

EAST MAUI REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD APPLICATION FORM
Maui County Council, WASSP.Committee@mauicounty.us
April 26, 2023

Name:

Blumer-Buell, John, Arthur

City of Residence: Hana

Employer & Position: Retired

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Why are you interested in serving on this board?

I am interested in serving on the East Maui Regional Community Board to constructively contribute toward resolution of the substantial and consequential water issues and water related challenges in East-Maui.

Toward that goal, I firmly believe in the community created 1994 Hana Community Plan Ordinance language simply stating, “Encourage community- based dialogue regarding proposed land use changes in order to avoid *unwarranted conflict*”.

This important statement of *ALOHA was and is* endorsed by the Maui Community, the Maui County Council and the Mayor of Maui.

The statement is especially relevant in addressing both past and current water conflicts and the resulting social conflicts. These conflicts urgently need to be fully understood and transformed into cooperative and workable future solutions for the public good.

In the past, I have tried to be mindful of this community plan statement and the intent during my service on the Maui General Advisory Committee (GPAC), three terms of service on the Hana Advisory

Committee to the Maui Planning Commission and twenty five years as a community elected board member for the Hana Community Association (HCA).

Toward that goal, I also have decades of practical fieldwork and plumbing experience caring for the historic State of Hawai'i registered Mu'olea Spring and distribution system, the Kipahulu Wai Hui spring and water distribution system in Kipahulu and the Hana Ranch well water source system serving the Hana Agricultural Park in Kaeleku, which extends toward Upper Nahiku.

The East Maui Regional Community Board is concerned with the Nāhiku, Ke'anae, Honomanū, and Huelo license areas. Are you interested in representing any of these license areas? If so, please check the box next to the license area or areas you are interested in representing and describe why you are qualified to represent those areas.

X Nāhiku ☐ Ke'anae ☐ Honomanū ☐ Huelo.

If you expressed an interest in representing any of the license areas, please describe your experience and knowledge in water resource management and watershed restoration, both generally as well as in the selected area or areas.

First, regarding my “experience and knowledge in water resource management and watershed restoration, “generally”:

I have nearly fifty years of hands on experience in caring for, maintaining, managing and protecting the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) registered and historic Mu'olea spring, watershed and distribution system in the Ahupua'a of Mu'olea.

The miraculous spring adjoins the perennial 'Alaalula Stream. Our family, the County of Maui in a Public Trust capacity, Kanaka Maoli and others have registered and vested rights in the spring and distribution system. The “Public Trust” rights run with the land and are not private commodities to be bought and sold.

In 1989, I registered the Mu'olea spring water use with the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) during the publicly described "Water Mahele" process. As one result Mu'olea Point, through a "Trust" Deed currently held by the County of Maui, was named and registered as a direct beneficiary of the spring and distribution system documented in the CWRM filing.

Currently, we are in the process of registering the spring and distribution system with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). This process should recognize the likely use of the spring and distribution system for the homes of King David Kalākaua and Queen Lili'uokalani on Mu'olea Point. The homes and adjoining crops are evidenced by the 1888 photo by Hedelman.

Second, regarding my "experience and knowledge in water resource management and watershed restoration in the selected area or areas". My selected area is X Nāhiku.

In 1989-1990, I was directly involved with the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) regarding the culturally, historically and geologically significant and important "Kuhiwa Well Contested Case Hearing".

The Kuhiwa Well Contested Case Hearing considered the many possible impacts of removing water from Upper Nahiku sources to Maui Land and Pineapple fields in another geological area. The requested water diversion by Maui Land and Pineapple was either in or near the "Upcountry Water System Service Area". Regardless, the issues of water diversions are relevant to all current and future water issues in East-Maui and islandwide.

Kuhiwa Stream, Kuhiwa Well, Makapipi Stream, the unnamed stream between Makapipi Stream and Hanawi Stream, "Big Springs" and Hanawi Stream are all located in Nahiku. **This is the license area I am interested and qualified to represent.**

Parley Kanaka'ole and I represented the Hana Community Association and the Nahiku Community in the contested case hearing. Former head of the United States Geological Survey in Hawai'i William Meyer, was our expert witness. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Attorney Arnold Lum was our legal representative.

As a result, the parties cooperatively agreed to a "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" which remain informative and relevant.

Today, Makapipi Stream, the unnamed stream between Makapipi Stream and Hanawi Stream, "Big Springs" (adjoining Hanawi Stream) and Hanawi Stream need and require ongoing monitoring and oversight in order to **protect one of the most unique and important watershed areas in the State.**

These important issues were discussed, but only **partially** resolved, in the recent "27 Streams" contested case hearings. I was an "on call" witness for Hearing Officer Dr. Miike in the "27 Streams" case.

