

## WASSP Committee

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**From:** Harry Smith-Hueu-Jr <auks09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2023 5:09 PM  
**To:** WASSP Committee  
**Cc:** Alice L. Lee; Gabe Johnson; Keani N. Rawlins; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins; Shane M. Sinenci; Tamara A. Paltin; Tasha A. Kama; Thomas M. Cook; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** Re: Committee Meeting on Appointments to the East Maui Regional Community Board - May 30, 2023 at 1:30pm  
**Attachments:** Auks Photo 2.jpg; Auks Photo 3.jpg; Auks Photo 4.jpg; Auks Photo 1.jpg; Auks Ohana Poi Crew 5-20-23.jpg; Auk's Water Authority Council Hearing.docx; Auks Letters of Support -10.pdf; Auks Burns Letter of Support.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [auks09@gmail.com](mailto:auks09@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha James,

Attached please find the following:

1. Opening Statement
2. Photos
3. Letters of Support

I don't know how this works and I'm nervous about speaking before the council. Therefore, I thought it best to email my opening statement so the council members can have it in hand during my testimony. I will be there tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Let me know if you have any questions.

Mahalo,

Harry Aukai Hueu, Jr.

On Fri, May 19, 2023 at 11:24 AM WASSP Committee <[WASSP.Committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:WASSP.Committee@mauicounty.us)> wrote:

Aloha,

Thank you for applying for and being willing to serve on the East Maui Regional Community Board. The Council's Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee will be meeting again on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 1:30pm to continue discussing the Council's appointees to the Board. Committee Chair Sinenci is requesting your presence at the meeting so you can respond to any questions the Councilmembers may have for you. You may attend the meeting either in-person at the Council Chamber in the Kalana O Maui Building at 200 South High St., Wailuku, or you may attend virtually via this BlueJeans link: <https://bluejeans.com/122158206>. Please note that the agenda for the meeting will not be posted until May 24. Once the agenda is posted, you can select it and view it at this web page: <https://mauicounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

At the meeting, you will have the opportunity to provide a three-minute opening statement to the Committee. In your opening statement, please briefly respond to the following:

- Please explain your knowledge of and experience with the East Maui water system, relevant watershed areas, and the Upcountry water service area.
- What is the mission of the East Maui Regional Community Board?
- Looking forward, how would you like to see the East Maui water system managed?

If you cannot attend the meeting, please submit your responses to these questions in writing to this email address.

Please let me know if you have any questions. If you are planning to attend the meeting virtually and you encounter technical issues on the day of the meeting, please let me know at this email address.

Please confirm that you have received this email.

Mahalo,

James Krueger

Senior Committee Analyst

Office of Council Services

County of Maui

ALOHA COUNCIL CHAIR LEE AND FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS

MY NAME IS HARRY "AUKAI" HUEU, JR. AND I RESIDE AT 180 WAILUA ROAD, WAILUA/KEANAE.

I'M EMPLOYED FULL-TIME BY THE STATE HIGHWAYS DIVISION KEANAE BASEYARD AS AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. I ALSO HAVE A SMALL SCALE FARMING OPERATION CONSISTING OF 20 LO'I KALO. ATTACHED ARE A FEW PHOTOS OF MY TARO PATCHES.

AS A TARO FARMER, HIGHWAYS WORKER, AND EAST MAUI RESIDENT OF 40+ YEARS, I BELIEVE I HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO KNOW HOW TO BETTER MANAGE OUR EAST MAUI WATER RESOURCES. I THINK WATER SHOULD BE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY USES:

1. MINIMUM STREAM FLOWS FOR HIHIWAI, OPAE, OOPU AND OTHER STREAM LIFE TO NOT JUST SURVIVE BUT THRIVE.
2. LO'I KALO FARMERS.
3. COUNTY OF MAUI SUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT RESIDENT NEEDS, ADDITIONAL WATER TO ADDRESS ALL APPLICANTS STILL ON THE UPCOUNTRY WATER METER WAIT LIST AND PROJECTED FUTURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.
4. EXISTING SMALL FARMS AND RANCHERS.
5. LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURE SUCH AS MAHI PONO, SUBJECT TO DECREASES IN ALLOCATION SHOULD ADDITIONAL WATER BE REQUIRED BY HIGHER PRIORITY USERS. WE NEED LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURE TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY FOR MAUI.

