

County of Maui Water  
Supply

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY RE FLUORIDATION

RE: FLUORIDATION OF THE WATER SYSTEMS ON MOLOKAI

Taken at the Molokai All-Purpose Room, Kaunakakai, Molokai,  
Hawaii, commencing at 6:00 p.m., on March 13, 2001.

TRANSCRIBED FROM VIDEOTAPE BY:  
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A T T E N D A N C E  
CHAIRPERSON:  
ORLANDO TAGORDA

BOARD MEMBERS:  
CLARK HASHIMOTO  
ADOLPH HELM  
MICHAEL NOBRIGA  
JONATHAN STARR

DIRECTOR:  
DAVID CRADDICK

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL:  
HOWARD FUKUSHIMA

BOARD SECRETARY:  
FRAN NAGO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MARCH 13, 2001 6:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Board Member Mr. Mike Nobriga, Mr. Clark Hashimoto, Mr. Adolph Helm, myself, Orlando Tagorda, Mr. Jonathan Starr, Corp Counsel Howard Fukushima, Director David Craddick, and our board secretary, Fran Nago.

We, the members of the Committee of the Whole, Board of Water Supply, County of Maui, welcome you all night. It's a great privilege to be with you, and we thank you for coming out to share your opinion on fluoridation. We understand that this is a something on Molokai. There are people on both sides who also have concerns. We are here to listen to all the viewpoints and use them in our deliberations. We will be looking toward genuine, responsible, well-informed real choices regarding this very broad issue of fluoridation and report back to the full board.

Testimony from the public. The Chair will receive oral testimony from members of the public, but first from those who submitted testimony before the meeting started. Testimony will be limited to three minutes per person, three minutes per person, or if you cannot finish in three minutes, you may have to come back after all testimony has been finished.

Persons wishing to testify may still sign in until the end of the testimony portion. Persons who have communications or requests for action pending before the Board will be permitted to testify when their request is taken up.

The first person -- short recess.

(Whereupon a brief recess was taken).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: When I was talking I was requested that what is posted there behind the speaker, every picture should be removed before I continue calling testifiers. Would you please take them down, Mr. Corp Counsel?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey, this is freedom of speech.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Okay. The meeting is called back to order. The first person -- I am going to call two names. The first person to testify is going to come forward and will use the microphone in front. Mr. Bruhjell. If I mispronounce your name, please forgive me. And followed by George Peabody. Mr. Bruhjell.

MR. JADE BRUHJELL: Well, good afternoon members of the board. Is this on? Okay. Before us tonight is the issue of using poisonous fluorides. It's of great importance to the residents of Molokai and to the State of Hawaii. This issue is much larger than just treating tooth decay, it's more vast even than the use of our constitutional right to choose which medication to treat ourselves and our children. This issue is as large as the adds used in on one of our local newspapers to promote and sell this poisonous industrial waste to the public.

These expensive tax paid adds could have given a message to our children and their parents to reduce the intake of white sugar products and brush and floss their teeth. For the Department of Health and the ADA to state that fluoride is completely safe, even as safe as mother's milk, borders on either total ignorance or criminality of different various degrees.

Dr. William Marcus Ph.D, president of the EPA Scientists Union, states that fluoride is a carcinogen by any standard that we use. And the EPA should act immediately to protect the public not just on the cancer data, but also on the evidence of both fractures, arthritis, mutation of our genes, and other ill effects.

The EPA scientists have accused the US Department of Health of criminal scientific fraud. This is our EPA, tax paid EPA scientists, of which there's 1500 of them, and they unanimously voted against this fluoridation project. There is no and can never be any scientific studies to show that this practice of fluoridating the public water supply is either safe or effective.

Those who wish to contaminate our water supply state that the fluorides are only natural. But so is lead, mercury, arsenic, typhus, and e. coli, but who wants to eat, drink and bathe in them? The naturally occurring fluoride mostly found in combination with calcium is called calcium fluoride. The proposed sodium fluoride is 85 to 100 times more toxic, and is obtained by scrubbing industrial smokestacks so that poisonous fluoride won't be released into the atmosphere. Combined with hydrogen, which will eat the glass on windshields on our cars.

Because of its ability to break down organic tissue with violence, fluoride is known in the scientific community as the devil's element. It's the most reactive and corrosive element known in nature, and cannot exist alone. It reacts particularly with calcium, the building blocks of our bones and

teeth, and destroys it with bohements (phonetic). The seeming hardness obtained is only a brittleness induced as part of the pathology and destruction of the calcium in teeth and bones, achieving the very opposite of what is intended or claimed to do for the teeth.

Considering the mountains of scientific evidence -- I have one paragraph left, that's it. Considering the mountains of scientific evidence condemning the practice of water fluoridation by the world's greatest scientific minds, by the many nations and communities worldwide who have rejected this poison to be added to public supplies, we should regard this proposed health measure instead as a public health menace instituted with criminal intentions. Let us not make the mistake of endangering the health and genetic heritage of the people of Molokai.

I've got one sentence left. May we endeavor to preserve those things that are health and longevity. Clean, pure water is one of those necessities. Please decide to reject this fluoridation program and not allow the interests of huge corporations to bully us and let loose the devil's element into our public water supply.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much, sir, thank you.

MR. JADE BRUHJELL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAKITANI: The next person is George Peabody. Next will be followed by Mr. John Geng, and Roland Salmon.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY: Aloha, everyone. And we want to welcome -- I'm glad to see all the militia of Molokai, the whole body of Molokai residents welcoming the Board of Water Supply to hear our concerns. Thank you for coming.

I want to tell you right off the front here that the reason I'm so concerned is because of two reasons: Number one, there's the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on the people of Hawaii being done to us right now by the Department of Health, and they have admitted it in their own words in their own report here. They state the general consensus of their group has been that we should quietly execute the activities supported by this grant which focuses on the development of major stepping stones through the promotion of serious

evaluation of strategies.

Many stakeholders are involved with the activities supported by the grant. However, it is by design that we choose to remain low key. Our caution is based upon concern over agitating Hawaii's vocal minority of antifuoridation activists, which in our political environment could actually put an end to this activity, and I say it's time to put an end to this fraud.

The other great concern I have is that the nature of the fraud is like committing murder. When you put a deadly industrial toxin into our drinking water, little by little you are guilty of systematically murdering, causing severe injury, even birth defects to the people of Molokai. God gave us optimally fluoridated water already. Don't try to fix it. All the scientific evidence that we have proves that fluoridated water does not solve the dental tooth rot problem.

I have a videotape here of experts in the field from the United States, from New Zealand, from Canada detailing -- these are experts in the field of fluoridation and dentistry that I am going to give you for evidence for you to review later. Please do so.

And it will further emphasize not just the militia of Molokai people telling you our concerns that we don't want to be poisoned. These are the experts telling you that they have learned scientifically already that it is a detrimental contaminant that you want to put in the water. Not that you want to put in the water, but that they want to put in the water. Ironically, our Department of Health.

The other document that I've given you is a book called, "Water, The Shocking Truth That Can Save Your Life." This was donated to us by Patricia Bragg, a long-time health practitioner, and I think you'll find it very interesting. I've given one to each of you. Please read it, I think you'll find it very interesting. All we ask, ladies and gentlemen, is that you don't poison us. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, Mr. Peabody. Mr. John Geng, you're next, followed by Roland Salmon.

MR. JOHN GENG: Hello, I'm glad you came. My name is John Geng, I'm a resident of Molokai for twelve years now. In ancient Roman times their engineers developed a system to supply water to the living quarters. Unfortunately, they used

lead pipes, and many people died or got sick from lead poisoning. Today we know about the effects of lead, and we admit that they acted foolishly. Will history mock us some day for using fluoride in our drinking water? Actually, fluoride is more toxic than lead, and slightly less toxic than arsenic. The pro-fluoride argument is that the fluoride level will be so low it is rendered harmless.

Years ago I witnessed the fluoride process at the Pearl Harbor navy base. A large container of fluoride clearly marked as a hazardous material was transported to the water tunnel, taken down the shaft to the water level, and simply dumped into the water. Now suddenly this toxic material is no longer toxic and will find its way to our teeth. Think about this. It's so magical it goes straight to our teeth, but nothing else is affected.

