

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Ke Kahuwai Pono

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



WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION PLAN HAWAI‘I WATER WORKSHOP – KAUA‘I March 19, 2015

The Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) is currently updating the State Water Resource Protection Plan (WRPP), a long-range plan that provides guidance and direction for protecting and managing Hawai‘i’s water resources. As a part of the WRPP update process, the Commission is hosting seven “Hawai‘i Water Workshops” throughout the state to hear about water management issues and ideas in those communities. This will inform the Commission’s thinking as it formulates the WRPP Update. **These notes are for the fifth workshop, held on Kaua‘i at the Planning Commission Meeting Room on March 19, 2015.**

ATTENDANCE

Community Participants: 37 participants signed in, it was estimated that about 50 people were present

Water Commissioners: Denise Antolini

Commission Staff: Lenore Ohye, Jeremy Kimura, Neal Fujii

Townscape (Consultant): Sherri Hiraoka

“ONE BIG WATER ISSUE”

Participants were asked to share their one big water issue to give the group an idea of where interests lay. Those issues included:

1. Diversions
2. Diversions
3. What is the process? What do management and rules mean for neighbor island folks?
The process is O‘ahu-centric
4. Ensure enough water for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) tenants.



ONE WATER ISSUE (CONTINUED)

5. What water problems can be solved with easy solutions?
6. DHHL water rights and reservations.
7. Fair and consistent application of law for small landlords and water users.
8. ‘Auwai and water pathway health.
 - Water is being diverted and ‘auwai are collapsing.
 - Where is this happening?
9. Diversions, waste, and stream protection.
10. Water conservation
11. Years ago, Kaua‘i Department of Water (KDOW) replaced cast iron pipes with asbestos pipes.
 - Asbestos water pipes are still in the ground.
 - Grove Farm also uses asbestos pipes.
 - How toxic is asbestos in pipes?
 - We need to remove those asbestos pipes.
12. How much water does Kaua‘i have?
13. Responsible water use and reuse of recycled water.
14. Want to learn more about water rights issues and be updated on their status.
15. Water rights issues.
16. Availability of water.
17. Management and protection of water resources.
18. Native ecosystems: flora and fauna
19. Advocate for following kūpuna practices for managing water through ahupua‘a management system. We need and want assistance. Commission should attend ahupua‘a meetings.
20. DHHL wait-listers are not getting land in Pu‘u ‘ōpae and Anahola because there is a lack of water. Access to water would reduce the waitlist for homesteaders.
21. Allocation of water among competing users.
22. Water diversions and who does water belong to? Is there enough?
23. Impact of removal of cesspools and replacing them with septic systems – are they better?
24. Concerned about the proposed dairy and possible pollution from allowing it.



ONE WATER ISSUE (CONTINUED)

25. Water Code and Commission – the Commission is supposed to uphold the Code, but laws are only enforced when court action is taken.
26. Wellhead/source water protection.
27. Total management of water resources. Follow up on diversions.
28. Availability of water for agriculture.
29. Availability of water related to drought and agriculture.
30. Coastal zone management, offshore properties, and agriculture.
31. Water conservation and education on water.
32. Concerned about reservoirs drying up in the Puna moku. Why are reservoirs drying up?
33. Major diversions, especially in Kōke‘e; wastefulness.
34. Protect the water of drinking and ground water.
35. Source water protection.
36. Water diversions.
37. Who owns the water?
38. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and DHHL need to coordinate planning.

PRESENTATION

Lenore Ohye welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and Sherri Hiraoka discussed the importance of water and gave a brief introduction to water management in Hawai‘i. Jeremy Kimura then provided an overview of the Commission on Water Resource Management, Hawai‘i’s ground and surface water resources, the Hawai‘i Water Plan, known water resource issues, and water resource management strategies.



DISCUSSION

After the presentation, the community shared their water resource issues and concerns, as well as ideas for how to improve any future outreach efforts. Comments from the community are presented below.

FUTURE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Hold the meeting on a weekend so it can be whole day, through lunch. Recap the 2008 WRPP
- Do the presentation in multiple locations and on different days.
- Better moderate the meeting.
- Start with when water will be restored.
- The community needs more information on the WRPP update process in order to participate. This presentation presented too much information too fast.
- The community needs to have the 2008 WRPP presented in order to be able to determine what needs to be changed.
- We need more time to get and digest the WRPP information.
- Clarify what the Commission can work on as a part of the WRPP. Refer out issues that other agencies can work on.
- Meet with the County Planning Departments to get the word out. Give them information and resources to share.
- Invite DHHL and beneficiaries to meetings – water affects people getting onto the land.

MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND ENFORCEMENT

- Process takes too long – we need action! Water is being diverted and sold.
- Commission staffer is needed on Kaua‘i.
- If Kaua‘i were a water management area (WMA), would complaints be heard on Kaua‘i? Issues need to be heard on-island to allow the community to participate.
- What is the WMA designation process? Anyone can file a petition. Hulē‘ia Stream diversions.
- Do state water laws encapsulate Kingdom law?

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- WRPP Update needs to have a strategy for interfacing with communities. Information needs to flow both ways to have good management!
- Why doesn't the Commission have a representative from Kaua‘i?
- The community has knowledge of ‘auwai and maps.

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March 19, 2015



DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING, AND ANALYSIS

- We need maps of water sources. Maps should show physical water boundaries and not just maps of management areas.

STREAM PROTECTION

- Moloa‘a does not get County water. There are new diversions since 2001 that have not been decommissioned. A stream diversion complaint was submitted.
- Do Kauai streams have instream flow standards (IFS)?
- Streams are in bad shape. Growth will require more sources, but they should not come from streams.
- Can the Commission visit the Hanapēpē River? There is work being done in the back of the valley. Dams. Falls area. Low water flow.
- Is the Mana Ditch included on the Commission meeting agenda for April?

GROUND WATER PROTECTION

- Koloa volcanics series: USGS did a study on ground and surface water interaction. They need to return. Water budgets need to be changed. USGS will be updating their recharge estimates for Kaua‘i.
- Have we addressed carrying capacities? Do the recharge updates and sustainable yields represent this?

AGRICULTURAL WATER NEEDS

- Farmers should get water in Anahola
- Diversions came about because reservoirs were closed after the Kaloko Dam break. How do we recapture water for agricultural use? We need to have better understanding and regulation.

WATER QUALITY

- Does the Commission monitor for pesticides (particularly for glyphosates)?

LAND USE/WATER USE

- It is difficult to get new meters in Līhu‘e but there is a lot of development planned in the land use plan.
- Water planning should precede land use. There needs to be integration.



NEXT STEPS

- Workshop notes
 - Notes from the Water Workshops will be posted to the Water Resource Protection Plan Update website at:
<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm/planning/hiwaterplan/wrpp/wrpp2014/>
 - The Commission will share the notes from this workshop with other water agencies that had comments and/or questions relating to their missions and purviews.
- Remaining Workshops: Workshops are being held on Hawai‘i Island in Kona and Hilo. Please see the WRPP Update website for dates and locations.
- Schedule: The Public Review Draft WRPP Update is expected in Summer 2015. Public Hearings on the Draft will be held in late 2015, with the Final Plan report expected in Spring 2016.

HANDOUTS

- WRPP Update Fact Sheet
- Hawaii Water Workshop Agenda
- Slideshow Presentation
- Comment Sheet