

## WIT.Committee

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**From:** Chris Brosius <brosius@westmauiwatershed.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:06 AM  
**To:** WIT.Committee  
**Cc:** Eva Blumenstein  
**Subject:** Copy of MKWP testimony on 1/22/2020  
**Attachments:** Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership\_WIT Committee Testimony for FY21\_01222020.doc

Aloha WIT Committee Members,

I understand that a copy of testimony and handouts are being requested from presenters. I was able to offer the attached testimony at the WIT meeting on 1-22-2020. I am sending it out now for you records. I plan to attend the follow up meetings and be available for questions.

Have a great day and mahalo again for your support,

Chris

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Water, Infrastructure and Transportation (WIT)  
Testimony of Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership  
1-22-2020

Aloha Chair Sugimura & Council Members,

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

Today I am here to thank you for your sustained support for Maui's Watersheds and reinforce Watershed Protection funding in the Mayor's Budget. Our watershed protects source water for an estimated 70% of DWS's municipal supply. The water that flows from the wells and streams of Kahālāwai enrich stakeholders East to Paia, South to Makena, encompass all of West Maui and most of Central Maui. Our work not only helps to sustain forests and water but subsequently furthers our island culture, families, communities and the majority of our County's economic engine.

- Therefore, we are pleased that the County once again aims to provide the backbone of our funding in FY 21 via DWS.
- Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership received \$480,000 in FY 20 and has requested \$693,000 in funding for FY21 to help enhance and expand our coverage of critical ongoing and new watershed threats.
- These funds make up a very critical and foundational portion of our budgets which we use to leverage state, federal and private funds. This has allowed us to expand our programs to over 1.1 million in services annually.

All of our programs strive to protect these forested mountains as critical source water recharge areas from many threats including invasive feral pigs, goats, deer and cattle, our worst and most water thirsty invasive weeds such as Strawberry Guava and Himalayan Ginger, and other issues such as wild fires and forest diseases like Rapid Ohia Death.

Our efforts to diminish these threats include outreach and education, interpretive programs, and AmeriCorps volunteer programs. We are also memberships in wild fire suppression groups, the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships, and work in collaboration with several state and federal agencies to further mission goals. Our highly trained staff of 12 are skilled in the use of ropes for repelling, helicopters for access, technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles to detect invasive weeds, Databases, Plant identification, monitoring techniques, as well as, fence building over extreme mountainous terrain to keep out impacts. Our progress is steady and can be measured in the threat reduction metrics we produce which show challenges, the progress we have made, and expansion of areas protected. There is much more to be done to ensure the sustainability of the watershed, but we couldn't possibly accomplish what we have without your support!