



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES | KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA  
**COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | KE KAHUWAI PONO**  
P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

STAFF SUBMITTAL

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

May 19, 2026  
O'ahu, Hawai'i

Request for Delegation of Authority to Chairperson to  
Enter into a Joint Funding Agreement with U.S. Geological Survey  
for Multi-Year Hydrologic Data Collection Statewide, and

Declare that this Project is Exempt from the Preparation of an Environmental  
Assessment under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §343-6, based on  
Hawai'i Administrative Rules §11-200.1-15(c)(5) and the  
Exemption List for the Commission on Water Resource Management  
Approved by the Environmental Council on January 5, 2021,  
in Exemption Class 5, Part 1, Type 1

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Staff requests that the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) delegate authority to the Chairperson to enter into a multi-year Funding Agreement (Agreement) with the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the inventory and investigation of Hawai'i's water resources.

This Agreement will provide multiple years of funding for future stations identified in our monitoring needs assessment to support the sustainable management and protection of surface water resources. The proposed Agreement will provide additional monitoring capacity and future gaging stations beyond those included in the statewide cooperative monitoring program approved by the Commission on August 19, 2025.

Approval is requested for up to \$548,750 in funding by the Commission based on funding needs for six stations over three federal fiscal years. The final amount to be dedicated to this Agreement will be determined depending on the availability of year-end funds given the approaching conclusion of the state fiscal year on June 30, 2026.

- Exhibit 1 outlines the proposed scope of services. The period of the Agreement is from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2029.

- Exhibit 2 lists the stations to be funded in the Agreement. The total cost of the Commission's share will not exceed \$548,750.
- Exhibit 3 is a signed draft of the Agreement.

## BACKGROUND

The cooperative monitoring of Hawai'i's hydrologic resources began in 1909 when the USGS entered into an Agreement with the Territory of Hawai'i. Initially, monitoring was focused on surface water, and 12 streams were gaged continuously. By 1914, there were 87 continuous-record stations, largely serving sugarcane plantation data needs. Following statehood, the Division of Water and Land Development (DOWALD) managed the Agreement with USGS for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to maintain funding for many gages. The program continued to grow, reaching a peak in 1966 when 197 stream gages were operational. In 1972, ground water data collection became an integral part of the Agreement with 170 observation wells throughout the State covering baseline data.

With the passage of the State Water Code in 1987, responsibility to coordinate monitoring programs and activities concerning water resource protection and management were transferred to the Commission.

The cooperative monitoring of Hawai'i's hydrologic resources is part of the Commission's mandate to "maintain an inventory of all water uses and water resources." Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 174C-5(14). The program also helps the Commission to assess how climate variability, changing land use, and increasing water demands affect water resources. Maintaining a long-term hydrologic monitoring program with the USGS is an essential component of the Commission's Water Resource Protection Plan (WRPP), including studying:

...the effect on the environment, procreation of aquatic life and wildlife, and water quality; study the quantity and quality of water needed for existing and contemplated uses, including irrigation, power development, geothermal power, industrial, and municipal uses; and study such other related matters as drainage, reclamation, flood hazards, floodplain zoning, dam safety, and selection of reservoir sites, as they relate to the protection, conservation, quantity, and quality of water. HAR §13-170-21(b).

The 2020 USGS Hydrological Monitoring Needs Assessment for the State of Hawai'i<sup>1</sup> identified the location of new streamflow monitoring stations needed to fully implement a hydrological monitoring network to characterize the consequences of current climate

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<sup>1</sup> Cheng, C.L., Izuka, S.K., Kennedy, J., Frazier, A.G., Giambelluca, T.W. 2021. Water-Resource Management Monitoring Needs, State of Hawaii. Scientific Investigations Report 2020-5115. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2020/5115/sir20205115.pdf>.

patterns for water availability. Some monitoring stations will support the hydrological monitoring of downstream reaches that support instream uses such as aquatic ecosystems and traditional and customary practices.

In the FY 2026 State Budget, the Commission received an increase in general funds to cover the costs of additional stream gaging related to the establishment or monitoring of interim instream flow standards, especially in streams impacted by potential water leases and water management areas. Stations re-established in locations with previous long-term streamflow monitoring can also be used to help track shifts in water availability or hydrological processes associated with climate change.

