

## WASSP Committee

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**From:** John Blumer Buell <johnblumerbuell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 1:19 PM  
**To:** WASSP Committee; Shane M. Sinenci  
**Cc:** Mayors Office; leo.Caires@mauicounty.gov; James G. Krueger; John Blumer Buell  
**Subject:** Urgent and Timely Concerns and Questions Regarding the Maui County Charter 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards Requirements  
**Attachments:** WASSP COMMITTEE 5-25-2023.pdf; httpsmauicounty.legistar.comView.ashxM=F&ID=11945734&GUID=12D54839-EF52-4315-BB22-C06D0B069365.pdf; Applicants, Excluding new ones East Maui Water Board .pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from johnblumerbuell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha All!

**Please Confirm Receipt. MAHALO!**

**John Blumer-Buell**

Concerned Maui Citizen.

Applicant for the East Maui Regional Board.

[johnblumberbuell@gmail.com](mailto:johnblumberbuell@gmail.com) 808-248-8972

Post Office Box 787 Hana, Hawai'i 96713

May 25, 2023

Subject: **Urgent and Timely** Concerns and Questions Regarding the  
**Maui County Charter 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards**  
**Requirements** in relation to the first ongoing “Applications Process” for the  
East Maui Regional Community Board.

Maui County Council Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee  
(WASSP), Shane Sinenci, Chair

Sent via email with requests for confirmation of receipt to:

WASSP.Committee@mauicounty.us

Cc: to Mayor Bissen mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

Mayor's Chief of Staff Leo Caires leo.Caires@mauicounty.gov

James G. Krueger james.krueger@mauicounty.us

Aloha Chair Sinenci and Committee Members,

I am writing to request your committee to carefully consider and legally  
resolve the “Urgent and Timely Concerns and Questions” before voting to  
confirm any appointments to the East Maui Regional Community Board.

Importantly, this will make the appointment process legally credible  
and understandable to the applicants and the citizens of Maui County.

My current understanding is there are contradictions between the  
enabling Maui County Charter Section 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards  
and the “interpreted” records and public information available in the ongoing  
“Application and Appointment Process”.

Here are two examples for your careful consideration:

**FIRST**, an example and excerpt from the enabling Maui County Charter approved by the voters, “**Section 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards**”. To be certain of accuracy, please check the correctness of the quoted language from the County web site.

“There is an East Maui regional community board. In conjunction with the investigation, acquisition, or control of water collection and delivery systems by the water authorities, the council may establish additional regional community boards by ordinance”.

1. “The East Maui regional community board is concerned with the Nāhiku, Ke'anae, Honomanū, and Huelo license areas, and consists of eleven members with a minimum of two members from each license area. **Eight members must have experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in the applicable watershed and reside in the applicable community plan area.** Of these eight members, four are appointed by the council, and four are appointed by the mayor. The three remaining members are appointed by the council based on the following requirements: one member with experience in water resource management who is actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i‘a in the area where water service is provided; one member with experience in water resource management who resides full-time in the area where water service is provided; and one member who is a representative of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and is recommended by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. If the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands fails to recommend a member within thirty days after receiving notice of a vacancy, the council will appoint a Hawaiian Home Lands representative as member”.

The first essential phrase for consideration is. “..... **reside in the applicable community plan area**”. The applicable community plan areas are “....the Nāhiku, Ke'anae, Honomanū, and Huelo license areas”.

Honorable Mayor Bissen’s May 2, 2023, letter to Chair Sinenci and the WASSP Committee (attached) stated in part, “In accordance with Section

8-19.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui, as amended, I am transmitting my selected appointees for the East Maui regional community board and their assigned license areas, as follows: Mr. Kyle Nakanelua (Ke'anae), Mr. Moses Kahiamoe, Jr. (Nāhiku), Mr. Hugh Starr (Honomanū), Mr. Lester Wong (Huelo)".

