

March 31, 2026

Aloha Esteemed Chair Lee and Council Members,

Two simple budget amendments:

- \$4.3M for the Kihei WWRF, and
- \$1.8M for the Kahului-Wailuku WWRF

can immediately move Maui to the forefront of municipal wastewater sanitation by advancing the next steps for implementing reef-safe ultraviolet (UV) municipal wastewater disinfection for effluent discharges entering the ocean through functional equivalents of direct ocean releases through injection wells and groundwater systems on both Maui's north and south shores.

These budget amendments would materially advance work citizens have been asking for since the beginning of this decade, to protect our people and our reefs from avoidable sources of municipal pathogens.

Right now, after recent storms, fecal indicator bacteria levels are extremely high across Maui. We know why. Island groundwater systems store pathogens from groundwater effluent discharges over time, and during big rain events, it flushes them out to the ocean like a toilet.

These two proposed amendments fix that by accelerating full disinfection at the source.

No new money is needed. Just small reallocations to solve a big problem now.

These amendments, or one combined amendment for both facilities, would take a giant leap toward realizing the revolutionary vision of Bill 52 ([Ord. 5592](#), 2024) an entire decade before the target of 2039 codified into law.

Mahalo nui loa,

Travis Liggett, M.S.

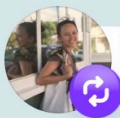
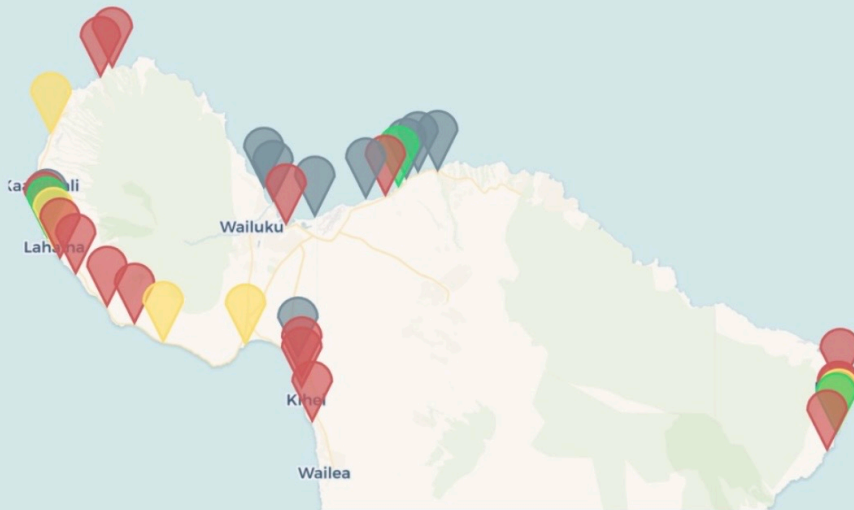
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# WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enterococcus Bacteria Levels  
for March 18, 2026 Collection



