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From: Liz Foote [redacted]
To: Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
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Subject: Public comment, Permit #HI50710003

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EPA Region 9 Office
Ground Water Office (WTR-9)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Public comment, Permit #HI50710003

November 4, 2008

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

I was happy to learn that a public hearing was scheduled for Maui to address the permit renewal for the Lahaina underground wastewater injection system. Many community members on Maui have become aware and concerned about this issue in recent years, as more and more empirical as well as anecdotal data have emerged that demonstrate the damaging impact of injection wells upon Maui's reefs. As a marine educator and conservationist, I share those concerns.

This issue goes well beyond ecological concerns, since as we all know, "the environment IS the economy," especially here in Hawaii where our natural resources drive tourism. In addition, the concern over public safety has been raised, in terms of both waterborne pathogens and fire hazards.

As Maui's population continues to grow, water resources will become more and more overtaxed, and the current method of dealing with "wastewater" is really a waste of water that could be redirected for other purposes.

I hope the EPA can assist our community in marshalling the immense amount of financial resources, institutional capacity, and political will that is needed to address this issue and ensure the ecological and economic sustainability of Maui well into the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Foote

Wailuku, Maui