

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON

MICHAEL G. BUCK  
ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
NEIL J. HANNAHS  
AURORA KAGAWA-VIVIANI, PH.D.  
WAYNE K. KATAYAMA  
PAUL J. MEYER

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

November 29, 2021

Honorable Chair Alice L. Lee and Councilmembers  
Maui County Council  
Kalana O Maui Building, Eighth Floor  
200 South High St.  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Aloha e Chair Lee and Councilmembers,

**Subject:** Consultation on Chairperson's Recommendation to Designate the Lahaina Aquifer Sector, Maui as Surface Water and Ground Water Management Area

The Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management ("Commission") is recommending initiating the designation process of the entire Lahaina Aquifer Sector on Maui as both a Surface Water and Ground Water Management Area based on threats to water resources by existing and proposed withdrawals and serious disputes respecting the use of water resources. This currently includes the Honokōhau, Honolulu, Honokōwai, Launiupoko, Olowalu, and Ukumehame Ground Water Hydrologic Units, as well as Honokōhau, Honolulu, Honokahua, Kahana, Honokōwai, Wahikuli, Kahoma, Kaua'ula, Launiupoko, Olowalu, and Ukumehame Surface Water Hydrologic Units. (see attached map).

Commission data indicates that there is harm to ground water quantity and quality by saltwater intrusion, serious historic and ongoing disputes over current and planned water uses, and climate uncertainty which has resulted in a decline in rainfall, low stream flows, and prolonged drought. Designation of the Lahaina Aquifer Sector will provide the Commission with enhanced and integrated management to ensure protection of both surface and ground water resources and uses.

Following the designation process outlined in the State Water Code, we are consulting with the Maui County Council, Maui Mayor, and Maui Board of Water supply (HRS § 174C-41 (b)). **We would appreciate any comments by December 31, 2021.** We anticipate taking a submittal to the Commission in January 2022 with a recommendation to continue the designation process and to hold a public hearing (HRS § 174C-42).

Chair Alice Lee and Councilmembers  
November 29, 2021  
Page 2

If there are any questions, please contact me at [kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov](mailto:kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov) or via phone at 808-587-0214.

Ola i ka wai,



M. KALEO MANUEL  
Deputy Director

cc: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson  
Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King  
Councilmember Mike Molina  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Shane Sinenci  
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura

Attachment

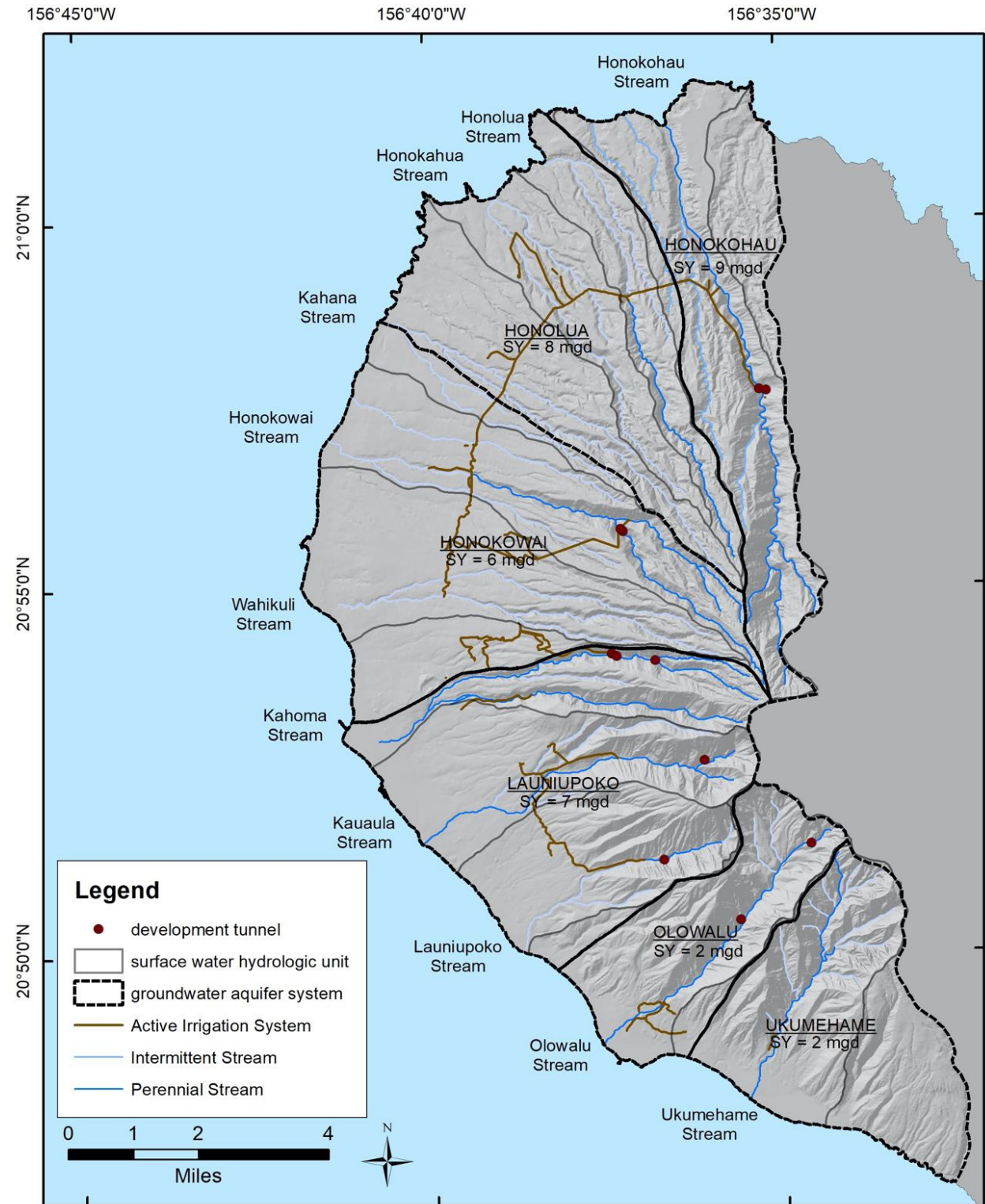


Figure 1: Lahaina Aquifer System Area including both Surface and Ground Water Hydrologic Units