

# East Maui Water Authority

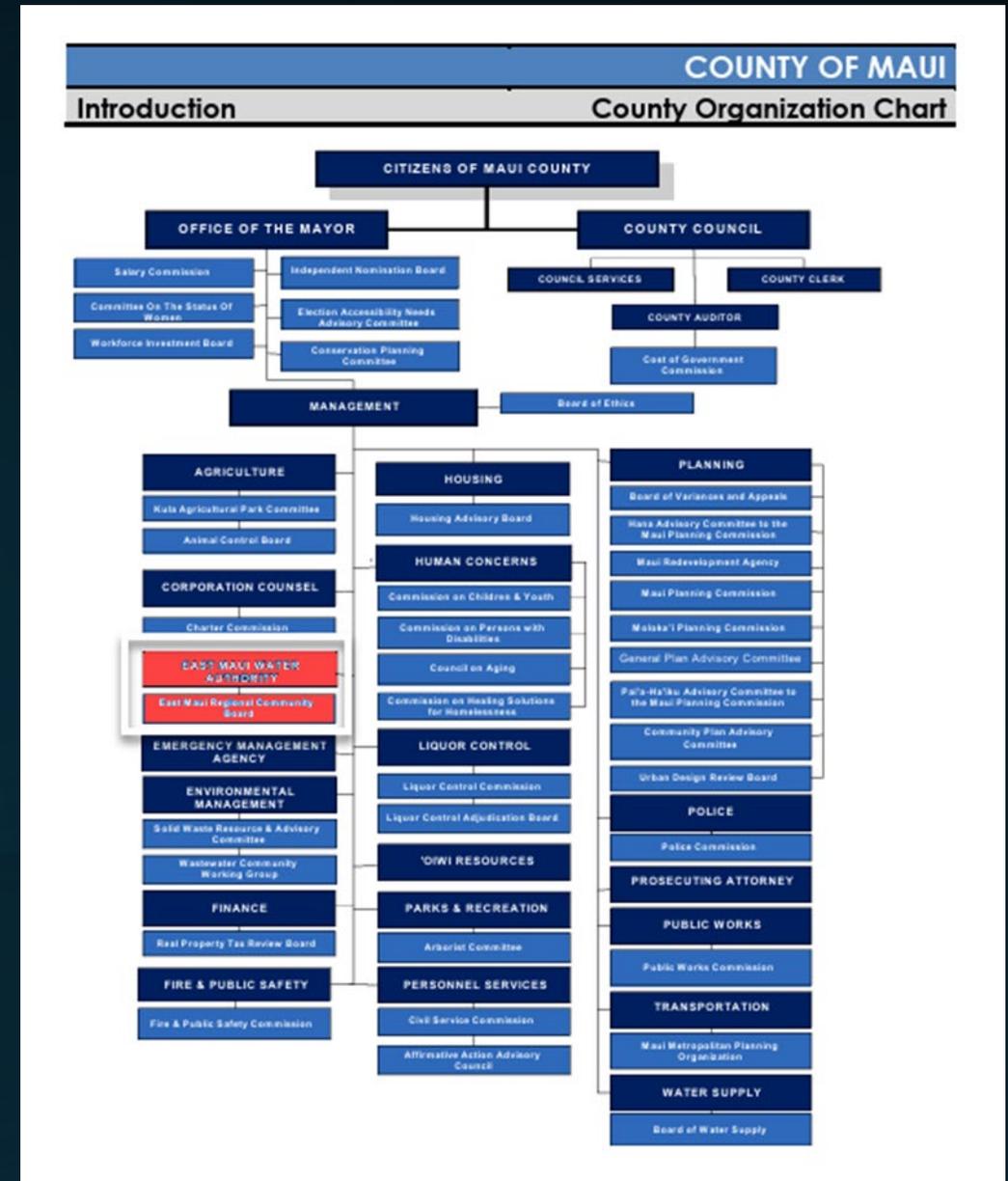


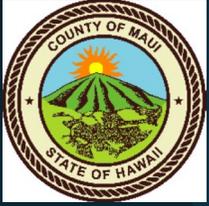


# Who are We?

## 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



# Independent Community Board 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina

## 11 Invaluable Experts, Policy Makers & Advisors:

- Two Upcountry Water Users Representatives:
  - Water Resource Professional Knowledge - Francis Quitazol
  - Upcountry Agriculture Representative – Open Seat
- One DHHL Representative: Chair Jonathan Scheuer

# 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina

## Eight Watershed Areas representatives:

Vice Chair Kyle Nakenlua, Members Moke Bergau, Moke Kahiamoe, Lyn Scott, Sissy Latham, Bush Martin, Janet Redo, Harry Hueo

### Provide:

- Area Knowledge and history
- The integration of Hawaiian knowlege, practices, protocol, and science into the Department perspective, practices and policies
- All seats provide community perspective and feedback

# 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



# We Want to Use Our Water Resources to:

## Promote local and island food security

- Maui County Department of Agriculture Food Security Plan and documentation of food grown with East Maui stream water
- Kula and Ha'ikū surveys showing need and uses of water