(0-35) 
 (36-129) Medium Bacteria 
 (> 130) High Bacteria

\*East Maui samples collected on March 9

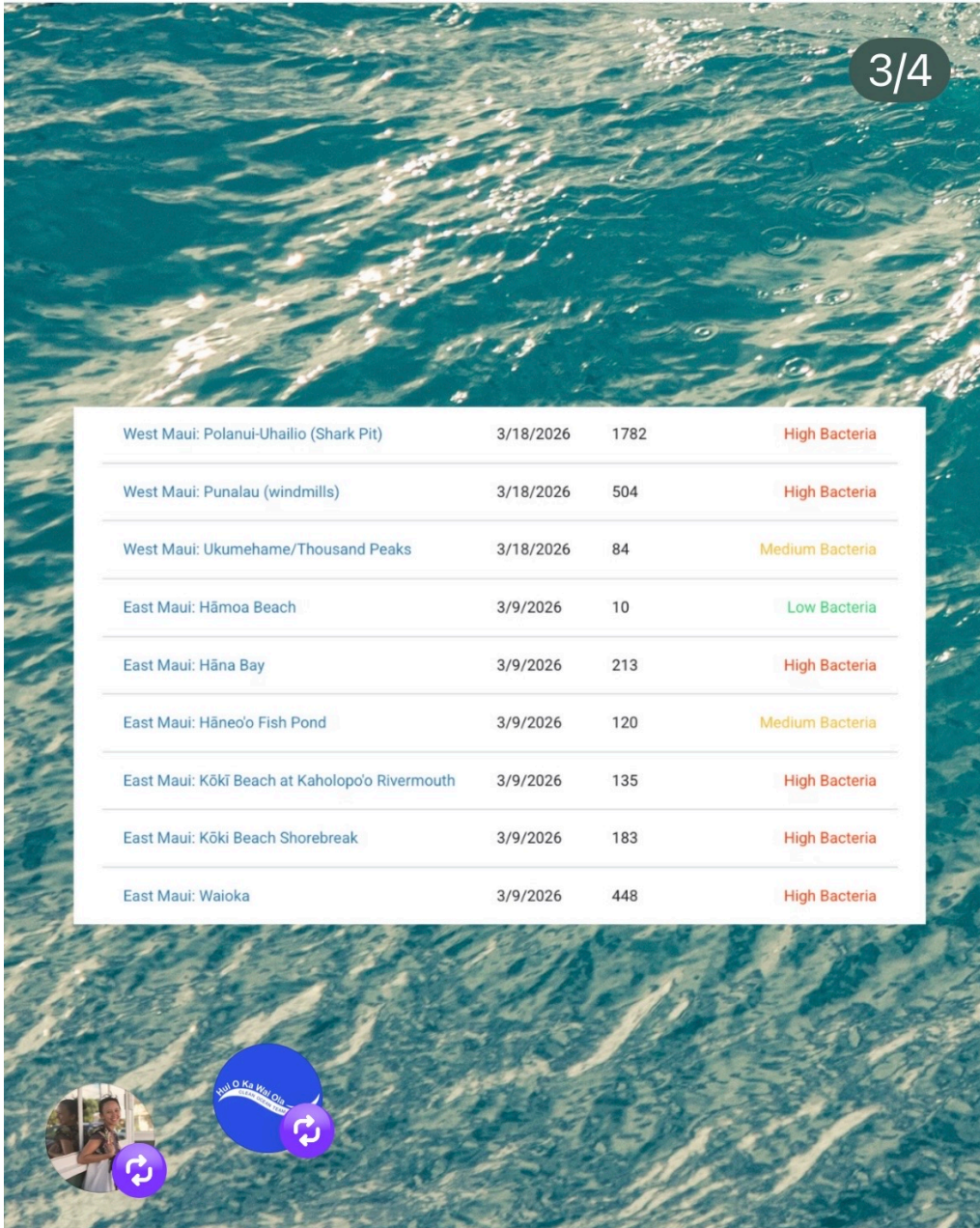


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Site	Date	Enterococcus	Indication Of
North Maui: Kahului Harbor	3/18/2026	754	High Bacteria
North Maui: Pā'ia Bay	3/18/2026	629	High Bacteria
North Maui: Tavares Beach	3/18/2026	10	Low Bacteria
South Maui: Kalepolepo Beach Park	3/18/2026	317	High Bacteria
South Maui: Mā'alaea Bay	3/18/2026	110	Medium Bacteria
South Maui: The Cove	3/18/2026	2613	High Bacteria
South Maui: Waipuilani	3/18/2026	2981	High Bacteria
West Maui: Baby Beach	3/18/2026	<10	Low Bacteria
West Maui: Guard Rails	3/18/2026	350	High Bacteria
West Maui: Honolua Bay	3/18/2026	4786	High Bacteria
West Maui: Lāhainā Harbor	3/18/2026	121	Medium Bacteria
West Maui: Mala Ramp	3/18/2026	1376	High Bacteria
West Maui: Olowalu Mile Marker 14	3/18/2026	2333	High Bacteria
West Maui: Olowalu Surf Spot	3/18/2026	626	High Bacteria
West Maui: Poha... (ns)	3/18/2026	73	Medium Bacteria



