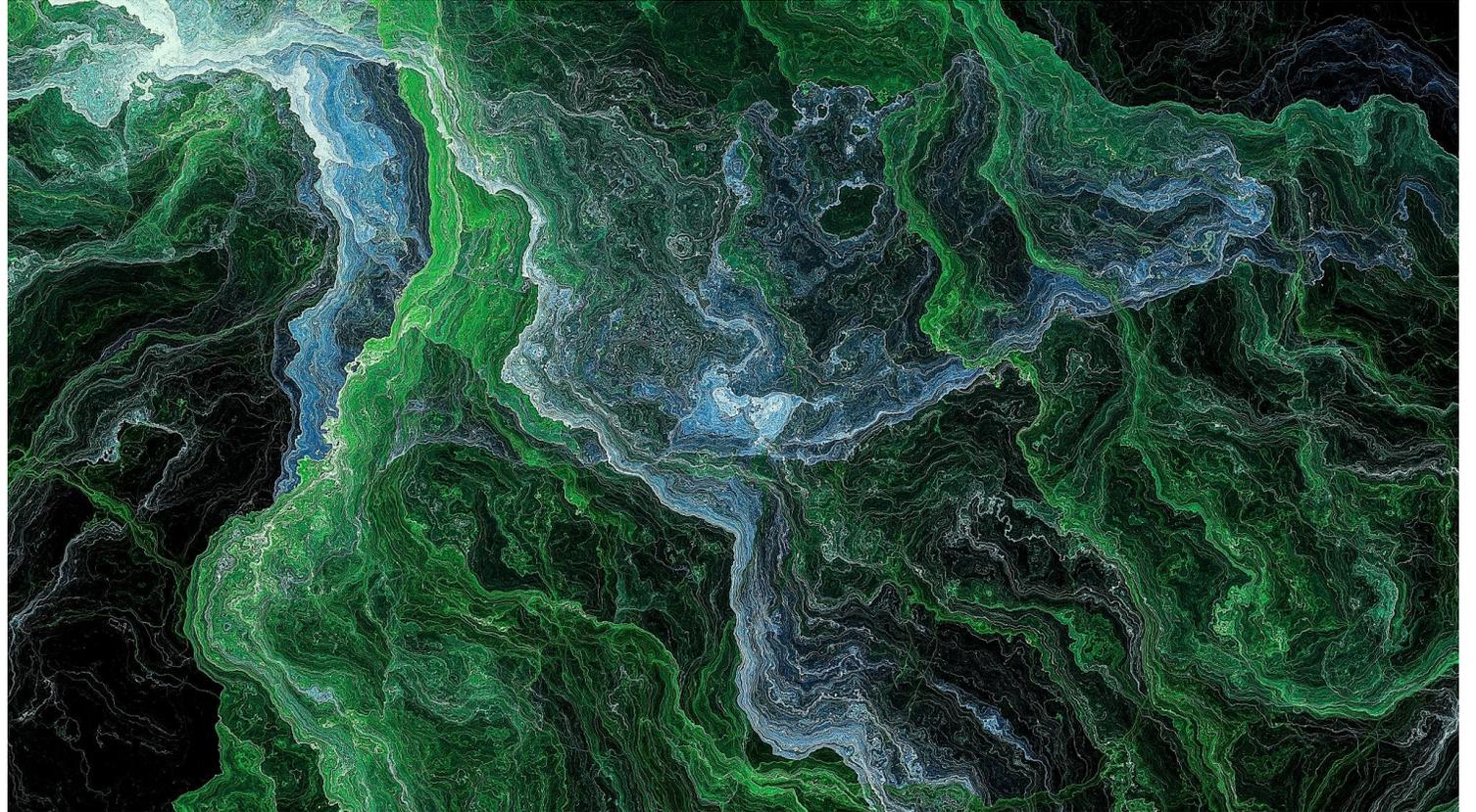


# Watershed Survey Responses

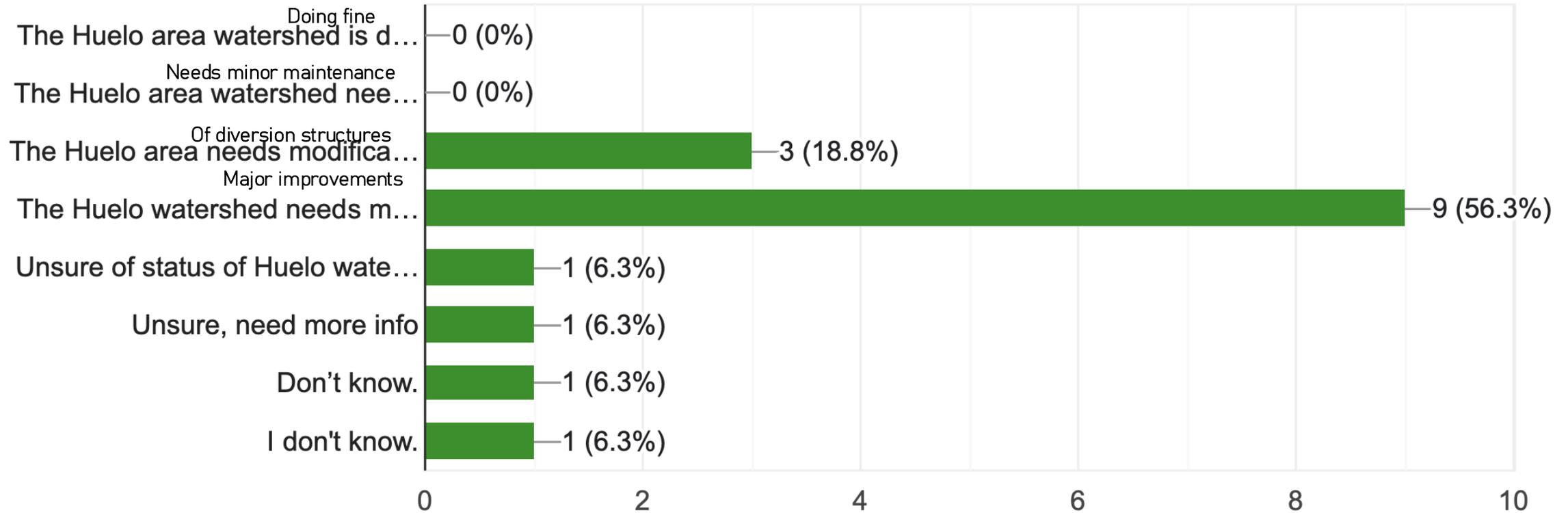


HAIKU/HUELO AREA



# Which of the following best describes the current state of the watershed?

16 responses



Please elaborate on your answer above. What makes you feel this way?

6 of 15 responses

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There's no water in Ua'oa Stream and the turtles that live in the cove are dying because they cannot get to the ocean without a stream.

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Over the past 50 years rainfall at Honopou, where I live, has slowly dropped from 160"/year to less than 80"/year. a 50% decline due to climate change. The forrest floor and the feral animal populations have witnessed massive change. More could be done to curb the pig and deer populations and harvest and eradicate invasive species.

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See above.

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the watershed itself has been more over run with alien plant and animal species, diminishing its productivity, over the last 40 years I have lived there. Meanwhile, the amount of annual rainfall has also fallen in East Maui over the past 25 years and the ditch systems have not been significantly modified over the years to allow adequate flows to bypass diversion structures.

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I am currently uninformed about the status of the huelo water shed area to choose severity of issues.

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Lack of knowledge

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Please elaborate on your answer above. What makes you feel this way?

7 of 15 responses

More water storage is needed.

Most of the diversions should be removed and the ones kept need to be repaired.

Not involved.

The county or state should claim imminent domain on the infrastructure. It should be updated and improved. Gaining and understanding metrics to better understand what kinds of improvements are needed (weather stations, stream flow etc)

Remove ALL diversions on streams

I heard that one of the reservoirs from plantation days was filled with boulders, gulches continue to be used as landfills, forested areas continue to be cleared for view plains.

10 years ago the Honokala stream on my property was clear and a few ft deep in places. Now it barely covers my feet and turns dry in the summer. I have no water for my taro anymore. There are no more fish or prawns only deer scarring the trees and pigs wallowing in the mud.

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Please elaborate on your answer above. What makes you feel this way?

2 of 15 responses



A general understanding that the water system(s) are just not working...for the people...and have not for a very long time. Had it been an easy fix it would have been done a long time ago.

