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**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI**

200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
TELEPHONE (808) 270-7816 • FAX (808) 270-7951 • www.mauiwater.org

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 1, 2016

Honorable Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor
County of Maui
200 South High Street, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

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For Transmittal to:

Honorable Mike White, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
County of Maui
200 South High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Alan Arakawa 12/2/16
Mayor Date

Dear Chair White and Members of the Maui County Council:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE WEST MAUI MOUNTAINS WATERSHED
PARTNERSHIP (WMMWP)**

By this letter, the Maui County Board of Water Supply (BWS) wishes to affirm its support for the conservation efforts of the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership (WMMWP) to protect watershed and water resources vital to the residential, agricultural and commercial needs of Maui County. Through detailed testimony given by Mr. Chris Brosius, Program Manager of WMMWP, the BWS understands that extensive damage to critical watershed protection fencing occurred during the rain storm of September 13 - 14, 2016.

Based upon his report, costs for critical repairs are estimated at \$265,000 for 30 segments of fence located across source water recharge areas in the West Maui Mountains. Repairs are required in areas where both intermittent and perennial streams swelled from just a few feet to 10 to 15 feet above normal. Accounts and photos described where storm waters jumped banks, eroded flood plains, pushed debris and rerouted streams to damage fences. Extensive sections of 8-foot-tall game fence and stream crossing were washed away or flattened. These locations are the most

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"By Water All Things Find Life"

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challenging to build and require highly trained staff for such activities as rappelling and utilizing helicopters to position materials and staff in remote locations.

Should financial support not be given to assist in these repairs, animals may repopulate the watershed and undo the good work of the partnership and reverse years of progress made in large part through the thoughtful investment of grants by Maui County. Indeed, management costs may compound if not addressed early to prevent repopulation and subsequent denuding and degradation of the watershed.

Therefore, the BWS respectfully urges the County and the Department of Water Supply to provide the funds, and to support the WMMWP's efforts in securing this funding with other state and federal agencies, to make repairs necessary to safeguard our watersheds and their water resources. Storm damage to water supply infrastructure, homes and families has been well covered by the response efforts, the BWS would like to assure that these critical repairs to our watershed are also addressed.

Thank you for your support of Maui's watershed partnerships now and in the future. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,



Anders Lyons
Chair

AFL/ghh

copy: David Taylor, Director, Department of Water Supply
Edward S. Kushi, First Deputy Corporation Counsel
Chris Brosius, Program Manager, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership