April 11, 2018

State of Hawaii
Commission on Water Resource Management
PO Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Aloha Members of the Commission,

In regards to the Staff Submittal for the CWRM meeting on March 20, 2018 affecting instream flow standards for four West Maui streams, in accordance with Page 29 of the Report, we are notifying the Commission that we are being, or will be severely negatively impacted by the adoption of the proposed instream flows for Launiupoko and Kaua'ula streams.

STATE YOUR IMPACT: i.e.,
Loss of orchards, crops, livestock, etc. Cost to switch to an alternate water source will cost in the thousands of dollars, will take many many months, and in the interim we will lose (crops, produce, orchards, etc.) and the more than 3X higher cost of potable water, if and when it becomes available, will make our operation economically un-feasible.

This decision was reached without any prior notification or dialog with the more than 1100 residents and farmers in the Launiupoko area who rely on this water for the agriculture operations required by Maui County. We made note in the staff report that many of the assumptions used were not accurate, and the land use data provided in the staff report was in error and did not reflect current agricultural use. For example, our lot….

We noted that the hearing testimony in favor of the new IFS was also inaccurate, emotional, biased, and prejudicial towards us as a group. When the decision was made to implement, it was in essence effectuated immediately without any due process or time to come into compliance.

Please understand that our community has been doing a difficult job transforming a rocky and hostile environment into a lovely and productive land that is curtailing wildfire risks, attracting paying visitors, and producing agricultural outputs that we desperately need on Maui. Because of the action by the CWRM, we feel that we are not being recognized for the hard work that we have done and are being treated prejudicially and unequally.

We ask that…(in your own words…reconsider, delay, give all of us the time we need to implement, etc.)

Sincerely,

Name(s) & Address