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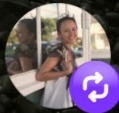
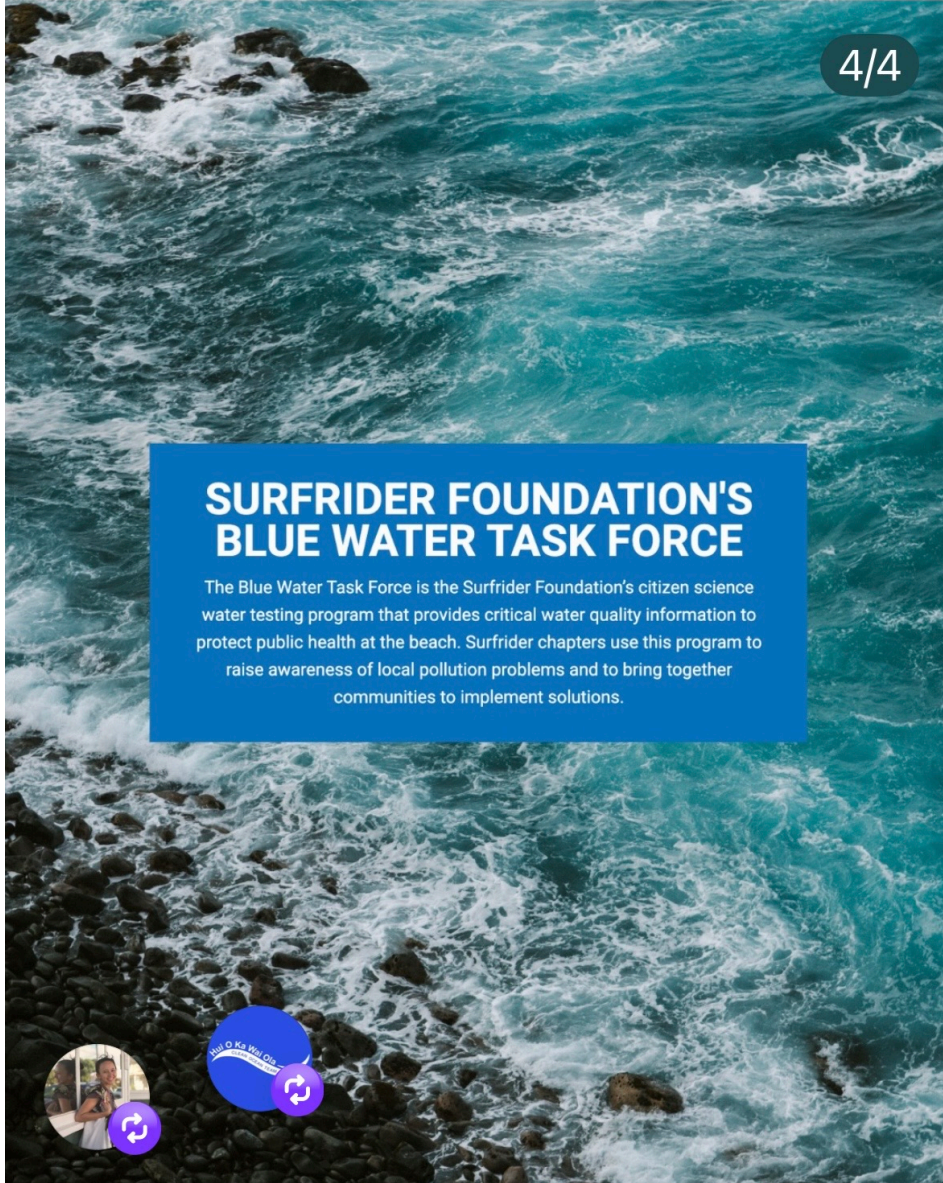
**surfridermaui**  Recent Kona storm causing high bacteria levels across Maui... more



