

EACP Committee

From: Kelly King
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 8:37 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony for EACP-9 Sustainability and Restoration of Traditional Hawaiian Fishponds

With Aloha,

Office of Council Chair Kelly T. King
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-----Original Message-----

From: Michele Lincoln <lincolnmichele@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:11 PM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@maucounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@maucounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@maucounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@maucounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@maucounty.us>
Subject: Testimony for EACP-9 Sustainability and Restoration of Traditional Hawaiian Fishponds

Testimony for EACP-9 cc18-166
Sustainability and Restoration of Traditional Hawaiian Fishponds EACP-9

Please consider restoring the historical royal inland 'Alamihi Fishpond located in the outlet of the Kahoma Stream in Lahaina by Mala Wharf.

Included is the response from Congressman Ed Case suggesting a study request be submitted to the USACE.

Located adjacent to the Old Lahaina Luau, they may be a viable entity to assume responsibility of stewardship of the 'Alamihi Fishpond.

How appropriate the number nine is designated for the Restoration of traditional Hawaiian fishponds (EACP-9). Nine is God's number for divine justice and recompense. Please consider the following proposal and take appropriate action.

Request to Help Facilitate Kahoma's Restoration

Please consider supporting land use policies, actions, and funding that result in restoration of Lahaina's streams, better management of watersheds from mountain to the sea and reduction in sediments and pollutants to our oceans. This is especially true of Kahoma and Kanaha Streams and their riparian area.

Opportunities to Restore Health and Productivity of Kahoma and Kanaha Streams

- The Kahoma Flood Control Channel has opportunity to be restored, provide for Hawaiian cultural practices, and preserve an important historical place. Please conduct an overview of the Kahoma and adjoining stream Kanaha's ahupua'a with recommendations for restoration.

- In November 2018, Hawaii's State Commission on Water Resource Management set in-stream flow standards for Kanaha and Kahoma Streams.

“With the restoration of stream flow to Kahoma and Kanaha Streams, we sincerely hope that the communities and families of Kahoma Valley and Lahaina will continue to see the return of stream animals and cultural practices, along with the abundant educational opportunities that exist, while allowing for continued important off-stream domestic and agricultural uses in a balanced manner.’ said commission Chairwoman Suzanne Case.”

The Maui News article continued regarding the state's stream-flow ruling: “The report noted planting and harvesting of kalo from new loi that have sprung up a result of the stream-flow restoration...the commission approved a phased implementation of the in-stream flow...to meet additional kalo loi being planted.”

Present and Prior Studies and Planning Documents Supporting this Action

This outcome is supported by many plans, studies and agency planning documents and decisions. Such as:

- In the early 1980's, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted for the channelization of the Kahoma Stream in Lahaina.

According to the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project EIS “The District is a governmental subdivision of the State of Hawaii, committed to provide for the conservation and protection of the land and water resources in the interest of health, safety, and general welfare of the people of West Maui.”

- Continuing in the report “...with Army Corps of Engineers as well as U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, State Department of Forestry in coordinated effort to develop the most feasible means of reducing the sediment load on Kahoma Stream. The combination of the Federal Flood Control Improvement with an active land treatment program should provide complete and long-term protection of the drainage basin.”

- Another provision in Kahoma's EIS included planting trees with a greenway along the banks of the channel. That was never realized. However, recently restored stream flow makes now a good time to implement “conservation and protection” measures.

- In December 2018, the county hosted a meeting regarding the regional water use plan for Lahaina. Maui County's Board of Water Supply identified the key issues:

“1) Restoration and protection of streamflow to support native Hawaiian rights and traditional and customary practices 2) Watershed protection, reducing the adverse effects of runoff and sedimentation on streams and the near shore environment 3) Improved understanding of ground and surface water resources 4) Precautionary planning to reduce and adapt to the effects of drought and climate change on water resource availability and quality 5) Adapt economic and population growth and the built environment to local water resource condition, integrating conservation and the use of alternative resources.”

- One specific strategy to meet Lahaina's planning objective is: “Explore Kahoma Stream flood control project to collect and convey storm-water for agricultural use.”

- The state and county concur on Kahoma/Kanaha Stream's water usage.

- In addition to the recent state ruling and county strategy, federal agencies are developing plans for the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative.

