

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Atta, Morris; Nakamura, Gayle M
Cc: Kau, Brian K; Saiki, Kirk I; Ferrer, Jan Y; hdoa_info
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Hi Gayle,

Use Morris' responses:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now? [Hawaii Department of Agriculture \(HDOA\), Department of Land and Natural Resources \(DLNR\), & United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) are negotiating the terms of transfer for the well which is anticipated to proceed without significant delay.](#)
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently [not in legal standing](#)) managing the well? [No decision on how the well will be operated and maintained has been made. If any third party operator is selected to manage the well, they will be required to be a legal entity and in compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations.](#) Is there validity to the above stated interest? [HDOA has not received any requests from the owners of the Kohala Ditch to operate the well since it is premature, the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred, and the logistics of operating the well has not been determined.](#)

Gayle – Just a FYI...I (or Morris) do not recall being ask to attend the March meeting by whoever hosted it.

Mahalo,

Phyllis

From: Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Please see my suggested responses below:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now? [HDOA, DLNR, & USGS are negotiating the terms of transfer for the well which is anticipated to proceed without significant delay.](#)
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently [not in legal standing](#)) managing the well? [No decision on how the well will be operated and maintained has been made. If any third party operator is selected to manage the well, they will be required to be a legal entity and in compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations.](#) Is there validity to the above stated interest? [HDOA has not received any requests from the owners of the Kohala Ditch to operate the well since it is premature, the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred, and the logistics of operating the well has not been determined.](#) In an earlier meeting it was said, there was a text exchange with her about this same thing. This meeting on March 25th, also included Dave Chun from Congressman Kahele's office. It was a meeting where apparently area farmers requested her presence to answer questions directly.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy to the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
(808) 973-9550
Morris.Atta@Hawaii.gov

From: Nakamura, Gayle M <Gayle.M.Nakamura@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <Phyllis.Shimabukuro-Geiser@hawaii.gov>; Atta, Morris <Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <Brian.K.Kau@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <Kirk.I.Saiki@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <Jan.Y.Ferrer@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?
Importance: High

Forwarding questions below. Who will respond?

Mahalo!

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <Gayle.M.Nakamura@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Aloha, Gayle,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and have a few questions for Chairperson Shimabukuro-Geiser.

Recently I was at a meeting about water in North Kohala, the second of which, it was implied that the USGS well out near Upolu airport is supposed to be transferred to USDA. It was also implied that USDA would not want to actually manage it, but that according to Councilman Tim Richards, said there was interest in the Kohala Ditch Co-op managing it.

My questions are:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now?
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently not in legal standing) managing the well? Is there validity to the above stated interest? In an earlier meeting it was said, there was a text exchange with her about this same thing. This meeting on March 25th, also included Dave Chun from Congressman Kahele's office. It was a meeting where apparently area farmers requested her presence to answer questions directly.

If she could get back to me at her earliest convenience, that would be great. Hope you are both doing well and had a great weekend.

Best,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

AJ

The constituent refers to a letter. Can you provide that letter.

We prepared a response for the Governor a few weeks ago regarding a similar inquiry from another constituent regarding the Kohala ditch. Before I craft a similar response, it would be helpful to see the letter Ms. Leonard is referring to.

Carty Chang, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Engineering Division
Phone: (808) 587-0230, Fax: (808) 587-0283
Email: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov
<http://dlnreng.hawaii.gov>

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From: Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:02 PM
To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]
Importance: High

Aloha AJ,

Looks like this is tied to the North Kohala Ditch which Carty is taking the lead on. We submitted prior comments to another constituent on this matter, so we should be consistent, so I'm copying Carty.

Ola i ka wai,

M. KALEO MANUEL
Deputy Director
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - STATE OF HAWAI'I
Kalanimoku Building • 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Main: (808) 587-0214 • **Fax:** (808) 587-0219
Email: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov • **Website:** <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm>

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From: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
 Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:11 PM
 To: Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
 Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Aloha Kaleo,

Broken irrigation ditches on the Big Island the constituent is mentioning here, I would think this is a matter of private lands and they need to hire a contractor to fix things, but I am just guessing at this point? Please let me know how we can steer her in the right direction to help resolve her problem.

Mahalo,

AJ

From: Office of the Governor <officeofthegovernor@hawaii.gov>
 Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:00 AM
 To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
 Subject: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
 HONOLULU

David Y. Ige
 GOVERNOR

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Constituent Name: Ms. Libby Leonard | Date of Contact: 6/19/2021 |
| Executive Services Casework #63399 | |
| Address: 54-2528 Puehuehu Place 9 Kapaau, HI 96755 United States | |
| Phone #: (814) 777-3356 | Alternate Phone #: |
| Email Address: lleonard12180@gmail.com | |
| Submitted to: DLNR Communications Office | |
| Email Address: DLNR.Chair@hawaii.gov | |
| Date Submitted to Department: 6/24/2021 | |
| Estimated Response Date to Executive Services: 7/8/2021 | |

Executive Services Notes:

Constituent Message:

Dear Governor Ige,

I contacted you the other week already about another matter (vetoing HB862), but am writing to you now as a concerned community member up in North Kohala with the broken irrigation ditch. Please see the letter attached.

Mahalo,
Libby Leonard

FOR DEPARTMENT USE

The attached casework is being submitted to your department for response.

Please respond directly to the constituent by 7/8/2021 and bcc: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov on the department response.

If this matter has already been responded to, please email a copy of the response to [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov. If you determine a response is not needed please explain why.

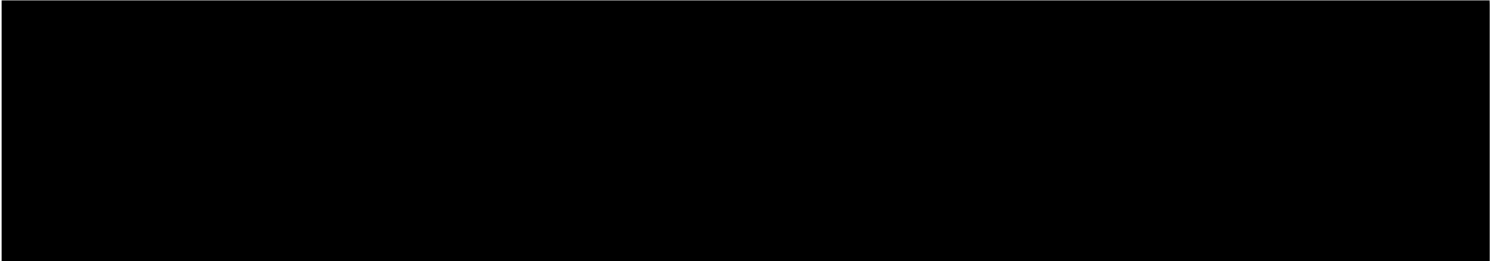
If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Ankele-Yamashita at (808) 243-5798.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS, STATE CAPITOL • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 586-0034 • FAX: (808) 586-0006 • GOVERNOR.HAWAII.GOV

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Atta, Morris; Saiki, Kirk I; Saneishi, Janelle K
Cc: Nakamura, Gayle M; Ferrer, Jan Y
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



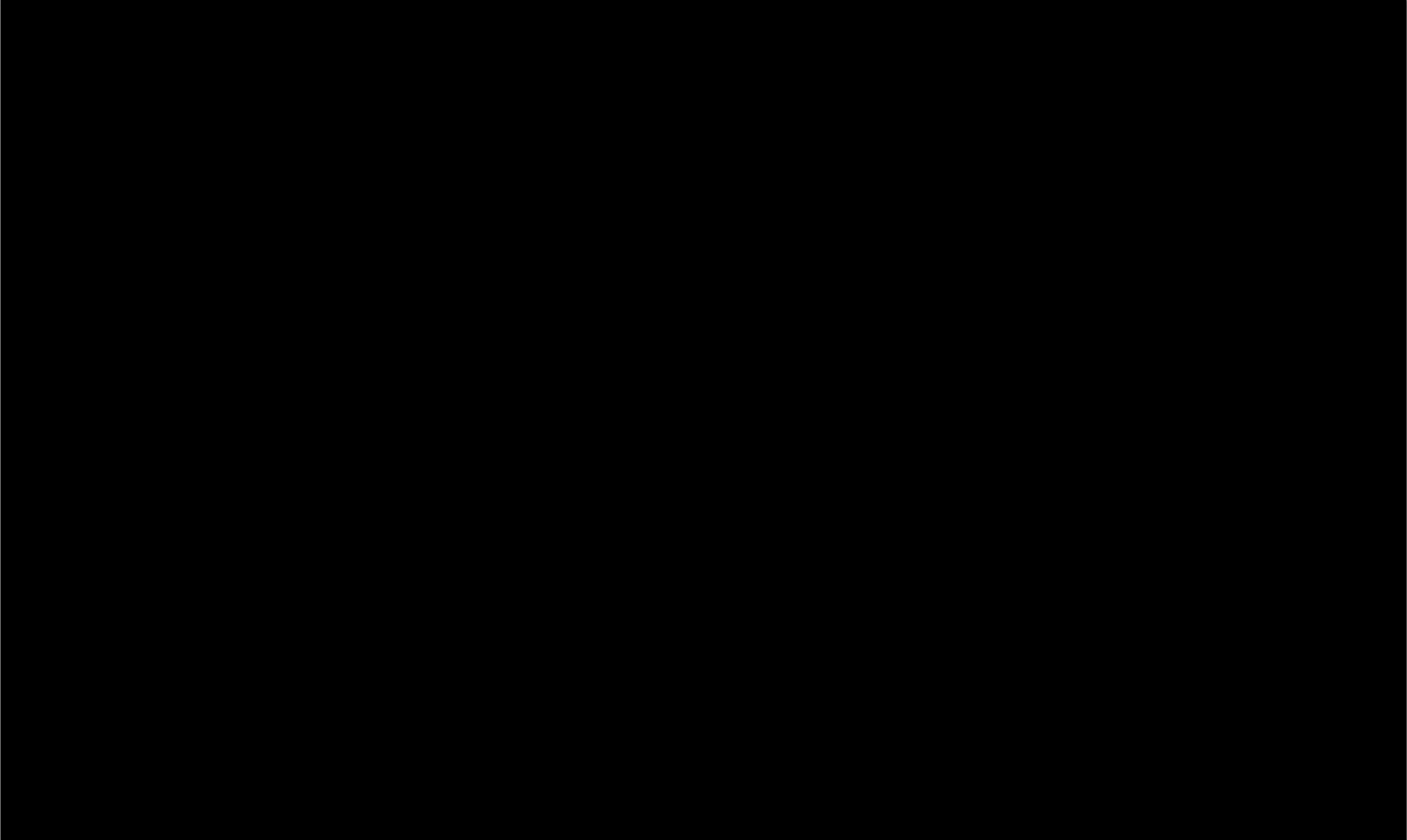
From: Atta, Morris <Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <Phyllis.Shimabukuro-Geiser@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <Kirk.I.Saiki@hawaii.gov>; Saneishi, Janelle K <Janelle.Saneishi@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Nakamura, Gayle M <Gayle.M.Nakamura@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <Jan.Y.Ferrer@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov