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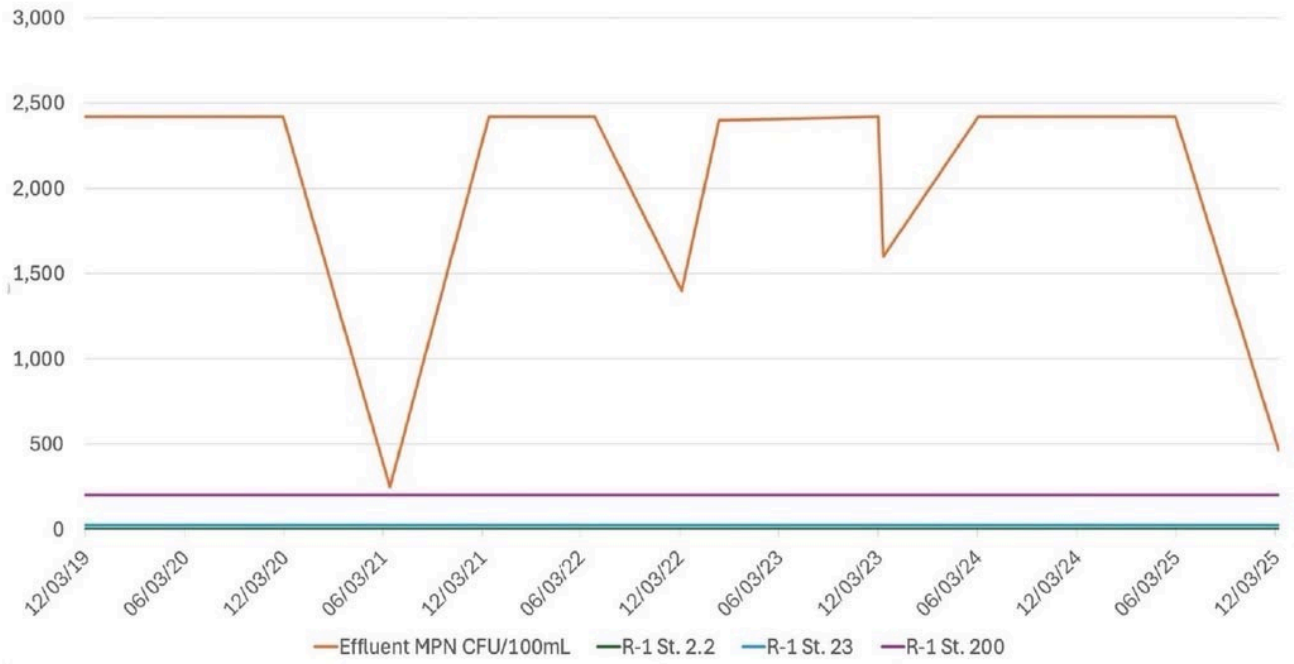
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Kihei WWRF Injection Well Effluent  
UIC Fecal Indicator Bacteria  
MPN CFU/100mL



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNTY OF MAUI

## Capital Improvement Program

CBS No: CBS-5031

Project Name: Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility  
Ultraviolet System Upgrade

Department: Department of Environmental Management

District: Kihei-Makena

Project Type: Sewer

Anticipated Life: 20 years



Prior Years	Appr	Ensuing	Subsequent Years					Total
Expend/Encb	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	6-Year
399,771	0	500,000	0	4,000,000	0	0	0	4,500,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Upgrade to UV channel, equipment, pumping, piping and electrical systems at the Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

System upgrades to provide reliable disinfection to final effluent prior to discharge to reuse customers, injection wells or other disposal means.

### STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Department's Strategic Plan	Countywide Priority Results
Sustain Reliable Wastewater Infrastructure Ensure Facilities Meet Future Needs Provide Reliable Wastewater Service	A Suitable Public Infrastructure A Strong, Diversified Economy An Efficient, Effective, and Responsive Government A Prepared, Safe, and Livable County A Healthy and Sustainable Community

### Operating Impact Narrative

No significant long-term impact on staffing or operating budget is anticipated.

### FUNDING DETAILS

Phase Description	Fund Code	Appr	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
Design	WF	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	0
New Construction	SRF	0	0	0	4,000,000	0	0	0

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**Capital Improvement Program**

Schedule of Activities			
Activity	Start	End	Amount
Design	07/01/2026	12/31/2027	500,000
New Construction	07/01/2028	12/31/2029	4,000,000
Total Capital Project Costs			4,500,000
Total O&M Costs			0
Total Capital & Operating Costs			<u>4,500,000</u>

Methods of Financing (Ensuing + 5 Years)	
Funding Source	Amount
Sewer Fund	500,000
State Revolving Loan Fund	4,000,000
Total Funding Requirements	<u>4,500,000</u>

Section [Capital Improvement Program – Department of Water Supply]

