From:	Megan Fox
То:	DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Testimony for Tomorrows Meeting
Date:	Thursday, August 22, 2024 7:22:36 PM

Re: Cancellation of Revocable Permit No. S-7088, Jeffrey S. Lindner, Permittee, for the Operation and Maintenance of the Moloaa Well and Transmission Facilities, Papaa, Moloaa, Kawaihau, Kauai, Tax Map Key: (4) 4-9-001:001 (por.)

Aloha Board,

I'm writing in response to the above referenced issue with the well water operation and continued access in Moloa'a, and request that you do not allow for early termination of the water provision prior to the end of 2024.

Moloa'a Irrigation Cooperative is undergoing well development, and thus allowing cancellation of this water transmission months earlier than its existing end date would cut over 70 residences and businesses off from any water supply, including ours. This would create a threatening emergency situation that our island is not prepared to deal with.

Our non-profit operates our island's food hub from a facility on the Moloa'a Irrigation Cooperative's land that was just recently built and opened in February of this year. This facility cost over \$3M, over \$500k of which was funded by the State. We distribute for over 100 local farmers and food producers across our island and the state, host two facility food business users, and employ over 5 staff at the facility.

Interruption of water would be immediately halting businesses and jobs with all of these entities, creating a disastrous economic hardship for many in our food system who rely on our work to make sales or have access to healthy local food. We serve hundreds of customers every week who rely on the food access we provide, including with programs such as WIC, SNAP and DA BUX.

In closing, please deny this request to terminate service early so that our community can continue to be serviced by its water as a public trust resource. To deny our community water access would be potentially life, business and property threatening.

Mahalo for your consideration, Megan Fox Mālama Kaua'i



August 16, 2024

Dawn Chang, Chairperson Board Members Department of Land and Natural Resources

RE: Cancellation of RP S-7088

Aloha mai kakou Chair Chang and Board Members,

As members of the Moloa'a Irrigation Cooperative (MIC), we are asking that DLNR prevail upon Mr. Linder to continue to provide water under the conditions of the RP annual renewal that he received in December 2023.

At present, the water that we purchase from Mr. Lindner is our sole source of water. (MIC) distributes this water to 70 metered connections which serve between 250 - 300 people on a daily basis. We rely on the use of the water for domestic purposes, business needs, and irrigation on 45 commercial farms in the system.

MIC is in the final stages of developing our own well. We are scheduled to have the final pump tests during the week of August 26-30. At the same time, we will collect water samples to be sent to Eurofins Labs in California to be tested. The sampling is required by the Department of Health and the results will need to be reviewed by the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) in order to certify the well for use as a Public Water Source. The lab results can take up to 2 weeks, and we are hoping that the results are satisfactory to have the well certified by SDWB. We will ask for expedited review of the tests by SDWB, however they will have additional requirements in order to certify the well. That being said, we are not confident that we can have water coming from our well by the October 5<sup>th</sup> timeline that Mr. Lindner has suggested or even by the extension to October 31<sup>st</sup> which the DLNR has required for decommissioning the well.

We request that the well not be decommissioned prior to December 2024 to allow sufficient time for our well to be providing water. MIC has relied on this water source for 13 years since the coop was formed in 2011. Many of our present members relied on the water even before Mr. Lindner assumed the permit from AMFAC in 1996. MIC has paid Mr. Lindner \$1,614,946.21 for water from August 2011 through our last billing for July 2024. (see attachment) We have also paid for a number of repairs to his delivery lines through the years. We furnished supplies from our own O&M inventory when emergency repairs were needed in order for him to continue service to us. We do not have records for costs for the water purchased from 1996-2010 when Mr. Lindner sold the water to MHL, Inc. and distributed to the farmers, but it should be a substantial amount.

We hope that the there can be a more humane and sensible alternative to this timeline than to create a situation that compromises the health and livelihood for so many of Kaua'i residents.

Mahalo piha,

Members of MIC

## All Figures Taken from P & L Statements

Water Purchased	201	1-2024
Aug - Dec 2011		\$56,736.68
2012	\$	149,226.00
2013	\$	106,313.00
2014	\$	80,083.00
2015	\$	94,130.00
2016	\$	123,478.00
2017	\$	145,021.00
2018	\$	95,525.00
2019	s	114,763.00
2020	\$	118,208.49
2021	\$	133,700.00
2022	\$	191,509.42
2023	\$	126,134.75
2024 YTD	\$	80,117.87
13 year total		\$1,614,946.21

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