

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can also write or email the CWRM, the Governor, Mayor Tavares, members of the Maui Council, and your Maui legislators with your concerns.

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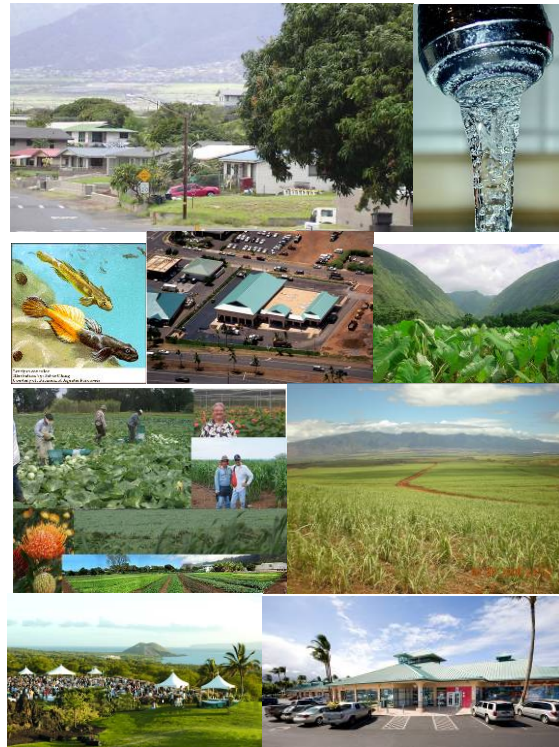
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## IIFS: WHAT SHOULD IT MEAN FOR MAUI?



## PO'E MUA PEOPLE FIRST

- You can join other concerned Maui residents in an **October 14 rally** to express your support to the CWRM for the community's continued use of Maui stream water. For more information, contact :  
Kelly Ruidas (264-0739) Warren Watanabe (281-9718) Mae Nakahata (281-9716)
- You can **testify at the CWRM's first hearing on IIFS for 19 E. Maui streams; October 15, Paia Community Center, 5-9 PM** or send written comments by **October 30, 2009**; go to <http://www.mauicountyfarmbureau.org/>
- You can also **write or email** the CWRM, the Governor, Mayor Tavares, members of the Maui Council, and your Maui legislators with your concerns (see back panel).

## ➤ WHAT IS 'IIFS'?

IIFS stands for 'interim instream flow standard'. It is the amount of water that the state Commission on Water Resources Management (CWRM) decides must be left flowing in a stream before any water can be diverted from that stream for use—by agriculture, by the County for its domestic water systems, by residents and farmers.

## ➤ WHY IS IIFS AN ISSUE ON MAUI?

Maui has a long-history of using stream water to meet the needs of its population—for agriculture, for drinking water. Of all the islands, Maui probably has the highest dependence on surface water vs. well water. In 2001, petitions were filed with the CWRM challenging the current use of stream waters in East and West (Waihee side) Maui vs. restoring the streams for ecological reasons and, in some cases, for taro growing purposes.



Photo by Randy J. Braun



## ➤ WHEN WILL THE CWRM DECIDE ON THESE MAUI PETITIONS?

It could be very soon.  
Commission deliberations on the West Maui IIFS (also called Na Wai 'Eha IIFS) will begin on **October 15.**

➤ **IS THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF MAUI'S STREAMS IN DANGER?**

None of the native species that inhabit Maui's streams are endangered or threatened. Studies have also shown that healthy populations exist in even some of the most diverted streams on Maui. While the native fish species (o'opu) do need to return to a stream environment to spawn, they wait for freshets to occur to swim upstream. **Even in heavily diverted streams, freshets do occur and fish can spawn. Mauka-to-makai flows already occur.**



➤ **BUT RESTORING MAUKA-TO-MAKAI FLOWS SEEM REASONABLE? SHOULDN'T OUR STREAMS FLOW?**

'Mauka-to-Makai' is misleading. What it really means is water for the streams first; people second in every stream. Is that reasonable? **Domestic use and people's livelihoods should be given a high priority.**



➤ **WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MAUI?**

Potentially, a natural resource that is used to benefit the community in many ways. In these Maui water decisions, any water that is returned to the streams is at the expense of a current user—agriculture, the County of Maui, residents, farmers. This was not true in the famed "Waiahole" decision on Oahu, where due to the closure of the sugar plantation there, excess water was available. To the contrary, on Maui, the IIFS decision could trigger the closure of the last remaining sugar business in Hawaii—HC&S—by denying HC&S continued access to enough stream water to irrigate its cane fields. Diversified farmers in Upcountry Maui are also at risk as they rely upon East Maui stream water for irrigation. The County of Maui uses both East and West Maui stream water for its Upcountry and Central Maui water systems. **An unreasonable IIFS decision could cause near-term water shortages and ultimately higher water costs for the people of Maui who rely on the County water systems to meet the needs of their homes and businesses.**



➤ **ISN'T THIS JUST ABOUT HC&S?**

These IIFS decisions are key to determining whether HC&S has a future, but it isn't just about HC&S. It is about the **800 Maui residents and their families** who work for HC&S; it is about the **people of Upcountry Maui** who are served by the County water system and the **farmers in the Kula Ag Park**—all of whom get their water from the EMI ditch system. It is about the **cattle ranchers** who depend on HC&S' cane tops as an affordable source of cattle feed; it is about **Maui Electric customers** who get 7% of their energy needs from HC&S, largely from renewable resources; and it is about the **numerous suppliers and businesses**—largely on Maui—that depend in significant part on HC&S' business. It is about the residents and visitors who enjoy the vast green open space that HC&S provides. HC&S is part of the fabric of Maui—visually, culturally, economically, socially.

➤ **SO WHAT IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY?**

**The choice that benefits the most people in the best way.**

We need to take a big picture approach. Rather than fight over every source of water—source by source—we should look at all the sources we have, look at the different purposes each source can serve, and rather than trying to have each source serve all the interests, we should match up the sources to the use to which they are best suited. Just like people. Few of us can be 'jack of all trades'. We do what we are best suited for. Similarly, streams. Streams that have the healthiest native flora and fauna populations should be protected for those purposes. Streams that have the best economic potential—because they are close to the place of use, because they have systems in place to collect and deliver the water to the end user—should be protected for those purposes. In the end, we'll likely end up saving more native flora and fauna and more economic activity with this approach.

➤ **SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?**

*Yes, the CWRM has demonstrated a 'streams first' (mauka-to-makai) preference and a stream-by-stream approach to decision-making. You need to let the CWRM know that this is NOT in Maui's best interest. You need to speak out if you want the CWRM to consider the importance of continuing Maui's use of stream water to keep Maui green, for residents and visitors alike; to preserve our rural lifestyle; to ensure there are places to live and places to work for our keiki; to keep agriculture alive on this island.*