From: Chang, Carty S <carty.s.chang@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Atta, Morris <Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <Kirk.I.Saiki@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



From: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Chang, Carty S <carty.s.chang@hawaii.gov>; Manuel, Kaleo L <kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Hi Carty,

Attached is the letter. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

AJ

From: Chang, Carty S <carty.s.chang@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Manuel, Kaleo L <kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov>; DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

AJ

The constituent refers to a letter. Can you provide that letter.

We prepared a response for the Governor a few weeks ago regarding a similar inquiry from another constituent regarding the Kohala ditch. Before I craft a similar response, It would be helpful to see the letter Ms. Leonard is referring to.

Carty Chang, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Engineering Division
Phone: (808) 587-0230, Fax: (808) 587-0283
Email: carty.s.chang@hawaii.gov
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From: Manuel, Kaleo L <kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov>
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To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Chang, Carty S <carty.s.chang@hawaii.gov>
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Importance: High

Aloha AJ,

Looks like this is tied to the North Kohala Ditch which Carty is taking the lead on. We submitted prior comments to another constituent on this matter, so we should be consistent, so I'm copying Carty.

Ola i ka wai,

M. KALEO MANUEL

Deputy Director

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - STATE OF HAWAII
Kalanimoku Building • 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Main: (808) 587-0214 • Fax: (808) 587-0219

Email: Kaleo.L.Manuel@hawaii.gov • Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm>

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Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Manuel, Kaleo L <kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov>
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Aloha Kaleo,

Broken irrigation ditches on the Big Island the constituent is mentioning here, I would think this is a matter of private lands and they need to hire a contractor to fix things, but I am just guessing at this point? Please let me know how we can steer her in the right direction to help resolve her problem.

Mahalo,

AJ

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Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:00 AM
To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Subject: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

David Y. Ige
GOVERNOR

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| Constituent Name: Ms. Libby Leonard | Date of Contact: 6/19/2021 |
| Executive Services Casework #63399 | |
| Address: 54-2528 Puehuehu Place 9 Kapaa, HI 96755 United States | |
| Phone #: (814) 777-3356 | Alternate Phone #: |
| Email Address: lleonard12180@gmail.com | |
| Submitted to: DLNR Communications Office | |
| Email Address: DLNR.Chair@hawaii.gov | |
| Date Submitted to Department: 6/24/2021 | |
| Estimated Response Date to Executive Services: 7/8/2021 | |

Executive Services Notes:

Constituent Message:

Dear Governor Ige,

I contacted you the other week already about another matter (vetoing HB862), but am writing to you now as a concerned community member up in North Kohala with the broken irrigation ditch. Please see the letter attached.

Mahalo,
Libby Leonard

FOR DEPARTMENT USE

The attached casework is being submitted to your department for response.

Please respond directly to the constituent by 7/8/2021 and bcc: Michelle.Yamashita@hawaii.gov on the department response.

If this matter has already been responded to, please email a copy of the response to Michelle.Yamashita@hawaii.gov. If you determine a response is not needed please explain why.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Ankele-Yamashita at (808) 243-5798.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS, STATE CAPITOL • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 586-0034 • FAX: (808) 586-0006 • GOVERNOR.HAWAII.GOV

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 10:11 AM
To: Scott Gifford
Subject: RE: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Thank you!

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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From: Scott Gifford <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 10:09 AM
To: hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Hi Again,

Please disregard the below, as Chair Hurd stopped by and informed us in person. We thank her for taking the time to do so!

Kindly,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager
Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

From: Scott Gifford <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 8:31 AM
To: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Good Morning,

I am just following up on my inquiry below regarding DOA's plans for expending the \$10 million appropriated by the Legislature for the Kohala Ditch System. Representative Tarnas would appreciate any information you could provide.

Mahalo!

Kindly,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager
Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

From: Scott Gifford
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:47 AM
To: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Good Morning,

I am reaching out on behalf of State Representative David Tarnas (North and South Kohala). We have received some recent inquiries from constituents regarding the CIP funding for the Kohala Ditch System in this year's State Budget. So, we were hoping to get some more information on your Department's plans for the funding and if there will be an RFP?

I understand that the funds have just been finalized in the budget, but any information on tentative plans would be much appreciated by our office.

Mahalo!

Kind Regards,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager

Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Atta, Morris
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Saneishi, Janelle K
Cc: Saiki, Kirk I
Subject: RE: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

It is on our land, well being transferred from USGS to HDOA. It is a pet project of Sen. Lorraine Inouye to create a water source for irrigation to the North Kohala area since the loss of the Kohala ditch to earthquake damage. DLNR is building the production well, HDOA will be operating & maintaining it (likely via a lease or license to a third party operator. Kirk is the primary/lead on this for now.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.atta@hawaii.gov

From: Saneishi, Janelle K [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Atta, Morris [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Thank you,
I'm not familiar with this – is the well on our system?

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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Cc: Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Nakamura, Gayle M
<[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Phyllis/Janelle: For situational awareness, FYI.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov

From: Kim, Brandon J <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:24 AM
To: Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Brad Knowlton <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Hi Morris, Kirk,

I plan to send the attached draft to DLNR Communication Office tomorrow. Let me know if you have any comments/edits by the end of today. If I do not hear from you, I will finalize the draft as is.

Thank you,
Brandon J. Kim
Department of Land & Natural Resources
Engineering Division
1151 Punchbowl St., Rm 221
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808) 587-0248
Fax: (808) 587-0283

From: Kim, Brandon J
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Brad Knowlton <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Hi Morris, Kirk,

Attached is the draft press release for the upcoming informational meeting in September. Please review and send me any comments by August 30th.

Thank you,
Brandon J. Kim
Project Engineer
Department of Land & Natural Resources
Engineering Division
1151 Punchbowl St., Rm 221
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808) 587-0248
Fax: (808) 587-0283

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Atta, Morris
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Subject: RE: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

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Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.atta@hawaii.gov

From: Saneishi, Janelle K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Thank you,
I'm not familiar with this – is the well on our system?

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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Cc: Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Phyllis/Janelle: For situational awareness, FYI.

Mahalo,
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Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov

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Department of Land & Natural Resources
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Subject: Upolu Well Informational Meeting Press Release Draft

Hi Morris, Kirk,

Attached is the draft press release for the upcoming informational meeting in September. Please review and send me any comments by August 30th.

Thank you,
Brandon J. Kim
Project Engineer
Department of Land & Natural Resources
Engineering Division
1151 Punchbowl St., Rm 221
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808) 587-0248
Fax: (808) 587-0283

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Okada, Carol; Kishida, Dexter; Empeno Jr., Francis A
Cc: Hurd, Sharon K; Clingan, Marci
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 2023 ag/food legislation

Hi – FYI – here are Mark’s written questions below.

He agreed to let us respond in writing tomorrow (Friday) and if after that he wants to speak to Chair, then we can arrange.

Thanks!

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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From: Mark Ladao <mladao@staradvertiser.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Hurd, Sharon K <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Saneishi, Janelle K <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2023 ag/food legislation

Hi Chair Hurd,

I hope you're doing well, and I apologize for sending these later in the day. If it's easier to do a back and forth via email (hopefully it won't require a particularly long email thread!), that would work for me as well. I'm hoping to have this information by the weekend and thought email would give you more time to spread out your responses over the next couple days in case you wanted to do that. We could also talk around 5 p.m. today via phone, though!

Essentially, I was hoping you'd help clarify what happened re: food and agriculture during this year's legislative session. I'll list some bills that were important during the session that didn't make it, and wanted to be sure I didn't miss a budget appropriation or other measure that kept the "spirit" of the bill alive somehow.

