

BLNR

Kalanimoku Bldg.

1151 Punchbowl St. 1st Floor

Nov.12, 2025

Alika Akana

1245 Keanuhea Pl

Kula, Hi 96790

[alikaakana@yahoo.com](mailto:alikaakana@yahoo.com)

Long Term License for Maui Hikina

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Alika Akana and I am from Keokea. I am a [homesteader living in DHHL Keokea Homestead Farm Lots (KHFLA)]. I am asking the Board to **reject the staff's recommendation** to enter into a Contested Case Hearing for the disposition of a water license to the East Maui Irrigation System.

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, I am directly impacted by decisions regarding East Maui water and the East Maui Irrigation System. Legally, DHHL's most recent water reservation request must be granted before issuing any long-term water lease. Until DHHL's reservation is granted, please **reject the staff's recommendation**.

Mahalo,

Alika Akana

KHFLA

**From:** [Linda Andersen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-1  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:05:01 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Linda Andersen and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

- 1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.
- 2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.
- 3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Linda Andersen

**From:** [Melissa Awai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:37:51 PM

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Board Land Resources,

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to reject the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that would grant Mahi Pono (PSP Investments) a long-term lease for East Maui's streams.

This action goes directly against the will of Maui's people. In 2022, voters created the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, a community-based authority to restore and manage East Maui's waters for the benefit of our islands not to extend corporate control by a foreign company. DLNR staff should be working with this Authority to return kuleana to the community, not creating pathways for privatization of public trust resources.

Before any lease is even considered, DLNR must address ongoing violations of the public trust:

- Stream restoration orders remain unfulfilled, and many East Maui streams continue to run dry.
- Millions of gallons are still lost daily through Mahi Pono's unlined reservoirs, a problem that has been ignored for years.
- Court-ordered hearings on the real impacts of continued diversions have yet to take place.

To push forward with a 30-year lease while these failures remain unresolved prioritizes corporate profit over accountability, 'āina protection, and Native Hawaiian rights.

We are also in the midst of a worsening drought. Approving any long-term water deal when climate conditions are changing so rapidly and when we don't even know how much water will be available in five years, much less thirty is irresponsible and dangerous.

Please stand with the people of Maui and uphold your duty to protect our public trust resources. Reject this lease proposal, and direct DLNR staff to work with the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina to ensure that East Maui's streams are cared for by and for the community.

Mahalo nui,

Melissa Awai  
lisa808thomas@gmail.com  
955 KUHIO PL  
WAILUKU, Hawaii 96793



**From:** [Akiona Ohana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony to Reject BLNR Proposal for Long-Term Water License in Maui Hikina  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:41:20 PM

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Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Helen Bissen and I am from Maui. I am a beneficiary living in the Pu'uhona homestead. I am asking the Board to **reject the staff's recommendation** to enter into a Contested Case Hearing for the disposition of a water license to the East Maui Irrigation System.

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, I am directly impacted by decisions regarding East Maui water and the East Maui Irrigation System. Legally, DHHL's most recent water reservation request must be granted before issuing any long-term water lease. Until DHHL's reservation is granted, please **reject the staff's recommendation**.

Mahalo,  
Helen Bissen

**From:** [Bo Breda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:46:11 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Bo Breda and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:


**1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,



Bo Breda



**From:** [Paul Carter](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:57:47 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

( Can you please put me on and send me the zoom link to testify live on this issue, thank you)

My name is Dr. Paul Carter and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.
2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.
3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Dr. Paul Carter

201 River RD

Wailuku, HI 96793

**From:** [Vincent Castaneto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:42:12 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board, My name is Vincent Keanu Castaneto and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons: 1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources. 2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed. 3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous. Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition. Mahalo nui, Mahalo Piha,  
Vince Keanu Castaneto

Ho'ouna 'ia mai ka'u iPhone

**From:** [Cassie Champagne](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:36:42 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,  
My name is Cassie Champagne and I live in Huelo, Maui alongside Hanehoi stream. For 20 years now I have seen many changes in our stream which my community and I care for. The health and flow of our stream is important not only for recreational enjoyment but for cultural and environmental wellbeing. With the 2022 elections I felt hope and purpose ignited within when the potential to steward the streams became a reality.

I continue to look forward to contributing in maintaining the health of our streams not only for myself and my community but for our future generations.

With this said I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.
2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission . The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.
3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous. Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's

interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition. Mahalo nui,  
Cassie Champagne

Cassie Champagne  
808-280-4438  
[cassieonmaui@gmail.com](mailto:cassieonmaui@gmail.com)

**From:** [Julie Checknita](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:27:29 AM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

My name is Julie Checknita and I am writing to ask that you **not** to accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that would grant Mahi Pono — also known as PSP Investments — a long-term lease for East Maui's streams. I ask this for the following reasons:

**1. This would betray the will of Maui's people.**

In 2022, the voters of Maui County spoke clearly: they created the East Maui Community Water Authority — a community-based body, born from hope and accountability — to steward the long-term care of East Maui's streams. This Authority, supported by the County administration, has been diligently preparing to take on this kuleana with integrity and vision. Rather than paving a path for a foreign corporation to retain control of our public trust waters, DLNR staff should be helping to realize the people's mandate — assisting in setting aside East Maui's diversion infrastructure to the Authority, and restoring community trust in our collective stewardship.

**2. This ignores the heart of your mission.**

The Land Board exists to protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources under the public trust. Yet, in East Maui, those responsibilities remain unmet.

Streams still run dry where restoration was ordered but never enforced. Millions of gallons vanish daily through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono — PSP Investments — refuses to repair. And the court-ordered contested case hearing, meant to address the harm to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights, still awaits your attention.

How can we contemplate a 30-year lease when the basic promises of justice and restoration have yet to be fulfilled? Every drop that is diverted without resolution deepens a wound we have not yet healed.

**3. This denies the truth of drought and climate reality.**

Over the past five years, East Maui — like much of Hawai'i — has endured a deepening drought, one that has unfolded faster and harsher than anyone foresaw. There is no evidence that relief is coming soon.

To grant long-term control of these precious waters to a corporation whose farming practices not only ignore the changing climate, but utilize harmful pesticides, is not only shortsighted, but reckless. It is negligent to gamble with our future when we do not know how much water will remain five years from now, let alone thirty.

I urge you: do not waste your limited time, staff, and resources attempting to appease a foreign corporation at the expense of the people, of Native Hawaiian communities, and of the 'āina itself.

Instead, please direct your staff to collaborate with the East Maui Community Water Authority — 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina — to ensure that the care of East Maui's streams returns to the hands of those who live by them, depend on them, and cherish them. You know this is the right thing to do, I trust this message will be heard before it's too late.

Mahalo for your time,

Julie Checknita

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [connie.clune](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 30-year lease of East Maui stream water Nov.14, 2025 meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:31:28 AM

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### **I Stand with East Maui: Their Streams Are Not for Sale**

The Land Board must NOT approve a 30-year lease of East Maui stream water, handing it over to a Canada-based pension fund and its subsidiary, Mahi Pono (Pomona Farming LLC and PSP Investments).

It's been three years since the Water Commission ordered stream flow to be restored yet many East Maui streams are still being drained dry. Millions of gallons are lost every single day because Mahi Pono refuses to use lined reservoirs, and DLNR has failed to act on a court-ordered hearing to assess the impacts of these ongoing diversions.

I ask that you NOT reward this corporate abuse with a decades-long lease. This is about protecting our streams, our 'āina, and the generations who depend on them.

Sincerely,  
Constance Clune



**From:** [Nina Clyde](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Nina Kowalski Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:49:12 PM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

**My name is Nina Kowalski and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:**

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority – not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.**

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions.**

**There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.**

**3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai‘i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.**

**Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity.**

**Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/‘Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.**

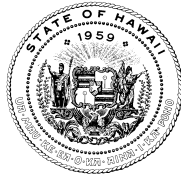
**Mahalo nui,**

**Nina Kowalski**

Sent from my iPhone

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina  
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805  
November 12, 2025

TESTIMONY

TO: Dawn Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

FROM: Kali Watson, Chairperson  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

RE: BLNR Agenda Item D-10<sup>i</sup>, meeting of November 14, 2025

Dear Chair Chang:

**DHHL respectfully requests a deferral of this item. This is substantially the same item proposed last year (D-4, November 8, 2024). We have not changed our position and incorporate our testimony here by reference. We continue to believe the proposal does not protect our water rights.** In particular the action is being proposed prior to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) fully considering our pending water reservation request, filed in December of 2020. While the proposed draft lease acknowledges DHHL's request, this action is premature as it subverts established processes designed to protect DHHL water rights.

Last year's item was denied, consistent with our request and also to respect the newly established East Maui Water Authority and Mayor Bissen's request for negotiations to address public and private interests. DHHL respectfully requests the DLNR adhere to their previously stated intentions and commitments to support those efforts. Our representative on the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina has been diligently participating in those discussions.

While item D-10 does note a possible set aside to the County, we believe there is no right to a Contested Case Hearing (CCH) on a set aside, as opposed to a license. This indicates the only outcome that needs this proposed action is a long term license. As the most recent court ruling has made clear (*Sierra Club v. Board of Land & Natural Resources*), the 2026 proposed Revocable Permit will be subject to a CCH. That will allow a hearing "over relevant issues related to the best management of East Maui stream diversions" as is sought in item D-10

**For the above reasons we respectfully request the Board to defer this item. If it does not defer, DHHL must be a party in the CCH.**

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<sup>i</sup> Recommendation to hold a contested case hearing over the proposed disposition of a water license by public auction covering the diversion of public surface water ("proposed License" or "License"), or set aside via Governor's Executive Order to the County of Maui for the diversion of public surface water ("proposed set aside" or "set aside") from Koolau Forest Reserve, Island of Maui, Hawaii; Tax Map Keys: (2) 1-1-001:044 and 050, 1-1-002:002 (por.), 1-2-004:004 & 007, 2-9-014:001, 005, 011, 012 & 017.

**From:** [Ann Fielding](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on AgendaItem D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:14:29 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Ann Fielding and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the

process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Ann Fielding

**From:** [chris@rainbowridgewest.com](mailto:chris@rainbowridgewest.com)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:35:35 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Chris Gaarder. I live in Nahiku. I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

The people of Maui Hikina have been meeting regularly with EMCWA to identify priorities regarding water resource management. The needs of the people (drinking water, farming, fishing, and stream health) must be the priority use for Maui Hikina water resources. The people don't mind sharing any excess water after those needs are met, as long as Mahi Pono demonstrates that it is maintaining the water delivery system to minimize waste.

This also violates Article 11 of the State Constitution, which guarantees that all public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the PEOPLE, not a foreign entity.

2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

I have lived in Nahiku for over 12 years. Many streams that should be perpetual have dried up this year for the first time since I've lived here. Furthermore, my observation is that Mahi Pono is growing thirsty crops on the dry side of the island and irrigating them in an inefficient and irresponsible manner. One of Mahi Pono's stated objectives when the sale of the land was being contemplated was to enhance Maui's food security. Instead it seems to be maximizing returns for Canadian pensioners. And it's lack of transparency is egregious.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

The people of Maui Hikina have been fighting for our right to manage our own natural resources for decades. BLNR has the power to deny the staff recommendation IF it has the political will to do so.

Mahalo nui,

Chris Gaarder



November 13, 2025

**BOARD OF  
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Dawn N. Chang, Chair  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Via Email: [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

**RE: Agenda Item D-10 – Long-Term Water License on Maui**

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

The Hawai'i Ag & Culinary Alliance (HACA), parent organization of the Hawai'i Food & Wine Festival, is dedicated to showcasing Hawai'i's agricultural abundance and homegrown culinary talent through world-class culinary experiences. Through our programs and partnerships, we have contributed more than \$5 million to community organizations that support sustainability, culinary and agricultural education, and cultural initiatives across the state. Our work is deeply rooted in strong relationships with Hawai'i's farmers—and we recognize that nothing is more fundamental to farming than water.

We also acknowledge that the conversation around water in Hawai'i is highly complex. Farming requires reliable access to water; at the same time, cultural practices, native ecosystems, and traditional rights must be protected and honored. These priorities are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the future of Hawai'i's food sustainability and agricultural revitalization efforts depends on our ability to find balanced, long-term solutions to longstanding water issues.

For these reasons, HACA supports the BLNR staff recommendation to convene a contested case hearing. Bringing all parties together in a transparent, structured process is the best path toward resolution—one that ensures farmers, cultural practitioners, community members, and environmental stewards can all be heard.

Mahalo for considering our testimony. HACA believes that local farmers deserve the opportunity to share how agriculture contributes to food security, economic diversification, cultural preservation, and community resilience. We respectfully urge the Board to move forward with convening a contested case hearing on November 14, as recommended by BLNR staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Yamaguchi".

Denise Yamaguchi  
Chief Executive Officer





1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e:  
[info@hawaiiifood.com](mailto:info@hawaiiifood.com)

#### **Executive Officers**

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**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Advisor*

TO: Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)  
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Laurin Zirbel, Executive Director  
DATE: November 14, 2025  
TIME: 9:00AM  
RE: BLNR Meeting of November 14, 2025 (Agenda Item D-10)  
POSITION: Support of Staff Recommendation to Proceed with Contested Case Hearing

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two-hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Many of our member business rely on farming partners for locally grown produce. These farmers require a source of water for irrigation. A contested case hearing – as recommended by BLNR staff – would initiate a transparent and open process for irrigation water to be allocated to these farmers. Any concerns with these proposed allocations will also have the opportunity to be heard and considered. At the conclusion of the contested case hearing, the BLNR will be provided with an informed and balanced recommendation from a qualified hearings officer. The BLNR will then be in the best position to make a decision going forward.

We support the staff's recommendation to convene a contested case hearing. We encourage the BLNR to proceed as recommended by staff, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11/12/2025

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Land Board,

I am writing to request that the BLNR does not proceed with the staff recommendation of granting Mahi Pono the 30 year lease of precious water resources from East Maui. The people have spoken. The community does not want this lease to be put into the hands of those (Mahi Pono) that only exploits precious natural resources for the sake of exploitive industry. On Maui, common sense consistently faces an uphill battle. We are living in a drought, yet the streams are dry to provide massive amounts of water via East Maui Irrigation to water lemons. Lemons and limes.

The due process of hearing community concerns has been proven to be infringed upon. Not only the process of community input has been infringed upon, but also the fundamental way in which this water will be used is also clear cut. Reject the 20 year lease and a pathway is open for real, regenerative farming and traditional uses for East Maui residents that benefits the community, or approve it, and see millions of gallons of water daily leave East Maui for the purpose of securing profits for a Canadian pension fund via Mahi Pono.

Mahi Pono is not in the community's best interest. In fact, it is in direct opposition to it. Do not allow this company to control one of East Maui's most precious resources for profit over the interests of Maui's people. It is not complicated at heart. It is merely greed, the legacy of over a century government corruption, and corporate nepotism that cloud the process. Do not give in to past mishandlings of this extremely important decision. It is a new day. Help create a new path.

Thank you,

Spencer Headley, M.P.H.

November 12, 2025

Chairperson Dawn Chang  
Commission on Water Resource Management  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl St, Room 227  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges. I am a Maui resident and former Chair of the Maui County Water Board.

Mahi Pono Holdings' sole owner is the Canadian Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP), a Crown Corporation with \$214 billion in assets that invests the pension funds of Canadian government workers. James Infantino, the National Pension Officer for the union representing those workers, warned the East Maui Water Authority Board in September 2024: "Don't let PSP investments anywhere near this long-term lease."

Though the union's 240,000 members are impacted financially by PSP's investments, they do not support PSP's extractive corporate ownership model, which includes, for example, the controversial privatization of water infrastructure in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin in 2020 -- during a catastrophic drought and fire season. PSP is now Australia's largest almond grower in the world's second-largest almond-producing region outside of California. Almonds are a highly water-intensive crop and farmers were calling for an almond moratorium last year.

In Toronto, tenants of PSP's buildings endured years of sub-standard conditions until finally reaching a settlement two months ago favoring tenant health and repairs after a two-year rent strike and prolonged legal struggle. And last year, Minnesota's Attorney General obtained a \$4 million settlement against HavenBrook Homes, a PSP-owned rental company, for gross neglect and deception affecting over 600 families—including cases involving lead exposure and disregard for COVID protections.

And when I testified before you 11 months ago, I described how Thames Water had been fined a record £104 million for dumping sewage into UK rivers and a criminal investigation over severe pollution and mismanagement, due to years of private ownership, including investment by another Canadian pension fund -- OMERS. Just two weeks ago, the Guardian reported that Thames Water is on the brink of financial collapse due to huge debts built up over two decades by owners who have been criticized for paying out dividends without investing enough in its leaking pipes and malfunctioning treatment works.

OMERS and PSP's exploitive and destructive strategies are not unusual for Canadian Pension funds. And it is not surprising that our Maui community's experiences with PSP/Mahi Pono are consistent with the experiences in Australia, Toronto, Minnesota, and the United Kingdom.

On Maui, we know that corporate ownership means deferred maintenance, extractive practices, and harmful environmental and cultural impacts. Because of this, hundreds of Maui residents from Nahiku to Kula attended East Maui Water Authority community meetings in June and October and worked together to design stewardship models rooted in transparency, kuleana, and resilience. These models measure success by healthy ecosystems, eradication of invasives, multigenerational knowledge transfer, and local food security, not corporate profits or overseas pension dividends.

The choice is clear: stand with those who have shown true stewardship of our land and water or invite further harm by siding with profit-driven foreign interests.

Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo.

Shay Chan Hodges  
Haiku, Maui  
808.250.6160

Shay Chan Hodges

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Read/Write Community  
Responsible Markets  
Maui ESG Project  
[mauiessgproject.org](http://mauiessgproject.org)  
808.250.6160

**From:** [Haydn Huntley](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:00:11 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board, My name is Haydn Huntley and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons: 1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources. 2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed. 3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous. Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition. Mahalo nui,

Haydn Huntley

--Haydn

Haydn Huntley  
cell: 808-283-5173

**From:** [Maile Kaaihue](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:54:23 PM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

**My name is Maile Kaaihue and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:**

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.**

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.**

**3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.**

**Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/Aha Wai o Maui**

**Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.**

**Mahalo nui,**

**Maile Kaaihue**











**From:** [Kalikolehuanani Kaauamo](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 11:26:44 AM

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Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Kaliko Kaauamo and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This decision does NOT align with Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources. Your choices are prioritizing financial gain and outside interest and not the voice of the people who you are meant to represent.

**2. This decision directly ignores pressing matters central to your mission.** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native

Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Kaliko Kaauamo

**From:** [Kaitlyn-Teige Kaimikaua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testify AGAINST East Maui Water Lease  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:17:40 PM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

**My name is Kaitlyn-Teige and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:**

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.**

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.**

**3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.**

**Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a**

**set-aside or similar disposition.**

**Mahalo nui,**

**Kaitlyn-Teige Joy Hemakanamaekalani Kaimikaua**



**From:** [Chase Keliipaakaua](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:58:40 PM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

**My name is Chase Keliipaakaua and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:**

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority – not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.**

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions.**

**There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.**

**3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai‘i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.**

**Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity.**

**Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/‘Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.**

**Mahalo nui,**

**Chase Keliipaakaua**

**From:** [Lauaeliilii L](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 11:18:18 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Laua'e Lind and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission.** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming

2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Laua'e Lind

**From:** [Joshua Lockhart](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:55:29 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Joshua Lockhart and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters.**

In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission.**

The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.**

As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

--

Me Ke Aloha Nui,  
Josh Lockhart

**From:** [Terese Masters](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] East Maui Watershed Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:50:28 AM

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Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Terese Masters. I was born and raised Upcountry Maui, and recently graduated from UHMC with a BAS in Sustainable Science Management. I have a special interest in our potable and wastewater systems on Maui.

For the last 16 years, I have mapped and researched our many water systems, both private and municipal. The recent drought has added another layer of questioning about our generalized use of our stream water, aka potable water.

I have witnessed PSP Investments, dba Mahi Pono, irrigate, in the middle of a typical hot blustery day, with our precious potable stream water. Potable water not hitting the ground for irrigation, but being made airborne and mist cars downwind on Haleakala Hwy. This is not a responsible use of our resources; it's careless, and insulting.

BLNR needs to take a stand on permissible uses for potable water, who has priority for the service/uses of potable water, and which industries must only use reclaimed water for irrigation or production.

There are a handful of opportunities for large industry water consumers to move to reclaimed water; and the potable water be left for the residence for drinking and cooking. Please reject the proposal to move forward on a long term lease to PSP Investments, dba Mahi Pono.

Mahalo for your time,  
Terese Masters  
Haiku, Maui

**From:** [morgan mullen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Water  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:22:54 AM

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**Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,**

**My name is Lisa Mullen and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:**

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.**

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.**

**3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.**

**Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a**



**set-aside or similar disposition.**

**Mahalo nui,**

Lisa Mullen  
Sent from my iPhone

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Dennis L. Neves, former Hawaiian Homes Commissioner (2019-2025). I am a residential homesteader living in Anahola, Kauai and on the agricultural wait-list. I am asking the Board to reject the staff's recommendation to enter into a Contested Case Hearing for the disposition of a water license to the East Maui Irrigation System.

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, I am directly impacted by decisions regarding East Maui water and the East Maui Irrigation System. Legally, DHHL's most recent water reservation request must be granted before issuing any long-term water lease. Until DHHL's reservation is granted, please reject the staff's recommendation.

Mahalo,  
Dennis L. Neves

**From:** [Nix.](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:36:16 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Debra Nix, and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Debra Nix

[www.LifelsLight.com](http://www.LifelsLight.com)

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**From:** [Lala Nuss](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject BLNR Proposal for Long-Term Water License in Maui Hikina  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:47:19 PM

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Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Laurien Nuss and I am from Hilo, Hawai'i. I am a 4th generation keiki o ka 'Āina and work in community-based environmental justice and climate adaptation initiatives throughout the Pae 'Āina. I am asking the Board to reject the staff's recommendation to enter into a Contested Case Hearing for the disposition of a water license to the East Maui Irrigation System. As a generational resident who is related to beneficiary families in East Maui, I know the communities who are directly impacted by decisions regarding East Maui water and the East Maui Irrigation System. Legally, DHHL's most recent water reservation request must be granted before issuing any long-term water lease. Until DHHL's reservation is granted, please reject the staff's recommendation.

Me Ke Aloha,

**Laurien "Lala" Nuss**

her/she/we

Conscious Concepts

'ĀINA | ARTS | EQUITY

[consciousconcepts808.com](http://consciousconcepts808.com)

[consciousconcepts808@gmail.com](mailto:consciousconcepts808@gmail.com)

808.258.5117



'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia.

*"No task is too big when done together by all."*

Ōlelo No'eau # 142

**From:** [Kimberley Pa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: Template  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:05:47 PM

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Kimberley Pa <pakimberley@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Chad Pacheco <hokuhina@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 04:04:18 PM HST  
**Subject:** Re: Template

On Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 04:00:29 PM HST, Chad Pacheco <hokuhina@hotmail.com> wrote:

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kimberley Pa and I am a resident of Kalihiwai Valley. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of your engineering divisions's recommendation to issue a permit to remove the Kalihiwai Reservoir.

For many generations, my 'ohana has lived in Kalihiwai Valley. Over the last several years, flooding during the winter has become intense and our home and property are directly affected.

For years now, valley residents have been waiting for the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association to decommission its reservoir. In the meantime, our community is very concerned, especially during the wet season -- which is right now -- as flooding seems to get worse every year. Although we have been very patient, the time is now to finally move forward with decommissioning. We remember what happened with Kaloko and it's scary for those of us who live makai of this reservoir.

