

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of Petitions to Amend Interim  
Instream Flow Standards for East Maui  
Streams

) ILWU LOCAL 142'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT  
) OF HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND  
) SUGAR COMPANY'S MOTION TO  
) CONSOLIDATE PETITIONS TO AMEND  
) INTERIM INSTREAM FLOW  
) STANDARDS FOR EAST MAUI  
) STREAMS AND COMPLAINT  
) RELATING THERETO FILED MAY 29,  
) 2008  
)

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COMMISSION ON WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ILWU LOCAL 142'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF  
HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND SUGAR COMPANY'S  
MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE PETITIONS TO AMEND INTERIM INSTREAM  
FLOW STANDARDS FOR EAST MAUI STREAMS  
AND COMPLAINT RELATING THERETO FILED MAY 29, 2008

ILWU LOCAL 142 supports Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company's ("HC&S") motion because over 600 of our members are directly impacted by the economic viability of HC&S.

ILWU Local 142 has over 20,000 members, including longshore workers, hotel workers, and agricultural workers throughout the State. HC&S employs approximately 650 ILWU union workers as mechanics, welders, mill workers, irrigation workers, tractor operators, truck drivers, planting operators, field maintenance workers, clerks and technicians. The livelihoods of these 650 workers are dependent on the continued existence of HC&S as a viable economic entity.

I have been involved in negotiations relating to the shut down of Pioneer Mill and Wailuku Sugar, and the retrenchment of Maui Pine and have personally seen the devastating effects on our union members, many of whom are elderly and have worked for the same company for a long time. It's traumatic for them to have to think about changing careers, in figuring out how they're going to pay the bills and keep up the mortgage payments.

If HC&S were to shut down the effect would be even more crushing than what we had gone through in the past for two reasons. One, now that Gay & Robinson announced that it is getting out of the sugar business, HC&S is the last sugar plantation in the State; there would be nowhere for our workers to go to for the same type of work even if they

were willing to relocate within the State. Second, because of the size of HC&S, its importance to Maui's and to the State's economy means that many of our other union members will be indirectly affected if HC&S closes down.

Hawaii has witnessed too many economic blows recently. The Water Commission should not act on incomplete information that may result, although unintentionally, in the shut down of Hawaii's last sugar plantation. The risk is too high and the impact on people's lives would be too great.

DATED: Kahului, Maui, Hawaii, September 16, 2008.



William Kennison  
ILWU Local 142  
Maui Division Director