There are many well respected members of the science and medical fields that have spoken out against the use of fluoride. One of them is Dr. Flannigan of the American Medical Association. He was the Assistant Director of Environmental Health. Quote, "The AMA is not prepared to state that no harm will be done to any person by water fluoridation." Another is Dr. Marcus, senior toxicologist of the EPA, "The EPA should act immediately to protect the public, not just on the cancer data, but on the evidence of bone fractures, arthritis, and other effects."

It is apparent that the government will some day have to concede from the sponsorship of the biggest fraud ever committed on the public. Why should the government be tampering with our water? What is next, will they attempt to bleed a cure-all gas into the atmosphere? You pro-fluoride people are determined to shove this stuff down our throat. This is not an epidemic. The tooth decay problem is preventable, and you should concern yourselves with the causes, not the effects.

In closing, I have a challenge to the pro-fluoride people. One, produce proof of a long-term scientific study on fluoridation of public water. Two, show demonstration of the food and drug administration's blessing of this product, fluoride. And three, give your personal guarantee that no harm will come to any individual using fluoride. And in closing, if anyone is interested, I have a letter, a signed letter, a copy of a letter from a member of the AMA that says that they cannot guarantee that no harm will come to any person using water

fluoridation. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much, thank you

(Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Roland Salmon, followed by  
Mr. Bruce Anderson.

MR. ROLAND SALMON: I can only add to what was said here before. I'm personally today against fluoridation, it's a poison, we know about it. Also, it's an infringement on our freedom. We should have a choice. In Molokai we are very fortunate to have sweet water, everybody knows that. And if we put chemicals in it we are going to get more of the same of what we have already, that is Alzheimer's disease, cancer, sugar problem, and so on. There are more birth defects per capita on West Molokai and Lanai than anyplace else in the 52 states. That's very sad.

So please don't let fluoride happen. Just keep our sweet water. If a farmer lets his pig drink the water, his pigs will not produce offsprings. To me, that's a crime right there. They need that money. As you know, we're suffering already. So please, don't let fluoride come in, it's a poison. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Mr. Bruce Anderson, followed by Harold Edwards.

DR. BRUCE ANDERSON: Good evening, Chair Tagorda, members of the committee. I have some written testimony and I won't read that. I just wanted to say a few things in support of the Molokai Dental Health Coalition which is, as I understand it, supporting this effort, and we have committed that if the community wants fluoridation, we will support that.

Molokai does have a serious dental health problem, despite what you're hearing. We have twice the rate of tooth decay in Hawaii that they have across the rest of the country, and Molokai has one of the worst rates in all of Hawaii. There is a serious problem here on Molokai, and I applaud the physicians and others here on the island who are supporting

fluoridation as a way to deal with that issue. It's not a panacea to the problems; good hygiene and other things are important. But there's no single thing that you can do on this island that would be more effective than adding fluoride to the water system.

Fluoride isn't poison. I can go on and tell you what it isn't. Fluoride is a trace mineral that's found in the water you're drinking right now here on Molokai. And what we're talking about when we talk about fluoridating water supplies is adjusting the level of this trace mineral to a level that provides optimum benefits without causing any harm. It's been studied for 50 years in tens of thousands of communities across the country. It is supported by the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control. Even the EPA has reviewed the information and found no adverse health affects associated with the levels of fluoride that we expect to find in water.

You have a great experience here on Molokai already. You have taken some leadership on this island, and I applaud that. In Kolo town, where the water system was fluoridated back from 1961 to about 1972, the rates of dental tooth decay dropped 60 percent here on this island. This is a study we site across the state. When they stopped fluoridating when Del Monte went out of business, the rates increased 95 percent. This is the same community. It works. It will make a huge difference in the dental health of the community.

What I pledge to you is if you decide to go ahead with this proposal -- and I strongly support this proposal, I have no reservations about it, nor does any other health professional that I know -- if you go ahead with this proposal we will reimburse the Maui Water Department and other private water providers for the cost of installation of the systems and any other infrastructure cost, and work with them on this. But I want to make sure that you understand it's your choice. We support it.

We will answer information that you might need. You do have a lot of information before you, and I don't want to bury you with that. I think there is an information packet that I would encourage you to read at your leisure. But thank you for the opportunity to testify, I appreciate it. And we have people here tonight who can answer questions. I'm not going to have them come up and testify, I think you will more appropriately hear from the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you. Mr. Harold Edwards, followed by Olga Waterhouse. Please state your name for the record.

MR. HAROLD EDWARDS: Good evening Chair, members of the Board of Water Supply. Welcome to Molokai. My name is Harold Edwards, I'm vice-president for Molokai Ranch. Molokai Ranch is the operator of three community water systems on Molokai, and supports the efforts of the Molokai Dental Health Coalition to bring fluoride to Molokai's children through its addition to various drinking water systems on Molokai. We look forward to working with the Department of Health to see this important health issue addressed.

While the current health department preliminary engineering report seems to have inadvertently overlooked the community of Kualapu'u, we would hope to work with the Department of Health to make sure that as much of Molokai's population could be included as possible. We urge your support for this important program and look forward to doing our part to bring this important community need to the people of Molokai. In short, you're the big dog in this area. If you guys go with it, I think we can follow. But we wouldn't be able to do it without you folks making the decision to go forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Olga Waterhouse, followed by Dr. Gerald Anderson. Mrs. Olga Waterhouse. George Peabody, are you going to speak for her?

MR. GEORGE PEABODY: Good evening. Olga Waterhouse from Honolulu asked me to read part of her testimony for her. She says that she has some physical ailments that I won't go into detail, several pages of it, and that fluoridation of water would exacerbate her diseases. And she says that once you put the fluoride in the water it gets into the body and you can't take it out. If the state later finds that it was a mistake, the people have already got it, and will never be able to have clear water again. An expert she cited named A.Z Blasie said that, "The salinity of fluoridating entire water supplies is a mass medication maneuver when only half or one percent is imbibed. You don't drink all the water, most of it

goes for flushing toilets and washing dishes and cars, because a wide variation of water is consumed daily by different individuals. Such a procedure instigated by one of our federal agencies is totally unAmerican."

Dr. George A. Slineman of Oral Hygiene Magazine said, "Suppose this diluted rat poison gradually ruins my kidneys and thus sends me to my grave. Will it be any comfort to me if my dental association says, 'He died with perfect teeth'? As an American, I crave to neither be treated as a guinea pig or a rat."

Dr. Edwin G. Langrock said, "I do not wish the government to tell me what I should eat or drink. If the person next door wishes to have her children have chlorine, let her put the chlorine in their water, but don't make me drink it because she wishes her children to have it."

Dr. L.A. Ellison's message, this one is the one that goes right to my heart as a Libertarian, "The real issue is the right of the individual to determine what shall be done to and with his body dead or alive, as long as the exercise of that right does not impinge upon the equal right of his fellows."

Put don't fluoride in the water; don't mass medicate us. There are many, many options. Go to your dentist and get all the fluoride you want.

The other thing she and I talked about was we tried to reach with Dr. Anderson and his staff to have an open public debate, and they always avoid us. So I'm making that challenge right here and now, debate us or back off.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, sir. Come forward, sir. Followed by Nancy Wescott.

DR. GERALD ANDERSON: Gentlemen, welcome to Molokai and being engulfed with quite a bit of medical quackery tonight. Most of you who know me know me as the owner of the Dispatch, the major paper on island. What I just passed out to you was an editorial that I wrote rather reluctantly, but I got sick and tired of all the lies and the misinformation being passed out by the anti-fluoride activists. Now you can read what I say in the editorial there.

But I'd like to point out to you a couple of things. I was introduced as doctor. The reason I'm introduced as doctor, I have a Ph.D. I spent ten years in the academic environment, plus more than 20 years in the engineering field.

I'm very familiar with the peer review process, and I'm sure most of you know what this is. When you do studies to get them published in a legitimate major publication, you go through the peer review process. As far as I know, the peer review journals haven't come up with any of this stuff you've heard about fluoride causing cancer, fluoride causing brittle bones, fluoride staying in your system. It just is not there.