Also, if you could highlight some important food/ag bills, resolutions or budget appropriations that I don't mention explicitly that made it through, that would help me better understand what happened.

Here are some notable bills that didn't make it:

HB 247, 248, 249, 250 - DOE Farm to School

HB 308 - Sustainable Food Systems Working Group

HB 540 - DOE universal school lunches

HB 607 - Interisland shipping income tax credit

HB 610 - Farm workforce retention tax credit

HB 612 - Farmer, rancher, fisher income tax credit

HB 690 - Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program

HB 971 - Agricultural emergency loans

HB 1248 - SNAP/DA BUX funding

SB 86 - Update to Hawaii State Agriculture Functional Plan

SB 652 - Funding for two-lined spittlebug control

SB 1586 - \$500,000 to CTAHR for 5 extension agent/specialist positions

I did look through the budget bill (HB 300) and saw a few funded projects, including for a slaughterhouse facility on Oahu, the Kohala Ditch system, the Waiakea Research Station, some food banks, agriculture organizations, individual farms, the Maui Agricultural Park, and a commercial kitchen in Keokea. I'm not sure where those fall in terms of importance, but if any of them, or anything else, are notable for whatever reason I'd be happy to know about them.

Thanks, and appreciate you taking the time out!

Mark Ladao

Staff Writer

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 7-210

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-683-2646

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Hurd, Sharon K
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 7:00 PM
To: STARADVERTISER-Mladao
Cc: Saneishi, Janelle K; Clingan, Marci
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 2023 ag/food legislation

Mark,

Understanding what happened this session baffled even the pundits! RESPONSE IN CAPS or in green highlights.

Here are some notable bills that didn't make it:

HB 247, 248, 249, 250 - DOE Farm to School – THESE MAY HAVE BEEN CONTROVERSIAL (?) / COMPOSTING IN SCHOOLS, WHILE MAY WORK IN SOME STATES, IS A HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD (HAWAII SCHOOLS WOULD USE FOOD WASTE TO COMPOST) / ATTRACT RATS AND VERMIN.

HB 308 - Sustainable Food Systems Working Group – GROUP SIZE STARTED AT AROUND 23 AND BY THE END OF THE HEARINGS, HAD GROWN TO 34 MEMBERS; HDOA TESTIFIED THAT WAS TOO LARGE A GROUP / GOALS WERE NOT FARMER-FOCUSED, UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE GOALS WOULD NOT SERVE HAWAII FARMERS – PERHAPS TOO GLOBAL IN SCOPE.

HB 540 - DOE universal school lunches – AGGRESSIVE PLAN / TIMELINE AND FUNDING NOT PROVIDED / FARMERS MAY GROW WHAT THE MENU REQUIRES – THEY MAY NOT IF THEIR CURRENT CROP IS PROFITABLE

HB 607 - Interisland shipping income tax credit – GOOD IDEA; SUPPORTS FEDERAL RTCP – THIS BILL WOULD COVER INTERISLAND SHIPPING COSTS

HB 610 - Farm workforce retention tax credit - ?? **Died in conference. Tax credit bill. See Tax Foundation of Hawaii testimony comments.**

HB 612 - Farmer, rancher, fisher income tax credit - ?? **Died in conference. Tax credit bill. Predicts general loss in general tax revenue for State. See DOTAX testimony**

HB 690 - Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program – IMPORTANT BILL FOR HDOA TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR EMERGENCIES (BARREL TAX SUBSTITUTE) – FUNDS TO GO TO HDOA – FINAL VERSION HAD FUNDS GO TO ADC // BILL DID NOT PROGRESS

HB 971 - Agricultural emergency loans - **Died in conference. Senate companion was not heard.**

HB 1248 - SNAP/DA BUX funding - **Died in conference. Senate companion was not heard.**

SB 86 - Update to Hawaii State Agriculture Functional Plan - **Died in conference. Resounding support from fishing industry in Hawaii. As Plan was last updated in 1991, would require considerable time and effort to update in conjunction with OPSD if to be completed by 2026.**

SB 652 - Funding for two-lined spittlebug control – **Died in conference. SD1 inserted requirement for HDOA to establish a 5 year pilot program to provide traps to mitigate/control feral pigs, roosters, chickens, etc. How did a TLSB bill end up as a feral chickens/pigs?**

SB 1586 - \$500,000 to CTAHR for 5 extension agent/specialist positions – **Gov veto'd. HDOA did not provide testimony.**

The Admin Assistant commented:

I did look through the budget bill (HB 300) and saw a few funded projects, including for a slaughterhouse facility on Oahu, the Kohala Ditch system, the Waiakea Research Station, some food banks, agriculture organizations, individual farms, the Maui Agricultural Park, and a commercial kitchen in Keokea.

Apologize for late response,
Sharon

From: Mark Ladao <mladao@staradvertiser.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Hurd, Sharon K <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Saneishi, Janelle K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2023 ag/food legislation

Hi Chair Hurd,

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Thanks, and appreciate you taking the time out!

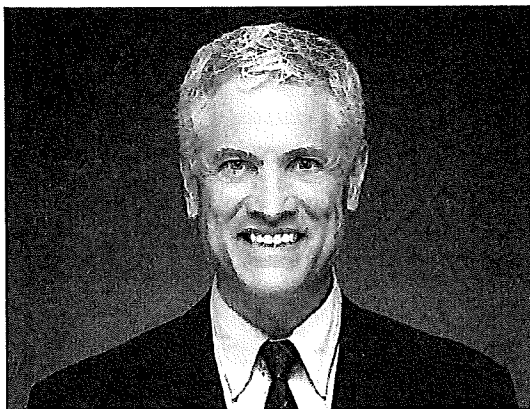
Mark Ladao
Staff Writer
Honolulu Star-Advertiser
500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 7-210
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-683-2646

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 10:28 AM
Subject: ag news articles

HAWAI'I TRIBUNE-HERALD

Funding for North Kohala agricultural well released

By LAURA RUMINSKI West Hawaii Today | Monday, September 25, 2023, 12:05 a.m.



TARNAS

State funds have been released to develop an agricultural water resource for North Kohala.

Capital improvement project funds of \$1.5 million were released by Governor Josh Green for the development of the 'Upolu Well and will fund improvements to the water well to support agriculture in North Kohala. The funds were recently appropriated by the Legislature and will finance the design and construction of pump installation, connecting pipeline, controls, and related improvements to develop an existing well to provide agricultural water distribution.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources plans to convert an existing U.S. Geological Survey observation well on state land near 'Upolu Road to a well supplying water for farming, dairying and ranching, to help replace water that was lost when the

Kohala Ditch was severely damaged in a 2021 landslide. Since that time, there has been no permanent flow in the ditch and it cannot be used for irrigation, dealing a heavy blow to the region's farmers and ranchers.

Pump tests show the well can supply 475 gallons per minute or 384,000 gallons per day. A 20-foot tall, 660,000-gallon reservoir and water lines running to the east and west are planned to be built. Farmers or cooperatives would privately design and fund simple facilities to convey the water to their use areas.

An Environmental Assessment prepared last October stated the initial phase involves no significant impacts to native fauna or flora, water quality or sustainable yield, traffic, archaeological sites, or cultural practices.

The program's future phases may convert part of the property to an agricultural park and expand the park to nearby state properties, if sufficient water and demand exist.

"The Kohala community has made it clear that providing affordable agricultural water to producers in Kohala is a top priority," said Rep. David A. Tarnas who represents District 8. "Making the improvements to this former USGS exploratory well to bring it online as a production well for agricultural water supply is an important milestone. Bringing this well to production capacity should help to provide agricultural water to the producers in the surrounding area. While this well alone won't be able to supply everyone who needs and wants irrigation water, it is an important part of the overall strategy to support Kohala's sustainable agricultural economy. I am grateful to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture for working to support our Kohala farmers."

The Department of Land Natural Resources (DLNR) is currently overseeing the planning and construction of the 'Upolu Well project. The Department has already hired an engineering consultant for project planning and design and has collaborated with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) on design reviews. DLNR has received bids on the construction contract and will soon be making the decision to award the contract.

Once the contractor is selected and the contract is finalized, permits from the County are needed to be secured in order to proceed.

When completed, DLNR plans on transferring ownership of the pumping system and storage tank to DOA to manage operations. Once it is online, the well will pump water through the current distribution piping, which extends to the Cloverleaf Dairy property line.

The well will then be capable of providing affordable irrigation water to several farms, dairies, and ranches in North Kohala, continuing the region's tradition as an agricultural center.

CIVIL BEAT

Hawaii Fires

Maui Fire Lawsuits: Rampant Grass Growth Is As 'Inherently Dangerous' As Radioactive Waste

The lawsuits are invoking a legal doctrine historically applied to wild animals, nuclear waste and explosives.

By Stewart Yerton / Sept. 23, 2023.

Hawaii courts soon may have to address a novel legal question related to the Maui wildfires: whether allowing invasive grass to grow unheeded on one's property is the legal equivalent of keeping radioactive waste, dynamite or a dangerous wild animal.

"This is an ultrahazardous activity," plaintiff's lawyer Ken Kasdan said, referring to what he alleges is a failure of large Maui landowners like Kamehameha Schools and West Maui Land Co. to control vegetation on their property. "There is not a lot of difference between your stick of dynamite and these fields of grasses just waiting to explode."