On August 19, 2025, the Commission approved funding the annual Cooperative Monitoring Program which provided for the reconnaissance and permitting of future streamflow monitoring stations. The USGS provided a one-time match of \$200,000 in FY 2026 that was not originally anticipated by the Commission. Thus, additional funding remains available to cover future costs of stations that have not yet been installed. The new stations are identified in Table 1. Individual costs associated with each station are provided in Exhibit 2.

**Table 1. Stations identified for future installation and operation.**

USGS Station ID	USGS Station Name	Island	Justification
16018000	Koaie Stream near Waimea	Kaua'i	Diverted by Kekaha Ditch for hydropower and agriculture irrigation (Agribusiness Development Corporation)
16049000	Hanapēpē Rv blw Manuahi Str	Kaua'i	Diverted upstream and downstream
16405500	Waikolu Str at alt 900ft	Moloka'i	Diverted by the Moloka'i Irrigation System (Department of Agriculture)
16614500	Waihe'e Stream blw Spreckels Ditch	Maui	Diverted by Wailuku Water Co.
16565000	Ka'aiea Gulch nr Huelo	Maui	Diverted by East Maui Irrigation
16732200	Wailoa Stream near Waimea	Hawai'i	Diverted by Upper and Lower Hāmākua Ditches (Department of Agriculture)

OTHER

*Chapter 343 – Environmental Assessment (EA) Compliance*

**Environmental Assessment (“EA”) Triggers**

Under HRS §343-5(a)(1), the use of state funds triggers the requirement for an EA.

### **EA Exemption**

The proposed action is exempt from an EA based on the general exemption in Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-200.1-15(c)(5) and the Exemption List for the Commission on Water Resource Management approved by the Environmental Council on January 5, 2021, and agency exemption available under Exemption Class 5, Part 1, No. 3, which provides for "Installation of new, small groundwater, surface water, or climatological monitoring and data collection equipment, structures that house or protect this equipment, and installation of electrical, telemetry, or communications systems to service these equipment or structures." No exemption notice is required if a Part 1 exemption is applied.

### *Consistency with the Hawai'i Water Plan*

*Water Resource Protection Plan 2019 Update (WRPP)* – The 2019 Update to the Water Resource Protection Plan (WRPP)<sup>1</sup> identified a need to monitor the hydrological consequences of climate change across the State and the need for reliable, long-term data to make sound water management decisions. Chapter 3 of the WRPP includes an Action Plan that recommends the Commission have "a solid and up-to-date foundation of data on Hawai'i water resources, water use, and water dynamics is used to make water resource management decisions" (Goal: 1). Monitoring of rainfall, groundwater and surface water allows for an accounting of the quantity and variability of water, whether streamflows are sufficient to meet environmental and cultural needs, and how water is made available for human use.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

- 1) Authorize the Chairperson to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement (Agreement) with the U.S. Geological Survey to undertake the specified monitoring activities at a cost to the Commission not to exceed \$548,750;
- 2) Delegate authority to the Chairperson to modify the Agreement, including the list of monitoring stations, provided that there is no increase in cost to the Commission; and
- 3) Find that this Joint Funding Agreement is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under HRS chapter 343 based on HAR § 11-200.1-15(c)(5) and the available agency exemption specified above from the Exemption List for the Commission on Water Resource Management concurred by the Environmental Council on January 5, 2021.

The terms of this Agreement are subject to the approval of the Department of the Attorney General.

Agreements with a federal agency such as USGS are exempt from the state procurement code in accordance with HRS § 103D-102(b)(3).

Ola i ka wai,



CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
Deputy Director

- Exhibit (s):
1. Proposed Scope of Services
  2. Monitoring Stations to be funded in this Agreement
  3. Draft U.S.G.S. Joint Funding Agreement

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

**Statewide Hydrologic Data Collection for Future Streamflow Monitoring Stations  
U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Islands Water Science Center**

