

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Friday, January 30, 2009**

**9:00 a.m.**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 609, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND  
CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI TO SERVE AS THE FIRST  
PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUND WATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT  
THE UPCOUNTRY MAUI SURFACE WATER SYSTEM**

House Bill 609 appropriates \$1,800,000 of general revenues in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 to plan, design and construct a ground water well in upcountry Maui as a first phase to supplement the upcountry surface water system. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has concerns as the appropriation will impact the Executive Biennium Budget request.

The upcountry Maui water system is fed by surface water diversions. The Department notes that the existing water system will not be able to accommodate anticipated future growth in the area and additional water sources will be needed. Ground water wells could be incorporated in the County of Maui's Emergency Preparedness Plan to provide water in the event of drought and/or unplanned reduction or closure of the surface water treatment facilities or water system disruption due to earthquake or other natural disaster.

Council Chair  
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair  
Michael J. Molina

Council Members  
Gladys C. Baisa  
Jo Anne Johnson  
Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala  
Bill Kauakea Medeiros  
Wayne K. Nishiki  
Joseph Pontanilla  
Michael P. Victorino




Director of Council Services  
Ken Fukuoka

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauiCounty.gov/council](http://www.mauiCounty.gov/council)

January 28, 2009

TO: Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

FROM: Joseph Pontanilla, Council Member 

DATE: Friday January 30, 2009

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 609 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI AS THE FIRST PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUND WATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT THE UPCOUNTRY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

I **support HB 609** for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by Maui County Council Chair Danny A. Mateo and urge you to support this measure.

09:01:28:kbm/JP: HB609

Council Chair  
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair  
Michael J. Molina

Council Members  
Gladys C. Baisa  
Jo Anne Johnson  
Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala  
Bill Kauakea Medeiros  
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Joseph Pontanilla  
Michael P. Victorino

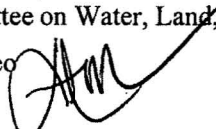


Director of Council Services  
Ken Fukuoka

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200 S. HIGH STREET  
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January 28, 2009

TO: Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

FROM: Danny A. Mateo   
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 609, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI TO SERVE AS THE FIRST PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUNDWATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT THE UPCOUNTRY MAUI SURFACE WATER SYSTEM**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to plan, design, and construct a test well in Upcountry Maui, either in Makawao or Pukalani, to serve as the first phase in the construction of a groundwater well to supplement the Upcountry surface water system.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Additional water sources are needed to accommodate any future growth in Upcountry Maui.
2. The County of Maui's *Drought Mitigation Strategies* of October 2004 indicate that groundwater wells could supplement surface water supplies during the summer droughts that have been experienced on Maui for a number of years.
3. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources supports the development of additional groundwater wells because of the difficulties of developing new surface water diversions.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

CHARMAINE TAVARES  
Mayor



JEFFREY K. ENG  
Director  
ERIC H. YAMASHIGE, P.E., L.S.  
Deputy Director

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155  
www.mauiwater.org

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
and Members of the House  
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2009  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ito and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: H.B. 609, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI TO SERVE AS THE FIRST PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUND WATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT THE UPCOUNTRY MAUI SURFACE WATER SYSTEM.**  
Hearing on Friday, January 30, 2009; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

The County of Maui Department of Water Supply is in full support of H.B. No. 609. Upcountry Maui is in lack of sufficient supplies of potable water and it currently relies on surface water sources for 90% of its potable water needs. Surface water, as we know, is highly susceptible to drought conditions, and the future availability of surface water is becoming uncertain. Ground water is the source of choice. Funding to plan, design and construct a test well is extremely important now.

The Department of Water Supply would appreciate your favorable support of H.B. No. 609.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey K. Eng*  
JEFFREY K. ENG  
Director

*"By Water All Things Find Life"*

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410. Or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD)

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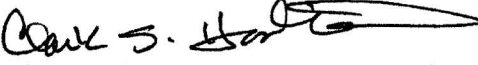
**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

COUNTY OF MAUI

2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 305, WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793, USA  
Telephone: (808) 270-7710 • Facsimile: (808) 270-7995 • Email: economic.development@mauicounty.gov

January 28, 2009

To: Honorable Ken Ito  
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

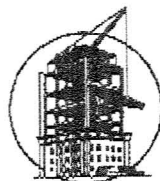
FROM: Clark S. Hashimoto   
Agriculture Specialist, Office of Economic Development

SUBJECT: HEARING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 609, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI TO SERVE AS THE FIRST PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUNDWATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT THE UPCOUNTRY SURFACE WATER SYSTEM.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

For decades, Upcountry Maui has suffered from numerous droughts that restricts agriculture production and has curtailed future growth, especially for families who have owned land for decades and are unable to subdivide their land for their children. Farmers have had to cut their production and their livelihood because of the lack of water during drought periods. Fourth generation farmers are giving up farming and selling their land, not only because of the economic downturn in the economy but because they are unable to get water meters to subdivide their lands for future generations.

