#### **Great Committee**

From: Gina <gina.young808@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 11:27 AM

**To:** Great Committee

**Subject:** GREAT-1 (15) Reso 24-129 submittal

Attachments: Gina Young Responses to AWOMH Board Interview Questions GREAT Committee submittal.pdf; Gina

Young Resume AWOMH\_GREAT Submittal.pdf

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Aloha GREAT Committee,

Please find attached a copy of my resume and responses to interview questions posed by the AWOMH East Maui Regional Community Board. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez requested that I submit them to the Committee during the meeting of August 6, 2024. Please let me know if you need anything further from me at this time.

Mahalo for your time, Gina Young

#### Gina Young P.O. Box 2418 Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

#### **Education**

**B.A. Political Science**, University of California at Santa Barbara Graduated with high honors

**Master of Public Administration**, The George Washington University, Washington DC Graduated with honors. Environmental and Health Policy focus.

**Certified Financial Planning Degree**, College of Financial Planning in conjunction with The George Washington University.

#### **Work Experience**

#### **Executive Assistant, Councilmember Shane Sinenci**

January 2019 – present

Assist Councilmember with committee, policy, and budget related items. Advise the Councilmember on Maui County and State of Hawaii government operations and other policy and legislative issues. Assist with the development of political strategy for legislative items. As directed by and in coordination with the Councilmember, write legislation, bi-annual Maui news column, community presentations, committee and Council notes, and other remarks as needed. Work closely with Department Directors and staff, Corporation Counsel and the Office of Council Services on committee items and legislation. Assisted with review and rewrite of County Water Use and Development Plan. Met with Aha Moku Councils and other community members to receive input on plan and wrote plan policies and strategies. Worked with Department of Water Supply and Commission on Water Resource Management on adoption of WUDP. Assisted with Charter Amendment 12 creating community water authorities. Assisted with strongest county lands chemical fertilizer and pesticide ban in the country. Assisted with cultural resource mapping and protection bill. Assisted with ban on plastic food ware bill. Assisted with Charter amendment to create the Department of Agriculture. Assisted with committee items for the Environmental, Agriculture, and Cultural Resource Protection Committee (2019-2020), the Agriculture and Public Trust Committee (2021-2022), and the Water Authority, Social Services and Parks Committee (2023-current). Represented the Councilmember at Ag Working Group meetings 2019-2023.

#### Senior Planner (Planner V), County of Maui Department of Planning, May 2009 - June 2017

Performed a full range of professional planning work, including reviewing planning projects and bringing them before the Maui, Lanai and Molokai Planning Commissions, Hana Advisory Committee, and Maui County Council Land Use and Planning committees. Conducted training on land use, environmental review, and state law for the Maui Planning Commission. Handled countywide permit applications and responsible for East Maui permits. Met with community groups and other members of the public regularly to gather community input on development projects, as well as department legislation relating to bed and breakfast and short-term rental home regulations. Represented the Planning Department at community meetings. Assisted the public, government agencies, and trade association groups with planning, zoning, and legislative information. From 2009- 2011 was a coastal zone special management area planner responsible for reviewing activities and permits in the special management zone. Won Planning Department Employee of the Year in 2012. Won Division Team of the Year in 2013 as the team leader.

Kula Community Association, Secretary 2000-2006, Vice-President 2007-2008, President 2009-2011 and 2017-2020

Worked with state and county legislative bodies and administrative agencies on budget and policy items. Reviewed proposed housing developments and facilitated meetings between local developers and residents to achieve consensus when possible. Reviewed Department of Water Supply policies and Upcountry projects. Worked with County Council Water Committee under Chairs Victorino and Baisa. Reviewed county annual budgets and prepared analysis for Board review. Represented Board during multi-year Maui Island Plan adoption process, including attending GPAC and TIG meetings and providing information to the Board, as well as the Planning Department, GPAC, Planning Commission and Council. Worked with state legislators on community issues and wrote bill allowing county regulation of bike tour commercial operations which was passed and led to subsequent county legislation and permitting system. Organized and led Association community meetings while President. Represented the Association before the County Council and Maui Planning Commission.

### Vice-Chair, Hawaii Health System Corporation Maui Region Board of Directors, June 2007-June 2015.

Board responsibilities included overseeing the general operations at Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital. Conducted strategic planning, legislative planning and lobbying at the State legislature and with the Governor's office for annual CIP requests and the transition from a public institution to a private non-profit institution, management of annual and five-year budgets, including capital improvements and maintenance. Chaired Kula and Lanai Hospitals oversight committee which included review of community needs, services, annual budgets, and internal audits. Member of the Audit Committee. Reviewed and met with Morgan Stanley on private financing. Board assisted CEO with private-public partnership strategy and state legislature deliberations. Worked with State agency Hawaii Health Systems Corporation who oversaw MMMC.

#### Co-owner, Sunshine Properties, January 2001 - July 2008.

Managed construction projects. Worked with architects and builders, and navigated county building permit process. Processed building, after the fact, subdivision and land use permits in Hawaii and Maui Counties. Analyzed zoning and other land use laws. Handled all financial aspects of the property management company. Covered all aspects of client and tenant relations, including customer service and legal services.

#### Research Associate, Financial Planning Corporation of McLean, June 1996 – August 1999

Provided investment research, data collection, examination, and analysis. Wrote technical research reports for clients. Reviewed insurance policies and investment vehicles.

#### Legislative Analyst, Institute for Health Policy Solutions, November 1993 - October 1996

Wrote research and technical papers, worked on state and federal legislation during the federal health care initiatives under President Clinton. Worked with states on social services programs and financing of those programs.

### 'Aha O Wai Maui Hikina East Maui Regional Community Board Director Interview Questions

#### **Responses by Gina Young**

The following 13 questions were posted on the Board website and intended to give Director candidates guidance on the Board's interview. I wrote the following responses in note form to assist me during the oral interview and I then rewrote them in longer form to assist with the review process for the Council Director confirmation process. The interviews were help in open session during the 'Aha O Wai Maui Hikina East Maui Regional Community Board meeting on June 24, 2024 and can be viewed at East Maui Regional Community Board - Water Authority June 24, 2024: Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming: Internet Archive.

#### 1. What do you believe you can accomplish if you are selected?

The specifics of what can be accomplished are outlined in the charter and can be categorized under two areas: acquiring the water rights from the state providing the ability to get federal and private funding to improve the system and the watershed which benefits everyone. The water authority can also support DHHL in their mission to deliver land and housing to Native Hawaiians by ensuring that adequate water is available. The work of the authority and Board will also create transparency with public reporting, public board meetings and community meetings. Bringing all policymakers and stakeholders into the discussion can benefit decision making so that all needs are identified, and financial costs are known, and current data is being used to assess options.