Lawyers are invoking an ancient legal doctrine in an effort to hold property owners liable for fires that destroyed much of Lahaina on Aug. 8. (Kevin Fujii/Civil Beat/2023)

Kasdan is one of the latest in a stampede of lawyers to Maui's state circuit courthouse after the fires. His complaint on behalf of Lahaina resident Chardell Naki, whose home was destroyed in the Aug. 8 maelstrom, alleges landowners like Kamehameha Schools and West Maui Land fueled the devastating blazes by allowing combustible grasses to flourish on their property.

"If you own the fuel, you own the fire," the complaint says.

In a statement, Kamehameha Schools noted the cause of the fires is still under investigation and did not want to speculate or put forward premature conclusions. But it said the organization is committed to restoring its "lands and waters to produce robust food systems, native ecosystems and educational opportunities."

"Reversing over a century of degradation and exploitation of the land from colonialism and plantations is a long and difficult process," a spokesman said. "We will continue to work with our communities to bring our culture, people, and resiliency back to the aina."

From: Saneishi, Janelle K
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:36 PM
Subject: ag news articles

CIVIL BEAT

Honolulu City Council Puts Controversial Land-Use Bill On Hold Amid Criticism

The city's Department of Planning and Permitting says it needs to review the measure after complaints from property owners about potentially disastrous effects on businesses.

By Kirstin Downey / Sept. 27, 2022

A sweeping land-use bill that would affect thousands of properties on Oahu has been put on hold, possibly until next year.

The decision was made by Honolulu City Council member Brandon Elefante, chair of the zoning and planning committee, after the Department of Planning and Permitting said it needed 120 days to review the measure, which would move city council consideration into 2023.

The committee met in a special hearing Monday after being deluged with hundreds of comments from property owners raising concerns about Bill 10, with many pointing out potentially dire ramifications and plying officials with questions about why so few people knew about it until recently.



Tourism helps subsidize farm ventures at Kualoa Ranch. Owners say Bill 10 could kill their business.

Kualoa Ranch said the bill would put them out of business. Owners of horse farms said it would undermine Hawaii's paniolo culture by zoning horses off agricultural land. Locally based brewing companies said the bill would impose new hardships on them and make it harder for them to compete with beverages brewed on the mainland.

The bill, which was well along the way to passage until early this month, attracted much negative comment about how the city had handled the public notification process.

"These bureaucrats say they did outreach," said Lynne Matusow. "We need to see a list of the many (their word) stakeholders, government agencies, consulting firms and developers who participated. How many is many? Meanwhile, the real people, those who will be affected daily, have not had any input."

Criticism Mounts

Many commenters asked in written testimony that the bill be held back for further consideration.

“This Bill, while well-intended and ultimately needed as part of a comprehensive update, simply has not had sufficient time for public understanding, input, discussion or deliberation,” wrote Winston Welch, executive director of the Outdoor Circle. “Such major changes and complicated changes proposed to so many areas of land simply cannot be rushed and it cannot be at all in the public interest to advance this Bill at this time.”

Some residents applauded portions of the bill. Residents of Kahuku, where 20 wind turbines have been installed in recent years, were pleased that the bill’s deliberations led to unanimous council support for greater restrictions on wind machines in the future. That debate had become part of the discussion over Bill 10.

Current land-use rules allow wind turbines to have a 1-to-1 setback, that is, a 500-foot turbine must be at least 500 feet from houses, schools and stores. As a result of deliberations over the measure, council members all said publicly that they supported instead a 1.25-mile setback, or more than 10 times farther from other properties.

The strongest supporters of Bill 10 in testimony to council were three development firms, including the Pacific Resource Partnership, Stanford Carr Development and Centre Urban Real Estate.

The bill would cover a wide range of properties, including agricultural lands, mixed-commercial areas, housing construction, residential treatment homes, hotels, day care centers and agritourism. Its intention has been to make needed changes to land-use rules, including by boosting housing density and protecting agriculture, but Honolulu residents have testified in strong terms about the feared negative effects of many of the proposed changes.



Bill 10's intention to protect agricultural land could easily backfire and hurt family farms, critics say.

Provisions banning motorized vehicles in agritourism destinations and sharply limiting weddings would gravely injure the windward side's Kualoa Ranch, its owners said.

"This would kill our company and force us to fire over 300 people, including most of those involved in ag, to what gain?" asked John Morgan, president of Kualoa Ranch. "Kualoa Ranch is successful because of the symbiotic relationship between tourism and ag, and it is possible because we take people on motorized vehicles through our property, and have events amidst agricultural settings. For us, tourism supports ag. Without tourism, our ag production would be decimated. This is a very poorly conceived bill."

Robert Dawson, a founder of Kunia-based Ko Hana Distillers, which makes rum from sugar cane juice grown in Hawaii, said that if Bill 10 passed, his business would be forced to move production because the distillery operates on agricultural land using sugar cane harvested on leased land elsewhere. Dawson said the firm now employs 12 full-time farmers and 25 operations and customer support workers.

“Please do not pass this bill,” he told the council. “It would be devastating and possibly impossible for us to recover.”

The council also heard from many horse breeders and stables, who said that the law as now drafted would remove raising horses as an allowable agricultural land use.

“While I suspect the intent of this bill is to prevent the rise of the gentleman farm, the suggested changes in this bill way overshoot the mark and will strike a large blow to the equine agricultural industry,” wrote social worker Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, who operates an equine therapy practice. “So many ranches and farms have shut down in recent years or have kicked out the animals and become wedding venues instead. The Paniolo history that is so important to our islands and has been preserved by the horse industry is under threat. By removing horse breeding and boarding from allowed activities on agricultural lands, you strike another blow.”

Approving Amendments

Ian Scheuring, a spokesman for Mayor Rick Blangiardi, said city officials had become aware that more deliberation over the bill was needed, noting the measure is large and complex.

“Through the Council hearing process, this administration has become aware that more community engagement is indicated and necessary,” Scheuring said in a statement. “The proposed delay is to give both DPP and the members of the Honolulu City Council the opportunity to review the proposed amendments, engage our communities regarding the proposed changes and make sure the proposed amendments are in the best interest of our residents, economy, industries and land use patterns.”



Brandon Elefante, the chair of the zoning and planning committee who will leave the City Council at the end of the year, is at the center of the debate over Bill 10.

After hearing testimony about the bill, Elefante, who represents heavily urban District 6, called an executive session to discuss it privately with the other council members and city legal staff.

When the committee reconvened, Elefante said he had decided to postpone the bill to a future time of his selection. Elefante is barred from running for reelection on the council because of term limits and is instead running for a state Senate seat.

Council member Esther Kiaaina asked if he intended to put it on the agenda for October, but Elefante answered that he had no “particular date.”

Kiaaina said she would be having “further conversations with corporation counsel,” which is the city’s legal staff.

Elefante also, however, granted the request by DPP to seek a 120-day extension of time to reconsider the bill.

That announcement may have effectively quashed the measure, at least for the year, because a new council will be constituted after the Nov. 8 general election and the new members will take up their posts next year, requiring the measure to go through the law-making process all over again.

Scheuring acknowledged the issue may have to go to a new council.

Held In Committee

Elefante then approved a number of amendments to the bill, which he said he would craft into another version of the measure, including support for a 1.25-mile setback for wind turbines. He previously had supported a 1 mile setback, while almost all the others wanted a 1.25-mile setback.

Other amendments proposed by council members at the special hearing included provisions to block agriculture lands from being used as meeting places or child care centers and weakening restrictions on the percentage of tillable land that must be actively farmed to be deemed “agricultural.”

In a statement, Council Chair Tommy Waters thanked Elefante for adopting amendments and for holding the bill in committee, which he said would give council members time to work with people who have continuing concerns.

The bill has been under consideration for several years. Its development was orchestrated by the city’s chief land-use planner, Katia Balassiano.

An announcement last week indicated Balassiano was leaving her job at the city Department of Planning and Permitting, and at Monday’s meeting it was disclosed that she had found a new job at the State Land Use Commission.

At the meeting’s closing, council members thanked her for her service to the city and wished her good luck in the new job.

KITV

New urgency for The Food Basket to create Agriculture Innovation Center on Hawaii Island

By Lia Kamanā
Sept. 27, 2022



HILO, Hawai'i Island (KITV4) -- With continued cancellations and delayed shipments of federal food products, as well as wholesale food purchases, The Food Basket's mission to end hunger on Hawaii Island is being tested.

In normal years, the shelves of The Food Basket have been fully stocked with fresh, chilled, and non-perishable goods from a variety of sources. But with the pandemic recovery efforts and supply chain issues, not only has the private industry been hurting, the usual Federal Emergency Food Program known at TEFAP is also experiencing unprecedented challenges.

“The Food Basket, Hawaii Island's Food Bank, is the sole food bank for the island,” said Executive Director, Kristin Frost Albrecht. “Historically, we have relied on the TEFAP program and charitable donations for our emergency food supplies. Now, we are experiencing a ‘perfect storm’ as we are purchasing most of our food and, at the same time, seeing a record number of our island neighbors in need due to the escalating costs of daily expenses.”

WATCH: The Food Basket Executive Director, Kristin Frost Albrecht, joined GMH to talk about the organizations plans for the futureto 10%, 20% ... 60%

While The Food Basket provides emergency food programs similar to other organizations, it has also innovated several unique programs over the years to help fill in the gaps, like DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, which operates statewide at over 100 retail outlets, including grocery stores, CSAs, farmers markets, and food hubs and provides a 50% discount on Hawaii grown produce to SNAP (food stamps).

