - Lack of data
- **Cultural landscape study**
  - Support return of water and taro farming
- **EMI cultural study**
  - Relationship between EMI and community



# General Considerations

- **HC&S water needs**
  - Accuracy of information
  - Other sources of water
- **Agricultural subsidies**
  - Economics of HC&S / EMI operations
- **Upcountry Maui**
  - Residents rely on EMI water
- **Energy**
  - Sales to MECO
  - Renewable energy - hydroelectric and biomass



*Wailoa Ditch siphon at Maliko Gulch. It transports water to west and central Maui*



# General Considerations

- **Alternative water sources (HC&S)**
  - Brackish water from wells
- **Viability of HC&S**
  - Land size and location
  - Revenue from energy sales
  - Other sources of water
  - Product diversity line



*HC&S Co., sugar mill, Maui*

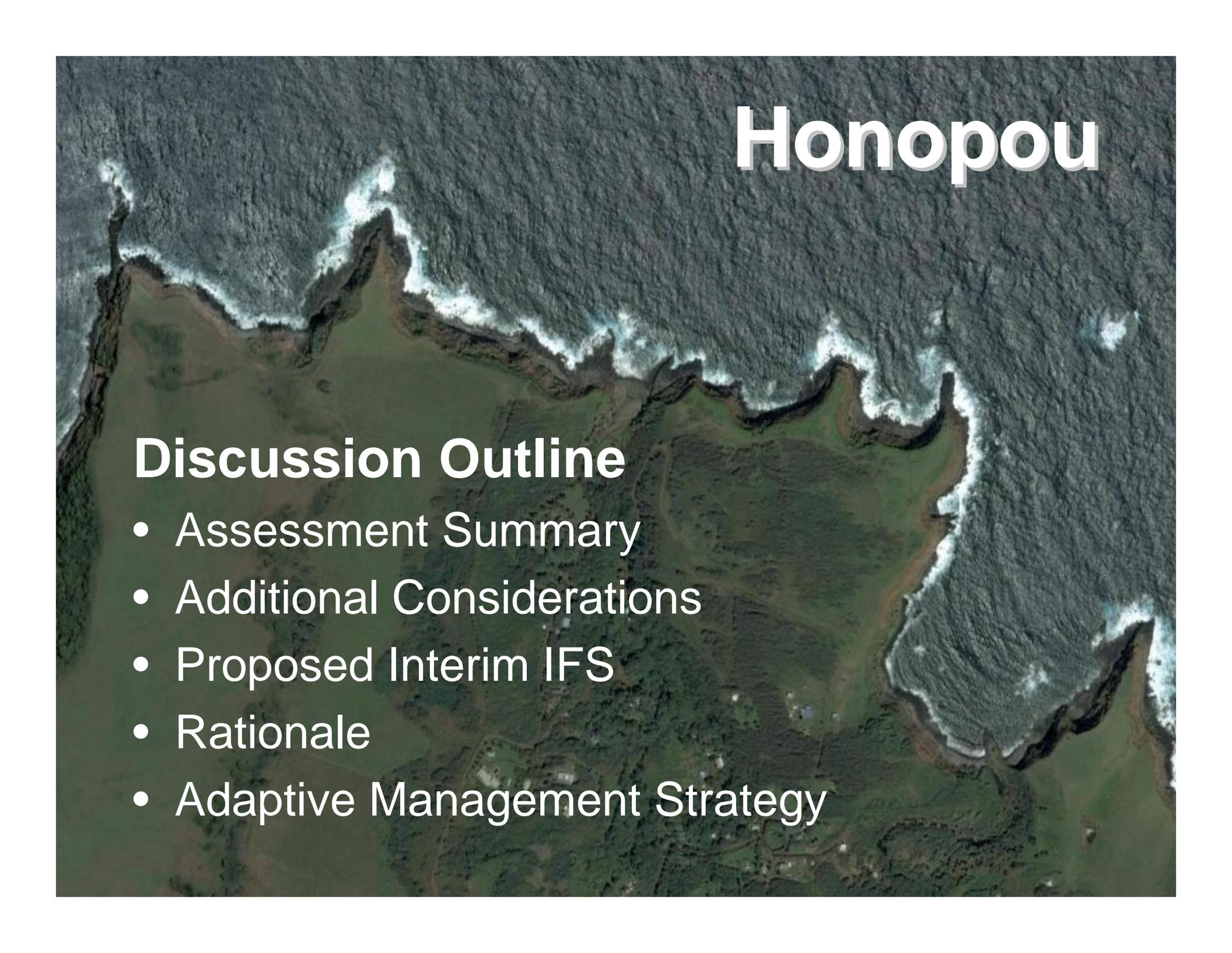


# Discussion Outline

## Hydrologic Unit-Specific Considerations

- Assessment Summary
- Additional Considerations
- Rationale
- Diagrams
- Adaptive Management Strategy