You can always find an expert that will say anything you want. A lot of experts have PhD's, so-called experts have PhD's. But you know you can always find someone to say something. These so-called experts, I just wonder, I'm willing to bet they haven't published anything on the subject in peer review journals. And that's really what you've got to go by, what do the experts say in the peer review journals, not what some wackos with PhD's by their names happen to say.

So I urge you to just consider the 50 years and many, many communities throughout the United States that have fluoridation. It's successful, it reduces tooth decay, there's no correlation with major problems. One of the anti-fluoride people said, "Prove to me that fluoride will never hurt any individual." You can't prove that. You could never prove that. You know that bottle of soda right there, no one can prove that that will not cause cancer in an individual. You can't prove a negative. So with that, I just ask you to support the fluoridation effort, and please ignore the medical quackery that you are going to hear tonight. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Nancy Wescott, followed by Claire Iveson.

MS. NANCY WESCOTT: Good evening. My name is Nancy Wescott. I have been a dental hygienist on Molokai for more than 25 years, and see our serious tooth decay problems every day. Adjusting the fluoride level in our water supply is a very good opportunity for us and would help every child and adult in this community to have better teeth. I would like to see it available to my children and grandchildren and to everyone. Naturally fluoridated water has existed since before man walked the earth. Adjusting water fluoridation has been done for over 50 years in the United States. We know that at one part per million it makes tooth enamel less likely to decay, and it helps stop decay activity. That's all it does.

It has been exhaustively tested for medical side effects. It has been proven thousands of times to be safe and

thousands of times to reduce decay. Most of the cities on the mainland with populations of over one hundred thousand are now fluoridated, including this list of 40 of the largest cities in the United States. They're all fluoridated. It is sad that Honolulu is not one of them. Many major medical research facilities, including the Mayo Clinic, Stanford University Hospital and Harvard Medical Center are in fluoridated communities. Millions of Americans are drinking and using fluoridated water every day with no ill effects except better teeth. I hope that the people of Molokai too can have access to the best advances in dental health care. I hope that you will agree to implement this program. It is a wonderful opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. (Applause).  
Claire Iveson, followed by Ruth Yap.

MS. CLAIRE IVESON: I'm going to read my testimony. My name is Iveson, I live at 15 Kawela Way, and have been a resident of Molokai for 23 years. For most of that time I have been director of the Molokai Family Support Center, which has brought me into contact with numerous toddlers, children, and adults with serious dental problems. I do not know which of these problems would have been avoided if Molokai had fluoridated drinking water. However, I will use myself as an example of the likely effects of fluoridation.

I spent my childhood in New York City and Pasadena California, neither of which were fluoridated. I had dental exams and cleaning twice a year, brushed my teeth regularly, and still had many cavities in first my baby teeth and then my adult teeth. After moving to Washington, D.C., and later to San Francisco, both of which were fluoridated, I developed very few new cavities except those that were next to old fillings.

Truthfully, I also haven't had many cavities in all my years on Molokai. However, I now have six crowns on teeth that cracked or crumbled from the multiple fillings, most of which were put in over 40 years ago when I was a child living in non-fluoridated areas. I personally believe that fluoridated water would have reduced these childhood cavities. Obviously, I cannot prove that. Also, in the 16 adult years that I lived with fluoridation I consistently drank large quantities of water without any detectable side effects.

From my point of view, fluoridation on Molokai makes

sense. There will be significant advantages for children, I believe, and I do not believe there there will be disadvantages for the adults. Thank you very much. I would also like to say though that usually I'm on the other side of the table. Most issues I'm one of those activists that some people complain about. This I had an opinion before it became such a hot issue. But I still feel, based on all of that, that fluoridation would be advantageous for Molokai. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Next testifier is Ruth Yap, followed by Jim Callahan.

MS. RUTH YAP: Good evening. My name is Ruth Yap, I have been a resident of Molokai since June 1965 and a resident of Hawaii since I was born. I'd like to tell you that I was a Public Health Nurse here for all those many years that I lived on Molokai, and in 1975 we went through the throws of getting sufficient dental care for the residents of Molokai. We were successful in doing that, but we find now that the number of cavities have increased despite the fact that we have adequate dental care. And if the children's teeth and even the adults' teeth were strengthened by the use of fluorides in their daily lives, especially through drinking water, that it would be better for them, so they will not have the residual cavities that they now have. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Jim Callahan, followed by Steve Chaikin.

MR. JAMES CALLAHAN: Hi. Thanks, Board of Water Supply, for letting me speak. I'm Jim Callahan, I have been on Molokai since 1976. I've worked as a Public Health Nurse here for 18 and half years with Mrs. Yap. I'd like to read my testimony.

Please accept this testimony in favor of fluoridation of the Molokai water systems. Although I will not benefit from this public health measure at my home, I work full time in Kaunakakai, where I will drink fluoridated water, and I am very glad about that. If I may explain. I came to Molokai 25 years ago as a young registered nurse, and one of my first jobs at the Health Department was to talk to the mothers and children about their well-child clinics and how they took care

of their children and their dental care. And I always talk to them about if they were getting the fluoride tablets that the doctor would prescribe them and the drug store would provide them. And I also talked to them about sugar liquids in the bottle and brushing the teeth or wiping the teeth. But to tell you the truth, I still had the impression that a lot of those children went on to get a lot of cavities.

A lot of kids that came to me through the clinic back in the late seventies and through the eighties had teeth that were only like half there, or they were black and they were just like missing. You know, it was pretty bad. So I really think that the teeth on the children here need improving, and if the teeth are especially soft that's no good. They will quickly decay, causing pain, expense, and even malnutrition. I say that we should implement fluoridation to give our keiki here a chance to have some nice hard teeth, resisting decay against a modern diet. It's often high in sugary foods, yeah, let's face it. I believe fluoridation is safe and effective.

Also, I personally suffer from severe dental decay, and it is my most serious health problem. I've tried using high fluoride toothpaste and going to the dentist, as well as a lot of our measures to control this, but it's not working very well. And I wonder if my teeth would be harder and better if I would have had fluoride when I was younger. And I can relate to people with a lot of dental problems, and believe me, it's no fun. That's my testimony in support of fluoridation.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, thank you very much. Steve Chaikin, followed by Leimana Naki. Please forgive me if I mispronounce your name, sir.

MR. STEVE CHAIKIN: Hello. My name is Steve Chaikin, and I'd like to thank you for coming to Molokai and hearing our concerns, and especially for allowing me the opportunity to express my views and the reasons why I oppose putting sodium fluoride in the water system.

As you are probably aware, there's a mountain of evidence on both sides clearly showing why each side is correct. For me, I have to back off and just use my gut feeling, my common sense, take a look at the benefits, the potential risks and the alternatives that are available.

You know, in this country we have a big problem, and

it's not cavities, it's cancer. Over 550,000 people this year will die in this country alone. That's over one person every minute. In this room one in four of us will get diagnosed with cancer during our lifetime, and one in three in this room are going to die from cancer. And if you ask these people why they're dying they'll tell you they don't know. If you ask the doctors they'll tell you they don't know how they got cancer. We spend 1.6 billion dollars year after year, and we still don't know.

I was reading through the literature, and I read the material safety data sheet for sodium fluoride, and it said, "This product contains a detectable amount of a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer." For me, that's enough. I don't need to have all these fancy studies, and I don't know if the risk is high or the risk is low. All I know is there is a risk, another straw on the camel's back. We have to be so careful about what we eat and what we drink and the chemicals that we come in contact with, because it's killing us.

What we do know is many native populations around the world never got cancer. It's something that we're doing that's causing this to happen. I could understand taking this measure if there was a majority of the population that was suffering from some kind of a medical condition that was life-threatening, but that's not the case. We're talking about cavities to a relatively small portion of the population.

My son is eight years old. We gave him fluoride drops when he was little, and he brushes his teeth one time a day -- he says two -- and he drinks a modest amount of sweet stuff, and he has no cavities. So I think there's hope that we can, through just improving the dental hygiene and the eating habits of our children, that we can improve the problem without putting sodium fluoride in the water.

