

East Maui Water Authority

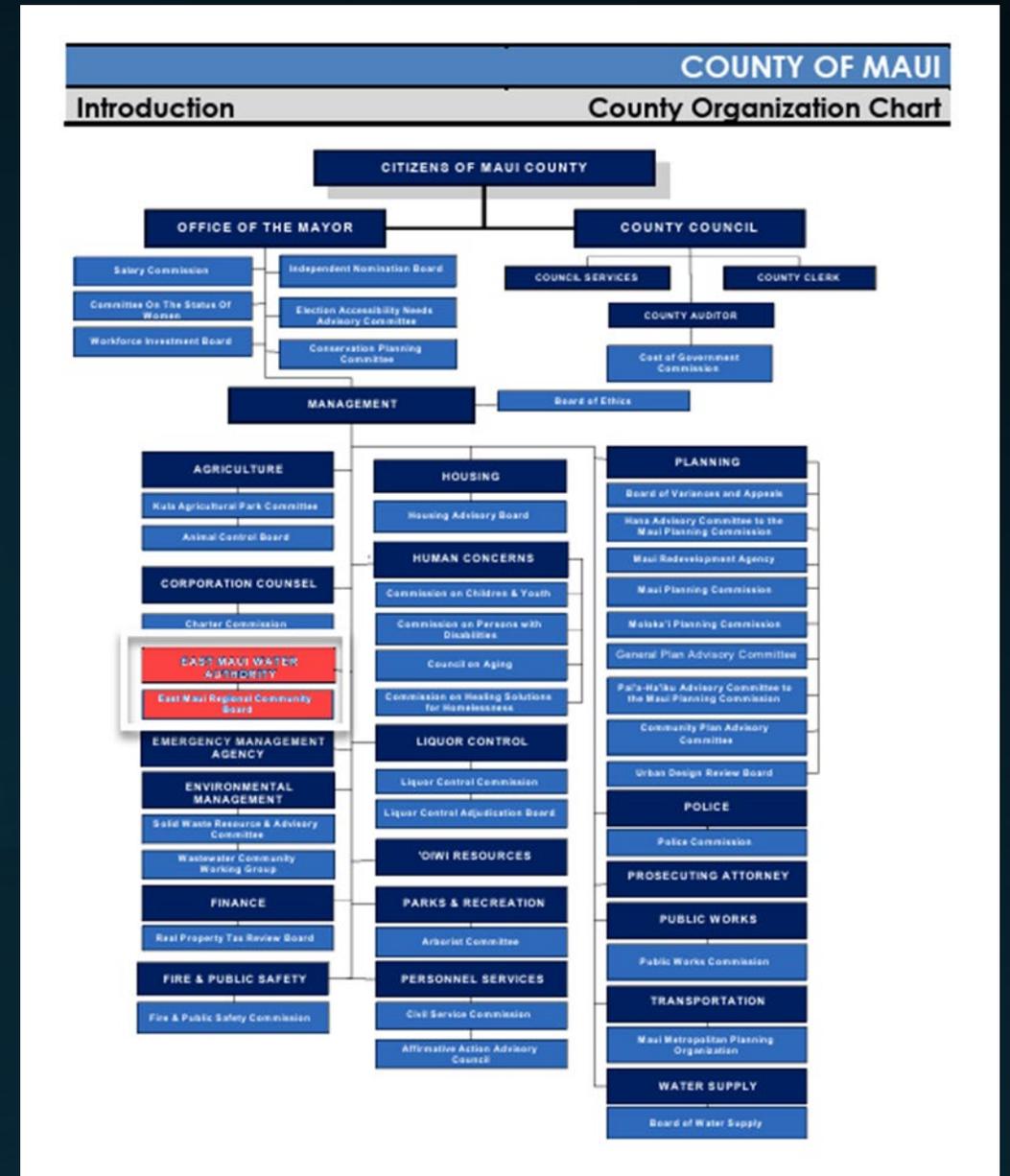


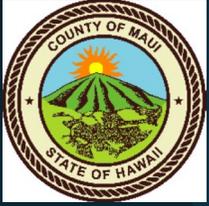


Who are We?

East Maui Water Authority

- Voter initiated new **County Department**
- Dedicated mission to acquire and manage the East Maui water system and develop and implement watershed plan





Who are We?