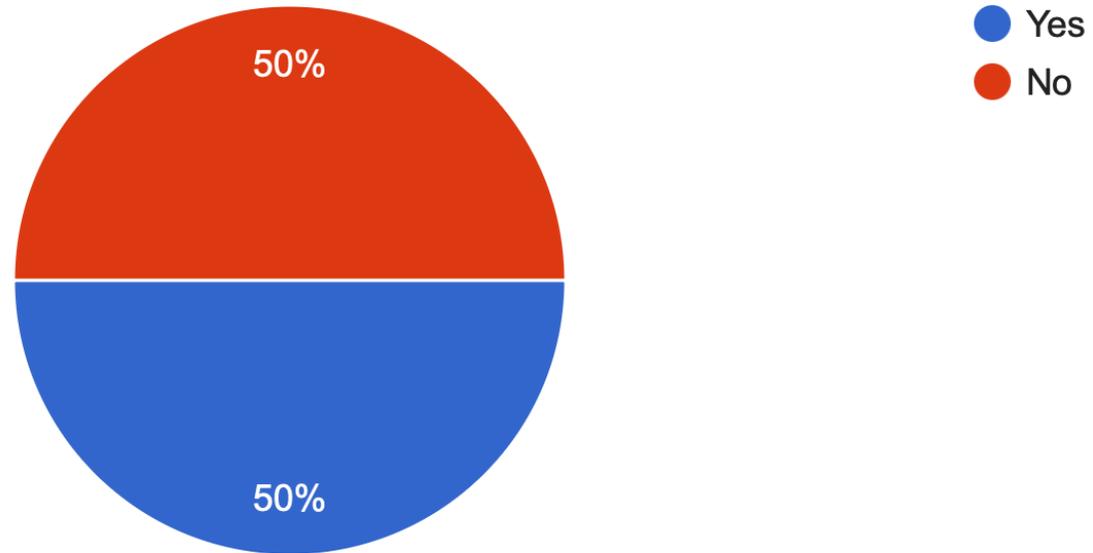


Restoring all stream flow—including Maliko Stream—is essential to repair the ecological and cultural damage caused by outdated diversion structures in the Huelo area, ensuring freshwater reaches native habitats, traditional users, and coastal ecosystems as required by law and the public trust doctrine



Do you or your family use nearby streams or stream estuaries culturally (such as fishing or gathering) or recreationally?

16 responses



Do you think your cultural use would change if there were less stream diversions? Please elaborate.

7 of 13 responses

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Yes. We used to have a thriving bay with kanaka fishers coming to catch regularly. We are not seeing anywhere near the numbers we did just five years ago

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Yes, more water would be available.

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yes. Cultural users would really benefit if streams were less diverted and more water was in the streams

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Actually having flowing streams would make stream activity more popular

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I don't use streams directly.

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Yes

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yes because it would increase the amount and quality of resources like fish and help make clean water

Do you think your cultural use would change if there were less stream diversions? Please elaborate.

6 of 13 responses

- No
- Not culture use, but if more streams meant more kalo/poi available to eat, bringing down prices, i would buy more. Costco selling Hanalei poi for \$25 for less than 5lbs
- yes
- Absolutely. I would recreate the lo'i kalo and invite community involvement.
- If diversions are, in fact, causing the unnatural flow of water we have witnessed for two decades, we believe our use would be more in line with having water available naturally. For farming, sustainability for ourselves, neighbors and general community, recreational use, clearer beds also more resistive, then, to invasive animals like coqui frogs and wild boars.
- Yes—if there were fewer stream diversions, my cultural use would absolutely expand. With restored flow, I could engage more fully in traditional practices like mālama 'āina, cultivating native plants, loi kalo-style farming, and hosting educational gatherings that honor the spiritual and ecological role of flowing freshwater. A living stream supports not just agriculture, but the intergenerational sharing of 'ike, ceremony, and respect for place—none of which can happen authentically when the water is stolen or silenced.

Any other comments on water quality or flow of nearby streams you would like to add?

11 Responses

We need stream to flow even just a little to help

Regular citizen science, monitoring of water quality and other factors would be great to see

Don't know.

No

Not at this time.

Hanehoi Stream has been completely dry (dust) for at least 2 months.

Lack of rainfall has contributed as much as diversions in my opinion to the degradation of the natural ecosystems that once existed in Huelo.

Neighbors upstream apparently don't care unless they are pumping out of the stream for personal use legally or illegally. Leptospirosis is more likely to be present in foul polluted water with so many dead animals now. Mosquitos will thrive in stagnant water.