And I think it's inappropriate for us to put sodium fluoride, because it gives them a sense of false security. And the kids, they think well, we've got sodium fluoride, we can take a little bit more sugar and brush our teeth a little less often.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Time is up, sir.

MR. STEVE CHAIKIN: Okay. Well, I just hope this Board, you know, continues to offer us the very purest and cleanest water that you possibly can, free of chemicals,

especially chemicals that are labeled as toxic by the manufacturer. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you. Leimana Naki.

MS. LEIMANA NAKI: Aloha, thank you for coming. My question was like --

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: State your name for the record.

MS. LEIMANA NAKI: Leimana Naki. Leimana Naki. If I went to your house or to your home and I was offered water, or offered a soda or a beverage, and then there was nothing to offer but water, and if there was fluoride in it I would drink it because I'm thirsty. But the same for you, if you drink my water when you come to my home where there's no fluoride. There's no choice. Do you have a choice? Yes, I can get up and say yes, I'm very thirsty but I don't want to drink that water. I see people making a decision and making choices here.

Secondly, if you add fluoride to the water what will be the next additive or the next solution? Where does it say stop? Where does it stop? You are going to start this, then bring in another thing and you bring another thing? Where is it going to stop with all the things that you want to put in the water?

I have a question for Mr. Anderson. He said that when the pineapple was here and the water thing, that the dental thing was very great at that time. I'd like to see that report, I'd like to read that report, you know. And if that was the situation, that it was better before, then what is the pilikia today, what's the problem, you know?

And last but not least and overall, if you have fluoride in the water will it seep into our aquifer? Will it damage our opai, our limu, our fishes? Will it seep from the aquifer into our ocean? If you say, both sides say the affect on men. Will it have any affect on our coastline or what we eat? I'm not a doctor here but I'm a practitioner, yeah, and if you conceded to come to the Hawaiian community, this is a community, we have got the Kamakaole people. Have you taken this and talked to the Hawaiian people, those that have been here before you came? Have you ever considered that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Mr. DeGray Vanderbilt, followed by Judy Lokelani Caparida.

MR. DEGRAY VANDERBILT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board of Water Supply. I want to apologize to Howard. Will you accept my apology Howard, please? Thank you. And I apologize to the board and to the audience. But Molokai is a little different than Maui, and when the State Water Board was here there was signs all over the place. This place was packed. The Water Board wasn't intimidated; the public wasn't intimidated. No matter which side you were on, it was just the public expressing themselves. And I think that's what discouraged the public from getting involved in government, because government is no fun any more, it's sterile. We like to have fun on Molokai. I'm sorry, Howard, really I am. I am not just saying that, you know.

But anyway, I was going to speak on the fluoride issue, but one of the nurses at the hospital grabbed me and said, "You'd better not say anything." And she's pretty tough. So I'm not going to say anything except welcome to Molokai and listen to the people. Aloha. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much, Mr. Vanderbilt. Judy Lokelani Caparida, followed by Cappy Caparida.

MS. JUDY CAPARIDA: Aloha. My name is Judy Lokelani Caparida, and I'm here on behalf of 2000 and more of the people that I got these signatures. (Applause).

You know, it's really, really disgusting how blessed we are on Molokai, we are so blessed. If there is something wrong it comes from the home, mothers, dads, take care of the children. It's not something to come to the legislature and talk about, it comes from your home. And I know this man over here, he get pretty nerve to say down in Honolulu they say, you know what, just put it in the water. If you went listen to me last year then you wouldn't be fighting over here this year.

Let me tell you something. There is a right that everybody has, the right that we are not forced to take anything that we don't want to. We pay for clean water. I didn't pay for put fluoride in the water. Look at me, I am not

an enamel. The fluoride is for the teeth. I am not made of enamel. I have blood, flesh, just like all of you. There is a purpose God created us for, for one thing, to be healthy so we can praise him, not make us sick.

One thing I need to share with you folks. Molokai has one pharmacy, Molokai have four or five dentists, we have nurses and doctors. They're supposed to advocate for the best thing of our life. They are the doctors, they're supposed to be helping us not giving us advice to take something that they're not sure of. They're not sure of this. I could tell you something, I used to brush my -- I have teeth that -- you know what, it won't help because I got them store made, okay. The thing is that I used to brush my tongue with Crest and I used to get a lot of sores in my mouth. You know when this thing came out I didn't know what was the cure for me. I stopped taking that fluoride Crest and it's never come back again.

Who knows my health? Who knows your health? Who knows? Not these guys. A lot of times they give you wrong medicine. A lot of times I went to trauma with my own family because they was given wrong medicine. Can I trust them? No way. Not today. Today you conk your head and they put on all the bells, just like Hitler. That's how Hitler killed the millions of Jews, millions of people, was from fluoride, because you can't smell it, you can't taste it. Well, we ain't one of those people, we are very, very unique people because we live on Molokai.

I'm here because I walked the streets to pick up all those signatures, because that's what you call caring and loving. That you know once you put something in there that was never there from the beginning? Why should we, why should you folks tell me that? Tell me.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Time is up, sorry.

MR. CAPPY CAPARIDA: I think my wife can do more talking for me, and I'll give my two minutes to my wife.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: That will be fine, thank you. Go ahead, ma'am.

MS. CAPARIDA: My husband know what I'm talking

about because I'm really thankful that he bears it with me. Going out, not getting paid, not getting paid one penny but because you love, love is free. 11 million dollars is coming into the Department of Health. They no more enough problems with Molokai High School. The high school needs the help there. There is not enough help there. Give the teachers the money, not give it for this. This we ain't going to fight, roll over, play dead. No way, not my drinking water, not your drinking water. They can bottle it, they can get somebody to do it, bottle it and go drink it, but not us.

In closing, I have my -- Sis, please bring my thing up here. You see, it's not because we don't like fluoride. My children brush their teeth. Before when my children was little they said put it all on the toothpaste. Now they say just a little pea. That's what they say, just a little pea because the thing is no good. My granddaughter said, "I went to the dentist, the dentist said for me don't swallow, but why is the dentist telling me now I can drink 'em through the water?" You think the kid is stupid?

There are ten of us right here, there's fluoride pills, there's toothpaste, there's liquid form. You can go to your dentist and have it fixed. I mean that's the way it goes, and you can bottle it if you want. But this is what is so easy to do. You can sign up, you can sign up all you like, but can you really guarantee? Really, can you guarantee? Can you guarantee that fluoridation of water will not -- will be absolutely safe for everyone? For everyone? No more.

My daughter lives in Santa Barbara. She has a baby she was feeding breast. After the baby got out of breast she gave her water. And then she wondered how come she boiled the water and the bottom of her kettle has crystals. She threw 'em away again because she did not understand anything about fluoride. She fill 'em up and boil 'em up again. Crystals. She called up her husband's working place. She said, "Something is wrong with our water." And the baby started having asthma. But thank you, Jesus, you know what happened? They put that water, now big bottles of water for cooking and for drinking.

Are we going to do that? Should we do that when we get our water free, I mean pure water? No way. And anyway, will they say it's absolutely safe for everyone? No. I mean pure water? No way. And anyway, if they say it's absolutely safe for everyone? No. Nobody, no doctor, no dentist, no city

council, no agency, no committee, no government will risk being responsible for any tragic effects. So you know what DOH? Do me a favor and give the money to the teachers, they need 'em. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Thank you.  
Dr. Dana Takashima, follow by Shelsea Van Ornum.

DR. DANA TAKASHIMA: Good evening. It's hard to follow her, but I'm going to try. My name is Dana Takashima, and I'm a dentist that lives here and practices here. I'm here to strongly support this fluoridation program to help the dental health of this community. And I have been here 25 years practicing, okay. I'm the person that sees all this dental decay and what it can do to peoples' teeth. If you could see a person swelling up so badly from a dental abscess where his eyes shut, or a five year old kid crying because all of his teeth is all decayed, and crying with pain, you will know how serious dental decay is.

