

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

July 24, 2012

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Water Resources Committee, having met on July 3, 2012, makes reference to County Communication 12-19, from the Director of Water Supply, transmitting a report entitled "AN EVALUATION OF EAST MAUI'S POTENTIAL FOR DEEP ARTESIAN AQUIFERS," prepared by Donald Thomas, Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes, dated December 23, 2011.

Your Committee notes that the Council appropriated \$200,000 in the County's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget to fund a Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii groundwater exploration drilling program. The purpose of the appropriation was to research and compile a comprehensive analysis of available geologic, geochemical, hydrologic, and isotopic data for East Maui to determine whether there is evidence of a deep artesian aquifer in the area.

The report indicated that rainfall recharge rates within the northeast flank of East Maui might be adequate to sustain a deep artesian aquifer. However, the much lower recharge rates within the western and southern flanks of East Maui are believed to be inadequate to sustain a deep artesian aquifer.

The report concluded that even if drilling a deep test hole east of Nahiku did locate an artesian aquifer, transporting the water to other areas of the island may not be cost-effective.

The Director of Water Supply stated that, due to the findings in the report, further research on the project had been halted. Of the \$200,000 grant, \$56,000 had been expended and the remainder had lapsed.

Your Committee voted 6-0 to recommend the filing of the communication. Committee Chair Victorino, Vice-Chair Pontanilla, and members Baisa, Cochran, Hokama, and White voted "aye". Committee member Carroll was excused.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

July 24, 2012
Page 2

Committee
Report No. _____

Your Water Resources Committee RECOMMENDS that County Communication 12-19 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, Chair

wr:cr:12011aa:kew