1 Director : Gina Young

1 Private Secretary : Cory Vicens

Two new employees this month:

Grant Coordinator: Leslie Tamaribuchi

Information and Education Specialist: Serena Fukushima

Fall 2025: Water Resources Specialist and two intern positions

Spring/Summer 2026: Two Watershed workers

Our Independent Community Board 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina



‘Aha – Assembly, succession of guardianship
Wai – Water, Wealth

Maui Hikina - Eastern Geographic Region of the Island of Maui



Uniting Local Watershed Communities And Upcountry Water Users

Residents that have been
directly affected by
lack of water



Both provide important perspectives as we work towards local control

Don't want to replace the old
system of water extraction that
ignored impacts of water
diversions on people in the area
and inequitable distribution with a
similar system and perspective,
Instead...



Create new system of mutually beneficial water resource management

Has an awareness of the impacts on watershed communities

Honopono ka 'āina and community concept:

- acknowledgment of past injustices
- create community benefits
- Kumu Pono Associates to assist with historical research



Mutually beneficial water resource management

- Promotes equitable distribution
- Recognizes benefits of meeting community water needs and community's role in food and affordable housing production
 - Maui County Dept of Ag Food Security Plan and documentation of food grown with East Maui stream water
 - Kula and Ha'ikū surveys



Create new system of mutually beneficial water resource management

Provides island-wide economic benefits

- By supporting small ag and large ag where profits stay in community and money is recycled through island economy

Creates long-term island water security

- Lahaina is on the forefront of climate change, balancing housing needs with tourism and luxury development economy and inefficient state regulatory system

Responsible management with long-term planning and funding component

- Reduce negative impacts of climate change and capitalizes on new climate aspects
 - Capture high episodic rain events
 - Reduce flooding and turbidity with new reservoirs
 - Lining of ditches and tunnels
 - Upgraded infrastructure that is able to handle heavy rain flows
 - Data capture to understand and monitor streams

Department & Board Motto:

Eia no o kūlanihāko‘i,
no kākou e mālama ai!

*“Here indeed is Heaven
reflected on Earth,
It is for all of us to Protect,
Preserve and Sustain”*



Community Engagement

What got us here will lead our
future success

We can't be successful without
your support and your knowledge!