**Securing water rights.** The charter directs the Authority to acquire water rights from the state. Voters understood this daunting task, but recognized the strength of Maui County government to ensure that water is managed in a way that provides a long term supply for our residents, farmers and ranchers. I see several paths to achieving water security and I would put them on a spectrum of easier and a more difficult ways with the main difference being the timeline and level of effort. Essentially the different paths include a private agreement attained by working with the current permit holder to find common ground and maximize strategies that benefit everyone, working through the more difficult state lease or executive order process, or working outside the lease process. As we begin negotiations, it is important to remember our goal of providing long term water quantity and pricing security to the County and thus the people of Maui.

**DHHL**. The reason we have a DHHL board seat is to help us create a partnership to fulfill our duties as an entity of government to uphold the Hawaiian Homes Commission act and support their mission to deliver lands and housing to native Hawaiians. Supporting DHHL also serves Maui County's needs for affordable housing. Access to water is the greatest barrier to achieving their mission. Infrastructure is also a barrier and over time we can explore partnerships to support expanded infrastructure. Declining license

revenue is also a barrier. DHHL is entitled to 30% of the revenue from water licenses that should be going into the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund for direct distribution to homestead communities.

**Watershed work.** This work is as important as the utility aspect and major Board responsibilities for this are written in the charter. This work is important on many levels. First off, it is a responsibility and a way of life as well as practical and needed. Watershed restoration enables sustainability and grows water. A healthy eco system benefits everyone and we owe this to future generations. We can provide much needed assistance to improve the conditions in the watershed especially in the lower zones that lack state funding, help to create better mauka to makai connectivity, to join the battle to prevent invasive species from destroying our watershed.

The watershed planning is a powerful a community engagement and empowerment tool. We need generational empirical knowledge and the ability to exercise community kuleana to be successful. This work can restore a sense of well-being to the watershed communities. If done properly it can create a sense of well being for our community and this is an immeasurable, but tangible benefit that needs to included in the conversation. It can also help to strengthen and restore the cultural identity of the area and that is also immeasurable, but hugely important and closely related to well-being.

The watershed plan that the Board will review and approve also will become the basis for adoption of the Board's adoption of programs and polices and a basis for grant funding acquisition, especially in areas of cultural practice and social equity which is a growing field in grants and finance right now. The plan is intended to fill current gaps in service and bring in new funding resources. During the presentation by Scott Fretz from DoFAW and Dan Eisenberg from East Maui Partnership it was noted that community engagement can be improved, and additional funding is needed especially in the areas of invasive species and the very serious problem of miconia and it's devastating effects on the watershed and difficulty in removing it.

**Support all agriculture.** I know through the work of the authority we can support agriculture – all agriculture including Mahi Pono. All ag is important, both big and small. They all play critical roles in our economy, economic diversification and for food production. We need to work with Mahi Pono, other farmers and the Dept of Ag to better understand and serve their needs. We will need to facilitate the development of Phase 2 of the Ag Park.

Bring transparency and trust to the process. Something I bring to any job with the government is work to bring trust among those I serve so they can feel like government can work for them and not against them. This is a lofty goal, but I saw it happen in Hana with the people I worked with when I was in Planning and I still get stopped by people I know and sometimes people I don't know and they tell me how much I helped them or how uplifted they felt after I spoke at a meeting. We can do this by bringing watershed communities, water users into the process.

Determine financial implications and obtain data on available water quantity and water quality. Missing in the discussion right now is financial information. To remedy this, Council provided DWS with funding to hire consultants to obtain financial information related to operating the system as it is now. DWS adapted a previous study scope for a buy side business analysis and partnered with the AWOMH Board to evaluate proposals. In June, a firm was chosen, however the contract was not signed in time to encumber the funds, though I understand a budget amendment will be submitted to allow funding this year. This study will provide the Board, the Council, the public and state policymakers with information on what it will cost to operate the system. Also needed is hydrological studies to determine the current water availability for the system and users. DWS is not receiving consistent supplies of water for the Upcountry system and the upgrades to the Kamole Weir treatment Center will allow for more water to be treated and delivered through the Upcountry system, however this can only occur if the system is able to provide the amount of water provided in the current private agreement with the current permit holder. More information will be needed to determine how the needs of Upcountry can be met now and in the future. Financial data will assist policymakers and the community to make difficult decisions surrounding securing additional water. Water quality also needs to be addressed and the authority can fill this role as grant funding becomes available.

#### Bringing the affected communities into the discussion and given them information.

When communities are brought into decision making early into the process and given accurate financial and scientific data and generational knowledge, they become positive partners. When they are left out, they become reactive. Water discussions are difficult and they require time for communities to absorb information, figure out their priorities, and balance conflicting needs. Early consultation also allows for communities to come together by providing space to absorb all aspects of the issues and have respectful conversations with out the added pressure of immediate legislation. Affected communities include the Maui Hikina watershed communities; water users including Upcountry residents, all farmers, ranchers, and DHHL and their recipients. And now that the discussion is about making the DWS system islandwide – all of Maui.

Bringing Maui county policymakers into the discussion. The County Council has not been consulted on East Maui collection and distribution. This provides a new opportunity to bring budget expertise, community voices through area Councilmembers, and general government financial oversight to the process. I firmly believe that if the Council were involved in decision making, the water collection and delivery system would not be in such a state of disrepair that county water needs are not being met. The new Department of Agriculture must also be brought into these discussions to ensure that the Ag Park and the expansion needs are met. They also have a pulse on the needs of local farmers and can assist with the authority's goal of supporting agriculture. The Mayor's office must also be included and DWS is already a critical part of the conversation and I appreciate Director Stufflebean's supportive role. DWS is currently beginning the financial study of the system and have offered to assist with further studies to make sure financially responsible decisions are made.

#### 2. Please explain the State of Hawaii constitution Article 11 section 7.

#### Water Resources

"The State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people.

The legislature shall provide for a water resources agency which, as provided by law, shall set overall water conservation, quality and use policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all uses of Hawaii's water resources."

There are 3 foundational building blocks or separate and distinct origins of the public trust. This section and others similar to it provide the constitutional authority and mandate to uphold the public trust. Section 7 also mandated the establishment of the Commission on Water Resource Management and the creation of the state water code.

These sections were added during the 1978 Constitutional convention. It is interesting to look at society and changing values to see their effect on how we create, clarify and implement our laws. The 1978 Con Con was a reflection of changing attitudes towards Hawaiian rights and the protection of natural resources and the long term well being of the state. The 70's were a transformative decade and included among many other things: evictions and protests at Waiahole-Waikane on Oahu's Winward Coast to make way for 7,000 condo units, Kahoolawe bombing protest closer to home, and Supreme Court Justice Richard S. Richardson's McBryde v Robinson landmark court decision. Justice Richardson based his decision upon old Kingdom law (one of the other foundations and separate origin of the public trust doctrine) and overruled previous decisions by declaring that water rights are not private rights and ownership remains in the people of Hawaii for the common good and that water rights could not be private and thus transferrable because they were never conveyed, not by the Mahele, nor the Kuleana Act and subsequent LCA do not include water rights.

