



**WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON BILL 1 FROM WAILEA808
KAY ANDERSON, PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 26, 2026**

Good afternoon, my name is Kay Anderson with Wailea808 and I thank you for allowing me to speak against Bill 1 today.

First, Maui County is in a drought that will last at least three years according to the analysis from the Department of Water. Because of the drought our ground water or aquifers are not being refreshed adequately but at the same time we continue to allow more withdrawal by adding wells to these ground water sources with each additional development. This demonstrates we are not good stewards of our Aina and our natural resource, water. We must demand "responsible sustainable"

development, so our future generations have the resources to continue to live and thrive here on Maui.

This Bill puts the decision in the hands of the developer to move forward with their project without final approval from the Department that has the expertise to determine if there is long term sustainable water.

Although 14.12.040 states that the Department of Water has the final say, it is written weakly and should be stated in strong language so that if the developer does not have long term sustainable water, they will not receive their building permit regardless if they are asking for water from our six Public water treatment facilities or through wells tapping into Maui County aquifers.

The last sentence in this Bill states that “This approval of subdivision construction plans by the department will not constitute a guarantee of water availability for the subdivision.” I cannot imagine how the hard-working individuals that scraped together enough

money to purchase an affordable or workforce home would feel if one day they turned on the shower or Fawcett and there was not any water. I'm sure they would be saying "Show Me The Water!"

Finally, the planning process needs to be modified, and a Maui County Centralized Water Authority constituted with responsibility for all the water utilities must be created. I would volunteer to participate in the Strategic Planning Committee to help create this Authority, but until then, the Department of Water must take charge issuing building permits for all developers requesting water whether public or from ground water only if there is long term sustainable water available for their project.

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