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, Honolua, Honokōwai, Launiupoko, Olowalu, and Ukumehame Ground Water Hydrologic Units, as well as Honokōhau, Honolua, 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).
If there are any questions, please contact me at 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