Groundwater wells to supplement the Upcountry Maui water system will indeed help domestic water use but will especially help the farmers, who for decades have endured severe droughts. Everyone talks about sustainability but if farmers quit farming because of the lack of water, we will be exporting all of our food from the mainland. Kula has been the breadbasket for agriculture, especially in the production of fruits and vegetables. Farmers need affordable water and these wells will certainly be a good beginning. Governor Lingle urges all of us to buy local but without adequate water sources, there will be no agriculture.



**HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

GENTRY PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER, STE. 215A • 560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, #50 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
(808) 524-2249 • FAX (808) 524-6893

**NOLAN MORIWAKI**  
President  
Bricklayers & Ceramic Tile Setters  
Local 1 & Plasterers/Cement  
Masons Local 630

January 29, 2009

**JOSEPH O'DONNELL**  
Vice President  
Iron Workers Local 625

Honorable Representative Ken Ito, Chair  
Honorable Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**DAMIEN T. K. KIM**  
Financial Secretary  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1166

**ARTHUR TOLENTINO**  
Treasurer  
Sheet Metal Workers I.A. Local 283

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB 609  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND  
CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI  
Hearing: Friday, January 20, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

**MALCOLM K. AHLO**  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
Carpet, Linoleum, & Soft Tile  
Local 1296

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and the House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

**REGINALD CASTANARES**  
Trustee  
Plumbers & Fitters Local 675

For the Record my name is Buzz Hong, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Our Council is comprised of 16-construction unions and a membership of 26,000 statewide.

**THADDEUS YOMEI**  
Elevator Constructors Local 128

**JOSEPH BAZEMORE**  
Drywall, Tapers, & Finishers  
Local 1344

The Council SUPPORTS the passage of HB609 that appropriates funds to plan, design, and construct a test well in upcountry Maui, either in Makawao or Pukalani, to serve as the first phase in the construction of a ground water well to supplement the upcountry surface water system.

**RICHARD TAGGERE**  
Glaziers, Architectural Metal &  
Glassworkers Local Union 1899

**VAUGHN CHONG**  
Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied  
Workers United Union of Roofers  
Local 221

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB609.

**JARY AYCOCK**  
Coffermakers, Ironship Builders  
Local 627

Sincerely,

**YNN KINNEY**  
District Council 50  
Painters & Allied Trades  
Local 1791

*W. Hong/dg*

William "Buzz" Hong  
Executive Director

**ALANI MAHOE**  
Operating Engineers Local 3

WBH/dg

**EDONARD SEBRESOS**  
International Assoc. of  
Cement & Frost Insulators  
Allied Workers Local 132

*Skilled Craftsmanship Makes the Difference.*



**Kula Community Association**  
**P.O. Box 417 - Kula, HI 96790**  
**<http://kulamaui.com>**

*The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.  
The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.*

**Testimony before the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources**

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009

TIME: 9:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: Testimony in support of **HB 609**: Making an appropriation to plan, design, and construct a test well in Upcountry Maui to serve as the first phase in the construction of a ground water well to supplement the Upcountry Maui surface water system.

TO: The Honorable Ken Ito , Chairman and the Honorable Sharon E. Har , Vice-Chair and committee members:

The Kula Community Association thanks you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 609. Upcountry Maui needs more water to supplement our current surface water system to serve both agriculture and residential and to serve as an emergency back-up. Regular shortages of water in Upcountry Maui followed by mandatory cutbacks result in reduced production of agriculture and a hardship for many residents. Kula, Maui produces large quantities of the state's agriculture, including the Maui Onion, strawberries, Upcountry greens, as well as much of the world's protea flower supply. If the state of Hawaii is sincere in its efforts to preserve agriculture and maintain a consistent source of food it must provide reliable water to agricultural districts. Regular shortages of adequate water continually result in lost productivity of the fields Upcountry hurting not only farmers, but also wholesalers, retailers and consumers. A consistent source of water supply is sorely needed. The Kula Community Association is appreciative of the legislature for recognizing this basic need and requests that these funds be appropriated for a test well.

Contact: Gina Flammer, President  
808-876-6284  
[Flammerfamily@aol.com](mailto:Flammerfamily@aol.com)

Testimony in Support of HB609  
Making An Appropriation to Plan, Design, and Construct A Test Well In  
Upcountry Maui To Serve As the First Phase In the Construction of a  
Ground Water Well to Supplement the Upcountry Maui Surface Water  
System

To the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
Friday, January 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Room 325, State Capitol

By Al Lardizabal, Director  
Government Relations  
Laborers International Union of North America Local 368

Honorable Ken Ito, Chair; Honorable Sharon Har, Vice Chair; and Members  
of the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

The Laborers' Union supports the request for an appropriation of \$1,800,000  
for this important water system project on Maui. Recently, the Maui County  
Council passed an ordnance requiring developers and others desiring to  
construct projects to "show me the water". This bill will assist in that effort  
to develop additional water sources that are badly needed for the County. It  
could also act as an economic stimulus project to the benefit of the residents  
of Maui County.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.