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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kaua'ula Stream  
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Aloha e Deputy Manuel and Commission,

This is Lauren, Charlie Palakiko's wife. I'm reaching out to you all from a place of hope and frustration.

We rejoiced last month with the final judgment giving CWRM the WMA designation of the Lahaina aquifer, after much thought and earnest testimony on behalf of our community. Much like we rejoiced after the IIFS was passed for our streams in 2018.

Also much like after the IIFS victory when the river went extremely low within 10 days, we are feeling distraught and frustrated.

Ayron visited this past Monday and mentioned possible plans to place three pipes at (or above) the dam; one for the Kapu 'ohana, one for KS, both of which to be set at 1.4 mgd, and one for LIC, which is unclear how much they would receive. Then we would be receiving water from the siphon alone, at 1.4 mgd.

I have major concerns about this all. As kuleana owners and the longest current kalo farmer, I do hope that Charlie's rights (and the stream life's rights) will take precedence over the developer and other non-kuleana users.

Please consider the needs of his kalo having what recently inspired me to call "virgin water", meaning not water that has already been taken to someone else's land and no longer cold as the kalo needs it to be. Water directly from the stream. May we consider another user take water that has been used and returned to a ditch for further use?

It seems as if the upstream users (including non-kuleana) will have control over their valves / pipes, but will we still be at the mercy of LIC? We can see the drop in the stream, we feel it everyday. We check the USGS gauges. We reach out to LIC's manager Alin with little to no response, and have to take their word that they have set the siphon to a certain amount and they claim they are meeting the IIFS. We have no other option but pray for more water.

On an average day, how much water will be coming down from the dam beneath the three pipes? Is the IIFS being revised?

Lastly, it seems as if the hope for connectivity has been abandoned, like it isn't possible. It is possible. Kaua'ula's muliwai was running for years without interruption until it first ran dry on June 6, 2019. It has connected quite a few times since then. We saw it run strong for five days when we had rain during Cinco de mayo this year, which was full connection from the dam. I know you folks understand the impact on our overall environment and ecosystem, you're the DLNR, I don't need to say much here. I strongly ask that you please do not give up hope and continue working towards connectivity for our stream.

Thank you for your time. We hope to hear from you on your thoughts regarding these issues.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Lauren Palakiko