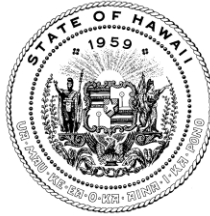


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 3, 2020
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2692
RELATING TO THE NA WAI EHA WATERSHED

Senate Bill 2692 proposes to provide an appropriation from the Land Conservation Fund towards State acquisition of 11,020 acres at the heart of Maui's Nā Wai 'Ehā watershed. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill and suggests an amendment to clarify the purpose of the matching funds to be used for the purchase.**

Nā Wai 'Ehā represents significant ecological, cultural, and hydrological value to the island of Maui. Composed of breathtaking native forests, hidden valleys, and mountains reaching 5,000 feet tall, it provides habitat for over 45 endangered species. Nā Wai 'Ehā is the principal source of Maui's drinking water. Currently in private ownership, the lands of Nā Wai 'Ehā have been offered for sale, presenting a rare opportunity to place those valued lands into the public trust to ensure that their unique resources are appropriately managed in perpetuity for their public benefits.

The Department is coordinating with federal and County partners to enable the purchase of the mauka conservation lands—comprising 11,020 acres of watershed forest—for placement into the State forest reserve system, while securing into the public trust, under County ownership, the water systems and easements that lie downslope of the conservation lands and comprise additional acreage. It is our understanding that the County of Maui is seeking to secure through its budget process the significant funds needed to purchase the water system and easements. Therefore, the Department respectfully suggests that the bill be amended as follows:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the land conservation fund the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the land

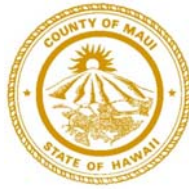
acquisition of eleven thousand twenty acres of the Na Wai Eha watershed in Wailuku, Maui; provided that no funds shall be made available under this Act unless the county of Maui provides matching funds of at least \$_____ for the purpose for which this sum is appropriated, or for the purchase of the associated water systems and easements offered by the seller. This project is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement. The sum appropriated is anticipated to be supplemented by federal funds.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

January 31, 2020

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 3, 2020, 1:15PM
Conference Room 229

SB2692 RELATING TO NA WAI EHA WATERSHED

Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee On Water And Land

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2692.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the acquisition of the Na Wai Eha Watershed in Wailuku, Maui. This watershed is essential to the public water system of Maui in that it supplies 70% of our drinking water. This watershed also contains native ohia forest, and 45 endangered plant and wildlife species. The proposed acquisition will ensure protection of this important ecosystem as well as the region's historical, cultural and natural characteristics.

The County of Maui has granted funds to control invasive plant and animal species within the watershed. Intact native forests are the hydrologic engine that drive groundwater recharge, stream flow and our drinking water supply. State control of this critical watershed would ensure adequately funded and consistent watershed management. Na Wai Eha is also a strong candidate to receive federal funding through the Forest Legacy Program.

I strongly urge you to pass this measure, SB2692.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 2, 2020

TO: The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SB 2692, RELATING TO NA WAI EHA WATERSHED**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate money out of the land conservation fund for the acquisition of 11,020 acres of the Na Wai Eha watershed in Wailuku, Maui.

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:

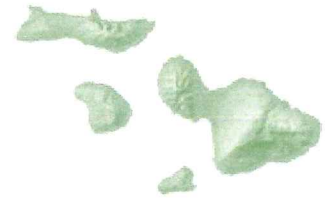
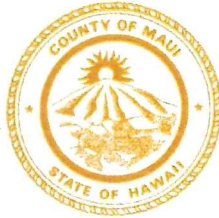
1. The Na Wai Eha watershed in Wailuku, Maui, provides significant ecological, cultural, and hydrological value to the island of Maui. It is composed of native koa, ohia, and lama forests, hidden valleys and mountains reaching 5,000 feet, the habitat for over 45 endangered species, and the principal source of Maui's drinking water.
2. An 11,000-acre portion of this critical watershed is up for sale, which presents a rare opportunity to preserve an enormous section of the West Maui Mountains in perpetuity for public recreation and other benefits.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
Director

HELENE KAU
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

January 31, 2020

**Testimony of the County of Maui Department of Water Supply
In Consideration of S.B. 2692 relating to Na Wai Eha Watershed**

Before the Senate Committee on

WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 3, 2020

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Senate Conference Room 229

The County of Maui supports the proposed Bill S.B. No. 2692 to appropriate funds for acquisition of the Na Wai Eha watershed in Wailuku, Maui. This critical watershed provides about 70% of the drinking water for the island of Maui through the Maui County Department of Water Supply (MDWS) public water system. This mostly forested watershed contains a pristine native ohia forest and is home to 45 endangered plant and wildlife species. The landowner has already sold over 4,000 acres to private entities. The proposed state acquisition will ensure protection of these important ecosystems as well as the region's historical, cultural and natural values.

Over the last two decades, MDWS has invested over \$6.5M in grant funds through watershed protection partnerships to control invasive plant and animal species within the Na Wai Eha watershed and Mauna Kahalawai. Intact native forests are the hydrologic engine that sustains groundwater recharge, stream flow and our drinking water supply. State control of these critical watersheds would ensure adequately funded and consistent watershed management. Na Wai Eha is also a strong candidate to receive federal funding through the Forest Legacy Program to further enhance this acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoint on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
Director of Water Supply