

GET Committee

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Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 10:41 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony for GET- 1 (4)

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Aloha GET Chair Molina and Committee Members

Mahalo for affirming Sandy Baz as managing Director and Karla peters as Parks and Recreation Director. Both of them have demonstrated willingness and abilities to work with the public and their co-workers to get things done.

I would urge you to carefully consider the public record of two other proposed appointees.

GET-1 (4) Jeff pearson, Director of Water Supply. Mr Pearson is very likeable and good natured, but he did not demonstrate the ability to implement Water Commission policies while he served as the CWRM head the past few years. One instance of this was the two year delay in issuing permits to A&B to construct simple modifications on stream diversions. The process resulted in back and forth directives causing confusion on behalf of the applicants (A&B/EMI) and the public (Huelo residents hoping for "restored streams "promised in a May 2016 Water Commission directive)

The overall result was, after nearly 2 years of bureaucratic inaction, the Water commission staff informed A&B that no permits would even be necessary because the proposed modifications were regarded as "regualr maintenance". The public in Huelo, who depend upon the streams for their domestic water supply, were never even contacted by the water commission staff. Two field visits were held in Huelo to determine the best course of action and only A&B/EMI and the state staff were invited. Te community was never even informed that the site visits were occurring until a freedom of information aact request was filled to get two years worth of Water commission correspondence. Mr pearson appears to blame all these lapses in good leadership practices on the commission having "unclear rules" to implement the restoration of streams.

I do not believe this is actually the case. When the Na Wai Eha streams were ordered to be partially restored in 2014 Bill Tam was head of the Water commission. Under different leadership, the same company (A&B) closed off large diversion grates withing about 6 months of the commission's order and Wailuku river flowed.

When Linda lingle appointee Ken Kawahara was deputy director of the State Water Commission, all the affected East maui neighborhoods had regular contact with Water commission staff and the CWRM staff set up site visits where residents could get updates from Commission and EMI staff and DAR scientists. This is how it should work. Things happen when agencies and companies and people work together. Please find a skilled leader for the very crucial Dept of Water Supply.

Mahalo

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