To me, it seems like an endless battle to help people with this kind of problem. And I see prevention as the key to this, and fluoridation will be a tremendous asset to reduce dental decay. I often ask myself why Hawaii doesn't have fluoridation when most of the states in the United States do, and this is why we have the highest rate of dental decay in the nation. And I often ask why aren't we doing anything, okay. Now, in my 25 years here this is the first time the fluoridation issue has come up, and I see this as a golden opportunity to help Molokai's dental health.

Now, I came here in 1976 because there was a dental care crisis. There was one office treating the whole island of Molokai. Now we are fortunate to have four offices with three full-time dentists and one part-time. I've seen a whole generation of kids in my 25 years here, and now these kids are bringing their kids to see me. And even though the dental care is good now, there's still a big dental decay problem, okay. Now, I can't work forever, and in another ten years I'm going to start thinking of retiring. And we don't know what the dental situation is going to be here. Like right now we're fortunate to have this many dentists treating the island population, but ten years from now who knows how many dentists will be here.

So doesn't it make sense to start a project like

fluoridation now so that ten years from now in the future the benefits of the reduced dental decay will be present so we don't have to have another dental crisis in Molokai any more? Okay, now I have been here 25 years. I think most people know who I am and can trust my judgment. So all I can say, my professional opinion, fluoridation is safe and effective, and will help this community tremendously in the future.  
(Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, Doctor, thank you.  
Sandra Grenardo, followed by Shelsea Van Ornum. Forgive me if I mispronounce your last name, Van Ornum.

MS. SHELSEA VAN ORNUM: I'm Shelsea Van Ornum and I'm just a resident here on Molokai, and I am going to speak about something that hasn't been spoken yet. The Molokai Dental Health Coalition informs us that fluoride is only natural because it comes from the earth's soil. Now, I don't know how many dentists or even citizens understand this one particular fact that I'm going to bring out. This mineral fluoride is found in the soil. It is food for the plant but not for man. Because our body uses organic minerals, the inorganic minerals, such as fluoride, that's one of the many minerals that we know of, is of no use to the human body.

The only way our body can benefit from this mineral is when a plant changes it by means of photosynthesis into an organic matter, and we eat the plant in its wholesome state, unaltered, unrefined, unprocessed.

The soil material fluoride is not food for man, but food for plants. We are not soil eaters, we are plant eaters and fruit eaters. The human organism can only use organic minerals. Fluoride as well as any inorganic minerals do not work in isolation, okay, they must be consumed in their natural unfragmented and organic state to be of any use to the body. The best mineral supplements are those naturally occurring in mineral rich food in their unprocessed state, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, sprouts and so forth.

If the body do not rid itself of this inorganic fluoride in the water it will deposit within the body's tissue. Because of their heavy weight they're difficult to eliminate and may cause discomfort as they leave the body. All inorganic mineral deposits lead to kidney and gallstone formation, hardening of the arteries, arthritis, heart trouble,

ossification of the brain, and other serious disease. The body's cells can use only pure water. They reject all inorganic materials consumed.

Sea water is our richest mineral water, yet it is poisonous. One, we should be concerned only with those minerals that are directly usable by the human organism and that are vital to the healthy functioning of the body. Two, there is a difference in the inorganic form of the mineral, as it occurs in the soil inorganic.

So let me just read one more thing. I think you got the message. Our body can only use organic. If I can just have a few seconds on tooth decay that hasn't been brought up. Tooth decay does not occur because the calcium and phosphorous minerals are not in balance, okay. Nutritionists found that tooth decay happens when the body is acidoses, when the calcium level is low, okay. People that eat healthy diets do not get cavities.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. We will have a five minute recess. We will reconvene at 7:05.

(Whereupon a brief recess was had).

(Some oral testimony not recorded on audio tape).

MS. JANICE KALANIHUIA: I'm here tonight as a private citizen, though. I wanted to go right home after work badly, but I feel strongly enough about this issue that I decided to stay in town and testify. I didn't start researching this issue in the last six months, I researched it 20 years ago when I was pregnant and someone handed me fluoride and said, "Take this, your kid's teeth will be fabulous." I was totally convinced then, as I am now, that it is very safe and effective. It is a very safe and effective method of preventing tooth decay. So I am strongly supporting the initiative to adjust the level of fluoride in our water.

I would also like you to take note of who the most vocal members of the Molokai Dental Coalition are, they are doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists and dental hygienists, all of whom have spent their entire careers on Molokai caring for this population. They are very smart people, they are not easily fooled. They have no reason to support this other than

a sincere desire to keep this community healthy. Thank you.  
(Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. The next  
testifier is Moaga Manu, followed by JoAnn Johansen.

MS. MOAGA MANU: Good evening. Well, I think it's  
the main issue on this problem over here is the water, not the  
dentists, not the teeth. You know, we're talking about the  
water for drinking to the stomach, not the teeth. For what is  
the sense you save your teeth and then the stomach is huli  
upside down? It no make sense.

Talking about the teeth. I used to go dentist  
before, way before the dentist over here, they stay over here  
by the drug store. I went before, two or three times I went to  
him. He told me, "I can save your tooth." I say, "No." So  
the first time he fill 'em up with the thing. If the fluorides  
was good they fix my teeth with put fluorides inside, put the  
cap. And he tell me, "Rinse your mouth, don't swallow, throw  
'em out." They know the truth, the goddamn thing is poison.  
That's why they tell you don't swallow, spit 'em out. And they  
hide all the truth.

You know why they hide the truth? Because money.  
Money is evil. The Bible say money is the root of evil  
things. That's why they go for, money. They no care about  
you. You sick, you sick. Give the fluoride in the water,  
going make you sick and they happy. They said, "Oh, it's a  
cold, take antibiotic. Go over there. Oh, take a strong  
one." But they bullshit. It's from the fluoride in the  
water. No, that's the reason we talking about.

We not talking about the teeth, we talking about the  
water we drinking inside, inside our health. That's why I not  
talk too much. But I know for sure myself, the nurse and the  
dentist if no more us for fix our teeth, they no more money,  
they no more paycheck. That's all they get. I talked to them  
for months. When they fix our teeth. It's about two times  
they fix. They say, "Come tomorrow again, next week again" and  
got to pay for the teeth.

Some people they no more medical plan. You got to  
pay from your own pocket. That's why they fight like hell for  
the fluoride, but they fight on the wrong way. They fight for  
the teeth, they no fight for the health inside the people. If  
the fluoride was good for people they would long time they say

something is good for the health. Now all of a sudden the teeth, it's good for the teeth. Never improve the teeth too. From now on still get decay in the mouth, in the teeth. Never prove nothing. And they said it will be good. Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you. Jo Ann Johansen, followed by Dr. Dr. Lorrin Pang.

MS. JO ANN JOHANSEN: Good evening, members of the committee. My name is Jo Ann Johansen, and I'm a certified nurse midwife. I first moved to Molokai in 1987. And I was lucky to enough to grow up with fluoridated water, so I had never seen kids with metal teeth before and I was pretty shocked at what I saw here.

I speak in favor of fluoridation from two different points of view. The first point is from my training as a scientist. And Mr. Anderson addressed this already when he talked about medical quackery. I have two masters degrees, one in science and one in public health. Scientists are trained to look critically at information to see if there's good reason to believe it or not. So I was trained to look at studies and claims to see if they were backed up by good science or by junk science.

I've tried to look at as many of the fluoridation studies as I can since this issue has come up. I haven't looked at them all because there are about 4,000. But I see a lot of junk science out there that says that fluoride is bad, and I see a lot of good, solid science that says that fluoride is safe and effective.

Here is an example of junk science. If somebody has a theory that going to the post office causes cancer, they have a right to have that theory, but are you going to stop picking your mail up? I doubt it. You are going to ask what are the qualifications of the person that did this study, how many cases did they look at, and did they consider and control for other causes before deciding that going to the post office causes cancer.

The second point that I speak from is my position as a midwife. I've delivered hundreds of babies on Molokai, and I hate to see them suffer with rotten teeth when that's so easily preventable. I don't see them here to speak up for themselves. The ones who would benefit most from fluoride in

our water don't get to speak up in hearings, and they don't get to fill out surveys. Opponents of fluoridation say that decay can be prevented by proper care and that therefore it's not necessary to fluoridate our water. In a perfect world that would be true, but we don't live in a perfect world. We can stop fluoridating water when we all eat a perfect diet and we take perfect care of our teeth and our children's teeth. Until then, we need fluoride in our water.