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

1. This Joint Funding Agreement (“Agreement”) is a continuation of the joint funding agreement for the collection of hydrological data in the State of Hawai‘i between the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior and the Commission on Water Resource Management (“Commission”), Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i (“customer”).
2. The scope of services involves the collection and computation of data on water resources collected in multiple locations throughout the State of Hawai‘i (“program”).
3. U.S. Geological Survey shall obtain the necessary approvals and permits to install and collect data at an agreed upon list of surface water stations, as set forth in Exhibit 2 which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
4. U.S. Geological Survey shall provide data summary reports and review of historical data sets.
5. U.S. Geological Survey shall host the maps, data, and reports resulting from this program in a publicly accessible website and shall provide the Commission Staff direct and easy access to acquire, download, or transfer the data and report from a USGS server. The parties shall use good faith efforts to resolve any disagreements in the scope and validation of data acquisition and the contents of the report.
6. U.S. Geological Survey shall provide a readable statement of cooperative relations and visually identifiable symbol of the Commission as a cooperator in print, digital, and online publications of the data and reports of the monitoring stations that are included in the current cooperative program, and as well as the stations that were historically supported and funded by the Commission.
7. At least quarterly and upon request by the Commission on Water Resource Management, the U.S. Geological Survey will update Commission Staff on the progress of its work on this Joint Funding Agreement.
8. The Commission on Water Resource Management shall assist the U.S. Geological Survey in its work under the Joint Funding Agreement to the extent feasible and practicable under existing resources of the Commission.

**List of Future Stations to be Funded**

<b>USGS Station ID</b>	<b>USGS Station Name</b>	<b>Island</b>	<b>FFY 2027 cost</b>	<b>FFY 2028 cost</b>	<b>FFY 2029 cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
16018000	Koaie Stream near Waimea	Kaua'i	\$41,580	\$32,840	\$34,155	\$108,575
16049000	Hanapēpē Riv blw Manuahi Str	Kaua'i	\$14,290	\$14,860	\$15,455	\$44,605
16405500	Waikolu Str at alt 900ft	Moloka'i	\$34,580	\$35,960	\$37,400	\$107,940
16614500	Waihe'e Stream blw Spreckels Ditch	Maui	\$28,580	\$29,720	\$30,910	\$89,210
16565000	Ka'aiea Gulch nr Huelo	Maui	\$38,580	\$29,720	\$30,910	\$99,210
16732200	Wailoa Stream near Waimea	Hawai'i	\$38,580	\$29,720	\$30,910	\$99,210
		<b>Total =</b>	\$196,190	\$172,820	\$179,740	\$548,750



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Pacific Islands Water Science Center  
1845 Wasp Blvd, Bld 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818

April 27, 2026

Mr. Dean Uyeno  
Hydrologic Program Manager  
State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management  
PO Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Uyeno:

Enclosed is a Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) between the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to continue our cooperative water-resource monitoring program during the period July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2029 in the amount of \$548,750 from your agency. U.S. Geological Survey contributions for this agreement are \$46,600 for a combined total of \$595,350. Please sign and return one fully-executed original to Sharbra Gordon-scott at [gs-w-hi-piwsc\\_agreements@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-w-hi-piwsc_agreements@usgs.gov).

The number, type, and location of monitoring stations may be adjusted periodically by mutual agreement of the parties to address program priorities, site conditions, permitting requirements, access limitations, and available funding. A complete list of monitoring stations and associated costs for the period July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029, is included as an attachment to this Joint Funding Agreement. Additional provisions for new or newly funded stations under this agreement are as follows:

- Station 16049000, Hanapepe River below Manuahi Stream near Eleele, Kauai, is operated as a continuous-record discharge streamgage. However, due to historical landowner-access conditions, only mean daily discharge values are published.
- Subject to receipt of all required permits and approvals, the USGS will install the following stations as soon as practicable in Federal Fiscal Year 2027: (1) USGS 16565000, Kaaiea Gulch near Huelo, Maui, HI; (2) USGS 16732200, Wailoa Stream near Waipio, HI; and (3) USGS 16018000, Koaie Stream near Waimea, Kauai, HI.

Federal law requires that we have a signed agreement before we start or continue work. Please return the signed agreement by **July 1, 2026**. If, for any reason, the agreement cannot be signed and returned by the date shown above, please contact Christopher Laveau at (253) 552-1608 or email [cdlaveau@usgs.gov](mailto:cdlaveau@usgs.gov) to make alternative arrangements.

This is a fixed cost agreement to be billed quarterly via Down Payment Request (automated Form DI-1040). Please allow 30-days from the end of the billing period for issuance of the bill. If you experience any problems with your invoice(s), please contact Sharbra Gordon-scott at phone number (253) 552-1698 or [sgordon-scott@usgs.gov](mailto:sgordon-scott@usgs.gov).

