

CHRISTOPHER J. BENJAMIN
President & Chief Executive Officer

April 22, 2016

Commission on Water Resource Management
State of Hawaii
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Case and Members of the Commission on Water Resource Management:

On January 6, 2016, Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company announced that it would be ceasing sugar operations at the end of the year, and transitioning to a diversified agricultural model for its prior sugar lands. While this transition presents many challenges, it also presents some opportunities.

One such opportunity is the restoration of stream flow for taro cultivation in East Maui. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our intent to fully and permanently restore the East Maui streams jointly identified as priority streams in 2001 by the Water Commission and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation on behalf of its East Maui clients. These streams are: Honopou, Hanehoi (Puolua), Waiokamilo, Kualani, Pi'ina'au, Palauhulu, and Wailuanui (East and West).

A&B remains committed to participating fully in the current East Maui interim instream flow standard (IIFS) proceedings in order to address the appropriate restoration of other streams. We also acknowledge the Hearings Officer's Recommendation re Interim Restoration of Stream Flow (the "***Interim Restoration Recommendations***") filed with the Commission on Water Resource Management ("***CWRM***") on April 1, 2016. A filing was made yesterday acknowledging that HC&S agrees in principle with the Interim Restoration Recommendations for stream flow restorations on an interim basis pending a final decision from CWRM on the East Maui IIFS petitions.

We will be meeting with the CWRM staff to ask for their guidance in identifying the most expeditious and cooperative way possible to modify the diversions on these streams, to enable the return of flows to the streams. We would welcome consultation with the East Maui community as well to ensure their input is provided regarding the modification of the diversions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on the above.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Benjamin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher J. Benjamin
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Jeff Pearson, CWRM Deputy Director
Dr. Lawrence H. Miike, Hearings Officer
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