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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

June 8, 2022

Ms. Helene Kau, Director
Department of Water Supply
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Kau:

SUBJECT: BILL 79 (2022), EXEMPTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSUMERS FROM RESTRICTIONS OR MANDATES DURING WATER SHORTAGES (APT-60)

At its meeting of May 24, 2022, the Agriculture and Public Trust Committee discussed Bill 79 (2022), Exemptions for Agricultural Water Consumers from Restrictions or Mandates During Water Shortages.

May I please request a response to the following:

1. You mentioned during the meeting that “ag use Upcountry is 84 percent of the use in that area.” Please explain and provide any relevant data. Please also include data on:
 - (a) Total Upcountry water capacity and demand?
 - (b) Upcountry ag water use in total and broken down by (1) well use and surface water use?
 - (c) Upcountry ag water use by geographical area?
 - (d) Percentage of Upcountry water demand attributed to ag use?
 - (e) Total East Maui stream water use?
2. What are the Department’s plans to address additional water source needs in East Maui and Upcountry?
3. Please provide an update on the development of the Po’okela back up well and the Kealaloa exploratory well.

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4. What is the approximate cost to provide well water to Upcountry users for 30 days?
5. Are golf courses subject to the same restrictions during water shortages as agricultural water consumers? If not, please describe the differences.
6. What actions did the Department take to address the water shortage declared from July 2012 through October 2021?
7. Does the Department have recommendations for agricultural water consumers to help prepare for water shortages?
8. Does the Department have a Water Conservation Plan to limit or restrict non-agricultural water use prior to and during drought conditions? If so, please provide a written copy or details.
9. Has the Department considered or applied for Federal grants to develop reservoirs? If so, what is the status of the applications?
10. Has the Department contacted private well owners to discuss possible water sharing?
11. Will water continue to be available to Mahi Pono if or when the Upcountry water supply is exhausted?

May I further request that you transmit your response to apt.committee@mauicounty.us by **June 22, 2022**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the relevant Committee item number in the subject line of your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Alison Stewart at ext. 7661, or Maria Leon at ext. 7866).

Sincerely,



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Agriculture and Public Trust Committee

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cc: Mayor Michael P. Victorino