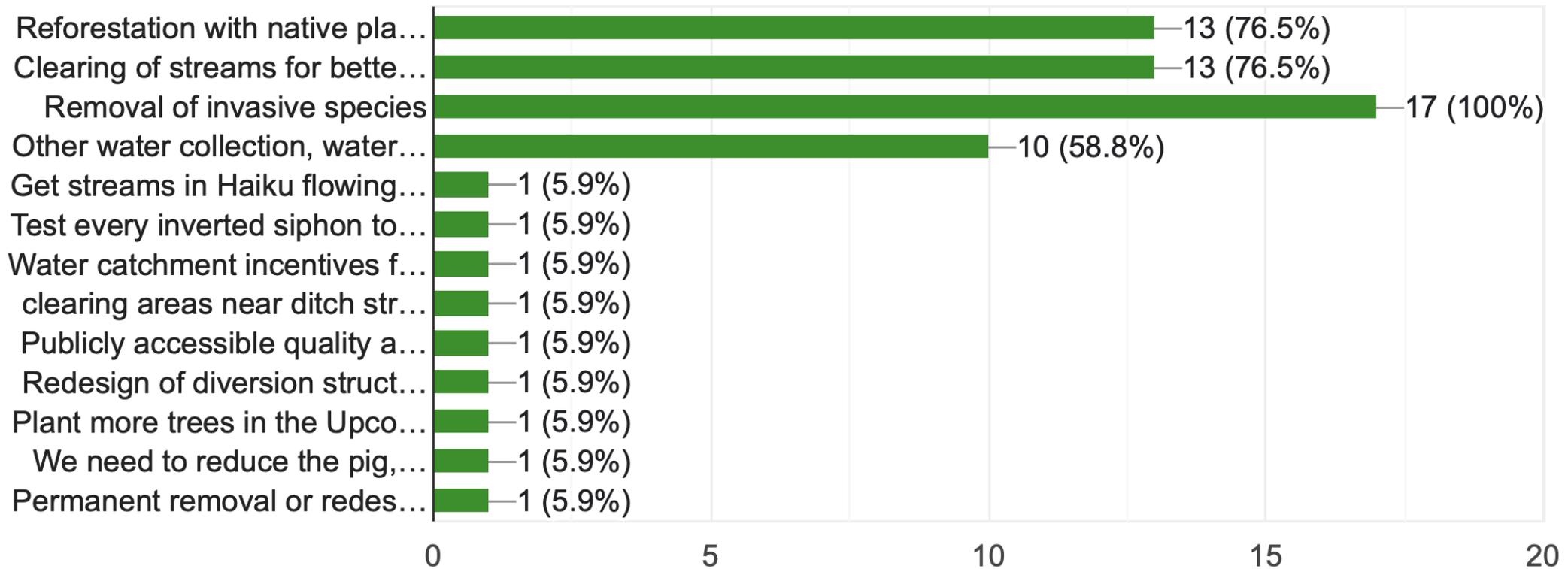
Quality of the water is always in question with large-scale commercial activities going on upstream. Our water should be maintained healthy.

Yes—Maliko Stream, like so many others, is a powerful example of what's been lost. Once a life-giving waterway, it now often runs dry due to upstream diversions, despite being part of the same watershed as restored Huelo-area streams. This inconsistency undermines not only ecosystem health but also cultural practice, farming potential, and public trust. These streams still hold deep mana, and when they flow, they bring life to the land—native plants thrive, birds return, and the 'āina breathes again. Restoring consistent baseflow to Maliko Stream and all East Maui streams is not just an environmental need—it's a spiritual, cultural, and legal obligation.

our stream, Hanehoi, is supposed to be "fully restored" however, the lowest diversion on Hanehoi stream (New Haiku Ditch) does not really allow the stream to function in a natural manner. an obtrusive dam structure impounds stagnant water and the width of the natural stream bed has shrunk due to the narrow, limited portion of stream water that is being released as part of the "full restoration."