An aerial photograph of a coastline, likely Honopou, showing waves crashing against a rocky shore. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam from the waves. The land is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural, undeveloped area. The text 'Honopou' is overlaid in the top right corner.

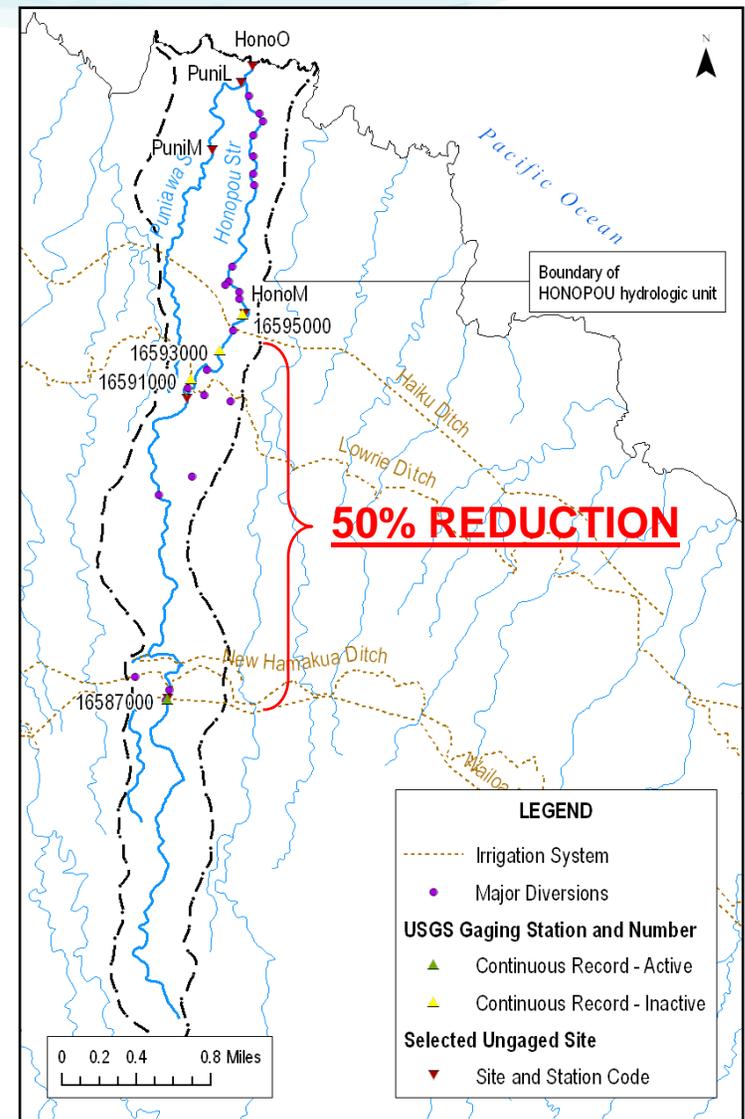
# Honopou

## Discussion Outline

- Assessment Summary
- Additional Considerations
- Proposed Interim IFS
- Rationale
- Adaptive Management Strategy

# Assessment Summary

- **Hydrology**
  - Gaining stream
  - Gain: 2.3 MGD
  - Diversions: 50% reduction
  - Bypass pipes at Haiku Ditch
  - Decreasing long-term trend in streamflow



# Assessment Summary

- **Fish and Wildlife**
  - Poor diversity
  - Oopu alamoo in upper reaches
  - Lack of streamflow continuity
  - Deep pools and dewatered sections
  - Pipes in diversion structures
  
