



WATER FOR EVERYONE



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE

IIFS

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? TO MAUI? TO AGRICULTURE?

▶ WHAT IS 'IIFS'?

Interim instream flow standards—it's the amount of water that must be left flowing in a stream before any water can be diverted from that stream for any use.

▶ WHY DO YOU NEED AN IIFS?

To balance instream uses of stream water (like maintenance of fish and wildlife habitats, taro cultivation) with offstream uses of stream water (for agriculture in Upcountry and Central Maui, our County domestic/municipal water systems) so as to best benefit the people of Maui..

▶ WHY IS IIFS AN ISSUE ON MAUI?

Maui has long-used stream waters to support agriculture and County water systems—providing food, flowers, and energy along with jobs, and places to live and work as a result. Petitions were filed in 2001 challenging the use of these stream waters vs. restoring the streams for ecological reasons and, in some cases, for taro growing purposes.



▶ WHO MAKES THIS DECISION?

The 7 member State Commission on Water Resources Management (CWRM)

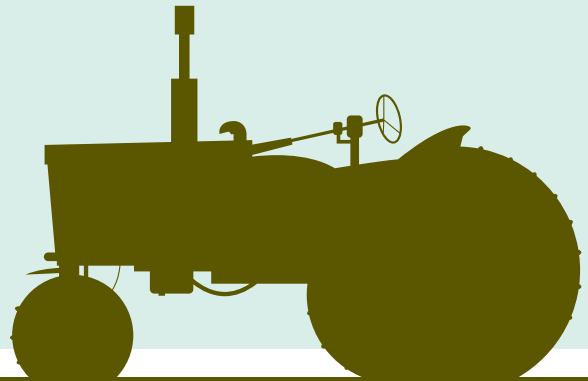
▶ WHEN?

Possibly in the next few months

▶ BUT DOESN'T AG TAKE A LOT OF WATER FROM THE STREAMS?

▶ HOW CAN THEY BE HEALTHY?

Studies have shown that Maui streams are healthy. Healthy populations of all the native species have been shown to exist in even the most diverted streams. None of the stream life are endangered. So what is the best choice for the community?



▶ SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

Yes, the Commission has demonstrated a 'streams first' preference, indicating that taking water away from current users and putting it back in the streams is in the public's best interest. We will need to speak out if we want the commission's future decisions to take into account the benefits that using this water off stream for agriculture and for our homes and businesses, brings to this community and all of us who live here. All we want is for this water to be shared - to benefit the most people in the best way so that we can have healthy agriculture, healthy streams, taro cultivation and a healthy economy on Maui.