In my research and discussions to actually understand the process, I talked to several community members. I was informed the mayor's appointment for the "applicable community plan area" of Nahiku does not live in the Hana Community Plan area.

However, one person commented, "...As for the East Maui water authority. The requirements for the Mayor's appointments are different than those of the Council". And, "The mayor is not required to appoint one person from each of the lease areas".

**To me, those statements do not appear to be accurate or in agreement with the enabling Maui County Charter "Section 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards".**

**Please publicly discuss and resolve this dilemma.**

I have not researched the other three appointments by the mayor. Those issues are best left for the WASSP Committee to discuss and determine. *MAHALO !*

**SECOND**, another example and excerpt from the enabling Maui County Charter approved by the voters, "**Section 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards**". To be certain of accuracy, please check the correctness of the quoted language from the County web site.

**"Eight members must have experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in the applicable watershed and reside in the applicable community plan area".**

For some unknown reason to me, the "Applicants Document" (attached) states in part, "...resides in the Hana or Paia-Haiku Community Plan Area" for the Huelo License Area. This appears to contradict County of

Maui Charter Section 8-19.2 Regional Community Boards which states in part, “....and **reside in the applicable community plan area**”.

**Please publicly discuss and resolve this dilemma. *MAHALO !***

In closing, I would appreciate your consideration of the following comments:

- \* These Comments, Concerns and Questions are in no way disparaging or negative comments toward anyone. Particularly, Mayor Bissen, the Applicants or Council Services. We are fortunate to have these good Public Servants and Applicants.
- \* The public was legally, properly and adequately informed of this new board and appointment process. Every voter was informed during the last election cycle. There is no need to “start over”.
- \* This particular appointment process can and should be improved in the near future. For example, applications should be accepted by the mayor, too. The mayor would likely have at least twice as many applicants to choose from. I would like to have applied to the mayor, too, not just the council. It would still be the mayor’s final choice of “qualified by public hearing” applicants.
- \* Mahalo nui to the last County Council, this committee and Chair Sinenci for making this important issue “come to life” through the expressed approval of the Maui voters.

Sincerely yours,

Malama Pono !

John (Blumer-Buell)

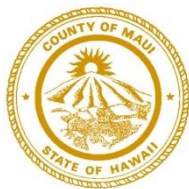
## **APPLICANTS**

### **EAST MAUI REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Seat</u></b>
<b>1. Jonathan Scheuer</b>	Representative of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and recommended by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.
<b>1. Francis Quitazol 2. Christopher Schuler</b>	Experience in water resource management who resides full-time in the area where water service is provided.
<b>1. Brendan Balthazar 2. William Greenleaf 3. Jennie Kaahui</b>	Experience in water resource management and is actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a in the area where water service is provided.
<b>1. Norman "Bush" Martin Jr.</b>	Experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in Ke'anae license area and resides in the Hāna Community Plan Area.
<b>1. Moses Bergau Jr. 2. John Blumer-Buell</b>	Experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in the Nāhiku license area and resides in the Hāna Community Plan Area.
<b>1. Alicia Hueu 2. Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. 3. Jesse Nakooka</b>	Experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in the Honomanū license area and resides in the Hāna Community Plan Area.
<b>1. Antoinette de Naie</b>	Experience in water resource management and watershed restoration in the Huelo license area and resides in the Hāna or Pā'ia-Ha'ikū Community Plan Area.

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

May 2, 2023

Honorable Shane M. Sinenci, Chair  
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sinenci:


**SUBJECT: MAYOR BISSEN'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE EAST MAUI  
REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD (WASSP-2)**

In accordance with Section 8-19.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui, as amended, I am transmitting my selected appointees for the East Maui regional community board and their assigned license areas, as follows:

- Mr. Kyle Nakanelua (Ke'anae)
- Mr. Moses Kahiamoe, Jr. (Nāhiku)
- Mr. Hugh Starr (Honomanū)
- Mr. Lester Wong (Huelo)

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my selected appointees, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

  
RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
Mayor