Please support your engineering division's recommendation and vote today to authorize the Chair to act. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kimberley Pa

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Kepa Revelle](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 11:16:40 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Kepa Revelle-Aikala and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission.** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address

the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai‘i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/‘Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo,

Na Kepa i ta la‘i o Honopou.





**From:** [Kelly Roske](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:46:11 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Kelly Roske. I have a deep respect and relationship 30+ years now with the waters from Huelo to Kaupo and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters. In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.
2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission. The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.
3. This perpetuates drought denial. As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kelly Roske

Aloha au iā 'oe ~ Mālama pono

**From:** [Natalie Spautz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 12:35:14 PM

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Board Land Resources,

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to reject the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that would grant Mahi Pono (PSP Investments) a long-term lease for East Maui's streams. They do not share our local interests.

This action goes directly against the will of Maui's people. In 2022, voters created the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, a community-based authority to restore and manage East Maui's waters for the benefit of our islands not to extend corporate control by a foreign company. DLNR staff should be working with this Authority to return kuleana to the community, not creating pathways for privatization of public trust resources.

Before any lease is even considered, DLNR must address ongoing violations of the public trust:

- Stream restoration orders remain unfulfilled, and many East Maui streams continue to run dry.
- Millions of gallons are still lost daily through Mahi Pono's unlined reservoirs, a problem that has been ignored for years.
- Court-ordered hearings on the real impacts of continued diversions have yet to take place.

To push forward with a 30-year lease while these failures remain unresolved prioritizes corporate profit over accountability, 'āina protection, and Native Hawaiian rights.

We are also in the midst of a worsening drought. Approving any long-term water deal when climate conditions are changing so rapidly and when we don't even know how much water will be available in five years, much less thirty is irresponsible and dangerous.

Please stand with the people of Maui and uphold your duty to protect our public trust resources. Reject this lease proposal, and direct DLNR staff to work with the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina to ensure that East Maui's streams are cared for by and for the community.

Mahalo nui,  
Natalie

Natalie Spautz  
natspat@hotmail.com

Kula, Hawaii 96790



ATTN: Ms. Dawn Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
DLNR Main Office Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Submitted via Email at blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: **Testimony** for BLNR Nowemapa 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 Agenda Item D-10

Aloha e Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. My name is Kēhaunani Springer, and I am kanaka 'ōiwi researcher and practitioner who has worked alongside East Maui communities for over a decade, supporting their nearshore and coastal fisheries efforts. Because of these relationships and kuleana, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** Agenda Item D-10.

The proposal to initiate a 30-year lease of East Maui streams to Pomona Farming LLC and PSP Investments, a Canada-based pension fund now operating as Mahi Pono, contradicts the intent of Maui voters who established the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina to ensure community-based water governance, not foreign corporate control.

1. A contested case hearing is unnecessary and will harm, not help East Maui. The impacts of stream diversion have already been documented and litigated for decades. Reopening settled issues wastes time, delays restoration, and prolongs corporate control.
2. Existing obligations remain unmet. Court-ordered streamflow restoration, monitoring, and enforcement are still incomplete. Many streams remain severely dewatered, harming ecosystems and practices essential to East Maui farmers and families.
3. A 30-year lease is irresponsible in a climate crisis. Drought, changing rainfall, and unstable hydrology make long-term water commitments to a private investment fund dangerous and contrary to the public trust.
4. BLNR must uphold the public trust and voter intent. Maui County voters chose community-based management under the 'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina. The State should support, not undermine that transition.

### **Why This Matters: Mauka to Makai Health**

The restoration of continuous streamflow from mauka to makai is essential for:

- Fisheries health, including recruitment of 'o'opu, 'ōpae, hihiwai, and other diadromous species;
- Nearshore ecosystem resilience, as freshwater input influences sediment transport, nutrient cycling, and reef vitality;
- Kalo cultivation and cultural life, which depend on clean, abundant wai;
- The integrity of our ahupua'a systems, whose balance is founded on unbroken freshwater flow.

I have seen firsthand how restored streamflow breathes life back into lo'i systems, muliwai estuaries, and nearshore fisheries. East Maui families carry generations of knowledge about these waters, knowledge that cannot be replaced by corporate decision-making.

## Conclusion

Wai is life, genealogy, and public trust. It is not a commodity to be secured by offshore investment funds. East Maui communities have fought for generations to restore stream flow, protect traditional practices, and reclaim governance of their watersheds. Advancing a 30-year lease works against these efforts and undermines both law and pono stewardship.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **reject Agenda Item D-10** and support a pathway that honors community governance, public trust responsibilities, and the health of East Maui's streams.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Na'u

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shauna Kēhaunani Springer'.

na Shauna Kēhaunani Springer  
Kea'au, Moku o Keawe, Hawai'i  
Founder & Executive Director, Ka Pa'akai Consulting  
PhD Candidate, Te Whare Wānaga o Waikato (The University of Waikato)

**From:** [Sidney Stiefel](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] November 14; Agenda Item D-10 BLNR Meeting, Water License Hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:08:25 PM

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Aloha e BLNR,

I am Sidney from Maunaloa, O'ahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on **Agenda Item D-10: Recommendation to Hold a Contested Case Hearing Over the Proposed Disposition of Water / Long-Term East Maui Water License**. I submit this testimony in **strong opposition** to the proposed license framework and process as described in the staff submittal.

