

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

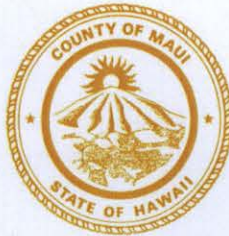
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director

MICHAEL P. RATTE
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**
2050 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2B
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

August 31, 2021

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Kelly T. King, Chair
Climate Action, Resilience and Environment Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Committee Chair King:

SUBJECT: WETLANDS RESTORATION (CARE-55)

This is in response to your August 27, 2021 communication requesting Department of Environmental Management's comments on the proposed resolution entitled "REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSIONS A PROPOSED BILL RELATING TO WETLANDS RESTORATION AND PROTECTION."

We agree with the concept of protecting wetlands because of the environmental benefits it provides. However, it is difficult to provide recommendations on the proposed bill to amend the Maui County Code without understanding exactly where these wetlands are throughout the County of Maui and the extents of what this program will implement to restore them. It is my understanding that the legal authority for designating Federal wetlands falls under the United States Army Corp of Engineers (Army Corp) and for the State of Hawaii wetlands, the Department of Health Clean Water Branch (DOH CWB) or Department of land and Natural Resources (DLNR). A lot of people refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory Mapper but it is my understanding it is not accurate for Hawaii. If there is a map designating the wetlands you intend to use to implement this program, please let us know so we can provide recommendations to this bill.



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

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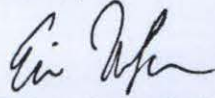
APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Michael P. Victorino 8/31/21
Mayor Date

Honorable Kelly T. King
August 31, 2021
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to transmit them to the Department of Environmental Management via transmittal through the Office of the Mayor.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Eric A. Nakagawa, P.E.
DN: cn=Eric A. Nakagawa, P.E., o=County of
Maui, ou=Director of Environmental
Management,
email=eric.nakagawa@co.maui.hi.us, c=US
Date: 2021.08.31 12:32:30 -10'00'

ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director of Environmental Management