On August 30, 2018, the “USACE West Maui Watershed Study” gave an “Initial Array of Alternatives” for managing sediment. Of the eight alternatives presented by the Army Corps of Engineers, “Traditional Hawaiian Practices” meets the objectives of the state and county goals.

The USACE states: “Construct or restore loi terraces; use historically proven methods and structures for sediment management.”

Historic Studies Support Kahoma’s Restoration

In September 1979, the Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division Department of the Army Contract No. DACW89-79-C-0012 had “A Cultural History Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project, Lahaina, Maui prepared by Pauline King Joerger and Michael W. Kaschko.”

All Kahoma’s historical and cultural findings are worth reading. For the sake of time and space, comments will be limited to “an inland fishpond called ‘Alamihi”.

“Kauhi, the high chief of Maui, was fighting against the authority of Kamehameha-nui. During the rebellion Kauhi ‘seized all the food at ‘Alamihi ahupua’a’ (Kamakau, 1961:73). According to Kamakau, enough food was collected to support the needs of his army for a march across the island.”

“In the Great Mahale of 1848 Kamehameha III kept the ahupua’a of ‘Alamihi, including the fishpond, as Crown Land (Indices, 1929:26; Nahaolelua, Report.)”

“The prehistoric political and economic importance of fishponds and aquaculture has been increasingly emphasized in recent research. Because of the political and economic importance traditionally associated with the Lahaina area, both historically and prehistorically, this fishpond is significant in terms of its probable association with those cultural developments.”

Much more is included in the report about the fishpond as well as their conclusion: “it is our opinion that ‘Alamihi Fishpond is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.” Though nothing was done about this at the time, it is possible to do something now.

Adjacent to the location of the Old Lahaina Luau, restoration of the ‘Alamihi Fish Pond is possible in the lower portion of Kahoma Stream by Mala Wharf. Besides historical and cultural importance, the in-land fishpond would help mitigate land based pollution and sediment from entering the ocean. Recommended Policies and Implementing Actions for Kahoma and Hawaii’s Watersheds:

1) Consider a policy that subsidies are provided for farmers of loi-terraces as an inexpensive solution for management of sediment loads.

County law makers can partner with Federal, State programs to find innovative funding options to accomplish these objectives.

2) Recommend an updated Army Corps of Engineers analysis of the Kahoma Stream with the goal of determining what can be restored to natural conditions of Kahoma’s concrete flood control channel while maintain a safe environment for the surrounding residences and businesses.

3) Evaluate the viability of restoring Kahoma's historical 'Alamihi inland fishpond with recommendations to achieve that objective.

4) Enlist the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to evaluate and make recommendations for restoration of pre-contact forests and agriculture including loi-terraces and other native plants. Allocate funds for restoration efforts.

5) Recommend that the banks of the Kahoma channel be planted with trees and that funding be found to support this restoration. In addition to native tree restoration, recharging the groundwater, and lowering temperatures, carbon credits benefits may be applicable.

Conclusion:

Special consideration must be given to the Kahoma Watershed in West Maui. The Kahoma ahupua’a is significant historically and responsible for Lahaina’s educational, agricultural, and domestic water usage.

Water is the source of life. Lahainaluna High School’s agriculture water, Lahaina’s municipal water, and cultural preservation are dependent on the Kahoma/Kanaha Streams. The West Maui’s Ridge to Reef jurisdiction does not include Kahoma.

Thank you for your efforts to address watershed management and protection, replant native forests, and the restoration of this important Hawaiian cultural and historical site.

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES
July 16, 2019

Mrs. Michele L. Lincoln
452 Aki St
Lahaina, HI 96761-1456

Dear Mrs. Lincoln:

Mahalo for contacting me to learn how to secure federal funds for the Kahoma Flood Channel.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) studies from the 1980s concluded that using the channel's outlet could increase flooding risks in neighboring areas, but it is possible that a new study could come up with a different conclusion. The first step in the process would be for either the State of

Hawai'i or the County of Maui to submit a study request to the USACE. Thus, I encourage you to share your concerns with your state legislators, who you can find at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>, and your county council member, who you can find at <http://www.mauicounty.gov/council/>.

Thank you again, and please continue to let me know of your views. Please also sign up for regular updates from me and my office through my e-newsletter and social media outreach at <https://case.house.gov/contact>.

With aloha, Congressman Ed Case (Hawai'i-First District)

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