



December 18, 2023

Via Email: dlnr.cwrn@hawaii.gov

Chairperson Dawn Chang
Board of Land and Natural Resources
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg. 1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: 12-19-23 CWRM Agenda, Item B-2

In Support for Approval of State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources Application for a Well Construction Permit for Kalauha'iha'i Restoration Well (Well No. 3-1643-002), TMK (1) 3-7-011:003 for Fishpond Restoration Use, Wai'alae-East Ground Water Management Area, O'ahu

Aloha e Chair Chang, Deputy Director Manuel and Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the Approval of State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources Application for a Well Construction Permit for Kalauha'iha'i Restoration Well (Well No. 3-1643-002), TMK (1) 3-7-011:003.

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center (MFHC) is in strong support of this State and community collaborative effort to restore water flow to Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond. The traditional flow was cut off during the 1990's widening of Kalaniana'ole Highway. This project offers an innovative model for repairing our water systems. It has the potential to offer a long-awaited path forward for communities that find their water systems in disrepair across Hawai'i.

The lifeline of our 'aina depends on how well we protect the flow of wai, fresh water. The catastrophic loss of fresh water here from the 1990's State widening project has had a lasting detrimental impact on the health of our natural and cultural resources. Our community has been working for many decades to return the wai to Kalauha'iha'i. This is vital to a healthy ecosystem and thriving Hawaiian culture. We fully support the necessary project authorizations to restore the wai.

Me ke ha'aha'a,

Chris Cramer

Chris Cramer Executive Director
Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center