

From: [Sunshine Eckstrom](#)
To: [DLNR.CW.DLNR.CWRM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CWRM Agenda 9/16
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 11:15:39 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to comment on the application Wasatch Arete TB Holdings has submitted seeking approval of a Stream Channel Alteration Permit.

You may or may not be aware, but there is large community opposition to this luxury development project. It will damage the last wild shoreline on Oahu which is some of the only habitat for native species unique to the Hawaiian islands. Monk seals, moli, yellow-faced bees and many other species of plants and animals will be irreversibly harmed by this project.

In regards specifically to this application to install a new culvert system for roadway access crossing the O'io Stream, this is a very concerning proposition. Altering streams affects ecosystems and the health of our communities. These alterations will have negative, long term effects and are purely to service the profits of a few mainland developers.

Please do not approve any alteration that would affect our precious water, land and community. Hawaii's natural resources are priceless.

Thank you,

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Sunshine Eckstrom
Haleiwa, HI



Written Testimony of Kūpa'a Kuilima

Re: Agenda Item B2 — Stream Channel Alteration Permit Application (SCAP.6438.3)

Commission on Water Resource Management

September 16, 2025

Aloha e Chair and Commissioners,

Kūpa'a Kuilima strongly opposes the approval of the Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP.6438.3) requested by Wasatch Arete TB Holdings for roadway access within the Turtle Bay Resort property, crossing 'Ō'io Stream in Kahuku, O'ahu.

Our organization's mission is to elevate 'āina by holding it sacred, staying rooted in place, and reviving ancestral traditions. Our vision is for the 'āina and kānaka of Kahuku to live in balance from Waiale'e to Keana. Any proposal to alter streams in our region must be evaluated not just for technical compliance but for its broader impacts on community, culture, and ecosystems.

We raise the following concerns:

1. **Cumulative Impact on 'Ō'io Stream and Waterways** – While the applicant frames this project as a culvert for “drainage capacity,” it continues a pattern of infrastructure expansion to serve large-scale resort development. Alterations, even with promises of “natural stream bottoms,” would have long-lasting impacts on stream health, habitat, and water flow.
2. **Climate Resilience and Flooding Risks** – The claim that the culvert will accommodate a 100-year flood event ignores the reality of climate change. More frequent and severe storms put our streams and communities at risk, and artificial alterations may worsen flooding and erosion over time.
3. **Cultural and Historical Significance** – Streams are not mere channels of water but sacred systems that feed interconnected food systems and groundwater. Any alteration is a disruption to the ancestral balance we strive to protect.

Although once approved in 2022, re-approval would set a troubling precedent: that expired permits can simply be recycled without full reconsideration of changing circumstances, community impacts, or evolving environmental realities. For these reasons, we urge the Commission to **deny the permit** and to prioritize protection of streams, ecosystems, and community values over expansion of resort access. Mahalo for considering our testimony and for your kuleana in protecting Hawai'i's precious wai and 'āina.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Kūpa'a Kuilima
Jessica dos Santos
Melissa Ka'onohi-Camit
Ramsey Calimlim
Lillie Makaila
Ida Kawaihāni Bluhm