



# HE'EIA

NATIONAL ESTUARINE  
RESEARCH RESERVE

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Commission on Water Resource Management  
State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
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## TESTIMONY RE:

A.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Video recording of the Limited Meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management to View the Important Groundwater and Surface Water Features of the He'eia Ahupua'a

Dear Chair Chang,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on the minutes of the Limited Meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management to View the Important Groundwater and Surface Water Features of the He'eia Ahupua'a. I appreciate the Commissioners and staff who made this visit possible, and welcome anyone to come back on their own to visit again and have further discussion with the He'eia NERR and our partners.

Regarding the minutes, I wish to point to one area that needs attention. In his presentation on behalf of the Board of Water Supply, Mr. Barry Usagawa stated that the Ha'ikū Tunnel produces 0.3 mgd and the Ha'ikū Well produces 0.3 mgd, for a total withdrawal of 0.6 mgd from the watershed. At our last quarterly check-in with the BWS and CWRM staff on October 1st, 2024, it was reported that as of August, 2024, Ha'ikū Tunnel was producing 0.3 mgd and Ha'ikū Well was producing 0.6 mgd, for a total withdrawal of 0.9 mgd from the Ha'ikū watershed. The neighboring valley of 'Ioleka'a also has a well, but our understanding is that this well is currently not being used. At the October 2024 meeting the BWS discussed intending to reduce Ha'ikū Well withdrawals, but we have not heard any updated figures since then. The current pumpage amounts should be checked and, if necessary, corrected in the official record.

I'd also like to ask the Commission to commit to a clear timeline for hearing a briefings on the BWS Bulkheading Study and updated hydrologic studies, and taking action on He'eia stream. Current limited water flows are impeding the progress of ahupua'a restoration that we were able to see together on November 6th, and this is a pressing issue for the community.

Mahalo,

Fred Reppun

Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) • Kāko'o 'Ōiwi • Paepae o He'eia  
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