

Kula Community Association

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<http://kulamaui.com>

DRAFT #2

March 27, 2006

*The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.
The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.*

Policy and Position Statements on Water

(Adopted by Board of Directors 2/3/00)

(Revised by Board of Directors 2/11/03)

(Revised by Board of Directors 3/29/06)

Policy Statement

A consistent supply of water for agricultural and domestic use is essential: **a)** to meet the health and safety needs of all Kula residents, including those on Hawaiian Homelands, and **b)** to maintain the economic viability and rural atmosphere of Kula for the current and projected populations as outlined in the "Makawao-Pukalani-Kula Community Plan".

Position Statements

Upcountry Plan - Hawaiian Homelands, Agriculture, and Development

The Department of Water Supply must honor the "Makawao-Pukalani-Kula Community Plan" that establishes the Hawaiian Homelands and agriculture as the two highest priorities for delivery of water. As specified in the Community Plan, water should be allocated for "other needs", only if the following criteria are met: 1) sufficient water availability is confirmed for existing users; 2) proposed new projects conform to the Community Plan; and 3) proposed projects serve specific Upcountry needs as identified by impartial analyses and community testimony, e.g. public facilities such as schools/hospitals, or affordable/senior housing.

Meter Waiting List (Issuance Rules)

No exceptions should be made to the order of the water meter waiting list unless provision for certain exceptions is specified in the rules and each specific exception is justified to the Kula community and other communities affected. The Department of Water Supply (DWS) should devise an equitable method of limiting the issuance of meters until there are sufficient reserves in the Upcountry water systems to meet domestic, agricultural, and safety needs during a drought for six months with a maximum ten percent reduction in use. The Department of Water Supply should revise its meter issuance rules and monitor their application to ensure that new meters are issued fairly and always in accordance with priorities specified in the "Makawao-Pukalani-Kula Community Plan" and in accordance with the criteria listed above.

Source, Storage and Delivery Systems Priorities and Cost Schedule

The Department of Water Supply should establish as its highest priority the development of water source, storage, and delivery systems prior to actual demand. The Kula community and other communities affected should be provided prioritized construction schedules including projected costs and completion dates for upgrading the Upcountry water systems to meet quality and quantity needs for present and projected populations, including the Hawaiian Homelands developments.

Funding

The Department of Water Supply should examine all sources of funding for its priority list of source, storage, and delivery improvements including, but not limited to, federal and state funding sources, large-developer fees and surcharges, bond debt, and user rate increases.

Reservoirs

The Department of Water Supply should pursue planning and budgeting for the construction of appropriately located reservoirs, such as the Piiholo reservoir on the Lower Kula Water System.

Wells

The Department of Water Supply should develop ground (underground) water sources to be included in the Kula water systems, provided environmental impact issues are addressed.

Agricultural Water Line

The County, State, and Federal agencies should continue the funding, collaboration, and support required to complete and maintain the Upper Kula agricultural water line and to plan and implement the Lower Kula agricultural water line. Criteria should be developed to ensure that agricultural water is used only for *bona fide* agricultural purposes.

Conservation Programs and Incentives

The Hawai'i State Constitution (Article 11. Sec. 1.) states that

“For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, 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”

The Department of Water Supply should establish a water conservation plan, in which educational and informational programs should be expanded and incentives established to promote conservation of all water resources. Incentives to be considered may include: continuation of lower rates for reduced use; a system wide, seasonal rate structure; tax breaks for the construction and use of drip irrigation, reservoirs, and cisterns; and grant funding to support reforestation.

Public Disclosure and Participation

The Department of Water Supply should make its announcements, agendas, dealings, transactions, and policies transparent and available to all by publishing this information on the internet and having printed copies available at their offices. This published information should include: descriptions, diagrams, and maps of the water system; the Department of Water Supply budget, including projected Capital Improvement Plan projects; water meter waiting lists; rules and proposed rule changes; acceptances and rejections of new meters; commercial and agricultural projects that require approval from the Department of Water Supply; and special projects and applications that are pending decisions. The Department of Water Supply should continue and extend the practice of involving communities in informational and decision making meetings, giving adequate notice of meetings and time for public response before taking action.

Chemical Additives in Water

The Department of Water Supply must ensure that additives to the water do not have unintended and adverse effects. When health problems arise that water customers attribute to the water, every effort must be made by the Department of Water Supply to determine what element or combination of elements in the water could be causing the problem and remediation options, if appropriate, must be developed. Problems in individual homes should not necessarily be addressed by system wide treatment of all water. Proposed water treatments should be announced to the public with opportunity provided for public comment prior to implementation of the treatment program. Information must be provided on the reasons and requirements for water additives; alternative treatments, including individual homeowners' remedies and system wide treatment programs; and the costs and benefits of each option.