

# Water and Infrastructure Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-10 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 10-10-24 09:00

## eComments Report

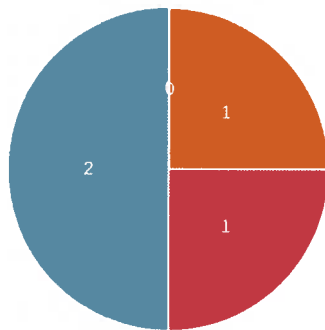
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Water and Infrastructure Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-10 9:00 AM	10-10-24 09:00	2	4	0	1	1

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (0%)   Oppose (25%)   Neutral (25%)  
No Response (50%)



**Water and Infrastructure Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-10 9:00 AM**  
**10-10-24 09:00**

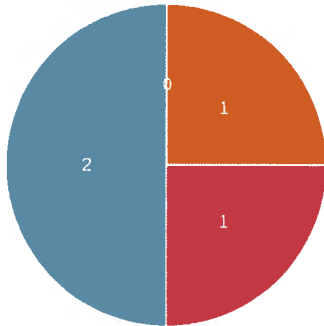
Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
AGENDA	1	0	0	1
WAI-31 Reso 24-161 RESOLUTION 24-161, URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PRIORITIZE THE INCREASED PRODUCTION AND EXPANSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF RECYCLED R-1 WATER TO PRESERVE POTABLE WATER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI (WAI-31)	3	0	1	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

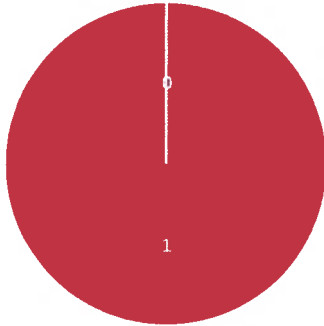
**Overall Sentiment**

Support (0%)    Oppose (25%)    Neutral (25%)  
No Response (50%)



## Overall Sentiment

Support (0%)   Oppose (0%)   Neutral (100%)  
No Response (0%)



### Edward Codelia

Location:

Submitted At: 1:31pm 10-06-24

Dear HLUC Members,

I am submitting this testimony to express concerns regarding the failure of our government to adhere to the principles embodied in both the State of Hawaii's motto, "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka \_\_ina i ka Pono" ("The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"), and the County of Maui's motto, "Hana Kupono, Ku I Ka Pono" ("Strive for Excellence, Stand for Justice"). Both of these mottos emphasize righteousness, sustainability, and justice. However, it has become evident that there are significant gaps between these guiding principles and the government's current actions.

#### Environmental and Land Management Failures:

The government has a duty to protect and manage our natural resources responsibly, as reflected in the focus on "righteousness" and the life of the land in both mottos. However, overdevelopment, land mismanagement, and environmental degradation suggest otherwise. The ongoing water rights conflicts in East Maui, along with decisions favoring corporate interests, such as those involving Mahi Pono and Alexander & Baldwin, indicate a departure from sustainable land stewardship. These actions undermine the public's trust and the call for righteousness that our mottos demand.

#### Housing and Cost of Living:

The principles of justice and righteousness should guide housing policies to ensure that basic needs are met. However, the housing crisis on Maui, made worse by recent wildfires, highlights the government's inability to address affordable housing effectively. Skyrocketing land and housing prices, particularly for Native Hawaiians and local residents, demonstrate a failure to align with the idea of preserving the life of the land in righteousness and ensuring justice for all.

#### Indigenous Rights and Cultural Preservation:

The government's handling of issues such as the Mauna Kea protests and land leases to corporations has been widely criticized as a violation of the core values expressed in both mottos. Native Hawaiian communities have long fought to preserve sacred lands and resources, yet government resistance to their concerns shows a disconnect between cultural values and policy decisions. This further diminishes public confidence in the government's commitment to "pono" or righteousness.

**Corruption and Mismanagement:**

At both the state and county levels, instances of mismanagement, slow bureaucratic processes, and allegations of corruption are widespread. The lack of transparency and accountability conflicts directly with the principle of "standing for justice" enshrined in the County of Maui's motto. The government must regain the public's trust by improving its operations and adhering to the standards of excellence and righteousness called for in our mottos.