## Give residents the ability to build affordable housing

# 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”*



# EMWA and AWOMH Mission

- Obtain control of local surface water in East Maui
- Develop and Implement a Watershed Plan for East Maui Water Collection Area



# 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

# Working with the State System

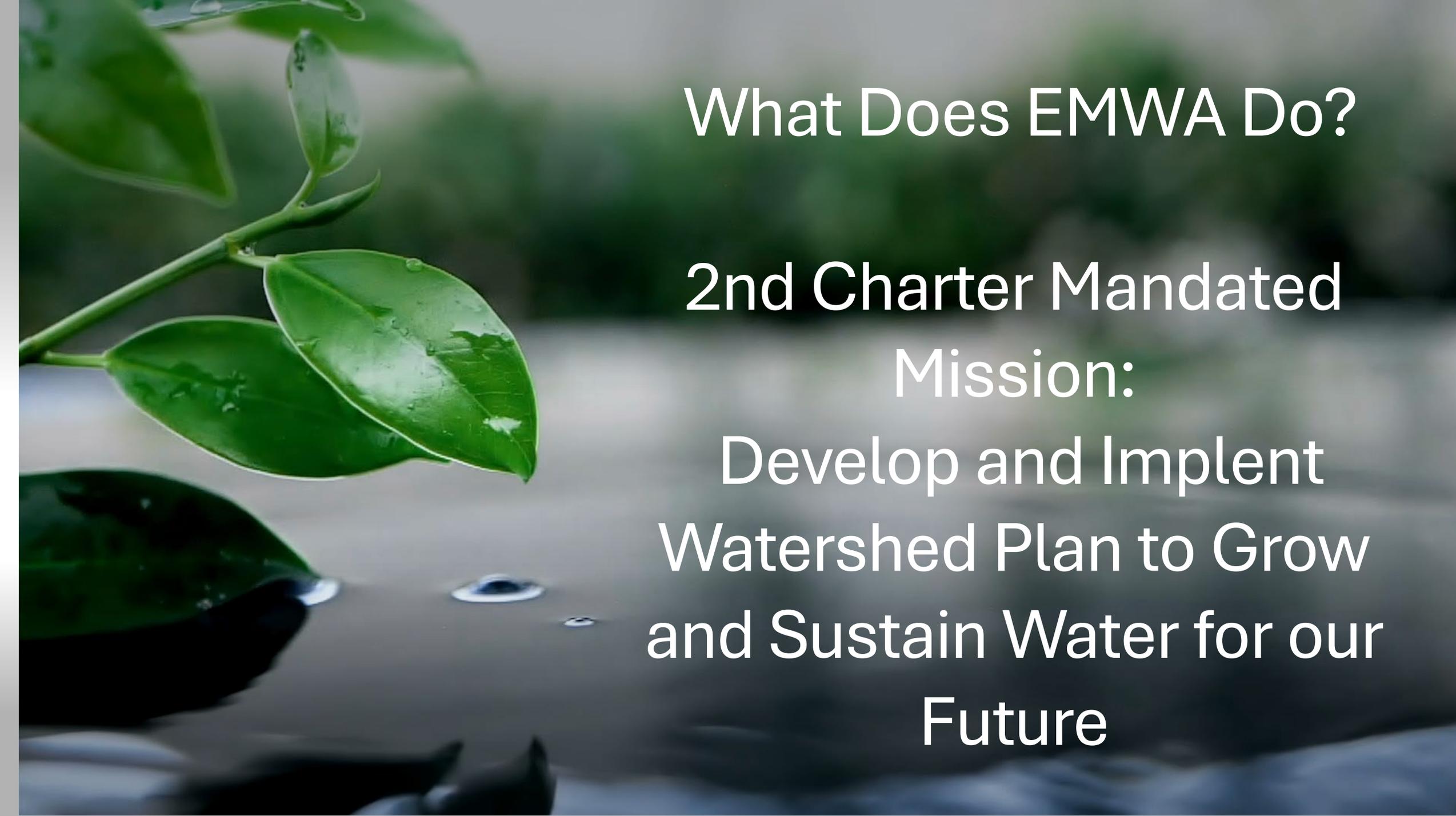
- Legal side – Intergovernmental agreement vs. public auction (private interest use of community resources)
- Political side: Requires creating political will and overcoming powerful invested interests

# Community Engagement

What got us here will lead our  
future success

We can't be successful without  
your support!





What Does EMWA Do?

2nd Charter Mandated

Mission:

Develop and Implement  
Watershed Plan to Grow  
and Sustain Water for our  
Future

# 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.



# Building Out New Watershed Division

## Watershed Work:

- Water Resource Specialist- 2025 position
- Two field staff- 2026 positions
- Equipment and watershed baseyard
- Work includes:
  - Stream clearing to improve mauka-makai connection
  - invasive species removal
  - native reforestation for better resilience



# 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](http://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?