Some people in the community here tonight have made fluoridation into a religious issue. It's a public health issue, it's not a religious issue. They say God gave us pure water, we don't need to add anything. Well, we have really good water here, but guess what? We already add things to it. I don't hear anybody saying that we shouldn't put chlorine in our water, because we clearly need it. And when we buy any food or any drinks that come in bottles or cans, if that food came from outside of Hawaii, chances are that already was made with fluoridated water. Even if it's organic, even if it came from outposts, it's probably already got fluoride in it.

People always have a choice about what they eat and drink. Whether our water is fluoridated or not, people always will have a choice. A lot of people here drink bottled water and they drink water from private sources, and that will always be their options. So please fluoridate our water. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Dr. Lorrin Pang.

MS. DEBRA MAPEL: Good evening. Dr. Pang couldn't be here tonight and requested that I read his testimony for him. Dr. Pang is Maui County District Health Officer for the Department of Health.

Gentlemen: This is a letter of endorsement supporting fluoridation of the water system for the prevention of dental carries. There is overwhelming evidence that fluoridation is technically feasible, cost-effective, and has a track record of safety and benefits in the vast majority of US cities. What is needed now is the political will to take this important next step of getting the job done.

With dental treatment so spotty for Hawaii's under-insured and uninsured, we need to try every possible route for the prevention of dental disease. This is especially true for children, who would benefit the most. Understandably,

there will be controversy surrounding any type of program on such a large scale. But the strongest scientific and medical arguments in support of fluoridation are based on extremely large numbers and extensive monitoring of US populations which have used fluoridated water for so long. Certainly the data has confirmed significant benefits, with zero side effects.

Many of the counter arguments are based on extrapolations from higher doses or different forms of fluoride. In medicine this type of extrapolation is very misleading. Anything, even water and oxygen in high enough doses can be harmful, yet in lower doses are not only beneficial but absolutely necessary. I hope you take this bold step in recommending fluoridation for Molokai. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Mahea Davis, followed by Jo Ann Simms.

MS. MAHEA DAVIS: Aloha, Board of Water Supply members. My name is Mahealani Davis. I'm speaking here on my own behalf this evening. I was one of the people whose name was in the paper endorsing fluoride. When I was a child I took -- was forced to take fluoride tablets. My mother made us take them every night until I was a teenager and stopped taking them, and I never had cavities. So that's my experience with fluoride.

I support fluoride, the use of fluoride. I know it has dynamic benefits. However, I'm concerned about the water systems and putting things into the water system. I'm one of the so-called water activists on the island, and over the years have looked at the safety and the setup of systems on the island. I've been concerned about chloride rates in the water system. We have been concerned about techite pipes making parts of the older portions which contains asbestos, which has known health affects. So there's a lot of things that concern me about the water system and water on the island, separate from this issue.

Added to that, it seems like the division in the community, pro or con, rests on a couple of key things. One, does it have to go into the water system. Not the benefits. I don't think many people question whether or not there are benefits, it's does it have to go into the water system. And the second thing related of course is the opportunity to have a choice about it.

So there are a couple of things I see as possibly an alternative or a solution to all of the things that people are bringing up, which are all good points that need to be considered by you folks. There needs to be continual education about good hygiene, because fluoride is not the end-all answer to everything. We mostly agree on that. People seem to be saying they want access to affordable alternatives, whether it's pills or mouth washes or trips to the dentist. There are different ways to get fluoride, but not everyone on this island can afford those alternatives.

So if we don't want it in our water, and some people don't mind, and we want access to alternatives, can we consider -- because there are many water systems on this island. Hal Edwards left already, yeah? He said they operate three water systems. Well, DHHL has a few, and Board of Water Supply has a few, and Kukui has one. It seems like just about everybody has their own water system. So why don't have some fluoridated and some not fluoridated, according to the desires of that specific community that that system services. I think that would be a lot more fair.

Just in closing, I really think that given all the things you need to consider, there are two things that are paramount to me. That choice be preserved on this island, maybe by the way that I've suggested. And second, that the decision you make is based on Molokai's voice. I'm troubled to have heard that a lot of testimony and letters and whatnot have come in to you from people who are not Molokai residents.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you.

MS. MAHEA DAVIS: I'd like to make sure that the community decision is based on what you've heard from Molokai people. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Jo Ann Simms, followed by Ken Bare.

MS. JO ANN SIMMS: I'm here because I don't want to be an apathetic Molokai resident. Born and raised here, I was forced to take fluoride as a child with the permission of my parents, and many other classmates that are here. I have nothing bad to say against fluoride, I think it does work. I

want to, you know, I called Debs and said, "Debs, give me some info, I need facts." I called Judy, "Give me some info, I need facts, because I wasn't here for any hearings" or whatever. And then we developed into it on our own.

In the meantime, I sat at a friend's house just now before I decided to go home and I wrote this. Basically, I have come to a conclusion that water is essential to life and we all have to drink it, that is common knowledge. There is no investigation, no need for specific researches and rationalizing. We all need water to survive. So the only issue here is not fluoridation, but fluoridation distributed through our public water supply. And so in lieu of that issue, I was thinking well, what are suggestions? I know everyone says alternatives and never come through. But if we have a goal and put an objective out there, we can do it.

I have five suggestions, and one is with parental permission administer topical fluoride through the schools. They did that for us. Dental hygiene picks came in. We went home and took tablets. Administer fluoride through the practicing dentists. Administer fluoride through local health fairs, create fluoridation fairs. I don't know, distribute fluoride via vitamin drops, drops for infants and toddlers. And administer by teaching dental hygiene. Create a health curricula involved around dental health issues and educate via preschool and elementary aged children, because that's where our problems are right now. And teach less consumption of refined sugars, like the soda pops we all are used to drinking. Flossing, use easier to handle flosses. Brushing at least twice a day, blah, blah, blah.

My mom is a stroke victim and she has use of one arm. She has to floss because she has some caps in there, and blah, blah, blah. But anyway, she can and is able to use that little plastic floss mechanism. So children can be taught with practice. They will get good at it, especially if it's part of curriculum. And if parents and childcare providers are not astute to dental care or does not make the time to follow up with their children, our hope is to teach our children cause and effect. If we don't care for our teeth and gums as children, when we are older the effects will be no teeth to chew our foods with, or become a proud owner of a gleaming set of dentures. So make it practical for them. Show them. Figure out a reward. I have this because of medical care dental coverage for our families on subsistence living. What

type of encouraging steps could be created in that realm. So personally I do not like the fact --

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Your time is up.

MS. JO ANN SIMMS: Thank you, thank you. But I do not support fluoridation in our water supply. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you. Ken Bare, followed by Emmett Aluli.

MR. KEN BARE: Hi. I'm Ken Bare, a newcomer to this island. And normally I wouldn't be a newcomer and just jump up and say something. You have very many caring and lovely people in this community, and that's one of the reasons I chose to come here. I spend about six months a year here and six months a year in Alaska. I have lived in many other places in the United States too, and many of these cities that have fluoridated water also have water that you can't drink out of the tap water. I'm not saying it's the fluoridation, but I'm saying the people don't really drink the tap water in many of the US cities. Bottled water is one of the biggest growing industries in our country.

My city that I live the other six months of the year in is Sitka, Alaska, and they've just signed a contract for a million dollars a year to the City Council to sell our water, because it's pure and has no additives in it. We were recently to the school bazaar the other day downtown here, and I see soda pop costs 50 cents a can. Bottled water costs a dollar. I don't get it, you know. I mean the kid is going to drink the soda pop. What the heck, it's 50 cents, you know.

I also was downtown, not to rag on this city, I love this city, but I go up to the city supply's water faucet here and one, it's dirty. I turned it on and I wasn't sure I wanted to drink out of it. I was pretty thirsty. I looked down and it came up about this high (indicating), you know. And I'm going, "Hey, I can't even get a drink of water here, you know. I've got to go buy my dollar water."