“With over 90% of our food in the state coming from 2,500 miles away, we are one disaster away from extreme food insecurity," said Albrecht. “Programs like DA BUX are helping to increase food security by providing expanded markets for our agriculture producers, increasing affordable healthy

food access for our most vulnerable residents, and strengthening our local economy with the influx of federal dollars from SNAP.”

Utilizing its history, The Food Basket has a plan for a sustainable food system campus to benefit Hawaii island.

The development of the Agricultural Innovation Park and Food Systems Campus has begun with The Food Basket’s acquisition of 24.5-acres in Hilo and initial input on the uses of the community complex.

The plans include agroforestry crop production, aquaponics, commercial kitchens, state-of-the-art processing facilities, technical assistance programs, streamlined food distribution, consolidated food storage for dry, refrigerated, and frozen items, educational programs, retail, and more.

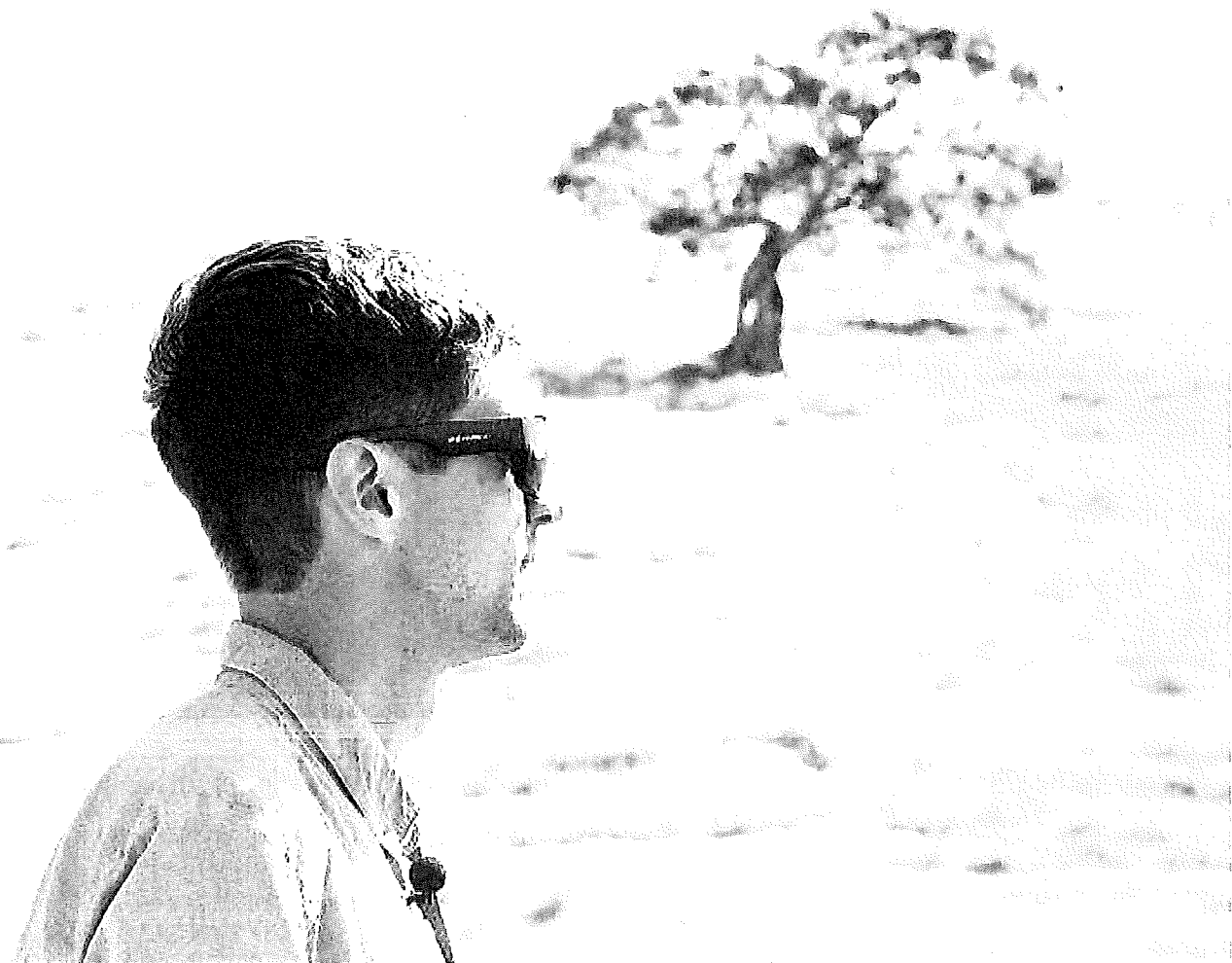
“We are moving forward with urgency in our plans to build the Agricultural Innovation Park and Food Systems Campus given the ongoing and unprecedented food supply challenges we are experiencing," said Albrecht. “If we are to truly end hunger on our island, we must rely on food we can grow, harvest and process here – and the new facilities will provide an accessible and resilient agricultural hub to do just that.”

The need for monetary donations is essential. The Food Basket’s shelves can continue to be replenished and funds allocated to the Agricultural Innovation Campus project.

GARDEN ISLAND

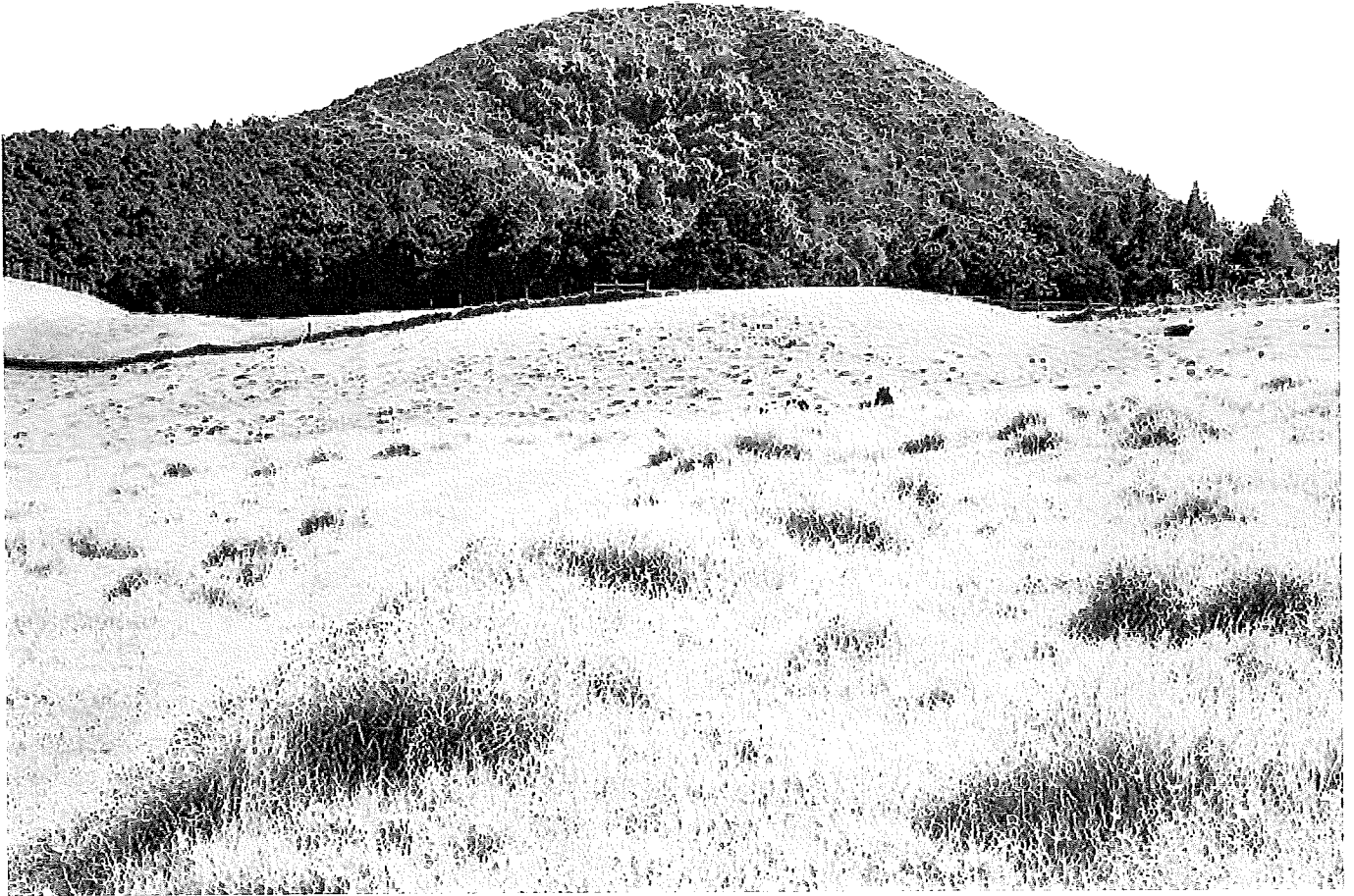
DLNR support for agriculture dates back to territorial days and the first foresters

By The Garden Island | Sunday, September 25, 2022, 12:05 a.m.