WITH REGARD TO PROJECTS SPECIFIC TO THE KEANAE/WAILUA DISTRICT, COUNTY FUNDING FOR REPAIR/RESTORATION OF LO'I KALO PIPING AND AUWAI DITCH FROM WAIKANE STREAM.

FOR PURPOSES OF TRANSPARENCY, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCLOSE THAT I CURRENTLY LEASE THE OLD EMI KEANAE BASEYARD BUILDING FROM A&B/MAHI PONO. THAT'S WHERE I MAKE MY POI. THE LEASE IS MONTH TO MONTH. I EXPECT MY VIEWS OF PRIORITY USE WILL GET BACK TO MY LANDLORDS. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL NOT RESULT IN POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF MY LEASE. MAHALO FOR GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

May 22, 2023

County of Maui  
Maui County Council  
Wailuku, Maui Hi 96708 96793

contact  
Pearl Pahuksa  
325 Keanae Rd  
Haiku, Hi 96708  
Ph. 808-419-4634

To all concerned;

I am Pearl Mitchell Pahuksa. I have lived in beautiful Keanae all of my life. My dad, Harry Kunihi Mitchell was a taro farmer. My mom, Pearl Reinhardt Mitchell was a homemaker and gardener. I was the second child of five children. So at an early age, I was trained to work in the taro patch. I learned a lot about raising taro.

In 1965 I married Harry Pahuksa Jr. also of Keanae. He worked for East Maui Irrigation then for the County of Maui; Hana baseyard. He also was a big taro farmer; supplying various poi factories with taro up to 1,000 lbs a week.

Together we raised five children, training them in the taro patch; but, none of them became taro farmers.

I am first writing to you about myself because of my knowledge and experience in raising taro and controlling the water that comes from the river, through a flume into the taro patches.



I have been acquainted with many of the taro farmers; I am very delighted when this generation of taro farmers take over. This is why I am writing to you about my nephew Harry Aukai Huen who is today's taro farmer. Harry Aukai also works for the State HiWay department.

Raising taro is a daily chore. Every day after his State job, he goes to the taro patch to plant taro, an patch (pull weeds) pull taro to make poi and control the water at the same time. He is a generational farmer, his dad Harry Huen was also a taro farmer, and his grand father James Huen also raised taro; and perhaps his father before him. Aukai is really continuing this awesome tradition of raising taro. Aukai is also knowledgeable in water issues from mauka to makai. He will be an asset to the committee on water issues. I am glad he has taken interest in taro, water, and malama the aina.

Every week Aukai makes poi for the community. There are 4 of us Kupuna wahine who helps him clean and prep the taro so after work he can grind it into poi. We are grateful to help him because it brings back sweet memories of our past. And we are supplied taro and poi every week. A blessing

Makalo Ke Akua  
Pearl Wahine



5/25/2023

Aloha Council Members of Maui County Council,

I am writing in regards to Harry Aukai Huco JR. in serving on The Board of Water Authority. Aukai is born and raised in Ke'anae and has been raised farming Kalo. He tends to his taro patches diligently and makes poi weekly. He supplies many families with food and is very passionate about his lo'i patches. He also maintains his full time job which entails working long hard days making sure the highway is safe for residents and tourists to drive. His knowledge and experience will benefit the board if he is selected. He truly believes and understands the importance of fresh cold water needed to support the lo'i. For without the water, the lo'i won't survive. Aukai will offer great insight and be a positive influence on decisions that are presented. He has great love and respect for the land and the community and I believe that will be a great asset for the future of the community. We need to protect the farmers that grow our food and that has been instilled in him from a very young age. I feel Aukai will be a strong benefit to the board with his strong values and integrity. Thank you for taking the time

to read my letter and consider him to  
be part of the Board of Water Authority.

Love + Aloha,  
Jeryce Simoes





May 25, 2023

Maui County Council

200 S. High Street

Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

RE: Recommendation Letter for Harry Aukai Hueu, Jr to the Water Authority Board

Aloha,

I'm writing to recommend Harry Aukai Hueu, Jr. of Keanae for consideration by your Maui County Council to have a sit on your Water Authority Board Committee, County of Maui.