In conclusion, these constitutional provisions, specifically Section 7 were put into place to affirm, clarify and provide implementation actions CWRM and State water code, to manage the public trust, though all state and county gov entities have an obligation to hold up the law. If we look at water resource management from a policy or legal perspective, we can see how the constitution is but one foundation of the public trust. And this constitutional foundation reaffirms the fact that the state and political

subdivisions, agencies and county governments not only have the authority to uphold the public trust doctrine to protect and manage water resources, they have an obligation to do so. This duty is so engrained in our system of governance that it cannot be legislated away. And if we want to understand the implementation of these provisions we need to dive into court cases, but we can do that in another question.

### 3. Are you familiar with the State of Hawaii public trust doctrine and public trust purposes as articulated by the Hawaii Supreme Court and explain.

I am familiar with the public trust doctrine and the court cases that have clarified and provided guidance on administering it. As Shane's EA, I staffed the agriculture and public trust committee where we focused on the doctrine's applicability to water resource management.

5 Public Trust uses in no priority:

- Domestic needs of the general public, such as drinking water
- Water use in the exercise of traditional and cultural Native Hawaiian practices, which includes kalo farming, gathering of stream species, religious and spiritual purposes, the maintenance of important cultural landscapes
- Waters left in its natural state, which was later clarified surface and groundwater
- Water reservations for and uses by Hawaiian Homes Commission (DHHL)
- Appurtenant rights of kalo lands awarded at the Mahele Land based rights

Not included is everything else, even though these uses are important such as water for agriculture, for schools, parks, ballfields, shopping centers, ect. There is a distinction between Non-public trust and public trust purposes. When we making any decisions around water, all agencies of state of Hawaii and subdivisions (counties) must ensure there is sufficient water available for public trust purposes. Private commercial uses of water are allowed, but measured against court tests. When evaluating public trust uses, agencies must look at reasonable and beneficial uses and alternatives also considered in decision making, including CWRM IFSs. This stems from the dual mandate in the State Water Code and we heard Ayron Strauch talk about this in his presentation. In a letter from the state to APT committee, it was acknowledged that the use of water for domestic purposes is the reason the county has priority over water collected in East Maui, not because we are a government entity, but because of how we are using the water from this area. Supreme Court decisions are important because the courts have acted to protect the public trust interests in water more than any other venue. Court decisions, not legislative action, have provided the most guidance, clear mandate and details on how to apply this principle

It is also important to quickly look at the other 2 distinct origins of the public doctrine. The first origin is Roman Emperor Justinian, English and American law. These laws and cases often focused on the right to access or navigate resources, particularly water. Examples of this include Justina Code, Magna Carta, English law, and the American Illinois Central

railroad and shoreline land case. The Hawaiian origin created through customs and kingdom law, kanawai, and show the Hawaiian reverence and respect for natural resources, especially wai. Water management was so integrated into society that all law became to be known as kanawai. Water resource management was considered a privilege and a responsibility. To understand this origin it is important to recognize the Hawaiian the spiritual side of wai where natural resources are to be revered because they are physical embodiment of the Gods. Two examples are the story of creation and water as the spiritual manifestation of Kane. The practical side of resource management includes an acknowledgment of the importance of a healthy eco system and the need for mauka to makai water flows to create this. There was also a cooperative, mutual dependency and trustee nature of water management and this has been cited in court cases including Reppun v. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply. Lastly it's important to note that legal and historical basis of the public trust are different than on the continent because historically water was never legally privatized – it was never conveyed out - even in Mahele. It's always been with the Kings successors which is the state as a trustee. You only get what your grantor gave you – this common law concept applied in Hawaii further strengthens the public trust doctrine in Hawaii.

#### 3. What is your motivation for applying for this job?

I have spent 5 years thinking about how this can work and I am applying to make sure all aspects of the vision get executed and its done in a way that works for everyone. The path forward needs to be collaborative and cooperative and I know the Board members see this as well. I also applied for the job because of the Board and the County Council. I love being a part of this and listening to all of you and want to be part this unfolding into something meaningful and monumental. I also see the need for a change in how we are doing things. We live on an island- during an era of climate change with more severe storms and droughts, increasing populations. We can't just sit back and react; we need to be proactive. Resource management is shifting back to sustainable practices all over the world and it's because western management works great for resource extraction in the short term but long term we are seeing depletion and limited regeneration of resources. We are also beginning to acknowledge the effects of resource management and resource decision making on local communities who previously held the responsibility for managing and who relied upon and created community identities and wellness based on those resources.

I also worry about future price increases and deceasing availability. And the decreasing availability also affects Mahi Pono I don't know what kind of conversations they are having, but you know they recognize it as a problem. The system is no longer a reliable source of water for the county, especially in the summer and after storms when there is heavy sediment in the water. Last year- Upcountry was 3 weeks away from running out of water. This helps o understand why Director Stufflebean proposed the Kula private well agreement beginning at \$5.00 per thousand gallons. That's almost 1,000% more. And a few years ago Hana Ranch prices went up 400%. There is a term called Day Zero. I want to make sure that never happens here. And that takes pre planning. And hard conversations and I've navigated through hard issues with individuals and with communities and I like using this skill. We

shouldn't be afraid to have these discussions, but they can't happen in a vacuum – we need information and we need the community to digest all of this so they are not reactive and become our partners.

I also love working for the East Maui community. I don't know why I feel such a strong sense of responsibility to the area, but I do. When I worked for planning I asked for this area. I find helping the residents really satisfying. It took a lot to build trust but that process was also satisfying. The Hana Advisory Committee is the best Board I ever served. People feel deeply out there and really care about the future and their responsibility as a community member. This is one of the reasons I applied to work for Shane. I also love working with communities-I think you can see that from my resume and reference letters. I see this as an opportunity to bring a sense of wellness to the people by providing a seat at the able, getting people back malaming the watershed, and creating inclusion. And that's inclusion of everyone. It doesn't mean we take over - it just means we work together for the benefit of all of us. A&B, Mahi Pono, EMI, Upcountry, local farmers and ranchers, Kula Ag Park, the state, East Maui partnership.

I want to care for the environment. I know others feel this way, it begins with respect and the idea of caring for and working with nature. It's all connected to each other and it's connected to us as humans. I understand the spiritual side of wai because I feel it myself. I was born in Honolulu, Kaimuki, nd my mother took me water every day. It was her way of settling us and she instilled a deep respect of our environment and the connection between all elements of nature.

