

# YOUR VOTE HELPS DECIDE MAUI'S WATER FUTURE!

## VOTE YES ON CHARTER AMENDMENT #12 FOR MAUI COUNTY COMMUNITY WATER AUTHORITIES

### WHAT ARE THE MAUI COUNTY COMMUNITY WATER AUTHORITIES?

A new county agency to manage and acquire water collection and delivery systems for the benefit of the people

**Builds water security for Maui County**

Regional advisory boards that incorporate local communities into decision making and watershed management

**Community-based resource management**



### WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

#### **Fills a gap in Maui's water management**

The century-old water systems we depend upon are not being adequately maintained to promote water security - leading to **water waste** and unreliability for our future

**Climate change** is leading to more frequent droughts and uncertain rainfall

Investors are **privatizing water systems** across the world as global water scarcity increases

Unless we take action, a **foreign pension fund** is on track to control East Maui water for an entire generation

### HOW WILL WE BENEFIT?

#### **Water authorities put us in control of our own water future:**

- Use federal grants and low interest loans to invest in aging infrastructure
- Use water delivery revenues for operations, infrastructure maintenance, and watershed restoration
- Harness the expertise of our communities and top professionals to make these systems work for the 21st century
- Provide job opportunities in sustainable resource management for Maui County residents
- Achieve greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in water resource management
- Enhance local food security
- Shift public water resources out of corporate control**

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# MAUI COUNTY COMMUNITY WATER AUTHORITIES

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How can we fund this?

Future prosperity depends on water security. The County must invest in staff with the expertise to make our aging water systems more efficient and adapt them to changing climate conditions. Leaving this task to corporations leaves our water future vulnerable. The Water Authorities would have the ability to obtain significant private, state, and federal funding not available to private, for-profit entities to manage and upgrade the water delivery systems. Water delivery revenues can be used to maintain operations and infrastructure and implement watershed restoration programs.

### Will this disrupt the flow of water to Mahi Pono or Upcountry farmers?

The State Water Commission (CWRM), not the Water Authorities, decides how much water stays in East Maui streams and how much is diverted for County use (Upcountry farmers & domestic users) and Mahi Pono. The Water Authorities have the responsibility to manage the water delivery systems for greater efficiency, which could mean more water was available for all uses as well as for our 'āina.

### How is this any different from the County Water Department or State Water Commission?

The Water Authorities fill a big gap – efficient management and public control of the old plantation water systems we all depend upon, investment in aging, leaky infrastructure to reduce water waste, and adaptation of our water delivery systems for the 21st century and a changing climate – no government department or private entity is currently filling this essential need.

### What are Regional Community Boards?

The charter amendment creates the framework for communities across Maui County to establish regional community boards and regional directors to manage and/or acquire the water delivery systems in their area. This brings the communities who know this 'āina the best into decision-making. The board reviews and approves a long-term watershed management plan and watershed-related programs and priorities, along with other environmental and operational reports.

### Will this raise our taxes? Will this increase our water rates?

The Water Authorities are designed to be self sustaining, with operations funded by water delivery rates. If the largest agricultural users paid the same irrigation water rates found statewide, rates for homeowners and small farmers would remain in current ranges and the authority would still have more than enough funding for staff. System upgrades will be funded primarily by federal grants and low interest loans. Some initial start up costs will utilize general funds, but these are temporary and won't require increases in taxes. Property values have risen substantially in the past year and will already result in higher tax revenues.

### Will this interfere with my Kuleana or Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary rights?

No, as a public agency, the Community Water Authorities have an unambiguous obligation to uphold the public trust doctrine, which prioritizes Native Hawaiian T&C rights and kuleana uses.

**VOTE YES - CHARTER AMENDMENT #12  
ON YOUR GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT IN NOVEMBER!**

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