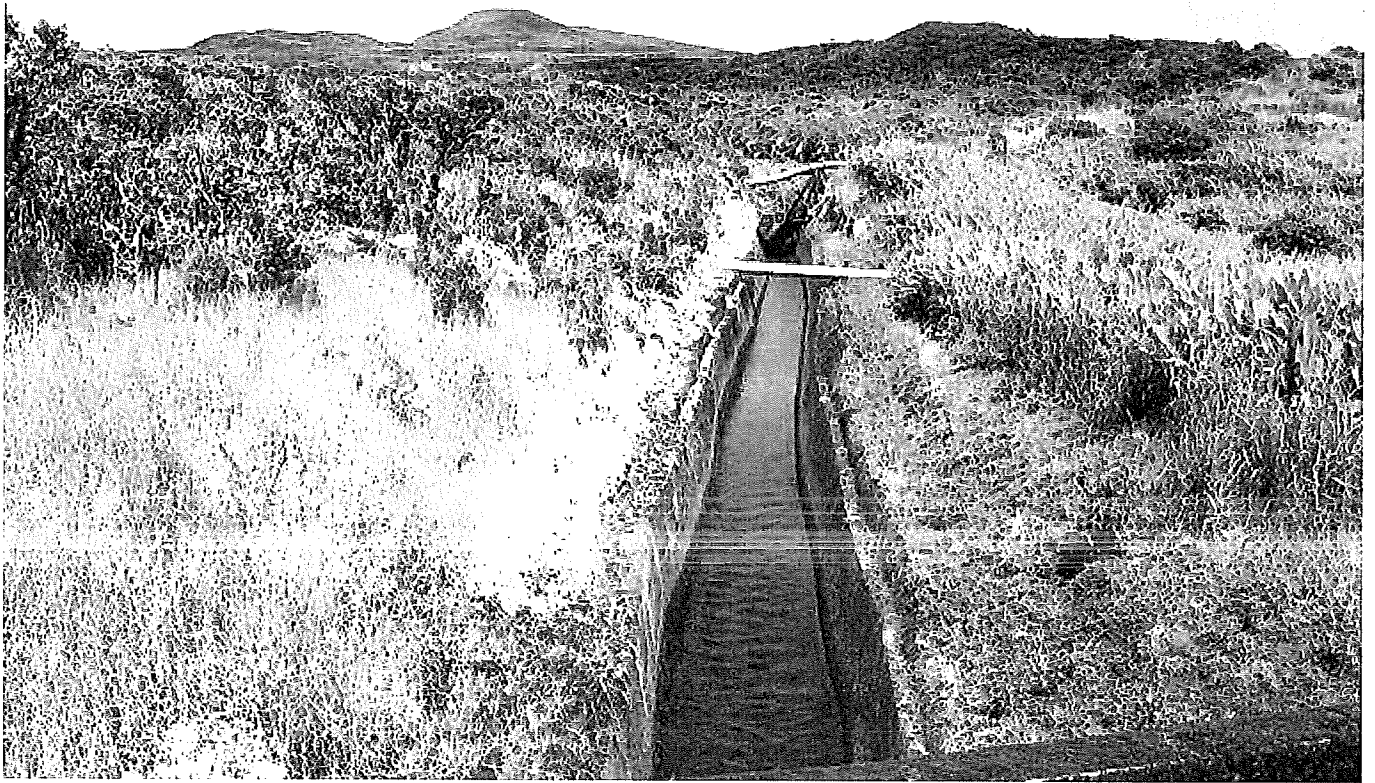
DLNR / contributed

Zachary Judd, Forestry Manager, Parker Ranch looks to develop an in-house forestry program to maintain the direct link between the health of the forest above Waimea, and water quantity and quality.



DLNR / contributed

The rolling hill of Parker Ranch, one of the first and largest cattle operations in Hawaii.



DLNR / contributed

Water for agriculture use is captured by four ditch systems beginning high in the mountains.



DLNR / contributed Parker

Ranch is one of the first and largest cattle operations in Hawaii.



DLNR / contributed

Clouds rise above the green valley walls of the Kohala Forest Reserve.

This Hawai'i Island town, on the southern slopes of the Kohala Mountains, has a rich and storied ranching history. Waimea grew up around the sprawling Parker Ranch, one of the first and largest cattle operations in the state. Its ranching heritage is visible pretty much everywhere. Agriculture and Waimea are intrinsically linked.

Zachary Judd, the ranch's forestry manager, has a unique perspective on this linkage. Until a year and a half ago he was a specialist with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife Natural Area Reserve system. "I don't think cattle ranching here and forestry are mutually exclusive at all," Judd said.

He says Parker Ranch, the town of Waimea, surrounding communities, and other agricultural interests rely heavily on forests and the watersheds in the Kohala Mountains. "As we look forward and continue to develop our in-house forestry program, we are looking at ways to incorporate more forestry across the landscape to

benefit our livestock operation, benefit the environment and provide those critical ecological functions that native forests provide.”

The ranch identified forestry as a strategic priority in 2017 with the hiring of its first forestry manager. “I came on board in 2021 to implement some of the management activities that we’ve been proposing. Parker Ranch has a long history of supporting forestry efforts in Kohala, demonstrated by being one of the first signatories and supporters of the original Kohala Watershed Partnership in 2003,” Judd explained.

The nation’s first forestry agency was created in Hawai’i. In 1903, agricultural interests successfully advocated for the agency to be established because, even then, they needed forest protection to protect dwindling water supplies,

The Kohala Mountain Watershed Partnership, like nine others around the state, has DLNR and private landowners working collaboratively to manage forests for protection of critical watershed resources. As a DOFAW employee for about a decade, Judd spent countless weeks working in the Kohala Forest Reserve to help maintain the direct link between the health of the forest above Waimea and water quantity and quality.

The Kohala forests provide all of Waimea’s drinking water and water for the various farming and ranching operations in the area.

Beginning high in the mountains, water for agriculture use is captured by four ditch systems originally built at the start of the 20th century. “The vital nature of watershed protection was recognized by territorial foresters of that era. One of them mentioned that the value of the forests on Kohala Mountain isn’t in timber, where most trees are no taller than a person. The value of it is the water, and I agree with that 100%,” Judd added.

Parker Ranch was founded before the development of the irrigation system, and was a much-different operation than it is today.

Spread over 130,000 acres of fee and lease lands across Mauna Kea and Kohala Mountain, the operation knows that having a consistent supply of water is critical to any agriculture operation or expansion.

Judd says that’s even more critical now with climate change and weather patterns that are becoming more and more unpredictable.

“Having this water resource is vital to everything we do now and into the future. It’s important that agricultural interests have a seat at the table in protecting the water resources that feed our operations. Having that seat and collaborating with DOFAW and the watershed partnership is vital to us and to our community,” he concluded.

...

This is the first in a series of monthly releases, illustrating the many partnerships between DLNR and agricultural interests.

MAUI NEWS

Bill aims to fight rapid ohia death

SEP 22, 2022

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono introduced legislation on Wednesday to combat rapid ohia death, which has killed more than a million ohia trees in Hawaii since it was discovered in 2014.

The Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2022 authorizes \$55 million in federal funding over the next 11 years to support ongoing efforts by federal and state agencies to help combat the fungal disease in Hawaii, including research, feral ungulate management and native forest restoration.

“Ohia trees are Hawaii’s most abundant native tree, making up nearly 80 percent of our native forests,” Hirono said in a news release Wednesday. “But over the last decade, rapid ohia death has decimated Hawaii’s ohia population, presenting an existential threat to our environment and the species’ future.”

Rapid ohia death has been detected on Hawaii island, Kauai, Maui and Oahu.

“Ohia lehua is the most important native tree in Hawaii for protection of our life-giving forest watersheds,” said Suzanne Case, chairperson of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. “Funding for research to find a treatment for this fungal infection is of critical importance.”

HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD

Butterfly, beetle could help fight invasive plants

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:14 PM
To: hdoa_info; DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a Kapa'au-based journalist. While I probably will eventually write a story on this, I'm mostly emailing you as a member of the community right now.

In 2015, Senator Lorraine Inouye spoke about the Kohala Ditch, being under ownership by the state to be better regulated than it's piece meal ownership right now. As you already know this ditch is currently out of commission which is causing several farmers to struggle with mounting bills and lost resource. And after a year and a half of economic collapse where diversified agriculture has come to the forefront to regain sustainability and resilience without relying on the mainland was at the forefront. Since the ditch broke, the water has dried up and is causing several problems up here.

David Fuertes, (who I have covered in the past [here](#)) in the last week beyond struggling with the water on his own farms, was helping out Dan Jenks, who has a tilapia farm not far away, where one pond the other day...all the fish died because of the lack of water from the ditch. David and members of his nonprofit Kapua Pa'a Mua youth program were able to help save the other, because serendipitously, Malama Aquaponics came into town the other weekend to teach his OAR families how to build and use them, so the fish are there for now. This is just a couple of several struggling.

I moved here a year and change ago. One of the main things I loved about North Kohala was its ability to try to build resilience. Which is why I was drawn towards David, but only after I was drawn towards others in Kohala doing food drives during the pandemic (which I wrote about [here](#)). Living in a state led by the tourism industry, this area seemed so special, starting to make a lot of headway towards being sustainable, and providing for the community itself and in a manner where I kept thinking how these people are showing the world the way, not just the community. It has inspired me so much. And to see people spending their meager resources on mounting water bills, and losing what's going on altogether just feels like this can't be what happens.

I'm not sure what the plans are right now, but I just wanted to put in a bit of my testimony to how beautiful I think this community is, and how my wish is for them to operate with ease with the resources they need without having to take a hit financially, so they can continue putting the resources towards people and what they grow, to provide, to serve. I hope there is a way to find a solution to fix the ditch. If you would like to give me any insight I would appreciate it.

