

October 18, 2022



**PĀ'UPENA**  
Community  
Development  
Corporation

96 Ahulua St.  
Kula, HI 96790  
(808) 276-2713  
kenomoto1@hawaii.rr.com  
www.paupena.org

**PAPA – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CHAIRWOMAN  
Kekoa Enomoto

SECRETARY  
Noelani Paresa

DIRECTORS  
Mahesh Cleveland, Esq.  
Jonathan Kainoa Pestana

**OFFICER/STAFF**

PRESIDENT  
Norman Abihai

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Emma Yap

Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM)  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Telephone: (808) 587-0214  
Email: dlnc.cwrmm@hawaii.gov

Aloha mai e na Commissioners,

On behalf of Pa'upena Community Development Inc. and the SCHHA (Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations) Maui/Lana'i Mokupuni Council, I am advocating on CWRM agenda item C-1, in support of DHHL's requested reservation of 1.17 MGD (million gallons per day) nonpotable water to Upcountry and Pulehunui homelands.

I endorse the full DHHL water reservation for three reasons, as follows:

- Under a federal/territorial proviso foundational to 1959 Hawai'i statehood and under the State Water Code, state agencies have a fiduciary responsibility to appropriately manage the Hawaiian Homes trust — meaning to provide adequate water for native Hawaiian homesteading.
- Pa'upena Community Development Inc., or CDC, seeks to develop 1,200 1- to 2-acre agricultural homestead lots on 5,000 Upcountry homeland acres.
- Keokea homestead farm lots needs and deserves an agricultural water allotment.

In explanation, first: Congress approved 1959 Hawai'i statehood with the proviso that the prospective state government appropriately manage the 203,000-acre Hawaiian Homes federal trust; thus, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act is one of the most critical acts defining the State of Hawai'i. Therefore, state governmental agencies, such as DLNR and CWRM, have a fiduciary responsibility to appropriately manage the trust, and to safeguard entitlements to trust beneficiaries.

Second, Pa'upena CDC principals presented to DHHL six years ago a PowerPoint on their vision for a 5,000-acre Waiohuli/Keokea homelands tract situated below the Waiohuli phase 1 and 2, and Keokea ag homestead subdivisions in Upcountry Maui. Currently, the Waiohuli/Keokea homelands tract languishes without any activity, although Pa'upena has sought for the past six years a due-diligence right of entry to manage this 'aina. We anticipate the next state administration will support beneficiary-driven homestead-development projects that will benefit from the 1.17 MGD nonpotable water reservation that DHHL has requested.

And finally, Mayor Kimo Apana gave only a 600 GPD residential-water allotment when DHHL sought subdivision permitting for the Keokea farm lots circa 2000. Despite Keokea board advocacy before county officials, and amidst nonbeneficiary developments sprouting everywhere on the Valley Isle, the County of Maui has yet to provide an agricultural-water allotment to Keokea homestead farmers.

For these reasons — the state's fiduciary responsibility; an anticipated 1,200 Upcountry homestead ag lots at Waiohuli/Keokea, and Keokea homestead farmers' need and desire for an ag-water allotment — I support DHHL's full requested reservation of 1.17 MGD nonpotable water for the Upcountry and Pulehunui homelands.

Mahalo nui,

-Kekoa Enomoto

Chairwoman of the board, Pa'upena CDC  
2019-23 president, SCHHA Maui/Lana'i Mokupuni Council