The authority can be a valuable resource that strengthens and enhances what's already existing. And with that we can better ensure there's enough water for everyone by bringing in funding that isn't there now and that's adding real value. This is meaningful work and that's what motivates me. And I thrive in a challenging environment. Believe it or not, but that aspect of it is motivating to me.

# 5. Are you familiar with ancient Hawaiian land management system known by the terms, Aha Kiole system, Aha Moku system or Ahupua'a system? In your words give an overview of the system and how it would relate to your work as Director of the EMWA.

Ancient Hawaiian life was organized by the Ahupua'a system of management for the land, water, ocean and everything above. It is based upon divisions (mokupunis, mokus, ahupuaas, illis) of land and had a community governance system and shared water usage- mutual dependency. It also recognizes the global system where everything is interconnected. In recognition of this it stresses mauka to makai connection because it supports a health eco system, aquifer recharge, and stream, near shore and ocean life marine life. My son will be attending business graduate school for sustainability in this fall and in his admission essay and he referred to this system the sustainability OG because It's a proven method of working with and supporting the environment to allow it to naturally do its thing to be its best version of itself. This is now being taught in schools because of its practicality and proven success. In the old Hawaii this system produced

abundance and sustainability for over a million people. And in his essay he wrote about how an absence of this system in part lead to the Lahaina fire and that broke my heart to read.

The administrative part of the Hawaiian land management systems worked exceptionally well. Each was ahupuaa was rules an ali'l (probably a chief) and a konahiki the land agent who managed the section – kind of like a managing director. In the 1895 Horner v. Kumuli'ili'i, a case (I heard about while interviewing Aha Moku Council members) it documented the sophistication of the ancient methods for managing water. The konohiki developed water sharing models that worked for everyone and were based upon ancient customs and proverbs passed down knowledge and wisdom. These had the force of unwritten law called customary law.

There was also community decision making with the aha kiole system which was considered the people's council. Leadership is comprised of experts in related areas, such as fisheries, hydrology, water distribution, architecture, farming, healing arts, navigation. They are brought together to create the ike, a weaving of the stream of knowledge to malama the aina. This system is very practical and similar to the water authority board and how its Board members' knowledge is woven together for the purpose of creating a watershed plan to malama the area and to make important decisions regarding water. Administratively, the system was a very efficient form of government, but it was so much more than that. The other aspect of it was the cultural attitude and connection to all aspects of our environment including our atmosphere that lead to its success. The system embodied the biological physical and spiritual aspects of aina. Management is based on providing for the benefit of the resources themselves rather than from the standpoint of how they serve people. There is an acknowledgement that everything is dependent upon everything and connected. All parts work together and the ecosystem includes all things: the people and the environment There was also the practice of living within their means to create sustainability. Use only what you need. Limited resources were conserved. It also embodied the practices of kuleana of the people to take care of everyone and everyone to do their part and laulima which ia a cooperative belief and effort. There is also an understanding that we can tap into sources of knowledge intuitively. This is the Papakü: 3 houses of knowledge.

How does this relate to the work of the Director? I only imagine how a konohiki would feel about the condition of the watershed and system. As we return to the old system of sustainability we can use this as guide only I don't have to go to fancy graduate school to get the education. It's available through the knowledge of the Board. I see the Hawaiian system as a model for attitude as well as practical implementation. So collective decision making, collaboration, working with the aina for the aina, sharing of resources, individual and collective responsibility. I can see why land managers, the konohiki felt a sense of pride and responsibility. It is spiritually nourishing to manage resources in a way that benefits everyone and the ecosystem itself. We can and are already set up to use the aha kiole system of decision making: identify issues, examine solutions with information and data and effects on all areas of the environment, the implement the solution by honoring the ike created through this process, actually taking input, then

working to address current needs and also address future responsibility to ensure abundance for the next 7 generations.

### 6. Provide specific examples of lease agreements you obtained and managed in Hawaii and describe how you will apply those experiences to this position.

I have experience in real estate and leases from my work with Sunshine properties and with the hospital. I spent 8 years with the hospital Board working to lease the hospital to management company. Eventually we signed an agreement with Kaiser, but that end came with 8 years of planning which included: laying out our needs, analyzing our options, looking at costs, working out most of the details and attracting an amazing private company only to be derailed in part by the unions, working with the state on legal aspects, passing legislation to allow us to do what we wanted, and then issuing basically an RFP and choosing Kaiser. I learned a lot about lease agreements and all the tiny details that can have huge impacts.

I also have experience from the lessor side with legacy property passed down through my ex-husband's family. Even though there was a real estate attorney on the family and a financial advisor, the long term lease did not benefit the family and we learned the hard way that you need a highly specialized and experienced attorney to review lease agreements. I also learned from working at the hospital with Wes Lo the importance of having the right resources and never to assume you were an expert at something highly specialized. Even though the hospital had a very capable attorney, she's now at OCS, Wes understood and taught us Board members the important of specialized counsel.

This lease or executive order is unlike other property leases and unlike other DLNR leases. We have been told by DLNR that this is a water license, and they use the word license to describe the issuance of long term water rights to collect the water. The state is telling us the system is used through a perpetual easement so there is no need to include that in the agreement so that also makes it very unique. Because we are not the only county where water licenses are being pursued, it will be important to follow projects on Kauai including Wailua "Blue Hole" (Hydro), ground water well in Moloa'a for commercial, Waimea River (WKEP), and Wai'oli River for kalo farming. On Hawaii Island there is the Wailuku River in Hilo for hydro and Ka'u for ranching and domestic.

In previous communication, the DLNR stated a preference for an executive order, though we have a new administration. During the committee meetings, DLNR informed us that this agreement will come in the form of an executive order – they do not want to pit the county against a private entity. While discussing the charter amendment, we received a letter from the previous state Attorney General in response to a letter from Chair Lee. In this letter, the AG states that the executive order process is governed under HRS 171-95 which allows the direct issuances of leases and licenses to government agencies. This process is done through direct negotiation and could be set a gratis rent -no cost.

There is a need for private agreements among water users. We were also told by DLNR that the license will contain amounts of water, but will not specify sub leases – we were

informed during the committee process that those are private agreements between the parties like the agreement between the county of Maui and A&B. The county's share of the water can not be folded into the master license. There is also no enforcement mechanism. The lease also does not have enforcement mechanisms like land use entitlements do – the only option is to cancel the lease. This is one of the things that is so worrisome to the public and Council. Clearly, all this is up for negotiation with the new administration, but it is important to know the history. Separate private agreements will need to be negotiated – and this may be the place we start.

What have I learned from my own work experience is that it is very important for the Director to work with this Board. The concepts of "the whole is greater than the parts" and laulima really do apply here. It's important to have a teamwork approach. I experienced this in my work at the hospital. We were able to work through very difficult issues in challenging times because we worked together. This doesn't always happen with County Boards and their departments. It does help that you do the hiring and firing of the director – but it is so much more than that. It's really begins with an attitude and a way of working – collaboration and empowerment has always been my style.