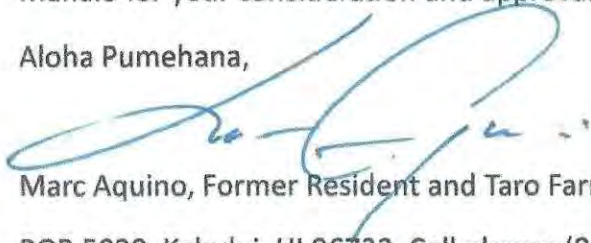
First off, I was one of the few people who wrote a letter on his behalf for a position with the State Highway, Department of Transportation over 12 years ago where he is gainfully employed as an Equipment Operator. He helps keep our roads cleared from landslides, fallen trees, rocks and debris from Peahi to Hana town. I mentioned this because of his knowledge and familiarity of each Kahawai (stream) that flows from the Ko'olau mountains down to the ocean. Most especially in Keanae from Pi'inaau Kahawai down to Ching's Pond across a flume (Our Tutu, Mary Ann Pahukoa was instrumental in getting funding through former Mayor Eddie Tam for the flume that continues to flow water 365 days a year) to all the lo'i in Lower Keanae. His ancestors specifically Harry Pahukoa Sr. & Jr., Eusebio Aquino (my dad) and his grandfather James Hueu all worked for East Maui Irrigation who maintained and controlled the flow of water going across open ditches, tunnels, up and down valleys from Hana all the way to Kahului for the once upon time thriving sugar plantation, Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar (HC&S) company that provided many jobs for our immigrants (Filipinos, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese).

"Aukai "as he is known is also the owner of a small poi factory right in Keanae providing poi for the community and beyond. He maintains several lo'i on the Keanae Peninsula which require water to sustain and nourish his taro fields. He also has a great understanding of the Kuleana Act of 1850 ... "The people shall also have a right to drinking water, and running water, and the right of way. The springs of water, running water, and roads shall be free to all."

There is no doubt in my mind that Aukai will be an awesome contributing member of your Advisory Board especially being a long-time resident of Keanae, I can say a Konohiki of Keanae Ahupua'a. He will bring to the table a lot of knowledge, ike and mana'o.

Mahalo for your consideration and approval to have "Aukai" on your Board.

Aloha Pumehana,



Marc Aquino, Former Resident and Taro Farmer of Keanae

POB 5028, Kahului, HI 96733 Cell phone: (808)214-2257 Email: hoalainc1234@gmail.com



May 25, 2023

Aloha,

I am writing to recommend Harry Aukai Huea as a Board Member of the Water Authority Commission.

He will be an asset, with his knowledge of our aina, our lo'i, & our streams.

He is eager to represent our Keanae community. Aukai is a hard worker - his dedication is strong & is reflected in his success as a taro farmer & in the ono poi he makes.

Please give him a chance to share his mana'o & to do the right thing to perpetuate our culture - by making sure our water flows freely in our streams!

Mahalo Nui,

Angela AhKoi



Scott Martin  
117 Pulama Place, Kihei, HI 96753  
(808)264-1395  
[kalaeokaena@aol.com](mailto:kalaeokaena@aol.com)

Friday May 26, 2023

Aloha Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing a letter in support of Mr. Harry Aukai Hueu Jr. to serve as a member of the Board of the Water Authority.

I have known Mr. Hueu and have worked alongside him as a kalo farmer in the Ke'anae peninsula since 1994 to present. Resourceful, dependable, passionate are words that best describe Mr. Hueu. He genuinely cares about his small knit community of Ke'anae and offers his kokua to make it a better place. Over the years he's provided opportunities for young adults from Ke'anae to work in the many lo'i he has to sustain and provide for their livelihood. He's mentored some young adults to sobriety and leads by example. He works well with others and offers what he can to help them thrive whether it's a helping hand, sharing huli to plant, or simply be present to listen to the needs and concerns of the community. There's never a day I do not see him idle. Whether it's road work for the state highway division maintaining roads and bridges, making poi and working in the lo'i til evening. He's dependable, manages his time wisely in "showing up" and doing it well.

Water is life and without it we cannot survive or thrive. Mr. Hueu is in my opinion a good steward of the wai and the 'aina (from mauna to makai). He cares about what affects the community of Ke'anae and also Maui community as a whole. As a farmer of the Ke'anae peninsula it's very important for us to have someone who is familiar, understand and will be a representative to the needs in this specific area to be on the Board of the Water Authority. It is for this reason I highly recommend Mr. Hueu to be considered. Mahalo you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Martin



Joseph H. Young  
220 Wailua Rd.  
Haiku, HI 96708

May 25, 2023

Aloha Council Members of Maui County Council,

I am writing in support of Harry Hueu Jr., Aukai as we all know him, to serve as a member of the board of the Water Authority.

