

EACP Committee

From: Faith Chase <faith@farmersvoicehawaii.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:03 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: EACP 8.11.20 Mtg - Faith Chase testimony
Attachments: FVH LTR to EACP Mtg 8.11.20.pdf

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Farmers Voice Hawaii
Faith@FarmersVoiceHawaii.com

August 11, 2020

Maui County Council

Environmental, Agriculture & Cultural Preservation Committee Chair
Council member Shane Sinenci

Aloha EACP Chair & Committee Members

I am testifying today to merely convey the importance to include East Maui community input in all water decisions and fact finding moving forward. I know some who have done fact finding in East Maui believe that this has been done but it has always been half efforts with many pukas (holes).

Specifically, the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), their first community outreach included five people and the second visit garnered three participants because it was scheduled on Hana Graduation day, an important yearly event that draws most of the community. I begged for another meeting to occur and no such effort was made to do so. In addition, the social impact study conducted by the consulting firm for the Alexander and Baldwin's (A&B) Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was poorly planned and no one attended the Hana meeting except for the Council's single Hana office staff member.

I have attended hundreds of meetings, focus groups regarding East Maui water over the course of 33 years and have more recently attended the H2O Roundtable and the Ahupua'a Summit wherein the East Maui water diversion was center stage. I feel I have strong historical perspective and my input is the collective of na kupuna (elders) that have passed and their expressed vision.

I would like to clarify that while I was one of the founding members of Na Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui, myself and family made presentation to the group a year and half ago and explained that we would be restoring the Honomanu valley and the kalo lo'i (taro fields) that were once there. I personally made clear that I would be stepping away from the groups activity because I felt it important that they stay on course of planning without the business of issues that would consequently arise due to a different approach to water restoration. That being explained, I have not attended a Na Aupuni O Ko'olau Hui meeting for over a year now. Reason being, I felt it important to represent other waterways and valleys that were not being actively worked by or within Na Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui's purview.

I appreciate the work by Shay and Ian Hodges and I look forward to this presentation. I am pleased to learn that they have included the inout of the recently reassembled East

Maui Water Council which includes 60 East Maui families. I believe the collective voice can be heard with their continued help.

Sincerely,

Faith Chase

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Faith Chase

Editor

FARMERS VOICE HAWAII