The results of all work performed under this agreement will be available for publication by the U.S. Geological Survey. We look forward to continuing this and future cooperative efforts in these mutually beneficial water resources studies.

Sincerely,

Scott VanderKooi  
Acting Center Director

SCOTT  
VANDERKOOI

Digitally signed by  
SCOTT VANDERKOOI  
Date: 2026.04.29  
13:55:52 -07'00'

Enclosure  
26ZHJFA00020 (1)

**EXHIBIT 3**

**B4 - 008**

Fixed Cost Agreement YES[ X ] NO[ ]

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of July 1, 2026, by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Pacific Islands Water Science Center, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, party of the first part, and the State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management party of the second part.

1. The parties hereto agree that subject to the availability of appropriations and in accordance with their respective authorities there shall be maintained in cooperation for negotiated deliverables (see attached), herein called the program. The USGS legal authority is 43 USC 36C; 43 USC 50, and 43 USC 50b.

2. The following amounts shall be contributed to cover all of the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program. 2(b) include In-Kind-Services in the amount of \$0.00

- (a) \$46,600 by the party of the first part during the period July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2029
- (b) \$548,750 by the party of the second part during the period July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2029
- (c) Contributions are provided by the party of the first part through other USGS regional or national programs, in the amount of: \$0

Description of the USGS regional/national program:

- (d) Additional or reduced amounts by each party during the above period or succeeding periods as may be determined by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.
- (e) The performance period may be changed by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.

3. The costs of this program may be paid by either party in conformity with the laws and regulations respectively governing each party.

4. The field and analytical work pertaining to this program shall be under the direction of or subject to periodic review by an authorized representative of the party of the first part.

5. The areas to be included in the program shall be determined by mutual agreement between the parties hereto or their authorized representatives. The methods employed in the field and office shall be those adopted by the party of the first part to insure the required standards of accuracy subject to modification by mutual agreement.

6. During the course of this program, all field and analytical work of either party pertaining to this program shall be open to the inspection of the other party, and if the work is not being carried on in a mutually satisfactory manner, either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party.

7. The original records resulting from this program will be deposited in the office of origin of those records. Upon request, copies of the original records will be provided to the office of the other party.

8. The maps, records or reports resulting from this program shall be made available to the public as promptly as possible. The maps, records or reports normally will be published by the party of the first part. However, the party of the second part reserves the right to publish the results of this program, and if already published by the party of the first part shall, upon request, be furnished by the party of the first part, at cost, impressions suitable for purposes of reproduction similar to that for which the original copy was prepared. The maps, records or reports published by either party shall contain a statement of the cooperative relations between the parties. The Parties acknowledge that scientific information and data developed as a result of the Scope of Work (SOW) are subject to applicable USGS review, approval, and release requirements, which are available on the USGS Fundamental Science Practices website (<https://www.usgs.gov/office-of-science-quality-and-integrity/fundamental-science-practices>).

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Joint Funding Agreement  
FOR

Customer #: 6000001189  
Agreement #: 26ZHJFA00020  
Project #: ZH00GSN  
TIN #: 99-0266119

Water Resource Investigations

9. Billing for this agreement will be rendered quarterly. Invoices not paid within 60 days from the billing date will bear Interest, Penalties, and Administrative cost at the annual rate pursuant the Debt Collection Act of 1982, (codified at 31 U.S.C. § 3717) established by the U.S. Treasury.

USGS Technical Point of Contact

Name: Christopher Laveau  
Supervisory Hydrologist  
Address: 934 Broadway Suite 300  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Telephone: (253) 552-1608  
Fax: (n/a)  
Email: cdlaveau@usgs.gov

Customer Technical Point of Contact

Name: Dean Uyeno  
Hydrologic Program Manager  
Address: PO Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809  
Telephone: (808) 587-0249  
Fax: (n/a)  
Email: dean.d.uyeno@hawaii.gov

USGS Billing Point of Contact

Name: Sharbra Gordon-scott  
Budget Analyst  
Address: 934 Broadway Suite 300  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Telephone: (253) 552-1698  
Fax: (253) 552-1581  
Email: sgordon-scott@usgs.gov

Customer Billing Point of Contact

Name: Dean Uyeno  
Hydrologic Program Manager  
Address: PO Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809  
Telephone: (808) 587-0249  
Fax: (n/a)  
Email: dean.d.uyeno@hawaii.gov