So I really wonder if a study needs to be done. I'd like to see a study done of how much water kids actually drink out of the tap before we go putting stuff in to help them. You know, I really feel, you know, there's a lot of caring people,

the dentists, the nurses that have talked here. I know they want the best for the kids. But I'm really not certain that even if fluoride is great, that it's going to help.

And I have some other questions that haven't been brought up. One is this is -- there's a lot of farming done in this community. I plan on doing some here myself, and hope to be able to do something good with the small piece of land we have. What's going to be the effect in 20 years, 50 years? We're kind of short-sighted. We look at things as 50 years, that's a long time, but it's a little spec in the history. It's nothing, it's dust. What happens in 50 years, 100 years, 300 years of the fact of putting chemicals that don't belong in our water at that level onto the land that don't dissipate? I don't know. I think there are so many things that are unknown totally.

And the medical quackery idea of all this is my own dentist ten years ago said that "silver fillings are okay, you know, that's a bunch of alarmists, don't worry about it." He's even softened his position, and he's going, "I'm not so sure about this now." And I think the dental association has their own inner workings. They're not solid on this. I don't think every dentist is. So I would say keep Molokai's water pure and clean, and teach our children to eat well and drink well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, Mr. Bare. Emmett Aluli, followed by Walter Ritte.

MR. EMMETT ALULI: Aloha. I'm Emmett Aluli, I've been in primary care as a physician here on Molokai for 25 years. I'm a founding member of the Native Hawaiian health care system and ex-board president for about 12 years. I'm now co-medical executive director of Molokai General Hospital. Besides that, I still am a Native Hawaiian rights activist and environmental activist.

And I want to say that I put my work and almost put my career down on the line, my ass on the line to this community for fluoridation. The reason is healthy and attractive teeth. In my professional opinion, things are getting worse here. Kids no longer open their mouths for physicians because they don't want to show their teeth. There seems to be some sort of personality change with somebody with bad teeth. I haven't been able to figure that out.

But the problem for us here is things are getting worse. I mean it seems as if the poorer you are, the less educated you are, the lower your social economic status, the worse your teeth. That's well known, and it's our professional opinion that this is occurring.

We are in the legislature trying not to get fluoridation passed but to keep the current services going here on Molokai from our hospital in this community. One of the priorities is health and wellness. And when we were part of the initial discussions and in the formation of the Dental Health Coalition, it was something that needed to be done. The education that surrounds us here tonight and always in the different newspapers are most valuable.

I agree with Mahealani Davis, there are water systems that are not under your jurisdiction. There was a wonderful experiment in Mauna Loa about 20 years ago and the health professionals all noticed the difference. If you want to prove to this community that fluoridation works in five to eight years, then allow some of the other water systems to get fluoridated. Thanks. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Walter Ritte, followed by Cynthia Luafalemana.

MR. WALTER RITTE: Aloha, my name is Walter Ritte. And first of all, thank you for coming to Molokai. And to all the professionals, mahalo for inviting them to come over. I don't think any other island is going through this process, so thank you very much.

I'm a product of Dr. Chu. How many of you are a product of Dr. Chu? If you are a product of Dr. Chu you hate cavities. Dr. Chu used to lean over me and lift his whole body off the floor while he was trying to get ahold of my teeth, and he didn't stop until all the smoke was coming out of the cavity, and he would shoot the water. So all of us went through that.

I hate cavities. I brush my teeth because I'm really scared of dentists, so that much I know as a fact. The other thing I know as a fact is that I am a firm supporter of the environment and water. And for me tonight I know very little about fluoride, to tell you the truth. I've heard two sides of the story, so I guess I'm somewhere floating around about who is talking to me last and who is saying what. So the

fluoride is not my issue tonight, my issue is the water, the water, the water, the water. The water is the most precious thing.

So if we're going to do anything with this very precious, precious thing, it had better be the last possible I believe alternative. It had better be very, very critical. And it cannot be something that we all don't agree upon. The water is the most precious thing. That's what our kupuna taught us. So what is the word for precious? It's two waters, so that's how precious, wai wai. I mean we're talking about something that is -- that much I know. So I have to be on the side of this precious thing called water, and we don't have a community that is all telling you to do something.

So I don't think you should do anything unless we all kind of get our act together about what we want to do with this water. And if we cannot do it with the water, then I'm willing to sit down with groups and everything to come up with alternatives, whatever the alternatives are. Thank you very much. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you, Mr. Ritte. Cynthia Luafalemana, followed by Loretta Ritte.

MS. CYNTHIA LUAFALEMANA: Hi. I'm Cynthia Luafalemana, and I have one alternative that we've all done, and that's this: Bottled fluoride, that's it. Everybody buys bottled water, why not just fluoride it. That's it. That's all I need to say. I support both sides. We all have our own opinions. And I've been to these dentists, Dr. Takashima, and they all know my children from babies. But, you know, the solution is right there. We bottle water, we bottle soda, we bottle apple juice, we bottle everything. We can food, we even can the fruit. Just bottle the fluoride, that's it. Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Loretta Ritte, followed by Vanessa Gonzales.

MS. LORETTA RITTE: Aloha. My name is Loretta Ritte, and I come to oppose fluoridation of the water. And I too, like most of the people that have come forth, it's like I go to the dentist and I see them when I need dental assistance,

but I think we need to keep the two separate. I think there are other alternatives in dealing with tooth decay, and we need to keep the water pure. That's my manao, is that we need to keep it pure. There's been so much tampering with our water. I mean I have been to places, like the man from Alaska, where you just don't drink water from that city, and I wouldn't want to see that happen here on Molokai. So I say no fluoridation, find other solutions. Mahalo. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Vanessa Gonzales, followed by Susan Goodhue.

MS. VANESSA GONZALES: Aloha. My name is Vanessa Gonzales, and I've submitted written testimony. I'm just going to read what I wrote. This is my husband Kenneth Gonzales. The letter is from both of us, and it says we are writing to voice our opinion in the matter of fluoridation of Molokai's water supply. As two tax paying citizens of Maui County, let this letter serve as two votes in opposition to fluoridation. Do you want to read?

MR. KENNETH GONZALES: There are currently multiple options for families to provide fluoride for their children without involving the whole water supply system. Maintenance of a pure, pristine water supply continues to be a priority for our community. There are no guarantees from the County or the state that would prevent accidents or toxic levels of fluoride from contaminating our water source. We insist that our voices are heard in your decision on this matter. Despite the best intentions of our government, the people have a right to control decisions made in our community. This letter is being submitted today as testimony.

I just want to add a few quick notes. And again, there are more than one major issue here, one being the effects of the water, which is a major priority clearly of your board. The question of children's dental health is one that I can almost guarantee that everyone in here is concerned about. We want our children to be healthy overall, and we know that the health of teeth and gums is crucial to overall health of the body.

Fluoride is beneficial. I'll tell you the truth, for those who promote fluoride I think we can continue to do a better job of actually showing plain facts, because I think there's been a lot of innuendo, accusations on both sides over

the last couple of weeks in this community that I've been surprised at. Clearly for the matter of choice, we need to make clear that alternatives are available. I've heard today even spoken that I see many children also in the kind of work that I do, and I can tell you that children are very open to letting professionals exam them in this community. I've never had, very rarely had difficulty in examining a child. And I think that they're very often willing to show them their teeth and mouth when you approach it the right way.

I just clearly just quickly want to list that some of the alternatives that have been mentioned here, offering fluoride in schools. For me to get fluoride for my child you have to get a prescription, so I don't know if you can hand it out for free. There must be a reason you need a prescription for it. And then through, you know, local physicians' offices. The vast majority of children on this island are insured and they see their pediatrician regularly. That is a way that they can begin fluoride, particularly the zero to five age group.

And the bottom line is the right to choice. They are more likely to reach a vast majority of young children due to our small population. Maybe they need to fluoridate in a seven million person city, but on this island clearly we could reach the vast majority of zero to five children in a concerted effort to offer fluoride to those children who want it.

