

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

July 5, 2019

Committee
Report No. 19-77

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Water and Infrastructure Committee, having met on June 3, 2019, makes reference to the following:

1. County Communication 18-434, from the Director of Water Supply, transmitting water use reports for Maui, from the State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management ("CWRM") for September 2018;
2. County Communication 19-33, from the Director, transmitting water use reports for Maui from CWRM for October 2018;
3. County Communication 19-133, from the Director, transmitting water use reports for Maui from CWRM for January 2019; and
4. County Communication 19-210, from the Director, transmitting water use reports for Maui from CWRM for March 2019.

Your Committee notes Section 13-168-7(b) of the Hawaii Administrative Rules provides, in pertinent part:

The owner or operator of any well or stream diversion works or battery of such water sources shall file a report of total water usage on a regular monthly (calendar or work schedule) basis to the commission

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Each month, CWRM compiles these reports of water use for all registered well reporters and surface water users on Maui. CWRM then transmits two summary reports to the Department of Water Supply: Monthly Pumpage Data and Monthly Surface Water Gaging Data.

Your Committee noted three water operators had not timely reported to CWRM, according to the October 2018 report. Thus, your Committee asked whether well and gage reporters are penalized for failure to submit water use data. The Director said CWRM has enforcement authority, in accordance with the State Water Code.

Further, the Director said the Department tests its water samples and closely monitors chloride levels, which are key indicators of aquifer health and are reported to CWRM. The Director pointed out two County-owned wells had chloride levels of 7 parts per million in March 2019, which indicates very good water quality. To place this number in context, the Director said the drinking water regulatory standard for chlorides used by the State of Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 250 parts per million.

Your Committee noted some water users, such as Maui Electric Company, Ltd. ("MECO"), are pumping water that exceeds the drinking water standard for chlorides by factors of up to 100. The Director said this is because the water user is pumping brackish water for non-potable uses; in the case of MECO, the water is likely being used to cool the power-generation system.

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend filing of the communications. Committee Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Hokama, Kama, Molina, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci voted "aye."

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Your Water and Infrastructure Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That County Communication 18-434 be FILED;
2. That County Communication 19-33 be FILED;
3. That County Communication 19-133 be FILED; and
4. That County Communication 19-210 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



ALICE L. LEE, Chair