From: Michele A. Halligan
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:38:16 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Thank you to DLNR staff for proposing, for the first time ever, to give A&B a reasonable amount of water based on its actual needs and uses. I urge the board to honor the staff's recommendation and approve setting the maximum diversion amount from East Maui's streams at 27.4 million gallons a day.

I also urge the board to reject the proposal to allow the Chair to increase this cap without giving the board or the public any notice, much less a chance to review and comment. As the board knows, we have been experiencing unprecedented and ongoing drought conditions, and yet there are current proposals to grow more thirsty citrus trees in Central Maui than East Maui's streams may be able to handle. Increasing stream diversions during a time when our streams may be seeing less water than ever before may have significant impacts on the public's many interests in our public trust water resources. The board must not abdicate its kuleana to conduct its own due diligence and independent review, informed by public and expert input, in its oversight of East Maui's public trust resources.

Finally, I urge the board to mandate as a condition of this permit that A&B and Mahi Pono fix their diversion infrastructure and to use lined reservoirs, so that we can finally stop the waste of millions of gallons of water per day. Again, our drought conditions only emphasize the preciousness of our water resources, and such massive amounts of water waste can no longer be tolerated. The use of lined reservoirs in particular will allow Mahi Pono to grow much more food using much less water from East Maui's streams, and provide a much more stable amount of available water during potential water shortages and to fight fires.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Michele Halligan

Former resident and current supporter of Maui