Aukai has lived in Ke'anae and has worked in taro patches his whole life. He has the knowledge of how to lead the waters into his patches to sustain the growth of his crops.

Aukai listens to the people's water concerns and will be fair in making decisions for the community.

I humbly ask for you to consider Aukai as your next board member of the Water Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Young', written in a cursive style.

Joseph H. Young

5/25/23

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of my fellow Keanae Kalo farmer Harry Hueo Jr. I understand that a commission on agriculture and natural resource protection is being formed by Mayor Bessie to assist in supportive legislation. I have known Aukai Hueo for more than twenty years now, and always respected his hard work in opening up and maintaining Kalo loi that had been fallow for many, many years. Aukai and I have discussed and shared information on Kalo management all these years. The concern for protecting our water resource and natural resources in East Maui has always been a common topic for all farmers in the Keanae / Wailua Kalo Farming district. Harry Hueo Jr. would be an excellent choice for a committee board member for this commission.

808-248-4085

Dan Clark  
480 Keanae Rd  
Keanae, Maui, Hawaii



May 25, 2023

Aloha, Maui County Council members:

This is a letter of support for Harry Aukai Huen, Jr. to be considered as a member of the Water Authority.

I have known Aukai since birth to the present, he is my nephew... son to my deceased brother, Harry Aukai Huen Sr.

Aukai has shown great progress in his life. From being a reckless self-centered teenager/young adult to a well-rounded matured responsible individual. His transformation into being a well respected citizen of our Keanee/Wailuannii Community is of great admiration.

I humbly recommend Harry Aukai Huen Jr. to be a "voice" to this Water Authority. With his background knowledge and experience of taro farming instilled by his Grandpa, James K. Huen Jr., father & uncles, he will be an asset to the Water Authority and the community.

Sincerely,

Nalani Kaunamo  
Nalani Kaunamo  
180 Wailua Rd  
Haiku HI 96708



May 26, 2023

Council of the County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: East Maui Regional Community Board  
Applicant Harry Aukai Hueu, Jr

Aloha,


My husband, James K. Hueu, III and I would like to highly recommend our nephew, Harry Aukai Hueu, Jr. to be selected to represent the Keanae community.

Aukai has been in the lo'i with his father, my husband, and his grandfather, James K. Hueu Jr. since he was a small boy. He is intimately knowledgeable about the water from mauka to makai. He went with his grandfather to inspect the EMI ditches and to harvest watercress from patches in Pi'ina'au. Aukai knows the importance of adequate flow for streams to feed the lo'i on the peninsula and the valley of Wailua. He personally has been restoring the lo'i on the peninsula, as well as encouraging families to open more patches.

Aukai has positive relations with county, state, and private agencies which have interests in the area. He would be an asset serving on this board.

If you have any questions or need to contact us, please call us at (808) 348-5896.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth W Hueu

  
James K. Hueu III



Claire Kamalu Carroll

PO BOX 164 Hana HI 96713

(808)264-0139

[clairekamalucarroll@gmail.com](mailto:clairekamalucarroll@gmail.com)

May 23, 2023

Aloha Council Members of Maui County Council,

I am writing in support of Harry Hueu Jr to serve as a member of the board of the Water Authority.

Mr. Hueu is a lifelong resident of Keanae and generational Kalo Farmer. Not only the fact that he has worked his farm while working full time, he has the knowledge of what it takes to know how to lead the water into his patches but knowledge of the infrastructure to assure these Kalo patches are nourished with the cool waters from the Ko'olau that's needed to sustain the growth of his crops.

Aukai ( Harry) has grown up knowing the infrastructure and holds knowledge that will benefit the community. He will add a good balance to discussions and decisions that impact our community.

His interest to participate comes with passion and love for the Aina. He has even traveled to Paia to know the concerns being voiced and see how important it was to be involved in talks that affected the water in East Maui. He does not belong to any special groups or organizations which the council should consider to be balanced among a board. His knowledge will undeniably serve our community well. I humbly ask for the support of this Council to have Mr. Harry Hueu Jr. to have a place on the table with the Water Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Kamalu Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Kamalu Carroll



