- **Recreational**
  - HSA - swimming

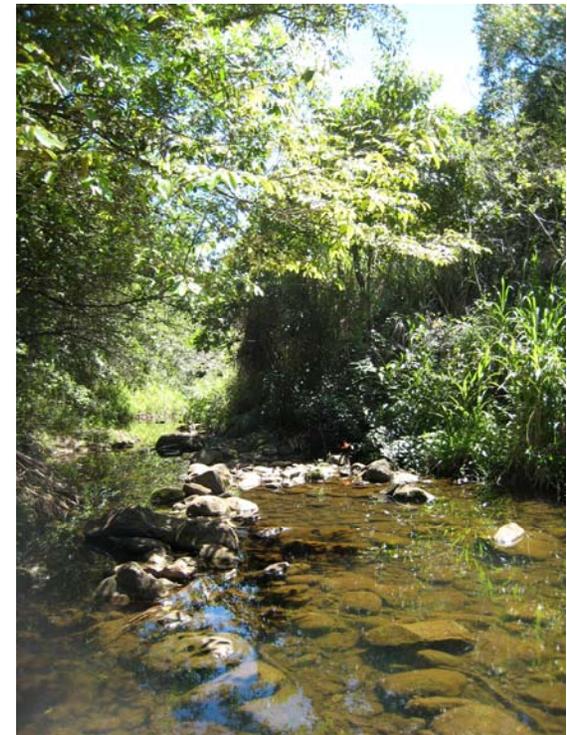


*Native Hawaiian fish: Oopu alamoo (Lentipes concolor)*



# Assessment Summary

- **Ecosystem Maintenance**
  - 40% is East Maui Watershed Partnership area
  - 25% is Koolau Forest Reserve
- **Aesthetic**
  - Limited
- **Water Quality**
  - Class 2 - Puniawa, lower reaches of Honopou Stream
  - Class 1 - Upper reaches of Honopou Stream



*Honopou Stream upstream of Haiku Ditch*



# Assessment Summary

- **Irrigation and Domestic**
  - Total of 15 non-EMI diversions
  - 12 registered domestic uses (no access to county water service)
  - All 15 registered for cultivation of other crops and/or livestock
- **Traditional and Customary**
  - 2 appurtenant rights claimants
  - 6 registered for taro cultivation
  - Gathering



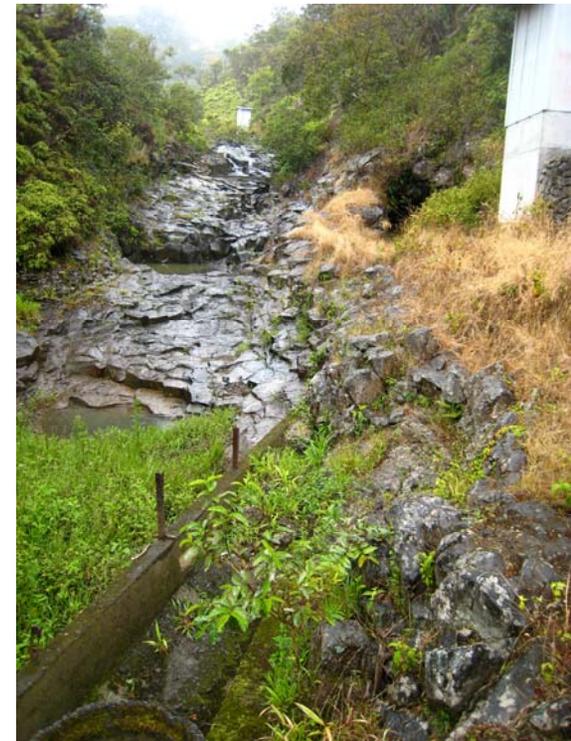
*Kekahuna's taro lo'i, Honopou*



# Assessment Summary

- **Noninstream**

- EMI diversions - 7 major, 2 minor
- EMI supplies water to:
  - HC&S
  - Makawao DWS system
  - MLP
- Effects of decreasing water diverted
  - Irrigation in west and central Maui
  - Long-term trends in ground water levels