There are management practices that foster a good relationship with a governing board and thus better success. These include involving Board in decision making by asking for their input and taking their advice. It is also important to have Corporation counsel who works with the authority and if applicable special counsel meet with the Board. The Council does this and it is very useful because issues that affect the authority's work need to be understood by the Board. It is also important to looking at issues through the eyes of each member. I did this with the Planning Commissions it lead to better outcomes. It's important to invite them to private and public meetings – always better to have multiple sets of ears and opinions on information received and better to present information as a team. The operational budget should include board education and when hiring staff it will be important to hire people open to collaboration and not hiring people who are territorial.

## 7. Describe your experience managing and implementing watershed management plans and what do you see the biggest challenges are with managing watersheds in Hawaii?

Most of my experience is in this area is with the Water Use and Development Plan, which is a 1300 page long range plan for the use, development, conservation, protection and management of water resources in Maui County. The plan is based upon 6 regional plans – one for each Aquifer Sector. I worked on the Council Agriculture and Public Trust committee's review and expansion of the document and strategies and its ultimate adoption at Council and then its adoption by CWRM. The APT committee held 15 committee meetings where the members reviewed each chapter. As part of the process, I was tasked with meeting with each areas Aha Moku Council to receive their input and develop new strategies. With their help, we were able to create a new cultural lense in which to look at water resource management. We were the first county to do this and CWRM was so impressed they told us they plan to update the county model to incorporate

a cultural perspective. That work included adding 49 new strategies and expanded 5 existing policies; incorporating the "Addendums" sections into the document's main body; adding information on Native Hawaiian water and cultural rights, including information on the Public Trust Doctrine, riparian rights, correlative rights, kuleana rights, konohiki rights, and the duty of State agencies to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights were included in the "Ka Pa'akai Analysis" section. I also wrote a new section, entitled "Historical and Cultural Context of the Regulatory System," according to input from the 'Aha Moku Councils.

The new cultural aspect of the plan taught me the importance of incorporating community driven watershed planning into the model of the water authority. And I gave this responsibility to the Board so that we can document and put into practice generational knowledge, which is a fancy way of saying historical empirical observations and cultural understanding of sustainability.

I've also reviewd DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife's plan and presented it at a Na Moku Aupuni O Ko'olau Hui community meeting and have been able to review Na Moku's plan which stresses mauka to makai connectivity and the near shore marine environment. You folks received a presentation on the state's plan and when you review it you will see gaps and areas where help is needed, especially in the lower areas.

I see our plan as a wholistic plan that looks at everything and reflects the fact that all living things, the land, the sea, and the clouds are interconnectedness. This is both science and cultural. The plan must also address invasive species and give a realistic look at the gravity of the situation, as scary as it may be. A challenge in previous planning has been a lack of community consultation and engagement - lose out on generational empirical knowledge and creates distrust in government and I see that bubble over in meetings where DoFAW is trying to garner community support for buying lands to put into forest reserve conservation with the goal of mauka makai connectivity and people are triggered and lash out even they agree with the goal. Another challenge is the implementation of a plan due to funding constraints which is why one of our first positions is a grant coordinator to help us get funding. From the funding perspective, Want to add value, not take away funding from other agencies and groups. The plan needs to be a living plan and incorporate the concept of adaptive management. That's why the charter has the Board reviewing the plan and its implementation annually. We need to support and even do current data collection. We heard about this from CWRM's hydrologist Ayron Strauch. It's very hard to make decisions with out hydrology data, with out knowing conditions and if IFS are meeting met. The recent USGS study is useful but the modeling could be better with more current data

8. Please describe past experience working with executive and legislative branch elected official at the county and state level. Please speak about how you helped to navigate critical issues to your department initiative in complex or divided issues.

I've my entire my entire career interacting and working for government. My masters degree is in public administration which is how to run a government. I received my education and started my career in Washington DC. My first public policy job was during national health care reform where our organization worked with Congress. I was in the cab ride over with our President on his way to testify before congressional committee and I just soaked in all his mana. After that first reform effort went down in flames, we moved our efforts to a different venue (very useful strategy) and I worked with state legislatures, mostly on health insurance financing issues. I love finance and this was great experience for me. It was so great I decided to go back to school for financial planning while working full time, after just having worked full time while getting Masters of Public Administration. When you're doing what you love, the energy just flows.

**KCA.** I moved back to Hawaii in 1999 and started volunteering for the Kula Community association right away. In that role I frequently interacted with both the county administration and legislative branches. I have experience with county and state level and some federal and I have a good understanding of federal government which I would call byzantine and hire a DC consultant if you want big money. At the KCA the main issue has always been water and I worked closely with Gladys Baisa and a bit former Mayor Victorino when he was chair of the water committee. I also represented the KCA before the Maui Planning Commission on the general plan update and interacted with the Planning Department. I also worked on vacation rental issues as the B&B legislation was our forth by our Councilmember Gladys. We also worked on regulations for commercial bike operators. We passed a bill at the state legislature and I was lucly to work with former state rep and Corp Council head Fred Rholfing.

Even though the KCA opposed vacation rentals, I was asked to mediate a meeting between the Planning Director and the head of the Maui Vacation Rental Association. It was and still is a heated topic and previous meetings had gotten nowhere. So sure enough about 20 minutes into the meeting tempers flared and it got ugly and personal, but I was able to get everyone calmed down and back on track and let them lay out areas of agreement and narrow down the areas of disagreement. It was like a diplomatic mission in that room. A couple days later I was asked if I wanted to come work for the Planning Department. So a couple months later I did and loved it.

Planning Department. After years of working outside government on policy issues, I loved working from the inside. I loved making government more accessible to the public and helping applicants through the dysfunctional permitting process. I worked on permits islandwide, but asked to also have the Hana District. I worked really hard to build trust with that community and to help them feel connected and empowered. It's not easy for a rural self-sufficient community to feel supported by government. I represented the department in the planning commissions, council and community meetings. I was the planner up at the podium and on the council floor answering the members' questions. I loved this part of the job because you never fully prepare for what would come at you and I found that exciting and mentally stimulating. That experience taught me to look through the different board and Council members eyes and think about what's important to them. This practice of looking at all angles of an issue was invaluable and has helped me in my job today.