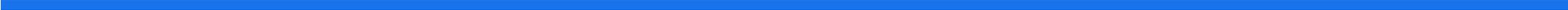
Which of the following watershed health improvements do you support (check all that apply). If there are additional efforts you'd like to see, please add them in the "other" category

17 responses



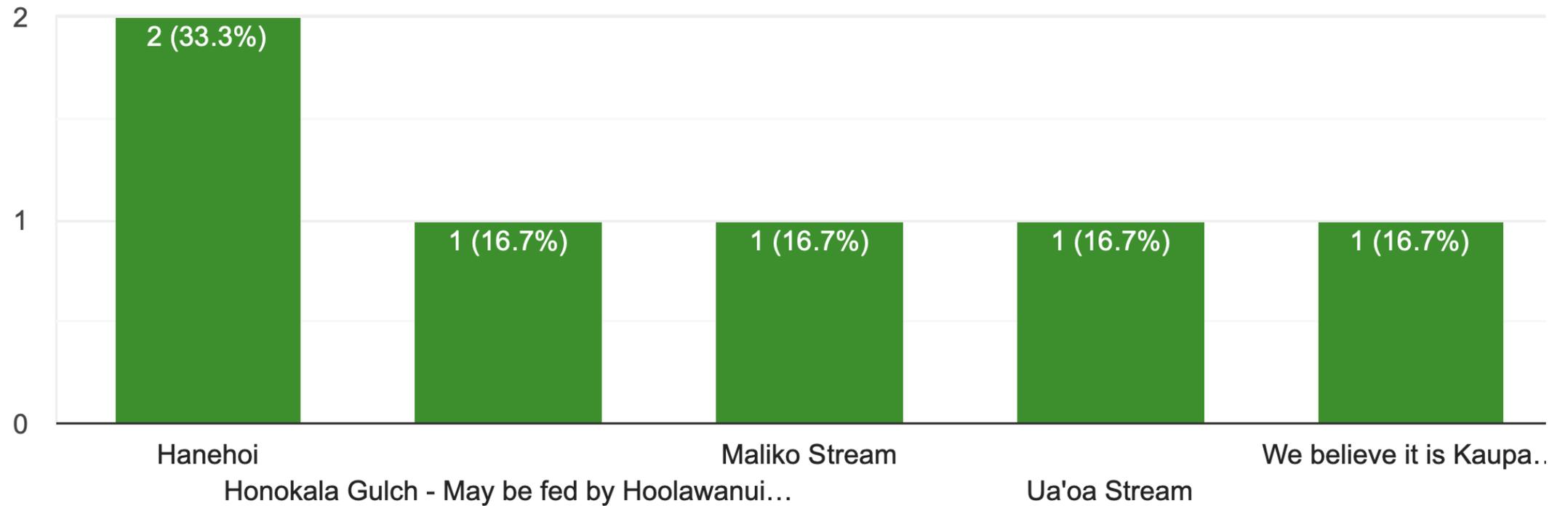
# Have any stream diversions affected you or your property?

17 responses



If stream diversion(s) have impacted your property, please name the stream(s) if you know the name:

6 responses



If you have been impacted by stream diversion, either positively or negatively, please explain:

7 responses

Sea turtle cove has hundreds of turtles dying in it.

Honopou Stream where it enters the ocean has significantly dropped in volume and the water temperature has gone way up threatening many native species that live in the stream.

Neighbors trespassing. Found a electric pump in the stream that led to neighbor's swimming pool. Reported it to DLNR.

Had to install rain catchment system even though the stream runs through my property (when it "runs").

Loss of water flow, more invasive plants, no community involvement with lo'i kalo.

My/our understanding is that we receive more water than is natural during storms, especially in the case of the 2021 Haiku flood where major property was lost, and most part of the year the stream bed is dry where we understand there would otherwise be a natural stream flow. As well a very dry stream bed preceded by storm water, on a regular basis, is now one encroaching of cane grass and other invasives.

I've been negatively impacted by stream diversion. The stream that runs through my property in Maliko Gulch—part of the greater East Maui watershed—now runs dry much of the time, despite evidence that it once supported vibrant native life and consistent flow. This loss has deeply affected my ability to steward the land, grow food, and engage in cultural practices tied to water and place. When the stream flows, the land comes alive—birds return, plants flourish, and the air feels different. But when it's dry, everything suffers. The upstream diversions have prioritized industrial and private interests over ecological health and cultural rights, leaving landowners and caretakers downstream with nothing. Restoration of these flows is long overdue—not just for Maliko, but for every stream that has been silenced.

# How would your family use additional stream water:

13 responses