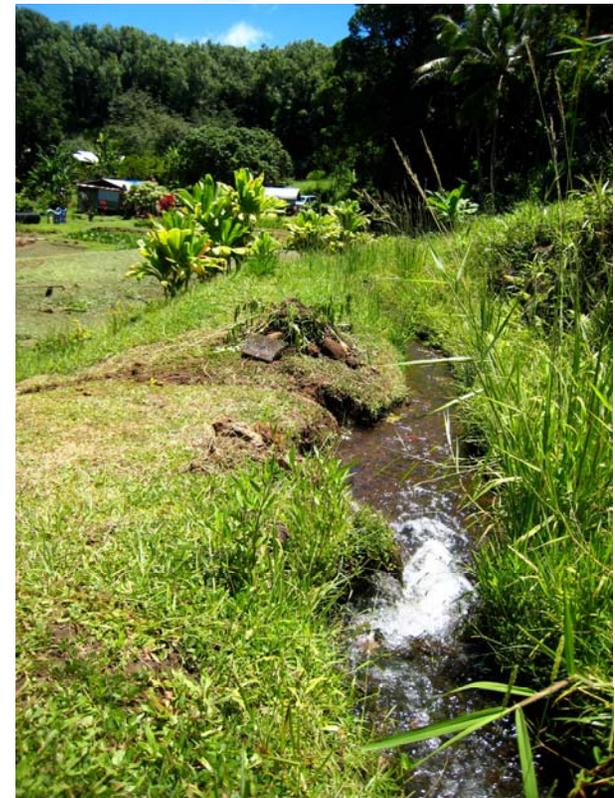


*EMI diversions at Wailoa Ditch  
and New Hamakua Ditch,  
Honopou Stream*



# Additional Considerations

- **BLNR Contested Case**
  - Appurtenant rights
  - Accuracy of flow measurements
  - Taro water needs
- **Public testimony**
  - Stream is diverted 4 times by EMI
  - Water temperature
  - Taro root rot
- **Other sources of water**
  - No county water system

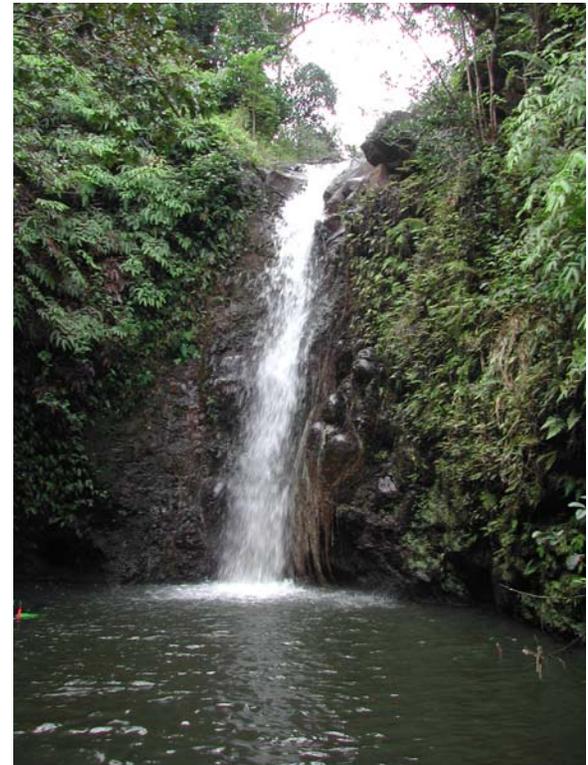


*Kekahuna / Walleit auwai, Honopou*



# Rationale

- **Why restore flow?**
  - Increase flow continuity for stream biota
  - Improve recreational and aesthetic opportunities
  - Ecosystem maintenance (Koolau Forest Reserve)
  - Downstream surface water users
  - Potential water use



*Waterfall at Honopou Stream*

# Rationale

- **Why not full restoration?**
  - Upcountry Maui - domestic use, agriculture
  - Central Maui - agriculture
  - Power to MECO
  - Diversified agriculture
  - Sustainability

