



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

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July 22, 2024

TESTIMONY OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, COUNTY OF HAWAII
HEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DATE: July 23, 2024
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor/ & Online via Zoom

RE: AGENDA ITEM B. 3. MODIFICATION OF EXISTING DELEGATION TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DATED DECEMBER 19, 2023, TO APPROVE CERTAIN WELL CONSTRUCTION AND PUMP INSTALLATION PERMITS BY LIMITING THE DELEGATION TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE WELL IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE HAWAII WELL CONSTRUCTION AND PUMP INSTALLATION STANDARDS AND FOR PUMPS LESS THAN 27 GALLONS PER MINUTE AND DELEGATION TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OTHER GROUNDWATER PERMIT-RELATED APPROVALS INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR INITIAL REVIEW, PERMIT EXTENSIONS, AND WELL COMPLETION REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES

The Department of Water Supply, County of Hawaii (DWS) supports the proposed recommendations to delegate certain authorities to the Chairperson and to delegate other certain authorities to the Deputy Director as summarized in the staff submittal dated July 23, 2024.

Delegating the authority to the Chairperson to approve certain well construction permits would greatly benefit DWS in continuing its mission to provide our customers with an adequate and continuous supply of safe drinking water.

As mentioned previously, DWS has been working on a new high-level groundwater well source to reduce the reliance on DWS' basal water sources in West Hawaii. The proposed delegation of authority would allow DWS' contractor to obtain a well construction permit and subsequently proceed with the construction of the well. Once the well is completed and tested per the Hawaii Well Construction and Pump Installation Standards (HWCPIS), the test data can be further evaluated and reviewed for pump installation permitting requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration of DWS's testimony.

Respectfully,

Keith K. Okamoto, P.E.
Manager-Chief Engineer

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...Water, Our Most Precious Resource...Ka Wai A Kāne...

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