

East Maui Water Authority Selection Process  
Beneficiary Consultation  
October 28, 2024  
Via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**MEETING NOTES**

I. Opening Remarks:

Julie-Ann Cachola, DHHL Planner and Liaison to Maui beneficiaries, welcomed attendees to the Beneficiary Consultation (BC). Ms. Cachola noted that all the applicants on the Maui Island Waitlist who reside on Maui and Maui Island Lessees, were invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting was to receive beneficiary input on the selection process for when there is a vacancy for the Department's seat to the East Maui Regional Community Board's Water Authority.

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Provide information on the East Maui Irrigation System
- Provide information on the East Maui Regional Community Board's Water Authority
- Collect beneficiary feedback on desired qualifications for a nominee, reporting requirements, preferred notification methods, and the selection process itself

The goal of this consultation is to

- Bring forward a proposed selection process and procedure to the HHC with the feedback of DHHL's beneficiaries

II. Background Information for the Selection Process:

DHHL's Water Consultant and current Representative, Dr. Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, provided background information on

- The East Maui Irrigation System
- The East Maui Regional Community Board's Water Authority

Cherie-Noelle Ka'anana, DHHL's Water Program Specialist, presented on the proposed process and procedures.

III. Discussion:

Ms. Cachola opened the discussion for beneficiary feedback on desired qualifications for a nominee, reporting requirements, preferred notification methods, and the selection process itself. Beneficiaries were encouraged to participate and had the opportunity to submit comments via Zoom's chat function or through email. Comments are summarized below.

- Why are there different terms? *Because the board is brand new – Maui County Charter says when you are nominated to any board or commission you can serve a five-year term and you can do that twice. Because this is a brand new board and all the terms were starting, they didn't want five year terms to all start at once and then at the end of five years, they'd have to start with a*

*brand new board, so they purposefully staggered them. So, some two-year, three-year, four-year, and five-year terms. And then it sort of got assigned as people went through the confirmation process in front of the council who got assigned to long. Because the HHC's representative was the last one named, he got put into a two-year term.*

- Is it the County Council or the mayor that selects a DHHL representative if we are unable to pick one? *The County Council.*
- When is the next I Mana i ka Wai: Kūkulu Kahuwai DHHL Water Law and Leadership Training Series? *Anticipating for Spring 2025. We'll send out emails to homestead association emails as well.*
- This person should know the water, especially coming from East Maui. They should know the water ways, the diversions, the obstacles that you need to get to the water.”
- A lot of our kia`i wai don't go beyond high school. But yet they have the cultural background – the hands-on feet on the ground kind of qualifications.
- Knowing the water. Knowing the diversions. How much water is diverted from the Koolau is important knowledge to have.
- There are a lot of mahi ai from there that are very familiar but they might not have the degree. But they have the experience in other words because they are familiar with the area.
- Degree is important to have, like your experience in that is super important but as far as firsthand experience of those who are from there or familiar with the area or have heard mo`olelo from kupuna. These are important things to carry on so that it can benefit all. And those things aren't really shared – our kupuna they keep a lot of things sacred, they keep within the community because we protect. We are stewards in that area, so we don't expose to many – to outsiders and so forth. But if you can find the right fit of a person who is akamai of the area willing to serve with all the requirements that you have then that would benefit all
- Check-in once a month would be good unless there's something stirring up in East Maui.
- Once a month to the board.
- Send out the flyers. DHHL website. Social media is great. A lot of our people do social media, but don't know what happened tonight.
- When vacancies become available, social media is great, it can reach very fast.
- How frequent does the HHC meet? *Once a month*
- Does the HHC check the water themselves? *No.*
- Representatives can do more than one term? *Yes – up to two five-year terms*
- Why is this upcoming application window short? *It's a tradeoff- with expiration for enough time for the expiration of the term in March vacancy. Don't know how long the Maui County Council confirmation process will take, so need to allot enough time before the vacancy. Want to have a nominee in place. Need to great to the HHC meetings, because if wait till February, will only give the Council so much time. Have nominee selected in advance to account for any curve balls.*