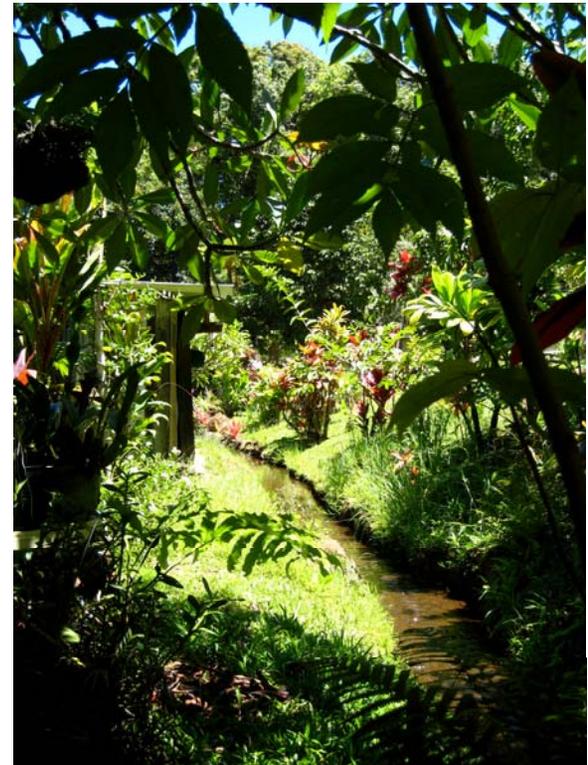


*Sugarcane cultivation*



# Rationale

- **Interim IFS A**
  - Estimate: Based on average annual ground water gain
  - Purpose: Water for downstream users
  
- **Interim IFS B**
  - Estimate: Based on  $Q_{90}$  natural (undiverted) flow
  - Purpose: Biological integrity



*Kekahuna / Walleit auwai, Honopou*



# Proposed Interim IFS

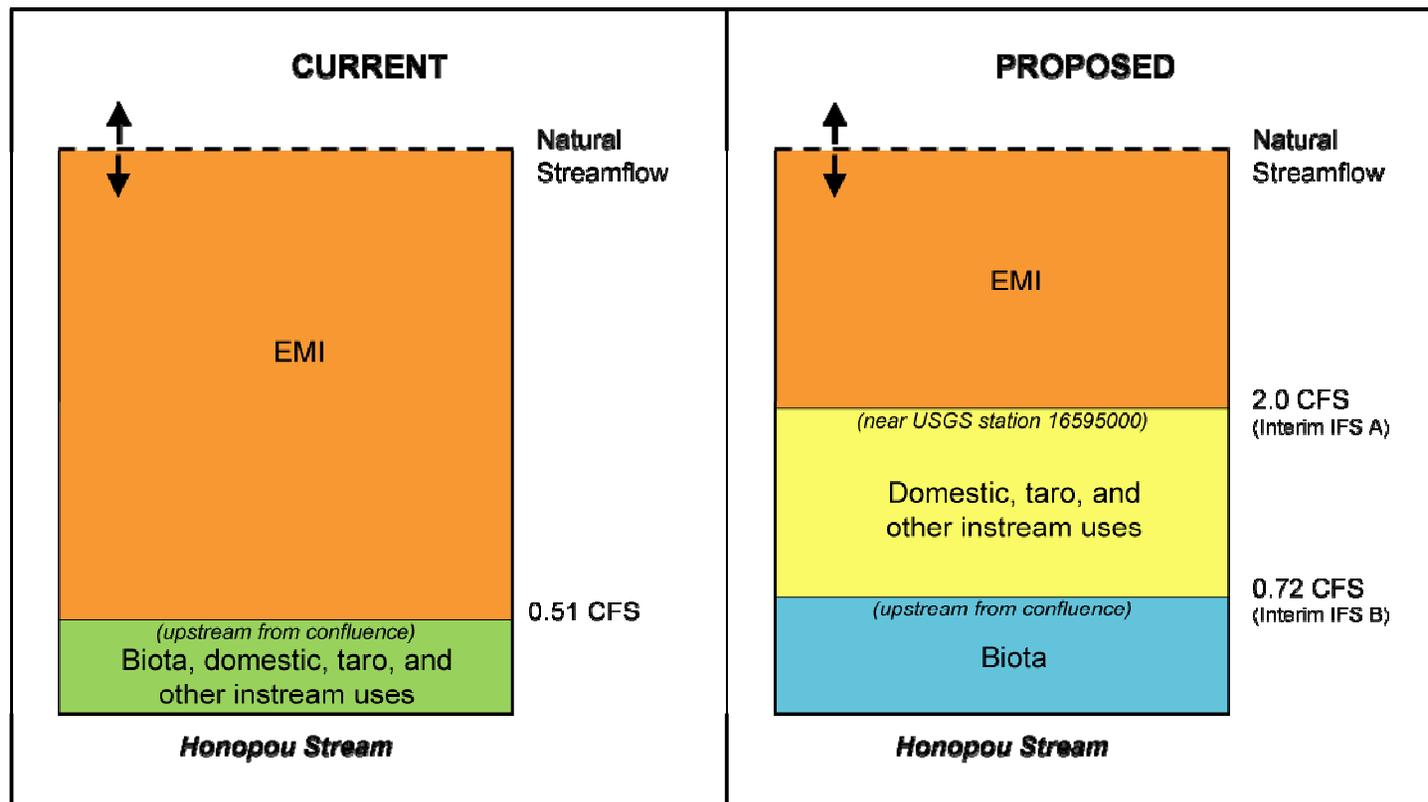


Diagram not to scale



# Adaptive Management

- **Hydrologic Unit-Specific**
  - Alter bypass pipes at Haiku Ditch to allow upstream migration of native species