Hawaiian Health System Corporation Hospital Board, Maui region. Just prior to working for Planning, I was approached by Wes Lo, President of Maui Memorial Medical Center about sitting on a newly created governing board. I jumped at the chance and for most of the years I worked in Planning, I served on this very intensive board and also took on the KCA President role for a second time. Like I said when you love what you do, the energy just comes. I was appointed by Governor Lingle to serve on the Board and confirmed by the Senate. I was then voted by the Board members to be the Vice-Chair of the Board. This experience was like getting another master's degree from a top university. We were also working with a state agency and I think DLNR is actually run much better than what we were dealing with then but I learned a lot that will be useful. We also worked extensively with the unions. Employee unions are often overlooked in the governmental process, but they play a huge role. And they will in our process and activities. At the hospital board we also worked with extensible with private consultants and financial institutions. We took on a 10-million-dollar loan and Wes Lo was very smart in using the board and engaging us in the details of the agreements. We also worked with private institutions while we were looking for a public private partnership to run the hospital. I learned a tremendous amount about how those agreements can be structured. I was also a member of the audit committee and participated in operational audits that helped me better understand organizational structure.

**Maui County Council.** And finally, as you know, for the past 5 1/2 years I have been an executive assistant to the Councilmember representing East Maui. I moved from consultant to community advocate, to the administration, and then to the legislature. You know right away if the legislative process is a fit for you. I just love it. We work so hard but it's satisfying and challenging work. You run the full range of emotions and you exercise your brain and strategy abilities, people skills, and physical endurance.

9. One of the main duties of the position is negotiate purchase agreements and recommend if needed recommend eminent domain proceedings directly related to the acquisition of land, easements or interests related to water collection or delivery systems – 1. Describe your own experience negotiating purchase agreements and 2) how do you intend to fulfill this task?

I've done property purchase agreements. Sunshine Properties was a real estate business where my husband and I worked with real estate agents and a real estate attorney when needed. We dealt with a few complicated cases over the years, especially in 2008 when financing and liquidity of assets dried up. That took a lot of communication, building trust, and patience. And it's always important to keep your ego out of it. Every purchase was different and depending on the seller we used different strategies, but one of the most basic is to figure what's important to them – it's not just about money. You do that by asking questions and by looking at the deal from their perspective and understanding that it's humans negotiating and understanding human behavior. Often the person you may be working with is not the decision maker and that takes fact finding. There's also rhythm to negotiating, its's a back and forth process, and that's where developing a relationship is most helpful – not just with the seller and their team, but with your own team.

As Councilmember Sinenci's legislative staff person, it is my job to understand the most recent county eminent domain action for land for the central landfill. It is useful that the county is comfortable with this action and getting experience. The most important aspect of this for the water authority is to know that the Council must approve this action because it involves a financial responsibility. It also involves land maintenance and Council needs to know your plan for not just the initial purchase, but the whole long-term picture. I can't stress this enough - the Director will need to create a strong relationship with Council – for the budget and for legislation (we need to adopt an administrative ordinance). It is important to recognize that all decisions creating a financial obligation for the County require Council approval. This makes the Council our partner and regular meetings with the individual members, as well as committee updates will be important.

It is my understanding that when possible the authority will be pursuing utility and access easements, not outright purchases of parcels. This makes more sense financially and from a land management perspective. DLNR does this all the time with county Departments of water supply. What makes this unique is the perpetual easement on state land for the collection and transmission lines. We need to understand what entities are owners — A&B, EMI, Mahi Pono this and be willing to work with them. With utility easements it's important to have your attorney involved, this is an ongoing situation and to have dispute resolution clauses. Other areas that need to be negotiated are sub leases and water sales agreements with water users. These agreements are much more complex than a direct purchase or easement agreement. All the same aspects of negotiating apply: understanding the needs of who you are negotiating with and your own needs, understanding the decision making structure, communication, relationship building, removing your ego, having a good team which includes this Board and your attorney, and keeping the Council informed and understanding their perspective — they are responsible for the big picture.

As for eminent domain, the two most important things to know is that it is always the action of last resort and you need the Council's approval. The process is clearly outlined in state law and comprehensive in that it cover easements, water rights, and parcels. The Maui County Charter and code authorize the county through the Council to do this with a majority of votes. Council recently unanimously approved eminent domain proceedings in the acquisition of land for the central landfill to place wild fire debris. As for the how, I won't go into to specific strategies for water rights in East Maui, however generally we need the following: know what we need (including how much water now and over time, costs involved with maintaining and upgrading the system, capacity of the water source future plans that can affect capacity, ect), know everyone's needs and see it from their eyes (what business mandates or government regulations must be adhered to, what are their expectations based upon past actions), and find common ground and shared goals and work to satisfy them those goals the best we can.

I can stress enough the importance of fully understand the financial implications – both short and long term and this will take professional assistance. We can't operate in a vacuum.

The DWS feasibility study is a good start. We must create a relationship with the county council and be transparent and use their knowledge and expertise to guide us. We have to establish trust with the Council and show them we understand the finances. We have to work closely with DWS to tap their expertise and understand their needs. The purpose of the authority is to provide water to DWS. We can not lose sight of this. We have to work closely with Corp Counsel and when needed special counsel. And we have to engage the Maui Hikina community and the service area which are the end users of the water and build our constituency.

### 10. What skills and/or training and experience do you possess that make you the best qualified to perform the duties of the Director?

**Training.** This is a job that requires a wide variety of knowledge and I have a background that touches on almost all aspects of this job. I'll beginning with my training. I have a college degree in political science and graduated with high honors. I completed a 100-page honor's thesis evaluating public interest groups and their organizational structure and styles of members representation. I also have a master's degree in public administration, and this teaches you the skills you need to run a department – specifically organizational structure which I used to craft the concept of the authority and Board and will use this skill to build out the department. An MPA degree also teaches government budgeting and finance, specifically different finance vehicles, municipal bonds, general obligation bonds, loans with or without loan forgiveness options and government and non profit grant funding and technical assistance programs, such as Robert Wood Johnson and the Rural Development Agency. I also worked as a financial analyst. My financial education and work experience taught me how financial instruments work and how to evaluate them. I am very comfortable in this arena.

**Financial experience.** As for my financial experience, I have always loved the financial side of my Council work and love budget season. It's where the rubber meets the road and department's fate are set. I've spent 2 months of my life these past 5 years analyzing and helping Shane shape the budget. We've also used the budget to add positions – that show we created the county archeologist and added positions and funding to the Dept of Ag and we have used it to build out the water authority staff and consulting budget. I also served on Hospital Board audit committee, and as Vice-Chair of the Board had exposure to the financial instruments we used to finance our heart program through our lender JP Morgan. We also worked with consultants to evaluate potential business partners.

