

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com



January 22, 2021

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
530 S. King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear Chairperson and Members:

Subject: Item L-1, Act 40, 2019 Session Laws of Hawaii, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects (LNR141 – Water and Land Development, Item #17 Kunia Wells)

Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Act 40, 2019 Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH), which provides an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the design and construction of a Kunia Wells IV Exploratory Well to meet future potable water requirements for diversified agriculture.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) respectfully requests consideration of an appropriation of \$1,000,000 in general obligation bond funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the design and construction of one of four exploratory water wells for the proposed BWS Kunia Wells IV pump station to meet future potable water requirements for diversified agriculture served by the BWS municipal water system.

The appropriated funds to the DLNR (LNR141) for the BWS will be used as a capital improvement project to help offset some of the capacity impact fees for new farmers to support the agricultural industry on Oahu. The BWS is prepared to pass the benefits of these appropriated funds to farmers throughout the municipal water system in the form of affordable water system impact fees for new or larger water meters to support the agriculture industry on Oahu.

Due to new federal Food Safety Modernization Act rules, farmers informed the legislature they will need greater access to irrigation and potable water; the latter is required for crop washing of leafy vegetable crops. In several areas of Oahu, access to the BWS municipal system is the only source of potable irrigation supply.

The BWS supports local farmers for jobs, availability of local produce and food security and strongly encourages water conservation for all agricultural customers. The attached presentation describes our strategies for affordable water for farmers.

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
January 22, 2021  
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Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of Item L. 1 - Act 40 (2019 SLH).

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y.W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

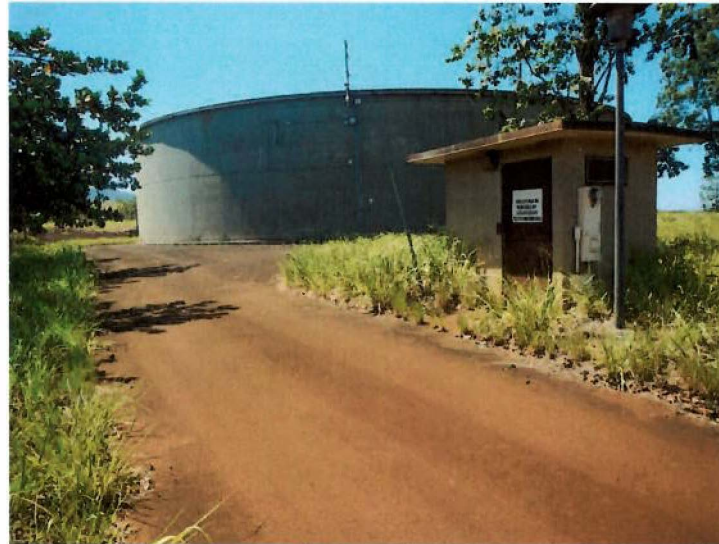
ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