*Bypass pipes at Haiku Ditch, Honopou Stream*



# Adaptive Management

- **General Strategies**

- **Implementation**

- Comply with State Water Code for unregistered diversions
    - Collaborate with agency staff and registered diversion owners to determine appropriate actions
    - Coordinate with EMI and DAR to assess existing conditions and status of EMI diversions



# Adaptive Management

- **General Strategies**

- **Monitoring**

- Monitor streamflow by taking periodic measurements
    - Conduct periodic biological surveys
    - Affected parties monitor and document the negative impacts of diversions or adopted interim IFS
    - Conduct investigations with granted access to stream channels and private property



# Adaptive Management

- **General Strategies**

- Evaluation

- Report to Commission within one year from date of adoption
    - Assess implementation of adaptive management strategies
    - Prepare long-term management framework



# Amendments

## Approved with the following amendments

- Moving forward on the staff's recommendation is the first step in an integrated approach to all 27 (twenty-seven) streams that are subjects of these petitions
- Staff shall provide progress reports to the Commission at regularly scheduled meetings during the course of the year
- In cases of return of water to losing streams, staff and all parties shall monitor and report whether there are increases in either downstream flow or ground water in the vicinity





# HONOPOU – Haiku Ditch, Interim action, 10/27,2008



## HONOPOU – Haiku Ditch, Interim action, 10/27,2008



## HONOPOU – Lowrie Ditch, Interim action, 10/27,2008



# HONOPOU – Lowrie Ditch, Interim action, 10/27,2008



## HONOPOU – Haiku Ditch, Installation of bypass, 03/23/2009



# HONOPOU – Haiku Ditch, Completed bypass structure, 03/23/2009



# HANEHOI, Haiku Ditch, Interim action, 10/28/2008



# HANEHOI, Haiku Ditch, Interim action, 02/11/2009



# HANEHOI, Haiku Ditch, Interim action, 02/11/2009



# EAST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# EAST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# EAST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# WEST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# WEST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# WEST WAILUANUI, Koolau Ditch, Interim action, 12/10/2008



# Additional Data Needs

## Water Use

- Historical trends – may indicate seasonal changes; staff may correlate with annual rainfall trends
- Current use
- Future demands



# Additional Data Needs

## Water Use Purpose

- Who is using the water? What is water used for?
- If applicable, provide the following:
  - Domestic – geographic area, # of end users
  - Agriculture – # of acres, type of crop, farming practices
  - Livestock – type of animal, # of pastures, farming practices
  - Traditional – # of acres, type of crop, farming practices
  - Hydroelectric – energy capacity, average amount of power generated (per day, month, and/or year), any surplus power sales, revenue generated, users of this power
  - Recreation / ornamental - type of recreation (golf course, landscape, water features), # of acres



# Additional Data Needs

## Water Requirement

- Minimum water requirement
- Prioritize water use purposes (i.e. if water is used for agriculture, which fields are watered first or crop changes)

## Water Supply

- Sources of water
- Contractual obligations
- Minimum amount of water supplied (i.e. via system) during drought conditions
- Alternate water sources (e.g. recycled water, why/why not?)



# Additional Data Needs

## Economic Impact

- When water supply drops 25%, 50%, 75%
- Restricting offstream uses



# Additional Data Needs

## Water Use Efficiency

- Irrigation efficiency
- Ways to decrease water use and water needs
- Past experiences:
  - What has been done to cope with decreasing water supply?
  - During drought conditions, what has been done to decrease water use or needs?
- Future demands:
  - Are there any future plans that would change water use or needs, i.e. changes in farm acreage, capacity of system, urban development, etc...



# Questions?

# Discussion



Ke Kahuwai Pono

“The trustee who oversees the rightful sharing of water.”