**Boards and Commissions experience.** I have a lot of experience working with boards and commissions both as a board member, as staff, and community representative, and in some cases all at the same time. This trained me to see an issue from all sides- that's critical to success. I have experience in public policy, and water policy specifically. As Councilmember Sinenci's Executive Assistant, I spent over a year working on the WUDP. In that role, I developed strategies to promote public trust duties and did this by consulting with Aha Moku Council members, wrote a new section in the WUDP on kingdom law and

worked with OCS to integrate community input which had been put in the Appendix and that really pissed off the community. I also represented Shane before BLNR and CWRM on multiple occasions and worked with DWS and CWRM on passage of the WUDP

Experience with divisive issues. I have worked on numerous divisive issues and got my job in the Department of planning because of my mediation skills. I worked on divisive planning applications - all planners get them, but I was often given the permits that did not have consultants and was given most of the special events and weddings because it required mediation between the applicant and neighbors, which I mostly enjoyed. As a former SMA planner I understand environmental regulations and have read numerous environmental reports as well as cultural assessments. In my work as a Planner, I staffed MPC, Lanai and Molokai planning commission, HAC, and hand to balance public vs private interests. My work with the Council has lead to a great respect for them and understanding of the huge role they play in policymaking. This respect and familiarity will be very useful as we build a partnership and build trust with them. I've watched others do it and seen their success because of it. I also have experience with issues that are a change in the status quo - generally speaking as humans we are resistant to change and through my work at the hospital, with the planning commission and with issues at Council I've seen it happen. The Department of Ag is a great example. There was fierce opposition to it in the beginning from the established ag community but now everyone gets it. It's a process and there are ways to work with people to reduce reactivity and fear.

**Skills**. I am skilled at political strategy. It doesn't matter what other skills someone may have, if we can't figure out a way to achieve our mission those other skills aren't needed. I also have report writing skills and this job requires a watershed plan and annual reports. I have excellent writing skills and it's something I enjoy public relations and messaging is very important and I handled this for the KCA and I handle this in Shane's office. And community engagement is important. I love this. I love to hear what people have to say and to find common ground.

**Temperament:** This is not on here but probably more important than any of the others. This is a stressful job. You need someone who thrives on being challenged and can roll with the ups and downs. It will take a heavy toll on you if you're not naturally inclined, mentally prepared and seasoned. I have worked with contentious issues for most of my career: national healthcare reform, land use entitlements, cultural resource protection, water. Having lived through the past 5 years of this effort I know what I'm getting into, have a history with developing the concept for the authority. I won't exhaust myself getting caught up; it's a lot to learn and absorb. I have already worked with the DLNR and CWRM and their staff respects me and knows that I am well prepared, straight forward, honest, flexible, intelligent and a team player.

### 11. Please describe what the public trust is and the responsibility of state and county agencies when they make decisions that will impact the public trust.

All the foundations of the Public Trust in Hawaii goes back to two of the same overarching concepts: the acknowledgement that resources, such as water are so critical to survival that they cannot be privatized and the basic tenant is that Government is responsible as a trustee for managing public resources for the benefit of the people. While there are origins in Roman and common law and kanawai, it is the Courts through the constitutional origin of the public trust that have provided the mandate and most guidance to agencies on decision making, so I will focus on that. While we can go back to isolated early cases like Horner v Kumuli'ili'i, but today's public trust responsibilities stem from the McBryde v Robinson case in 1973 when Chief Justice William S Richardson declared that: "all waters remain with the people of Hawaii for their common good and private water rights do not exist".

The next case where we have guidance happens after the Constitutional Convention establishes the constitutional origins of public trust duties and the state water code which leads to this dual mandate and need for further court clarification:

**Waiahole case.** The first case to provide that is the Waiahole Case, which was the subject of Chair Scheuer's dissertation. With Oahu Sugar's closure in 1995, a monumental legal battle was sparked over water and how it will be used. This case was very complex and huge in nature so forgive my brevity and focus only on the agency review outcomes. The first outcome being the affirmation that that state is the trustee under the doctrine and that agencies have the authority and duty to uphold the public trust for the benefit of present and future generations. This responsibility applies to all water, surface and ground and it applies all property, not just public property.

This case also established the Precautionary principle as an inherent attribute of the public trust doctrine which states an obligation to protect resources and in doing so affirmed the agency's duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm to public resource. The court stated that agencies can't just be reactive and remedial after science has proven harm and that must take actions that increase the resilience, health, and the integrity of the whole system. In this case, it was also stated that water flowing to the ocean is not "wasted". In making this statement, the court recognized ecological and cultural value of water. There still needs to be a lot of education on this.

**Ka Pa'akai o Ka 'Ãina case.** The next relevant case was the Ka Pa'akai o Ka 'Ãina in 2000 where the court stated that an agency can not abdicate it's responsibility to uphold the public trust to someone else, ie a land use entitlement applicant. This case revolved around a District Boundary Amendment for over 1,000 acres of land on Big Island to change the state land use classification from state conservation to urban for a resort development. The developer said they would later work with native Hawaiians to make sure their traditional, customary and other rights were preserved. The Court ruled that the LUC cannot hand off the public trust responsibilities to someone else- the developer.

The court laid out a process to see if the agency is upholding public trust responsibilities properly called the Ka Pa'akai analysis with 3 parts:

- What get? Identify valued cultural, historical, or natural resources and the extent to which traditional practices are exercised
- What going to happen? An explanation of the extent to which resources and rights will be effected or impaired.
- What you going to do? This part of the analysis how will the applicants actions be mitigated to the protect rights or is it something that can not be mitigated or as we'll see in next case do you deny because you don't have enough information?

Kauai Springs case. The Kauai springs case in 2014 involved the bottling and selling water which triggered the need for a permit from Planning Commission. The permit was denied because the PC didn't have enough information to show it met the public trust doctrine. Supreme Court ruled for the PC and gave extensive guidance including the statement that even if an agency doesn't know how or there is no clear information, as a government agency it is still responsible to uphold the public trust. The agency must also determine whether the proposed use is consistent with the trust purposes and defined four of the public trust uses: domestic use, T&C, water left in Natural state, water for DHHL. The Court stated that uses other than those 4 have to apply a higher level of scrutiny. This affirmed that there are no vested rights for non-public trust uses of water and that agencies must take each proposal case by case basis. Non-public trust uses must apply a reasonable and beneficial standard and agencies must also look at guiding policies and priorities such a county general and community plans. It was also stated that applicants have the burden to prove that their use should be allowed and then the applicant must demonstrate that there is no harm in fact or that the requested use is nevertheless reasonable and beneficial. Applicants must demonstrate their actual needs and why it is ok. Agencies must look at alternative water sources to meet those needs. If there is a reasonable allegation of harm to public trust purposes -The case of Lanaians for Sensible Growth opined that you must have an allegation of harm to apply the PT principle. If the use is found to be reasonable and beneficial, the applicant must mitigate the cumulative impact of existing and proposed use (diversions) on trust purposes And lastly the courts opined that agencies must look ahead -agency's duty to maintain our waters for future generations purity and flow

<u>Mauna Kea case.</u> This case asserted that traditional and customary rights are property rights and that agencies have an affirmative obligation to look at what's being proposed and what's being impacted Agencies must play the role of a fact finder and evaluator of evidence and decisions must be in favor of protecting rights. The court also affirmed and mandate use of the Ka Pa'akai analysis and stated that the agency must cite it in its findings of fact and conclusions of law. And lastly, the agency must hold the contested case first and resolve it before approving the permit.

