East Maui Water Lease: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS:

*Comments are due November 7th. Mahalo!*

*FOR POSTAL MAIL, SEND TWO SEPARATE LETTERS TO:*

Mr. Earl Matsukawa

1907 S. Beretania Street, Suite 400 , Honolulu, HI 96826

Mr. Ian Hirokawa

1151 Punchbowl St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

FOR EMAIL, SEND TO:

*Ian.c.hirokawa@hawaii.gov*

 *and*

*waterleaseeis@wilsonokamoto.com*

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From: [Your name here]

To: Ian Hirokawa, Earl Matsukawa

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Lease (Water Lease) for the Nahiku, Ke'anae, Honomanū, and Huelo License Areas

Please accept my comments on the subject DEIS.

I care very deeply about this proposed lease of public water because I am [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

*Please fill in this blank with a personal description of all the ways the continued diversion of the streams affects you. Some examples:*

* *I’m a concerned upcountry Maui resident;*
* *I’m a native Hawaiian practitioner in east Maui who gathers from the streams*
* *I’m hiker or hunter who uses the East Maui watershed lands*
* *I’m a fisher who wants our fisheries to stay healthy. We need the streams to flow to help our fish populations.*
* *I love looking at the natural beauty of East Maui streams*
* *I’m concerned that no one is taking care of much of the watershed.*

*Please use any of the talking points below as your official comments. Best to pick one or two and add your own thoughts on the topic. Individual comments carry more weight than “form letters”. Your comments can be short, but must use the following format:*

***THE FORMAT OF EACH COMMENT SHOULD BE,***

**“The EIS needs to [provide this information].”**

*For example, the DEIS assumes that most of the East Maui streams “baseline condition” is the previously diverted state when sugar farming was in full swing. This avoids discussing the option of no diverted streams and how that would benefit the East Maui ecosystems and East Maui communities. Your comment would be,*

“The EIS needs to discuss the option of not diverting any streams, and discuss how that would benefit East Maui ecosystems and East Maui communities.”

*Other possible comments:*

* The EIS should include discussion of a plan and funding to manage the invasive species in the license area. These invasive plants and animals are hurting the health and the function of the watershed lands.
* The EIS should give an in-depth review of and discuss the benefits of shorter term lease options of less than 30 years, due to uncertainties of future rainfall and future water supplies.
* The EIS should discuss the benefits of creating more options for more public hiking access to public lands in the proposed lease area without every hiker needing to get permission from EMI.
* In the past, stagnant pools along diverted streams have been breeding grounds for mosquitos that carried Dengue fever virus to East Maui residents. The EIS needs to discuss the role that diverted streams have on mosquito populations in East Maui, and the impact that resuming diversions will have on people living and/or visiting the area.
* The EIS needs to discuss methods of restoring the 13 streams in the Honopou to Kailua area, where lots of people live and farm and gather. All that is said is that itʻs estimated that all of the water will be diverted from the streams 60% of the time. The EIS needs to discuss the impacts of continuing those diversions, which will decimate 85% of native stream habitat and impact thousands of local residents.

OR EXPRESS YOUR OWN CONCERNS USING THE ABOVE FORMAT.

FINISH YOUR EMAIL WITH THE FOLLOWING:

I am asking that the DEIS include this important information. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on this Draft EIS.

Aloha, *[your name]*