U.S. Geological Survey  
United States  
Department of Interior

State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource  
Management

Signature

SCOTT  
By VANDERKOOI Digitally signed by SCOTT VANDERKOOI  
Date: 2026.04.29 13:55:18 -07'00' Date: 4/29/2026

Name: Scott VanderKooi  
Title: Acting Center Director

Signatures

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Title:

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Title:

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Title:

State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management  
 Attachment for 26ZHJFA00020  
 2026-07-01 to 2029-09-30

SUMMARY

Budget Period	USGS	CWRM	Budget Period Total	Quarterly Fixed CWRM Payment
FFY 2026	\$46,600	\$0	\$46,600	\$0
FFY 2027	\$0	\$196,190	\$196,190	\$49,047.50
FFY 2028	\$0	\$172,820	\$172,820	\$43,205.00
FFY 2029	\$0	\$179,740	\$179,740	\$44,935.00
<b>AGREEMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,600</b>	<b>\$548,750</b>	<b>\$595,350</b>	

Station Funding Detail  
Budget Period: FFY 2026/2027

Site	Station Name / Cost Explanation	USGS	CWRM	Total
16018000	KOAIE STREAM NEAR WAIMEA, KAUAI, HI Installation; Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge split with 16016000	\$15,000	\$41,580	\$56,580
16049000	HANAPEPE RIVER BELOW MANUAHI STREAM NEAR ELEELE, KAUAI, HI Shared HDOT. Full Range Streamflow Station; Q daily published	\$0	\$14,290	\$14,290
16405500	WAIKOLU STREAM AT ALT 900 FT NEAR KALAUPAPA, MOLOKAI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge	\$0	\$34,580	\$34,580
16565000	KAAIEA GULCH NEAR HUELO, MAUI, HI Installation, Full Range Streamflow Station	\$15,000	\$38,580	\$53,580
16614500	WAIHEE RIVER BELOW SPRECKELS DITCH, MAUI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$28,580	\$28,580
16732200	WAILOA STREAM NEAR WAIPIO, HI Installation; Full Range Streamflow Station	\$16,600	\$38,580	\$55,180
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$46,600</b>	<b>\$196,190</b>	<b>\$242,790</b>

Station Funding Detail  
Budget Period: FFY 2028

Site	Station Name / Cost Explanation	USGS	CWRM	Total
16018000	KOAIE STREAM NEAR WAIMEA, KAUAI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge split with 16016000	\$0	\$32,840	\$32,840
16049000	HANAPEPE RIVER BELOW MANUAHI STREAM NEAR ELEELE, KAUAI, HI Shared HDOT. Full Range Streamflow Station; Q daily published	\$0	\$14,860	\$14,860
16405500	WAIKOLU STREAM AT ALT 900 FT NEAR KALAUPAPA, MOLOKAI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge	\$0	\$35,960	\$35,960
16565000	KAAIEA GULCH NEAR HUELO, MAUI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$29,720	\$29,720
16614500	WAIHEE RIVER BELOW SPRECKELS DITCH, MAUI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$29,720	\$29,720
16732200	WAILOA STREAM NEAR WAIPIO, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$29,720	\$29,720
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$172,820</b>	<b>\$172,820</b>

Station Funding Detail  
Budget Period: FFY 2029

Site	Station Name / Cost Explanation	USGS	CWRM (COOP)	Total
16018000	KOAIE STREAM NEAR WAIMEA, KAUAI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge split with 16016000	\$0	\$34,155	\$34,155
16049000	HANAPEPE RIVER BELOW MANUAHI STREAM NEAR ELEELE, KAUAI, HI Shared HDOT. Full Range Streamflow Station; Q daily published	\$0	\$15,455	\$15,455
16405500	WAIKOLU STREAM AT ALT 900 FT NEAR KALAUPAPA, MOLOKAI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station; helicopter surcharge	\$0	\$37,400	\$37,400
16565000	KAAIEA GULCH NEAR HUELO, MAUI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$30,910	\$30,910
16614500	WAIHEE RIVER BELOW SPRECKELS DITCH, MAUI, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$30,910	\$30,910
16732200	WAILOA STREAM NEAR WAIPIO, HI Full Range Streamflow Station	\$0	\$30,910	\$30,910
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,740</b>	<b>\$179,740</b>