### 12. What level of expertise and experience do you have working in water treatment and distribution?

As a member of the Kula Community Association Board of Directors for 20 years, I learned about the Upcountry distribution system, as well as problems over the years with treating surface water. We've had so many meetings on water over the years. I also want to let you know that the Board of Water Supply did just have a thorough overview of the system at their meeting last Thursday. I also learned about water treatment and distribution through my Council Committee work. When Councilmember Sinenci was Chair of the Agriculture and Public Trust Committee, we worked closely with Director Pearson. He was very interested in educating us and took us on field trips to view the treatment plants in Olinda and lao and collection and delivery system in these areas. That was very valuable. The Environmental, Agriculture and Cultural Protection committee also covered water treatment was an item in committee: chloramines and alternatives. I worked with the Ag Working group on this issue as chloramines don't work for aquaculture. I am aware that DWS has plans to replace chloramines with chlorine, there are there are a lot of tannins in that water so it will be interesting to see how the transition goes. I am also aware of department's efforts to replace treatment filters which will increase capacity I also tracked the Wailuku Water Company potential sale over the years and am aware of the issues and opportunities of this.

In most jurisdictions similar to ours, the water authority is the wholesale system and the city or county or other user who then performs the retail function of treating if necessary for drinking water and delivering it to customers. This means the water authority handles the water collection system and distribution to the city or county. This is our model right now. East Maui water delivered to the county is currently untreated. The water authority will not treat the water, though that doesn't mean you couldn't not in the future, however that would require separate distribution lines— one for treated and one for treated. I am aware of the dual ag line Upcountry and there were efforts to build this out under Mayor Arakawa and it's not a bad idea — using treated water for ag is very expensive

I know there has been a lot of talk about the age of the system and need to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many jurisdictions on the continent have done this and our resources in committee including. as well as other engineering firms I spoke with walked us through case studies. There are engineering firms who specialize in designing and managing projects as well as assisting with obtaining financing.

# 13. Have you had any experience in creating an area environmental plan, in planning water systems, their operation, management capital improvement projects, and financial plans? Please describe.

I have experience and knowledge in environmental planning, Maui's water system operations and planning, CIP planning, and financial plans through my work with the KCA, the Ag Working Group, in the Planning Department, on the Hospital Board and in Council

with my work on the EACP and APT committees and every year during the extensive Council budget where for 2 months I spend basically most waking moments analyzing every county department's budget and staffing and the county's CIP projects.

**KCA.** I was lucky to work with the Kula Community Association for so long because they cover a broad array of issues including water, environmental planning, and the Upcountry CIP annual budget appropriations and project review and implementation. Water is the number one topic Upcountry and the KCA has a standing committee on it. I was a member of this committee where we looked at the Upcountry wait list, drought declarations, the Waikamoi flume replacement, treatment problems in the 2000s, the dual ag line, and DHHL's need for water as housing developments come on line – two DHHL subdivisions were proposed and built while I was on the Board -Waiohuli and Keokea.

**AWG.** I have also been lucky to be included in the AG Working Group – this is a group of extremely intelligent and policy-oriented farmers, both conventional and organic. They have regular discussion on ag water, water operations, currently are working on the need to change fixture counts process. As Shane's EA I was able to write 3 bills -passed last year: to address billing and water meter removal notifications, add a new billing category for non-residential ag water use and provide for longer exemptions to drought restrictions for agricultural users.

**Planning Department.** As a planner, I worked on land use applications which were required to address environmental planning to show no impacts or mitigations to address impacts. Often these land use applications were for rezoning from undeveloped ag land to urban and had extensive environmental planning reports that I was required to address in my staff report. When "show me the water act" passed it became even more detailed because developers are required to show that their water source is available and sustainable for the future. And many of these projects were for Kihei and Wailea which uses water from the Central Aquifer sector area, specifically lao aquifer, Na Wai Eha, which is a designated groundwater management area.

Maui Memorial Medical Center. In addition to my early work in financial planning and reviewing financial plans for individuals and small business (the same basic concepts apply to all financial plans), my work at the hospital included: overseeing the general operations at Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital. This work included reviewing annual operation, five-year and long-term CIP budgets for each facility. It also involved work with private equity financing where the board ultimately chose Morgan Stanley and took a 10-million-dollar loan to finance operations and the development of a heart program. As a member of the audit committee and I worked with one of the top accounting firms on audits, including a very successful management audit which reviewed operations and Maui Memorial Medical Center's organizational structure. We also worked extensively on CIP planning and project implementation for all three facilities and the Chair of the Kula and Lanai Oversight committee I had the extra responsibility of overseeing operations and long-term planning for these facilities. Responsibilities for this committee included the review of annual budgets for each facility, CIP planning and project implementation, internal audits, and

personnel issues that elevated to the Board's review. It is important to note that Kula Hospital is a 100 year old facility, working with a state budget meant phasing as best as possible and lots of communication with leg and working to get individual projects funded. Some of our biggest project was a replacement of a large-scale cesspool which EPA rules no longer allowed.

Council. At the County Council I have worked in all these different areas in different capacities. In the environmental committee, EACP, which Councilmember Sinenci chaired his first term in office, we worked extensively with MISC because they had an audit which was an item in our committee and also as the Councilmember from Hana the role they play in invasive species eradication is huge. The following term, Councilmember Sinenci had the water committee: where we worked for over a year on the Water Use and Development Plan. I also worked on the water authority charter amendment. As staff, I worked with Ian Hirokawa in the Land Division to understand the lease process and we had him as a resource in committee. I was able to work with Chair Scheuer Jonathan as one of the committee's resources and also arranged informational briefings from private environmental engineering firms and the Rural Development Agency to explain how other communities acquire and manage old systems. I believe this education is why Council passed the Charter amendment.

In my Council work I also have experience in starting and building out the County Department of Ag and East Maui Water Authority and creating the county archeologist position. I worked on the charter amendment creating the water authority and Councilmember Sinenci's budget priorities which resulted in additional funding and positions for the authority during the past two budget sessions. Councilmember Sinenci introduced the charter amendment to create the Department of Agriculture and we worked during budget the first year to build out the staffing and resources. I also created the first county archeologist position in the state and as part of that wrote a job description which was reviewed during Council's budget process and given to the managing director. As a Council executive assistant, I have also had the opportunity to participate in municipal financial training and the social equity opportunities funding with the Maui ESG Investment Project and Responsible Markets.