

SURFACE WATER ISSUES FACING THE WATER COMMISSION

The State Water Code (Water Code), Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), was adopted by the legislature of the State of Hawaii in 1987. The Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission), established under the Water Code, is responsible for protecting and managing Hawaii's ground water and surface water resources. In its surface water management role, the Commission regulates all stream channel alterations, surface water diversions, and amendments to the interim instream flow standards (IIFS). Additionally, the Commission has established an instream use protection program designed to protect, enhance, and reestablish, where practicable, beneficial instream uses of water in the State.

The presentation follows the Commission's surface water regulatory activities from the initial setting of IIFS for East Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and Molokai streams in 1988, to the present. Specific activities include the Petition to Designate the Ahupuaa of Punaluu as a Surface Water Management Area, the Waiahole Ditch Contested Case Hearing, the Petitions to Amend the IIFS for 27 East Maui streams, the Petition to Amend the IIFS (and accompanying waste complaint) for Waihee, Waiehu, Iao and Waikapu Streams (Na Wai Eha), the Petitions to Amend the IIFS for Honokohau and Honolulu Streams, and the Petition to Designate the Surface Water Hydrologic Units of Na Wai Eha as Surface Water Management Areas.