Attachment

# **FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

## **KUNIA WELLS IV EXPLORATORY WELLS PROJECT**

**'Ewa, O'ahu, Hawai'i**

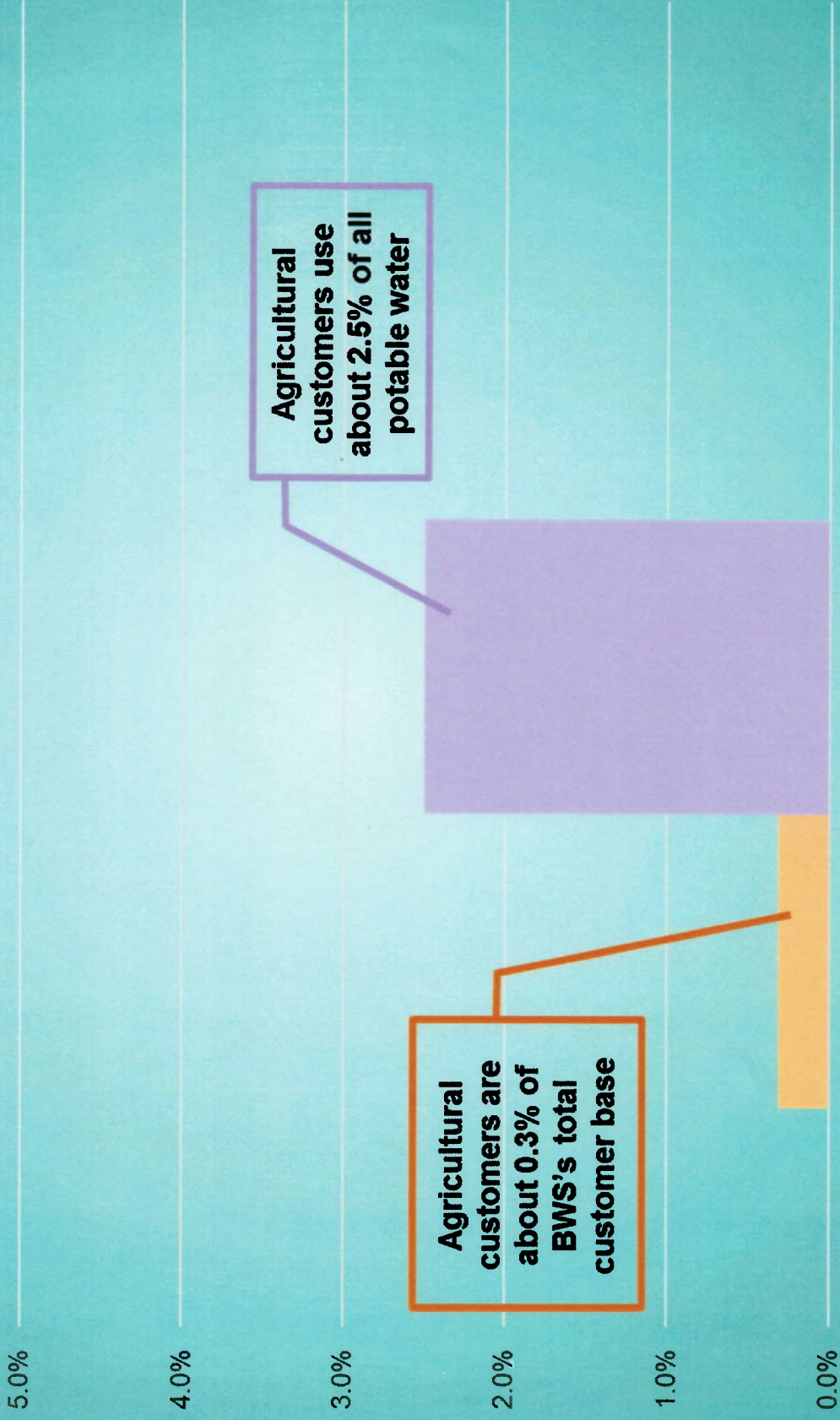


**Board of Water Supply  
City and County of Honolulu**

**August 2019**

**In 1 day, the average agricultural customer uses 6,000 gallons, more than half of BWS's single family residential customers use in an entire month**

# Agricultural customers are large water users





# Comparison of WSFC options for Ag



# Agricultural WSFC comparisons to other islands

	BWS*	Maui	Kauai	Hawaii
3/4"	\$26,438	\$18,884	\$21,170	NA
1"	\$44,944	\$33,356	\$35,290	\$13,750
1.5"	\$87,244	\$71,948	\$70,580	\$27,500
2"	\$140,121	\$125,012	\$112,920	\$44,000

\*based on meter size methodology

Other islands' WSFC based on meter size for all customers



# Strategies for Affordable Impact Fees for New Farmers

- ◆ BWS agricultural water rates are subsidized by 40%
- ◆ Ag impact fees can be reduced if supplemental State funding for the Kunia Wells IV can be obtained to offset revenue impacts
- ◆ Add an Ag water use plan requirement to estimate water demand so new farmers know how much water they should be using per acre
- ◆ Right size Ag water meter to limit wasteful water use. Smaller meters cost less.
- ◆ Encourage water conservation for all BWS Ag Customers through an education program so farmers know how to conserve water
- ◆ Implement water conservation incentives for farmers to discount submeters, weather based irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors, etc.



# Legislation for Funding Support to Buy Down BWS Impact Fees for New Farmers

- ◆ HB 594 HD1 & SB 1542 SD2 legislation for funding \$1,000,000 for 1 exploratory well at proposed BWS Kunia Wells IV pump station in upper Kunia
- ◆ Well station is mauka of proposed State Kunia Agriculture Park and could provide potable water for crop washing
- ◆ BWS would apply State contribution to buy down WSFC for farmers in BWS islandwide water system.

