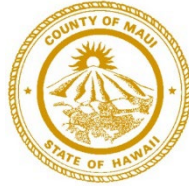


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

JOHN STUFFLEBEAN, P.E.
Director

JAMES A. LANDGRAF
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
<http://www.mauiCounty.gov/water>

May 21, 2026

Tom Cook, Chair
Water and Infrastructure Committee
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**SUBJECT: BILL 1 (2026), AMENDING THE WATER AVAILABILITY POLICY
ON SUBDIVISION CONSTRUCTION PLANS (WAI-21)**

Dear Chair Cook and Members of the WAI Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to review and comment on Bill 1. After hearing testimonies across multiple Board of Water Supply meetings, we have the following comments to offer.

We fully support the desire and intention to improve efficiency and reduce administrative burdens on citizens and companies seeking to subdivide their property. We also recognize and support the kuleana of the County of Maui and the Department of Water Supply (DWS) to protect the long-term viability of our water supply. In that spirit, these are our findings.

1. The language in Bill 1 is inconsistent with the declared intentions of its advocates.
 - a) The addition of, and modifications to, respectively, Sections 18.20.160 (D) and 14.12.040 (B) together require that DWS must approve construction plans even without water verification.

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- b) This directly contradicts Bill 1's framing that it does not change how DWS approves water supply. In fact, it removes DWS's ability to condition or withhold construction plan approval based on water concerns.
2. There is no evidence that Bill 1 will result in any timesaving in the processing within DWS regarding subdivision plan reviews.
- a) Bill 1 would simply require DWS to re-order its workflow to move subdivision reviews to the front-of-the-line but it would not shorten the time required overall. In other words, there is no efficiency gain to be effected by this bill although it would cause displaced work to be delayed and those interruptions may, in fact, lead to new inefficiencies.
 - b) DWS already has the ability to re-sequence its workflow to accomplish this; in cases where this is appropriate.

We encourage the Water and Infrastructure Committee to seek efficiencies in government and appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,



Nichole Inouye-Nohara, Chair
Board of Water Supply

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr
Director John Stufflebean

WAI Committee

From: Sherilyn C. Otsubo <Sherilyn.Otsubo@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:26 PM
To: WAI Committee
Cc: Richard Bissen; John Stufflebean
Subject: Bill 1
Attachments: Bill 1.pdf

You don't often get email from sherilyn.otsubo@co.maui.hi.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Councilmember Cook,

Attached is a letter from the Board of Water Supply regarding Bill 1. We appreciate and thank you for attending their March board meeting to clarify the bill's purpose and for giving them the opportunity to provide their comments.

Thank you,
Sherilyn Otsubo
Secretary to the Board of Water Supply
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 270-7304

"By Water All Things Find Life"