First, **East Maui streams have no water left to give**. Years of over-diversion have pushed these ecosystems, kalo farmers, and cultural practices to the brink. Maintaining or expanding diversion under a long-term license is not responsible or lawful.

Second, I **support the County's East Maui Water Authority (EMWA)** as the appropriate body to manage this resource in the public interest. Community-based, transparent, and accountable governance is essential. A license to private entities would continue the harms that have already depleted stream flow and violated the public trust.

BLNR must uphold **Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine** and **DLNR's Hierarchy of Use**, which require that instream needs, cultural rights, subsistence users, and ecosystem health come before commercial extraction. The current proposal does not meet these standards and lacks the safeguards and clarity needed to prevent further harm.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to **reject Item D-10**, return the proposal for redrafting, and ensure that the County EMWA and East Maui communities are centered in all decisions about their water.

Mahalo,

Sidney Stiefel 11/13/2025

**From:** [Maui Tauotaha](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:26:08 PM

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Aloha e Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Maui Tauotaha, and I strongly urge you to **reject** the staff recommendation to advance any process that would grant Mahi Pono/PSP Investments a long-term lease over East Maui's streams.

Maui's voters have already made their intentions unmistakably clear. In 2022, they created the East Maui Community Water Authority to bring local, community-rooted stewardship back to these waters. That Authority has been preparing diligently for this kuleana, and the board's responsibility should be to support that transition—not to extend foreign corporate control over the public trust.

At the same time, long-standing obligations remain ignored. Stream restoration orders remain unimplemented. Native species and cultural practices continue to suffer. Millions of gallons are still lost daily through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono refuses to fix. And a court-ordered contested case on the impacts of their diversions is still pending. It is unconscionable to contemplate a 30-year lease while these basic, mission-critical issues remain unresolved—especially in the midst of a deepening drought with no stable water future in sight.

Finally, I must say this plainly: the people of Hawai'i are fed up. We are tired of being lied to, sidelined, and forced to watch our officials ignore public testimony while corporations run away with our resources. We are no longer asleep, divided, or easy to push aside. More of us are paying attention every day and standing firmly for what is pono.

I urge you to **reject** this proposal and direct staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina to respect the wishes of Maui County voters. We need to see actions that restore community stewardship and protect our wai for future generations. Mahalo for your time and your kuleana to the public trust.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Maui Tauotaha



**From:** [Tiare Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:11:41 PM

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Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Tiare Lawrence, and I strongly support moving forward with Agenda Item D-10 to convene a contested case hearing for the long-term East Maui water lease.

Water in Hawai‘i is complex, and this process is the fairest way to review all the facts, hear all parties, and make an informed decision. The State cannot expect Mahi Pono — or any company, including the County — to invest in major water infrastructure without a long-term lease. It’s like asking someone to repair the entire house when they’re only on a month-to-month agreement — it’s simply unrealistic and unfair.

Please move this process forward to support responsible water use, local food production, and Maui’s agricultural future. Mahalo, Tiare Lawrence

**From:** [Melissa Tomlinson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:23:43 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

Please think of the Lahaina Fires and how much water diversion plays a role in fire behavior throughout every moment of testimony and consideration for Mahi Pono's request. Every Moment. There are serious systemic issues, governmental and socially, that must change. It is infuriating, after everything, that Mahi Pono is, yet again, being given the time for dangerous/violent consideration.

I am writing in today to urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons recommended by SierraClub Hawai'i:

**1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission.** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East

Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. **Reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Melissa Jean Tomlinson

Lafayette, CA

November 13, 2025

**Written testimony on Agenda Item D. 10.  
Board's Decision-Making regarding the Koolau Forest Reserve, Island of Maui**

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Randon Valenciano and I am a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law pursuing the field of administrative law. Although this case pertains to issues on a different island than where I live, water rights are not an exclusive concern to Maui, and I appreciate the opportunity to engage in a statewide concern.

I submit this comment regarding the Board's decision-making on whether to hold a contested case hearing over a proposed water license by public auction or if the water rights should be set aside via the Governor's Executive Order. My comment specifically addresses procedural reasons in support of holding a contested case hearing.

**Constitutional Mandate**

Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i provides that "for the benefit of present and future generations, the State . . . shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's . . . natural resources, including . . . water. . . and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the state." Section 7 further establishes that the "The State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai'i's water resources for the benefit of its people."