These issues need extensive future discussions, funding and actions toward planned sustainable solutions.

Regarding Watershed Restoration: I have been an organic gardener for more than fifty years. I have used sustainable methods of watershed management including: * Beneficial tree planting * Manual removal of invasive species * Extensive chainsaw cutting, machine chipping and composting * Planting of beneficial cover crops * Selective mowing.

I owned a 4 wheel drive tractor with a bucket-loader, chipper and rotary mower to help accomplish the work.

The many issues regarding watershed restoration need extensive future discussions, demonstrations, funding and actions toward planned and actual sustainable watershed restoration. Attached to this application is a map of the Upcountry Water System Service Area. Are you actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a in this area? If so, please provide a description of the operation and an explanation of your role in the

operation. Please also describe your general experience and knowledge in water resource management.

I do not live or work in the Upcountry Water Service Area.

However, the Upcountry Water System Service Area and **directly related islandwide water issues were discussed extensively** during my service on the Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and the 1994 Hana Community Plan Ordinance process. I served on the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission during the community plan process. As part of the process, we helped toward creating the plan.

I have participated in public meetings regarding water issues in the Upcountry Water System Service Area, East-Maui and islandwide for decades. I consistently advocated for the recognition of and the need for large capacity water storage in the Upcountry Water System Service Area as part of the solutions.

Referring to the same map of the Upcountry Water System Service Area, if you reside in this area, please describe your general experience and knowledge in water resource management.

I do not live in the Upcountry Water System Service Area.

However, the Upcountry Water System Service Area and **directly related islandwide water issues were discussed extensively** during my service on the Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and the 1994 Hana Community Plan Ordinance process. I served on the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission during the community plan process. As part of the process, we helped toward creating the plan.

I have participated in public meetings regarding water issues in the Upcountry Water System Service Area, East-Maui and islandwide for decades. I consistently advocated for the recognition of and the need for large capacity water storage in the Upcountry Water System Service Area as part of the solutions.

Employment History: From To Employer & Position

- *. 1974-1979. Employer: John C. Elliott. Position: Gardener, Landscaper, Plant Propagator and Property Manager.
- * 1980-2015. Self Employed. Employers: Bill and Eve Dana, Haleakala National Park Service, Mia and Tom Parry, Lisa and Kris Kristofferson, Olivia and George Harrison, numerous independent contracts for tractor work from Kipahulu to Lower Nahiku Positions: Property Management Services, Organic Landscaping, Gardening and Orchard Planting Services, Tractor Services, Plant Propagator.

Community and Professional Organizations/Activities:

- * 25 Year Hana Community elected Board Member to the Hana Community Association (HCA). Numerous activities towards creating a “Unified Community Spirit”. A list of activities is available upon request.
- * Founding Board Member of the Hana Community Arts Council.
- * Founding Board Member of the Kipahulu Was Hui.
- * Founding Board Member of the East-Maui Taro Festival. Executive Director for EMTF #5 through #10.
- * Founding Board Member of the Kipahulu ‘Ohana.
- * Founding Board Member of Na Mamo O Mu’olea.
- * Founding Board Member of the Hana Community Dialysis Home.
- * Founding Board Member of Ke Ao Hali’i (Save the Hana Coast).
- * Board Member of the Hana Soil and Water Conservation District.
- * Founding Member of the Hana Farmers Union United.

Previous County Experience (employment or board member):

- * Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC),
- * Three terms of service on the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission. Appointed by Mayors Hannibal Tavares, Linda Lingle and Alan Arakawa.

Educational Background:

- * High School Graduate
- * One year of college at California Western University
- * Classes at Maui Community College

Please review Maui County Code, Section 2.41.090 for rules on board attendance. If selected, please state your commitment and availability to attend all regularly scheduled board meetings and at least two public meetings per year.

I am committed to attending the meetings. I have a good record of attendance to General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission meetings.

I request all East Maui Regional Community Board meetings be available to attend both in person and over the internet. Since the Covid outbreak, attendance via the internet has proven to be both a necessity and more practical to accommodate public participation.

Consent to be Nominated and Certification of Truthfulness and Accuracy of Information:

I declare that the above statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Signature:

/s/ John Blumer-Buell, April 26, 2023.

John Blumer-Buell (Legal Signature as Required by 2nd Circuit Court)

MAHALO for your consideration!