And in closing, the CDC, when it comes to immunizations, which are individual things that parents approach, they have to sign before being given their child their immunizations, to show that they're explained both the risks and benefits of that immunization. The federal government has a vaccine adverse reaction reporting system in the event there is an adverse reaction to any immunization. If there's an effect of one of those immunizations, there's a national insurance policy that helps the families. In the event of a toxic overflow or something like that, like when the pool gets closed here, at times the County pools have to be closed because of various this and that. If something like that were to happen, would the county or state guarantee some type of back-up program insurance program for the people affected? That would be interesting.

The bottom line is water purity. It comes out of the mountains. If you really want to give your children fluoride on this island, we have ways to do it. Mahalo. God

bless you all.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Susan Goodhue, followed by Georgina Kuahuia. Please state your name for the record.

MS. SUSAN GOODHUE: Good evening, Commissioners. Aloha and good evening my fellow community members. And also to the Molokai Dental Health Coalition I want to give you a big thank you for passing this survey out to us, because it really made me start putting my thoughts into a more concise manner. And actually, I think it's making me still go through my thoughts on this. And so I decided I'd make a copy of it and I'd just read what I said on this. And it has really made me do some more thinking. And even after I filled this out and I put, "Did you receive enough information on fluoridation," and I wrote "Yes," and now the more I think about it the more I think my answer should have been no. But I want the information to come from my own independent research at this point.

And this is what I wrote. I put the only thing or things done to the public water supply should be merely in the interest of making it pure and clean. The public water supply is not a medical or anything else delivery system. Those that want fluoride in their -- just a minute, I've got to put on my glasses, I'm not used to wearing them all the time. Okay. Those that want fluoride in their water can purchase bottled water with that additive. Amendment 15 of the constitution of the United States states, Section One states, "The right of citizens of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

An issue of this magnitude which affects every man, woman, child, baby, kupuna, cat, dog, livestock, plants, aina, unless one has a dedicated ag water line, well, stream connection or catchment system should be on the ballot and be decided in a manner most important to a democratic system of government, the vote. The Legislature or any other appointed board should not be deciding an issue of this magnitude for us. This is the United States of America, not Soviet Russia. Anything less than a public vote on a matter of such basic importance as the introduction of a questionable chemical to the public water supply is in my opinion coercion. Each island

has its own water supply and should be able to determine by the vote its own water standards on the issue of fluoridated water.

And I would just like to read a follow-up on this out of the paper here, which was quoted by Debs in something from the American Dental Association booklet called Water Fluoridation.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Excuse me, time is up.

MS. SUSAN GOODHUE: The last sentence here is talking about, "must constantly remind themselves that one way or another the decision to fluoridate will be made by the people either through elected or appointed officials, or at the ballot box." And I favor the ballot box. Thank you.  
(Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much.  
Georgina Kuahuia, followed by Glenn Izawa.

MS. GEORGINA KUAHUIA: I'm Georgina Kuahuia. I always get new names. I'm Georgina Kuahuia, okay. I am here as a parent and as for myself. I'm going to testify about my family, okay. I have six children. We all go to the dentist. Out of my six children, one of them does not brush his teeth. He don't do nothing. So when we go to the dentist we walk in and we have to repeat and go back in and get our cavities filled in.

Now, this one child that does not brush his teeth walks in, walks out, smiles, says, "See you later." So what is it? They go to school, they ask us parents sign this paper if you want your child to get fluoride treatment. Toothpaste, I'm still brushing with toothpaste, still have fluoride, another alternative. My niece says -- she did a great job on that, bottled fluoride just how the bottled mouthwash, spit 'em out, that's what they tell us. So we have a lot of alternatives, we have a lot of studies to do.

But I am opposing fluoride in my water. My water is precious to me. I drink close to two gallons of water a day because I don't drink soda and I don't like to drink juice. And that's for me, that's for my health is clean water. So I don't want any other additives added to it. So I stand against fluoridation in my water because my water is precious to me.

Thank you. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Glenn Izawa.

MR. GLENN IZAWA: My name is Glenn Izawa and I'm representing the Molokai Health Foundation. Other members of the foundation might have spoken already to you. I submitted my written testimony awhile ago, and I need to call your attention to one thing. I spelled fluoridation wrong. Usually it's O before U, your, our. Fluoridation is otherwise, it's U before O. But that's a consistent mistake throughout the letter that I sent to you, yeah.

I just wanted to bring up one point of my letter, and that is this. For 30 to 50 years now, 145 million Americans have had the benefit of fluoridated water. It's inconceivable to me that with so many using it and over such a long time that anything could be wrong with it, so to speak. I don't think there's been any government agency that's felt compelled to do anything about the 145 million people drinking fluoridated water. I think that's the proof of the pudding, so to speak. It's been an effective prophylactic against dental decay. I think our water should be fluoridated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much, sir. That concludes the public testimony portion of the agenda. The next agenda is Communication 0051, communication from Debra Mapel of the Molokai Dental Health Coalition regarding fluoridation of the Molokai water system.

MS. DEBRA MAPEL: Okay, good evening Chairman Tagorda and the Maui Water Board members. Welcome to Molokai. I am Deborah Mapel, and for the past few months I've had the privilege to speak before the Board on behalf of the Molokai Dental Health Association. We requested the adjustment of the fluoride deficient concentration in our public water system to the level optimal for dental health. Tonight you got to meet my fellow members of the coalition and our community as we shared with you our views on fluoridation.

The Department of Health offered our island an opportunity to right a wrong and provide a benefit long overdue. It was the coalition's intention to inform the public on fluoridation and ensure this opportunity did not slip away.

So many times Molokai cannot have services because of our size or population. This time the opposite was true. The Department of Health is able to completely fund this initiative with money available for preventative programs.

As the coalition facilitator, I took on several new roles not normally part of my dental hygiene duties. While this is not the first public issue I have been involved with, I have learned much from this experience. Fluoridation is a natural phenomena and has been around for 50 years. Many people have lived in places with fluoridation. Remarkably, even here on Molokai, and were comfortable with the idea. The challenge was to address this broad subject on many different levels with those who were uneasy with the idea. Even condensing the facts for this Board into a timely yet informative presentation was a test. Much time has been spent to research the information just about the dental history and situation today on Molokai, although any of the dental or medical offices will tell you that it's not good. As the saying goes, if you could spend a day in our shoes you would understand why we so adamantly endorse fluoridation.

I was with this committee in January, and it was mentioned that fluoridation is a public health issue and not a water issue. How right you were. Even though fluoride is found in all water, including sea water at 1.3 parts per million, it is the significant dental benefits that we recognize. We have good water and we can make it better.

Presently we also recognize that good dental health is essential to good overall health. Why we are not providing this benefit for everyone, I cannot understand. Is fluoridation necessary for Molokai to improve our health? After 22 years of working on this island, first as a public health hygienist doing the topical fluoride school program, and in the last 21 years in private practice, I can say without any doubt this opportunity to fluoridate our water is not only necessary but the best thing that could happen for everyone.

I just wanted to give you the survey. The Board did request some items from the coalition. I've tried to provide all those items, and we completed the survey. We also have our petition and the endorsement from the professionals on the island. I just wanted to give the result of the survey for the public here tonight, if that's okay.

CHAIRMAN TAKITANI: Thank you very much, .

MS. DEBRA MAPEL: Can I just give them one result?  
I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Yes, go ahead.

MS. DEBRA MAPEL: We did send out a mailout survey  
last week. Maybe can I just give them one result? I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Go ahead.

MS. DEBRA MAPEL: We did send out a mailout survey  
last week, it was totally unanimous. It had a questionnaire  
for the public to fill out and send back. As of today, we  
received 462 responses. Those against, 138; those unsure, 69;  
and those in favor, 255. I have those reports to submit to you  
tonight. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Thank you very much. Well,  
before I adjourn this meeting, I would like to ask my committee  
members if they have some remarks or comments to make.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Would  
you allow someone to add on some more testimony?

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: I believe we've finished  
everything, Mr. Peabody, and that portion of the public  
testimony has been closed.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY: Could you reopen it?

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Let me ask my --

(Brief pause in proceedings).

CHAIRMAN TAGORDA: Well, I would like to ask my  
members if --

(Whereupon the audiotaping was suspended)

*"By Water All Things Find Life"*

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