**### Tourism vs. Local Interests:**

While tourism is essential to Hawaii's economy, it does not necessarily benefit Hawaiians, Hawaiian culture, or, as we learned following the events of August 8, 2023, the residents of Maui County. Many policies prioritize tourists over local communities, leading to conflicts over water use, zoning, and infrastructure. The prioritization of tourist interests over residents contradicts the values of justice and sustainability reflected in our mottos. We must refocus on the needs of the community and ensure that economic development does not come at the expense of our environment or people.

In conclusion, the government must better align its actions with the principles expressed in the State of Hawaii and County of Maui mottos. This requires a shift in priorities—one that places sustainability, justice, and the welfare of residents above corporate interests and mismanagement. I urge the Council to review current policies and make meaningful changes to ensure that our government truly reflects the values of "pono" and justice in all its actions.

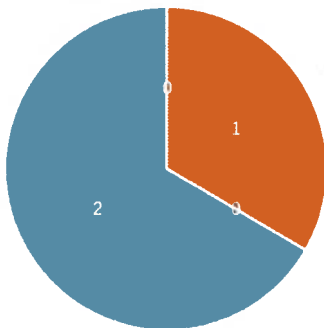
Thank you for considering these principles in your deliberations.

Edward Codelia

Agenda Item: eComments for WAI-31 Reso 24-161 RESOLUTION 24-161, URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PRIORITIZE THE INCREASED PRODUCTION AND EXPANSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF RECYCLED R-1 WATER TO PRESERVE POTABLE WATER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI (WAI-31)

**Overall Sentiment**

Support (0%)    Oppose (33%)    Neutral (0%)  
No Response (66%)



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:08am 10-10-24

Aloha Chair Cook, Vice-Chair Sugimura, and Council Committee members, Kaanapali Land supports the idea of expanding the R1 reclaimed water distribution system at the Lahaina WWTP. The current County's (DEM-WWRD) plan to develop pump R1 water to various elevation and storage makes

logical sense. We stand ready to collaborate on the distribution system planning and program management with specific resources and targets for agriculture and golf course as well as new housing developments (e.g., Puukoolii Village Mauka where it reclaimed water could help to offset potable domestic uses).

Aloha and Mahalo,  
Jeff Rebugio, Kaanapali Land

### **Ann Pitcaithley**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:33pm 10-09-24

We all recognize that water is scarce, that we are in a drought, and that we need to keep wastewater out of the injection wells. and free up more potable water. This proposal to prioritize the increased production and expansion of the distriutuin of recycled R-1 water for the construction of housing in Maui is extremely vague . What housing does it intend to service?Is it for luxury developments or affordable housing or all housing? Although water is a public trust, oftentimes people with money and power get water like the maor resorts in Wailea and West Maui. What is the cost of providing R-1 including infrastructure? Without providing more essential information, the public should be wary about supporting it. We should also focus on water restriction measures.

### **Edward Codelia**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:02am 10-06-24

Aloha Council Members;

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed legislation concerning the use and expansion of R-1 water. While I appreciate the intent behind the legislation, it lacks practical details on how the proposed solutions will be implemented. The recognition of water scarcity is important, but the proposed steps fail to adequately address the realities of cost, infrastructure needs, and community engagement.

First, while the legislation promotes expanding R-1 water production and distribution, the infrastructure to support this initiative is not in place. Expanding wastewater treatment facilities, pipes, and pumps would require tens of millions of dollars and a timeframe of 3 to 5 years. Taxpayers will bear the burden of these costs, and the legislation does not specify how this financial strain will be managed. Additionally, the community must be meaningfully involved in these decisions, which this legislation does not adequately address.

Further, connecting water supply directly to housing development oversimplifies the issue. Prioritizing water for rebuilding efforts, while necessary, restricts new housing developments, and the proposed timelines for new water sources will not meet urgent needs. The legislation also assumes that public acceptance of recycled water is a given, but without a robust public engagement plan, this could face significant resistance.

Instead of pursuing this legislation as it stands, I suggest the Council focus on immediate solutions that could provide relief to our water issues without requiring years of investment:

1. **Rainwater Harvesting**: Promote the installation of rainwater catchment systems for homes and businesses to collect non-potable water.
2. **Water Conservation Programs**: Educate the community on water-saving techniques, including leak repairs and water-efficient landscaping.
3. **Immediate Infrastructure Improvements**: Fund the upgrading of existing water systems to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

In conclusion, while the goal of increasing R-1 water use is positive, this legislation lacks the clear plans, realistic timelines, and public support necessary for its success. I urge the Council to reconsider this proposal and focus on more immediate and actionable solutions that can benefit the community today.

Edward Codelia