All my best to you,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Nakamura, Gayle M
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis; Atta, Morris
Cc: Kau, Brian K; Saiki, Kirk I; Ferrer, Jan Y; hdoa_info
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Importance: High

Forwarding questions below. Who will respond?

Mahalo!

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Aloha, Gayle,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and have a few questions for Chairperson Shimabukuro-Geiser.

Recently I was at a meeting about water in North Kohala, the second of which, it was implied that the USGS well out near Upolu airport is supposed to be transferred to USDA. It was also implied that USDA would not want to actually manage it, but that according to Councilman Tim Richards, said there was interest in the Kohala Ditch Co-op managing it.

My questions are:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now?
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently not in legal standing) managing the well? Is there validity to the above stated interest? In an earlier meeting it was said, there was a text exchange with her about this same thing. This meeting on March 25th, also included Dave Chun from Congressman Kahele's office. It was a meeting where apparently area farmers requested her presence to answer questions directly.

If she could get back to me at her earliest convenience, that would be great. Hope you are both doing well and had a great weekend.

Best,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Saneishi, Janelle K
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Hurd, Sharon K
Cc: Clingan, Marci
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Hi – DLNR forwarded the attached question from a constituent.
Not sure if it's a bcc or cc so not sure if we should wait for her to contact us.
But seems like it's headed HDOA's way.

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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From: DLNR.CO.Comms <dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 1:09 PM
To: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Cc: DLNR.CO.Comms <dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha Libby,

The funding (\$10mil) referenced in your email that was "earmarked" for the Kohala Ditch System, was appropriated to DOA (not DLNR) this past session in their CIP budget. Would suggest reaching out to Dept. of Agriculture on this request.

Thank you,
Ryan

Ryan Aguilar
Communications Specialist
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov

808-587-0396

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:42 AM

To: DLNR.CO.Comms <dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha,

I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and had reached out to the Governor's office after the funding for the Kohala Ditch was earmarked to ask how the state plans to handle private landowners if they don't allow the water to flow through their property, and if they would call for eminent domain to make sure the water also made it to small farmers. They said to reach out to you.

I wrote because I received the below document from CWRM that conveys that Surety released all the easements on the property to Ho'okipa Ranch. It was also relayed to me that other easements were purchased by the Meadowgold's owner on Hawi side (though waiting for that to be verified).

Anyway, I was wondering what measures were being taken to ensure equitable water access, how the community will be involved in decisions, and how funding plans are moving forward (IE what steps are being taken to make sure the funding doesn't go through an entity that has private interests).

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Libby Leonard

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Hurd, Sharon K; Kau, Brian K; Saiki, Kirk I
Cc: Clingan, Marci
Subject: FW: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Hi –

Forwarding email received from Rep. Tarnas' office.

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, use, disclosure, or distribution by unintended recipients is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient(s), please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Scott Gifford <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:48 AM
To: hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Good Morning,

I am reaching out on behalf of State Representative David Tarnas (North and South Kohala). We have received some recent inquiries from constituents regarding the CIP funding for the Kohala Ditch System in this year's State Budget. So, we were hoping to get some more information on your Department's plans for the funding and if there will be an RFP?

I understand that the funds have just been finalized in the budget, but any information on tentative plans would be much appreciated by our office.

Mahalo!

Kind Regards,

Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager

Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 10:11 AM
To: Hurd, Sharon K
Cc: Clingan, Marci
Subject: FW: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Tarnas' office canceling request.

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
ph: (808) 973-9560
email: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov
Website: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>



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From: Scott Gifford <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 10:09 AM
To: hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Hi Again,

Please disregard the below, as Chair Hurd stopped by and informed us in person. We thank her for taking the time to do so!

Kindly,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager
Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

From: Scott Gifford <[REDACTED]@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 8:31 AM
To: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Good Morning,

I am just following up on my inquiry below regarding DOA's plans for expending the \$10 million appropriated by the Legislature for the Kohala Ditch System. Representative Tarnas would appreciate any information you could provide.

Mahalolo!

Kindly,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager
Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

From: Scott Gifford
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:47 AM
To: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Request for Information Regarding the Kohala Ditch

Good Morning,

I am reaching out on behalf of State Representative David Tarnas (North and South Kohala). We have received some recent inquiries from constituents regarding the CIP funding for the Kohala Ditch System in this year's State Budget. So, we were hoping to get some more information on your Department's plans for the funding and if there will be an RFP?

I understand that the funds have just been finalized in the budget, but any information on tentative plans would be much appreciated by our office.

Mahalo!

Kind Regards,
Scott

Scott Gifford

Office Manager
Representative David A. Tarnas
District 8 – North and South Kohala
Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-8510

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Nakamura, Gayle M
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:47 PM
To: 'lleonard12180@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Importance: High

Aloha Libby,

Please see our responses below in blue.

In the future, can you please send your requests through our Public Information Officer, Janelle Saneishi.

Her email is: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov

Thank you!

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Aloha, Gayle,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and have a few questions for Chairperson Shimabukuro-Geiser.

Recently I was at a meeting about water in North Kohala, the second of which, it was implied that the USGS well out near Upolu airport is supposed to be transferred to USDA. It was also implied that USDA would not want to actually manage it, but that according to Councilman Tim Richards, said there was interest in the Kohala Ditch Co-op managing it.

My questions are:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now?
Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), & United States Geological Survey (USGS) are negotiating the terms of transfer for the well which is anticipated to proceed without significant delay.
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently not in legal standing) managing the well?
No decision on how the well will be operated and maintained has been made. If any third party operator is selected to manage the well, they will be required to be a legal entity and in compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations.

Is there validity to the above stated interest?

HDOA has not received any requests from the owners of the Kohala Ditch to operate the well since it is premature, the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred, and the logistics of operating the well has not been determined.

In an earlier meeting it was said, there was a text exchange with her about this same thing. This meeting on March 25th, also included Dave Chun from Congressman Kahele's office. It was a meeting where apparently area farmers requested her presence to answer questions directly.

The chair or deputy do not recall being ask to attend the March meeting by whoever hosted it.

If she could get back to me at her earliest convenience, that would be great. Hope you are both doing well and had a great weekend.

Best,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Atta, Morris; Nakamura, Gayle M
Cc: Kau, Brian K; Saiki, Kirk I; Ferrer, Jan Y; hdoa_info
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Hi Gayle,

Use Morris' responses:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now? Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), & United States Geological Survey (USGS) are negotiating the terms of transfer for the well which is anticipated to proceed without significant delay.
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently not in legal standing) managing the well? No decision on how the well will be operated and maintained has been made. If any third party operator is selected to manage the well, they will be required to be a legal entity and in compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations. Is there validity to the above stated interest? HDOA has not received any requests from the owners of the Kohala Ditch to operate the well since it is premature, the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred, and the logistics of operating the well has not been determined.

Gayle – Just a FYI...I (or Morris) do not recall being ask to attend the March meeting by whoever hosted it.

Mahalo,

Phyllis

From: Atta, Morris <Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Please see my suggested responses below:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now? HDOA, DLNR, & USGS are negotiating the terms of transfer for the well which is anticipated to proceed without significant delay.
2. Why would USDA want a private Co-op (which is currently not in legal standing) managing the well? No decision on how the well will be operated and maintained has been made. If any third party operator is selected to manage the well, they will be required to be a legal entity and in compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations. Is there validity to the above stated interest? HDOA has not received any requests from the owners of the Kohala Ditch to operate the well since it is premature, the transfer of ownership has not yet occurred, and the logistics of operating the well has not been determined. In an earlier meeting it was said, there was a text exchange with her about this same thing. This meeting on March 25th, also included Dave Chun from Congressman Kahele's office. It was a meeting where apparently area farmers requested her presence to answer questions directly.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy to the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
(808) 973-9550
Morris.Atta@Hawaii.gov

From: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <Jan.Y.Ferrer@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?
Importance: High

Forwarding questions below. Who will respond?

Mahalo!

From: Libby Leonard <leonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Aloha, Gayle,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and have a few questions for Chairperson Shimabukuro-Geiser.

Recently I was at a meeting about water in North Kohala, the second of which, it was implied that the USGS well out near Upolu airport is supposed to be transferred to USDA. It was also implied that USDA would not want to actually manage it, but that according to Councilman Tim Richards, said there was interest in the Kohala Ditch Co-op managing it.

My questions are:

1. Where is USDA in the process of transferring it over right now?
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If she could get back to me at her earliest convenience, that would be great. Hope you are both doing well and had a great weekend.

Best,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Atta, Morris
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis; Nakamura, Gayle M; Saiki, Kirk I
Cc: Kau, Brian K; Ferrer, Jan Y; hdoa_info
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

I'm working on a response right now. Kirk, you can review what I wrote and tweak it if necessary.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy to the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
(808) 973-9550
Morris.atta@hawaii.gov

From: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:10 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment about North Kohala well?

Kirk, can you correct the information in her questions about USDA vs HDOA, what ARM/HDOA is working on now, and why HDOA would work with a 3rd party to operate the well for water service. I can clear up the comment by Tim Richards. Both Morris and I are in Waianae with the Oahu WAM members from 11am to 4:30pm depending on commuting traffic.

