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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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STATE OF HAWAII

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In the Matter of Petitions to Amend Interim)	DARREN STRAND BRIEF IN SUPPORT
Instream Flow Standards for East Maui)	OF HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND
Streams)	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
)	

DARREN STRAND BRIEF RE: HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND SUGAR COMPANY'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE PETITIONS TO AMEND INTERIM INSTREAM FLOW STANDARDS FOR EAST MAUI STREAMS AND COMPLAINT THERETO FILED MAY 29, 2008

I, Darren Strand submit this brief regarding Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company's ("HC&S") Motion to Consolidate Petitions to Amend Interim Instream Flow Standards ("IFS") for East Maui Streams and Complaint Thereto Filed May 29, 2008. I support the motion to consolidate because it represents the most efficient way to identify the best options to provide water to all parties.


I am an Associate Director of the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District. The Central Maui SWCD represents farmers in central Maui, Kula and Olinda. The mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide farmers with funding and assistance in the planning and implementation of conservation programs.

Expanding societal needs mean greater water needs. In recognition of the frequency of droughts in Hawaii, a Hawaii Drought Council. A Hawaii Drought Plan to mitigate drought impacts was formulated. When there is a drought it is too late to begin action. HFBF requested and received an appropriation from the State Legislature to begin drought mitigation measures with the project to be decided by the County Drought Council represented by people from all sectors of society. One million dollars was provided to every County to begin implementing drought mitigation measures. The Maui County Drought Council, recognizing that it was an

agricultural initiative that resulted in this appropriation provided the funds to be used for agricultural purposes. Eight hundred thousand dollars will go towards renovating the reservoir at HC&S that supplies the Kula Ag Park. The remaining two hundred thousand will be used to begin the process of stormwater capture for agriculture. During heavy rainfall, there is enough water for everyone and the concerns regarding allocation discussed today become a non issue. By safely capturing this stormwater, the ability to leave water in streams during low rainfall periods become practical. As we embark on this project, the implications of these hearings are of concern to us. Our project will be done in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and it will look at the entire EMI watershed to identify opportunities. We cannot see how any small portion can be considered separately.

As a result, the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District strongly believes that the Motion to Consolidate as advocated by HC&S is important to allow us to continue to address agriculture's water needs. Everyone says they want to see the Central Valley remain green and not filled with houses. Helping to provide the water needed to keep the Valley green is part of our mission. We therefore, respectfully urge you to grant this motion to consolidate.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren Strand". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Darren Strand

Associate Director

Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District