Maui Land and Pineapple Water System Assets Acquisition

Reduce appropriation by \$4,300,000 (from \$30,000,000 to \$25,700,000)

Section [Capital Improvement Program – Department of Environmental Management]

CBS-5031 Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility Ultraviolet System Upgrade

Increase FY 2027 appropriation by \$4,300,000 (from Mayor Bissen's proposed \$500,000 to \$4,800,000 total FY2027 funding)

Amend funding phase schedule:

Add Sewer Fund (WF) \$4,000,000 New Construction FY 2027

Add Sewer Fund (WF) \$300,000 CBS-5031 Project Acceleration Support FY 2027

Add proviso language:

CBS-5031 Project Acceleration Support funds shall include staff overtime, temporary hires, and project management support within the Department of Environmental Management to expedite delivery of 100% injection well discharge disinfection to R-1 standards for fecal indicator bacteria for delivery on the soonest date functionally achievable (by the best environmental management staff in the world), including but not limited to extended work schedules, inspection capacity, and rapid procurement coordination.

Kahului WWRF Injection Well Effluent  
UIC Fecal Indicator Bacteria  
MPN CFU/100mL



**County of Maui  
Fiscal Year 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program**

CBS No: CBS-1169

Project Name: Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF)  
Upgrade to R-1

Department: Department of Environmental Management

District: Wailuku-Kahului

Project Type: Sewer

Anticipated Life: 30 years



Prior Years	Appr	Ensuing	Subsequent Years					Total
Expend/Encb	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	6-Year
0	0	0	0	1,800,000	0	18,000,000	0	19,800,000

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Design, permitting and construction to modify the Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility to produce a R-1 quality reclaimed water for the Wailuku-Kahului service area. This includes construction of ultraviolet disinfection basins, on-site storage, a pump station and all related piping and electrical to connect to the proposed force main.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

Use of reclaimed water will result in the conservation of potable water resources, preservation of brackish water resources and reduction of treated effluent discharged into injection wells.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

**Department's Strategic Plan**

Sustain Reliable Wastewater Infrastructure  
Ensure Facilities Meet Future Needs  
Provide Reliable Wastewater Service

**Countywide Priority Results**

A Suitable Public Infrastructure  
A Strong, Diversified Economy  
An Efficient, Effective, and Responsive Government  
A Prepared, Safe, and Liveable County  
A Healthy and Sustainable Community

**Operating Impact Narrative**

Addition of this treatment capability will require an additional position to manage the system, and extra costs for electricity and materials to operate the disinfection system and pumps.

**FUNDING DETAILS**

Phase Description	Fund Code	Appr	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Design	OG	0	0	0	1,800,000	0	0	0
New Construction	GB	0	0	0	0	0	18,000,000	0

**Schedule of Activities**

Activity	Start	End	Amount
Design	09/01/2027	12/31/2030	1,800,000
New Construction	09/01/2029	12/31/2030	18,000,000
<b>Total Capital Project Costs</b>			<b>19,800,000</b>
Total O&M Costs			0
<b>Total Capital &amp; Operating Costs</b>			<b>19,800,000</b>

**Methods of Financing (Ensuing + 5 Years)**

Funding Source	Amount
General Obligation Fund	18,000,000
Other Grant Fund	1,800,000
<b>Total Funding Requirements</b>	<b>19,800,000</b>

Section [Capital Improvement Program – Department of Water Supply]  
Government Facilities (Central Maui)

Reduce appropriation by \$1,800,000 in FY 2027

Section [Capital Improvement Program – Department of Environmental  
Management]

CBS-1169 Wailuku–Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility Upgrade to R-1

Increase FY 2027 appropriation by \$1,800,000

Amend funding phase schedule:

Advance Design phase from FY 2028 to FY 2027 in the amount of \$1,800,000  
(currently programmed for FY 2028)

Proviso:

Funds shall be used to accelerate design and implementation of R-1  
disinfection infrastructure to eliminate pathogen discharge pathways on the  
soonest functionally achievable timeline.

Rationale:

Advances already programmed \$1,800,000 design funding by one fiscal year to  
address ongoing pathogen discharge risk and storm-driven groundwater  
transport to nearshore waters.