

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

KA'ĀINA HULL, DIRECTOR

JODI A. HIGUCHI SAYEGUSA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

September 16, 2024

Dawn N. S. Chang Chairperson
Commission on Water Resource Management
P.O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

**RE: Testimony of the County of Kaua'i Department of Planning in Support of Agenda Item B.2.
"Briefing on the Adoption of the Kaua'i Water Use and Development Plan Update..."**

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Commission,

The Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the adoption of the County of Kaua'i's 2024 Water Use and Development Plan Update (WUDP). We recognize the significant effort that went into developing the report, which will replace the outdated 1990 report.

The WUDP forms part of the framework for managing groundwater resources and conducts an analysis of future domestic water demand based on the growth envisioned in the County's General Plan and community development plans. This analysis informs the Planning Department in its work of planning for future growth and development.

Since 2013, the Planning Department assisted the Water Department and its consultant in developing full build-out water demand projections by providing information on General Plan land use designations and zoning districts. In the completed analysis, the projections assume that all land is developed to its theoretical maximum capacity. Even under this unlikely scenario, the WUDP's analysis of projected water demand remains below the sustainable yield for the County as a whole and for all planning areas.

We appreciate the efforts made to reconcile the build-out analysis with the updated land use policies in the General Plan and community plans. The consultant team incorporated several Future Land Use Map amendments that occurred through the Līhu'e Community Plan and South Kaua'i Community Plan updates.

The final WUDP will serve as a valuable tool for the Planning Department as we continue updating our land use plans, including the current update of the East Kaua'i Community Plan. We recognize it is an ongoing effort to protect our water resources, align land use policy with infrastructure development, and address the impacts of climate change. As an important next step, we look forward to aligning General Plan policy with water infrastructure development by participating in Water Systems Investment Plan, which will identify the Water Department's long-range CIP program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ka'āina Hull
Director of Planning