Mahi Pono/EMI Discussions

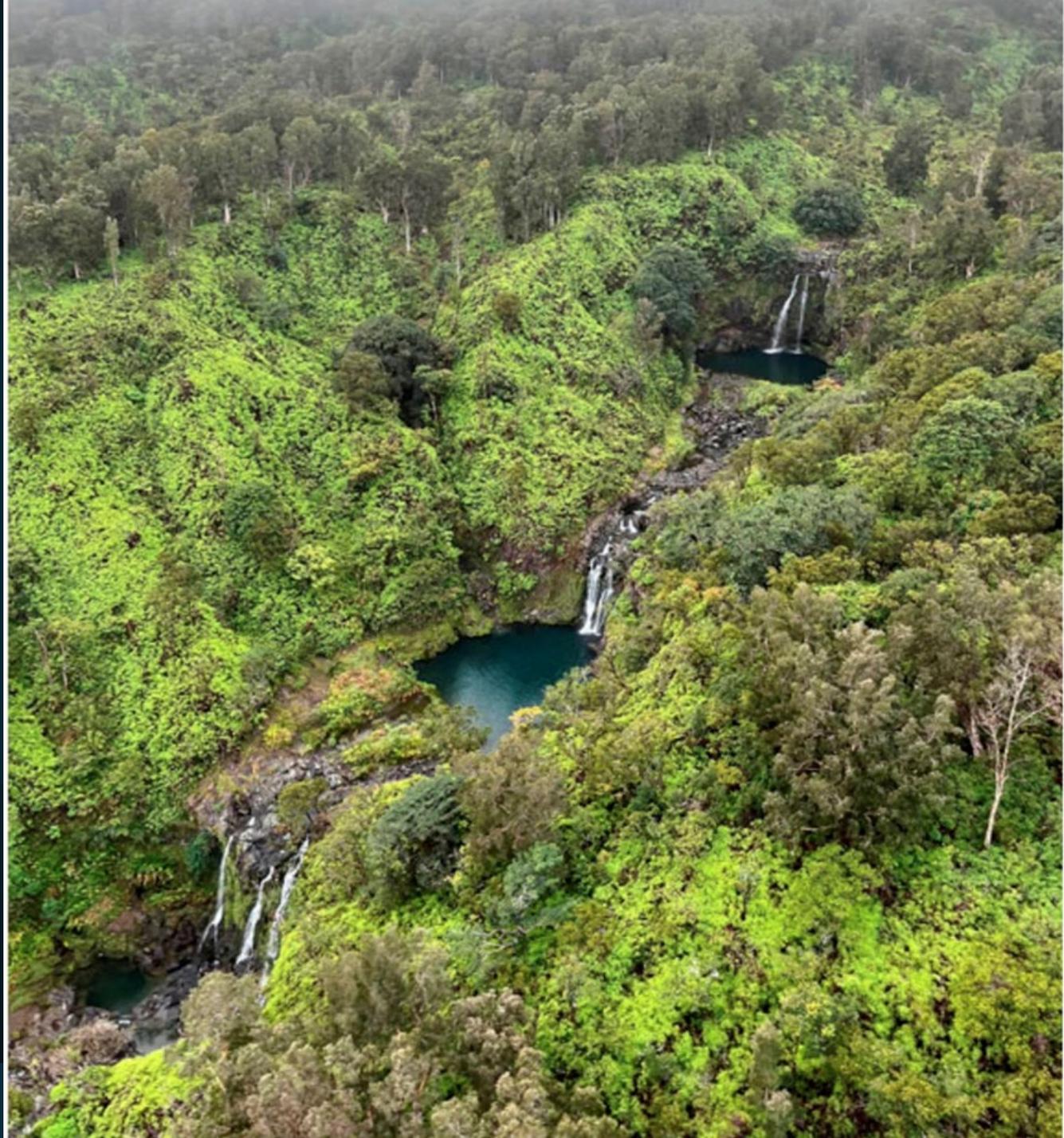
- We are in the early stages of talking with Mahi Pono
- Working hard to reframe discussion to bring in historical awareness and need for equitable outcomes
- Discussions are led by Mayor Bissen
- Department of Water Supply and Managing Director are partners
- Consultation with stakeholder communities
 - We need to inform you, get your input and buy in
 - Please give it today during engagement sessions

We Need Your Knowledge and Priorities

Watershed Plan

Programmatic – evolving,
living document

Document to assist with
grant funding for programs



Watershed plan to be culturally rooted

- Using traditional sustainable practices
- ‘Ike kupuna and ancestral knowledge
 - Board members, community, and research by Kepa and Onaona Maly

Community-based

- Engagement meetings; information and education specialist
- Focus on lower elevations where communities are most affected



ABOUT NĀ MOKU

Nā Moku 'Aupuni 'O Ko'olau Hui organized June 1996 as a non-profit organization to educate, perpetuate, serve and protect historical, spiritual, traditional, & environmental well being of Ke'anae/Wailuanui. Members are lineal descendants/current residents.



Implementing the Plan

Building Out New Watershed Division

Watershed Work:

- Water Resource Specialist- fall 2025
- Two field staff- 2026 positions
- Equipment and watershed baseyard
- Early work could include:
 - stream clearing to improve mauka-makai connection
 - invasive species removal
 - native reforestation for better resilience
 - we need your input



Community Conversations Series

Ke‘anae, Kula, and Ha‘ikū

Monday, June 16 - Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Goals:

- To unite stakeholders
- Recognize and honor community uniqueness



Information from meetings will be posted on
wikiwai.org

Yesterday in Ke‘anae

- Acknowledgements of damage done from long-term diversions to eco-system, cultural practices and communities
- Desire to pass watershed and environmental knowledge to keiki and through generations as was done for them
- Desire to provide community benefits through job opportunities caring for the watershed



Tonight's Meeting

Co-Host: The Public Finance Initiative

Non-profit that specializes in developing public finance programs to create equity, sustainability, and inclusion of all community members in fiscal decision-making.

Assisting with community input, then expert panel

Questions or Comments
on the East Maui Water Authority or
the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina?

