



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES | KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | KE KAHUWAI PONO
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Before the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs,
and Planning Committee (DRIP)**

**In consideration of
BILL 161**

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING INTERIM RESTRICTIONS ON NEW
PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS IN THE WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN AREA**

Bill 161 proposes to impose temporary restrictions on the construction of new private swimming pools in West Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission), supports the intent of this bill with the following comments.**

Many regions in the State are experiencing drought and declining water availability, highlighting the need for increased water conservation. As the agency with primary responsibility and jurisdiction to manage and regulate Hawai'i's fresh water resources, the Commission advocates for water conservation and the use of alternative water sources, such as recycled water, as a way to safeguard potable water supplies. This is particularly urgent in an area like West Maui where drought conditions are widespread resulting in water shortages. As of November 11, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor forecast West Maui in D-2 (Severe Drought) conditions and Maui County has issued Stage 2 water shortage alerts for the areas of Lahaina, Kā'anapali, Kahana, Māhinahina, Nāpili-Honokōwai, and Honokōhau.

The temporary restriction of new private swimming pool construction in West Maui is one way to reduce potable water usage. Other important actions include engaging in water conservation behaviors, opting to install water efficient fixtures, detecting and repairing water system leaks, investing in infrastructure such as covered pipelines to reduce evaporation, using drought resilient landscaping, and reducing potable water use for outdoor irrigation. The Commission appreciates the intent of this bill to ensure conservation and responsible use of West Maui's limited water resources and encourages consideration of additional measures related to water conservation and promoting the use of alternative water sources for irrigation and landscaping.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

DRIP Committee

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Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DRIP Committee
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Subject: CWRM testimony re: Bill 161
Attachments: Maui County Bill 161 CWRM Testimony.pdf

You don't often get email from katie.c.roth@hawaii.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, please find CWRM testimony attached.

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