These constitutional mandates define this Board's statutory responsibilities. But in effect, the broad language leaves a lot of discretion to the agency to make interpretations to carry out their duty.

**Limits of Agency Deference**

Historically, when legislative intent is unclear, there was deference to the agency's interpretation of the statutory mandate due to a recognition of their subject-matter expertise.

However, in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369 (2024), the U.S. Supreme Court overruled *Chevron U.S.A. v. NRDC*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984), and held that agency interpretations should no longer be given controlling deference. Rather, an agency's decisions may be persuasive but are still subject to independent review. Given this shift in federal administrative law, this Board should reasonably anticipate that any decision reached in this matter may be subject to appeal.

### **Benefits of a Contested Case Hearing**

A contested case hearing benefits all parties as it provides a fair opportunity to present evidence, offer arguments, and be fully heard. This involvement promotes public confidence in the process and increases the likelihood that the parties will accept the result, thereby reducing the possibility of further litigation.

This choice would also benefit the BLNR as they will have access to a complete evidentiary record and can base their decision on the merits of the case. This rational connection helps support the defensibility of their decision and promotes efficiency because the agency can potentially resolve the dispute themselves. Even if an appeal is later pursued, the evidentiary record will significantly reduce the costs and delays of subsequent proceedings.

### **Conclusion**

*In re Water Use Permits Applications*, 94 Haw. 97, 189 (2000), the Hawai‘i Supreme Court held that their decision was rendered with “utmost care, balancing due deference to the Commission’s judgment with a level of scrutiny necessitated by the ultimate importance of these matters to the present and future generations of our state.”

By choosing to hold a contested case hearing, the Board of Land and Natural Resources will fulfill their constitutional duty to manage Hawai‘i’s natural resources while also remaining fair and transparent.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randon Valenciano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Valenciano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**From:** [Lorraine Waianuhea](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:24:20 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

- 1. This violates the wishes of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.
- 2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission.** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.
- 3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please reject the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,  
Lorraine Waianuhea

**From:** [Diane Ware](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-10 testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:24:52 PM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Diane Ware, Keauhou, Moku o Ka'u, and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity,

democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui and Malama wai pono,

Diane Ware  
808-967-8642  
P. O. Box 698  
99-7815 Kapoha  
Volcano HI 96785



**From:** [Zeller Bob](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:16:39 AM

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Land Board,

My name is Robert Zeller. I am a long time resident of the state of Hawaii and I urge you to NOT accept the staff recommendation to move forward with any process that contemplates giving Mahi Pono, a.k.a. PSP Investments, a long-term lease for East Maui's streams, for the following reasons:

**1. This violates the will of Maui County voters.** In the 2022 elections, Maui's voters established a community-based East Maui Community Water Authority to take over the long-term administration of East Maui streams. This Authority and its staff have been diligently preparing to accept this kuleana, with the full support of the county administration. DLNR staff should be assisting and working toward a set-aside of East Maui diversion infrastructure to the Authority - not spending time and resources on creating a path for a foreign entity to continue the corporate control of Maui's public trust resources.

**2. This ignores pressing matters central to your mission .** The Land Board is the primary agency tasked with upholding the public trust in our natural and cultural resources. Yet, there are still long-standing violations of the public trust in East Maui's streams that must be addressed, before any contemplation of leasing them to a private entity, including: the non-implementation of Water Commission stream restoration orders for streams that continue to be drained dry; the continued, decades-long loss of millions of gallons of water per day through unlined reservoirs that Mahi Pono/PSP Investments still refuses to line; and the need to hold a court-ordered contested case hearing to address the immediate impacts to watershed health, native species, and Hawaiian rights (among other pressing issues) of the upcoming 2026 revocable permit for Mahi Pono/PSP Investments' stream diversions. There should be no time or energy spent on trying to meet the desire of a foreign corporation to control East Maui's streams for the next 30 years, when so many mission-critical issues in these streams continue to remain unaddressed.

**3. This perpetuates drought denial.** As you likely know, over the last five years, East Maui and the rest of Hawai'i have been undergoing a drought that has worsened far, far more quickly than anticipated. There is no indication that conditions will stabilize in the near future. To contemplate a long term disposition of water when we have no idea how much water will be available in the next 5 years, much less 30, with a corporation whose farm plans are completely out of touch with this climate reality, is nonsensical, wasteful, and dangerous.

Please do not waste your limited staff and financial resources on a misguided attempt to appease a foreign corporation's interests over that of the public, Native Hawaiian communities, and all who have a stake in our islands' environmental integrity, democracy, and dignity. Please **reject** the staff proposal to move forward with the

process for a long-term lease to PSP Investments/Mahi Pono, and please instead ask your staff to work with the East Maui Community Water Authority/'Aha Wai o Maui Hikina, to facilitate their administration of East Maui's diversion infrastructure via a set-aside or similar disposition.

Mahalo nui,

Robert Zeller