

Aug. 3, 2026, 1:30 p.m.  
Kalana O Maui Building

**To: Maui County Council Water and Infrastructure Committee**

**Tom Cook Lee, Chair**

**Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Joe Kent, Executive Vice President**

RE: Bill 1 (2026) — AMENDING THE WATER AVAILABILITY POLICY ON SUBDIVISION CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Aloha Chair Cook, Vice Chair Sugimura and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 1 \(2026\)](#), which would allow homebuilders to submit applications for subdivisions prior to receiving certification from the Department of Water Supply that the proposed subdivision will have access to potable water.

Under the proposal, the department would have to approve the plan if it met all other requirements.

Grassroot supports this bill because it would allow homebuilders to proceed with the planning and application process while figuring out where they will obtain water for their projects.

The bill makes it clear that approval of a subdivision by the department does not guarantee the subdivider access to potable water for their project; however, that risk can be managed by the applicant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joe Kent

Executive Vice President

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii