

WR Committee

From: Mary McClung Law <observingmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 6:50 AM
To: WR Committee; Gladys Baisa
Subject: No sidestepping law for development

I would like to speak against changes to the "show me the water" ordinance which requires that developers document access to adequate water before project permits are approved. I strongly urge you to think of future generations. If we have unlimited water to allow for development, then why do we have water restrictions almost every year? Why are farmers cut off from water almost every year? Why are farmers, stewards of the land, required to irrigate with water not fit for human consumption? This polluted water goes into the land and food, can never be recalled, and is not food safety certifiable. Why are so many streams in our county completely dry? Why have springs been drying up? The aquifer is not inexhaustible. It is your responsibility to protect our aquifers for the future of our islands.

Perhaps developers in areas with rainfall desperate to develop could install catchment systems with the clearly laid out understanding that the development approval in no way commits the county to ever giving water. For every 1" of rain, a 1000ft roof catches 620 gallons of water. Before they begin to build anything, they would need to install appropriately sized tanks and purchase the pipes with a well thought out design for conservative annual rainfall estimates.

We need to seriously consider tax incentives for people installing catchment as it will decrease the pressure on our islands' aquifers. We cannot live without an aquifer. And it needs to be replenished, which is what happens when water flows in streams.

Key point: Finish the Maui Water Use Plan first!

- Amendments 1 and 2 both propose major changes in county water policy before any Maui County Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) is complete or adopted.
- WUDP needs to be first because it is required by law to lay a foundation for future County water policies by working with community stakeholders to develop water planning objectives and evaluation criteria and to consider community values regarding water resource issues.
- State WUDP requirements say each county should develop its own unique set of planning objectives for water supply reliability, environmental impacts and Appurtenant and correlative water rights, all topics that WR-19 amendments relate to, but this has not happened.
- Changing County water policy now is rushing the process and makes public input to WUDP feel meaningless.

These are my primary concerns as a resident and taxpayer. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Law
Hana

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bhavatu sabba mangalam!

may all beings be happy 😊