



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

March 20th, 2018

Chair Alika Atay
Water Resources Committee
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Maui, HI. 96793

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

RE: WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION (WR-5)

Aloha Chair Atay and Council Members,

My name is Chris Brosius and I am the Program Manager for the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership.

Today I am here to thank you for your sustained support for Maui's Watersheds and reinforce DWS budget requests In WR 5. We are pleased that the County once again aims to provide the backbone of our soft grant funded programs in FY 19.

Watershed Partners

- County of Maui
- Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
- Kahoma Land Holdings, LLC
- Ka'anapali Land Company, LLC
- Kahoma Land, LLC
- Kamehameha Schools
- Makila Land Co., LLC
- Maui County Department of Water Supply
- Maui Land & Pineapple Company Inc
- Wailuku Water Co. LLC
- The Nature Conservancy

- Specifically WMMWP is thankful for the Department's request of \$485,461 for us this coming year.
- These funds make up a very critical portion of our budget which we use to leverage state, federal and private funds two or three times to sustain and further core watershed protection programs across 50,000 acres of Mauna Kahalawai.

In the last five years WMMWP has progressed greatly within our programs and continues to increase our management footprint.

- Our fencing has increased from 18 to 23 miles and continues to expand while maintenance continues to ensure integrity.
- Our acres protected from ungulates has increased more than 10,000 acres in the last five years and is projected to be 31,300 acres in FY19 or 66% of the watershed.
- Our engagement of invasive weeds has matured from primarily 3 priority species to nearly a dozen priorities and more are possible as we press outward from the pristine core to more weedy areas.
- Our monitoring transects have roughly doubled from 15 to 31 in the last five years allowing us to assess threats more comprehensively.
- Our outreach and education program is also reaching further into the community with over 400 one on one interactions and nearly 17,000 social

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media page engagements compared to relatively few five years ago.

- Presently our staff is also up to 10 full time and 3 temp hires and we hope to keep them on full time.

With more to do than ever, thoughtful planning, and limiting resources we hope that the council can support the funding requested so we can make further progress.

Mahalo for your support!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brosius, Program Manager