Mahalo,
Phyllis

From: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Kau, Brian K <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>
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Importance: High

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Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 8:22 AM
To: Nakamura, Gayle M <[\[REDACTED\]@hawaii.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov)>
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If she could get back to me at her earliest convenience, that would be great. Hope you are both doing well and had a great weekend.

Best,

Libby Leonard
www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 8:14 AM
To: hdoa_info
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Thanks, Janelle!

On Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 8:06 AM hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Hello –

The Kohala Ditch is not owned by the Dept. of Agriculture.

I believe it is a privately owned ditch.

Aloha,

Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Phone: (808) 973-9560
e-mail: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov



From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:14 PM
To: hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>; DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR <dlnr@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha,

My name is Libby Leonard. I'm a Kapa'au-based journalist. While I probably will eventually write a story on this, I'm mostly emailing you as a member of the community right now.

In 2015, Senator Lorraine Inouye spoke about the Kohala Ditch, being under ownership by the state to be better regulated than it's piece meal ownership right now. As you already know this ditch is currently out of commission which is causing several farmers to struggle with mounting bills and lost resource. And after a year and a half of economic collapse where diversified agriculture has come to the forefront to regain sustainability and resilience without relying on the mainland was at the forefront. Since the ditch broke, the water has dried up and is causing several problems up here.

David Fuertes, (who I have covered in the past [here](#)) in the last week beyond struggling with the water on his own farms, was helping out Dan Jenks, who has a tilapia farm not far away, where one pond the other day...all the fish died because of the lack of water from the ditch. David and members of his nonprofit Kapua Pa'a Mua youth program were able to help save the other, because serendipitously, Malama Aquaponics came into town the other weekend to teach his OAR families how to build and use them, so the fish are there for now. This is just a couple of several struggling.

I moved here a year and change ago. One of the main things I loved about North Kohala was its ability to try to build resilience. Which is why I was drawn towards David, but only after I was drawn towards others in Kohala doing food drives during the pandemic (which I wrote about [here](#)). Living in a state led by the tourism industry, this area seemed so special, starting to make a lot of headway towards being sustainable, and providing for the community itself and in a manner where I kept thinking how these people are showing the world the way, not just the community. It has inspired me so much. And to see people spending their meager resources on mounting water bills, and losing what's going on altogether just feels like this can't be what happens.

I'm not sure what the plans are right now, but I just wanted to put in a bit of my testimony to how beautiful I think this community is, and how my wish is for them to operate with ease with the resources they need without having to take a hit financially, so they can continue putting the resources towards people and what they grow, to provide, to serve. I hope there is a way to find a solution to fix the ditch. If you would like to give me any insight I would appreciate it.

All my best to you,

Libby Leonard

www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: hdoa_info
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Libby Leonard; DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Hello –
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I believe it is a privately owned ditch.

Aloha,
Janelle Saneishi
Public Information Officer
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9560
e-mail: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov



From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:14 PM
To: hdoa_info <hdoa.info@hawaii.gov>; DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR <dlnr@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

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special, starting to make a lot of headway towards being sustainable, and providing for the community itself and in a manner where I kept thinking how these people are showing the world the way, not just the community. It has inspired me so much. And to see people spending their meager resources on mounting water bills, and losing what's going on altogether just feels like this can't be what happens.

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All my best to you,

Libby Leonard

www.libbyleonard.com

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: DLNR.CO.Comms
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 1:09 PM
To: Libby Leonard
Cc: DLNR.CO.Comms
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha Libby,

The funding (\$10mil) referenced in your email that was "earmarked" for the Kohala Ditch System, was appropriated to DOA (not DLNR) this past session in their CIP budget. Would suggest reaching out to Dept. of Agriculture on this request.

Thank you,
Ryan

Ryan Aguilar
Communications Specialist
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov
808-587-0396

From: Libby Leonard <lleonard12180@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:42 AM
To: DLNR.CO.Comms <dlnr.comms@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kohala Ditch

Aloha,

I'm a journalist based in Kapa'au and had reached out to the Governor's office after the funding for the Kohala Ditch was earmarked to ask how the state plans to handle private landowners if they don't allow the water to flow through their property, and if they would call for eminent domain to make sure the water also made it to small farmers. They said to reach out to you.

I wrote because I received the below document from CWRM that conveys that Surety released all the easements on the property to Ho'okipa Ranch. It was also relayed to me that other easements were purchased by the Meadowgold's owner on Hawi side (though waiting for that to be verified).

Anyway, I was wondering what measures were being taken to ensure equitable water access, how the community will be involved in decisions, and how funding plans are moving forward (IE what steps are being taken to make sure the funding doesn't go through an entity that has private interests).

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Libby Leonard

Saneishi, Janelle K

From: Atta, Morris
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis; Saneishi, Janelle K
Cc: Nakamura, Gayle M; Ferrer, Jan Y; Saiki, Kirk I
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Janelle, including you since it is responding to a journalist.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: Morris.Atta@hawaii.gov

From: Atta, Morris
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Shimabukuro-Geiser, Phyllis <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Nakamura, Gayle M <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Ferrer, Jan Y <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

FYI.

Mahalo,
Morris M. Atta
Deputy Director
Office of the Chairperson
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone: (808) 973-9553
Fax: (808) 973-9613
Email: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov

From: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Atta, Morris <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Saiki, Kirk I <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Morris/Kirk

Another Governor's referral we received from Ms Libby Leonard re: North Kohala (see attached letter). Draft response below in red text for your review. Suzanne is ok with the response but wanted to bounce it off of you since DOA is

mentioned in the response. I would like to send this back to Gov's office this Friday or earlier, so if you could provide me any comments ASAP, that would be appreciated. Mahalo

Aloha Ms. Leonard

Thank you for your letter. I am aware of the damage to the Kohala Ditch and am sorry for the impact the loss of water has had on farming operations in North Kohala that had relied on the ditch. Since the Kohala Ditch is a privately funded operation and many of the end users are privately owned operations, the use of public funds or resources to remedy the situation is very complex and challenging. I hope users of the ditch water will be able to utilize alternative sources of water or find other means to continue their farming operations. Although I am unable to authorize public funds toward repairing and restoring the Kohala Ditch, I have asked the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to work together to develop a plan to seek and evaluate alternative water sources and available state lands that potentially can be used to create more opportunities for farming in the North Kohala region. Although this plan will take some time to come to fruition, I believe it is a step in the right direction and consistent with my goals to increase local food production, food security, and to make agriculture a thriving industry in Hawaii. DLNR and DOA will keep the community apprised as this plan is developed.

Thank you
Governor Ige

From: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Hi Carty,

Attached is the letter. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

AJ

From: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>; DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

AJ

The constituent refers to a letter. Can you provide that letter.

We prepared a response for the Governor a few weeks ago regarding a similar inquiry from another constituent regarding the Kohala ditch. Before I craft a similar response, It would be helpful to see the letter Ms. Leonard is referring to.

Carty Chang, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Engineering Division

Phone: (808) 587-0230, Fax: (808) 587-0283

Email: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov

<http://dlnreng.hawaii.gov>

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From: Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:02 PM
To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Chang, Carty S <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]
Importance: High

Aloha AJ,

Looks like this is tied to the North Kohala Ditch which Carty is taking the lead on. We submitted prior comments to another constituent on this matter, so we should be consistent, so I'm copying Carty.

Ola i ka wai,

M. KALEO MANUEL

Deputy Director

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - STATE OF HAWAI'I
Kalanimoku Building • 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Main: (808) 587-0214 • Fax: (808) 587-0219

Email: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov • Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm>

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From: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Manuel, Kaleo L <[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]

Aloha Kaleo,

Broken irrigation ditches on the Big Island the constituent is mentioning here, I would think this is a matter of private lands and they need to hire a contractor to fix things, but I am just guessing at this point? Please let me know how we can steer her in the right direction to help resolve her problem.

Mahalo,

AJ

From: Office of the Governor <officeofthegovernor@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:00 AM
To: DLNR.CO.Chair <dlnr.chair@hawaii.gov>
Subject: From the Office of Governor David Y. Ige [CS63399]



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

David Y. Ige
GOVERNOR

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Constituent Name: Ms. Libby Leonard | Date of Contact: 6/19/2021 |
| Executive Services Casework #63399 | |
| Address: 54-2528 Puehuehu Place 9 Kapaau, HI 96755 United States | |
| Phone #: (814) 777-3356 | Alternate Phone #: |
| Email Address: leonard12180@gmail.com | |
| Submitted to: DLNR Communications Office | |
| Email Address: DLNR.Chair@hawaii.gov | |
| Date Submitted to Department: 6/24/2021 | |
| Estimated Response Date to Executive Services: 7/8/2021 | |
| Executive Services Notes: | |
| <p><u>Constituent Message:</u> Dear Governor Ige,</p> <p>I contacted you the other week already about another matter (vetoing HB862), but am writing to you now as a concerned community member up in North Kohala with the broken irrigation ditch. Please see the letter attached.</p> <p>Mahalo, Libby Leonard</p> | |

FOR DEPARTMENT USE

The attached casework is being submitted to your department for response.

Please respond directly to the constituent by 7/8/2021 and bcc: [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov on the department response.

If this matter has already been responded to, please email a copy of the response to [REDACTED]@hawaii.gov. If you determine a response is not needed please explain why.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Ankele-Yamashita at (808) 243-5798.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS, STATE CAPITOL • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 586-0034 • FAX: (808) 586-0006 • GOVERNOR.HAWAII.GOV