

Testimony

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The proposed amendments do not further the intent of the original bill or the Public Trust responsibility. If govt should learn any lesson from its own history, it would be to follow the established Public Trust Doctrine, and recent decisions in law, guiding policies and decisions to protect our water. Poor decisions based on priorities and values not shared by the citizens result in expensive litigation and mammoth fines. This also affects on-going efforts to address fairly and with scientific accuracy, ^{water resources in} ~~backed by~~ the yet to be completed and adopted Maui County Water Use and Development Plan. Absent clear objectives and evaluation criteria, backed by community and cultural values of water resources, is an invitation to expensive litigation ~~and~~ and even more delays for approved subdivisions building permits requiring a verified reliable long-term water source. We should not "water down" the existing policy.

Richard Abbett

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