



Friends of Maha'ulepu

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EPA Responds To Friends of Maha'ulepu And Surfrider's Request For Warning Signs At The Waiopili At Maha'ulepu Beach

KAUA'I, HI—July 26, 2016—[Friends of Maha'ulepu](#) ("FOM") and members of the community have waited more than two years for the Department of Health to post warning signs where the waters from the Waiopili cross the beach at Maha'ulepu. The waters have been sampled and evaluated monthly since April 12, 2014. The State Department of Health (DOH) was notified by Surfrider, Kauai Chapter, Blue Water Task Force of thousands of fecal bacteria colonies in every 100ml (3.3 ounces) of water for more than 2 years. The State Department of Health sampled the same waters on many dates, confirming that the fecal bacteria, finding it was in part from human source as early as July 14, 2014. The State of Hawai'i and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate the posting of warnings on any stream that contains human source fecal bacteria because of the known serious health risks associated with that bacteria. Hawai'i Administrative Rules 11-54

Watson Okubo, Clean Water Branch DOH, told the Garden Island in 2014 DOH would not post because they didn't want to appear to be helping the Hyatt with their lawsuit against the proposed industrial dairy operators, Hawaii Dairy Farms, LLC, a corporation owned by ex-Ebay billionaire Pierre Omidyar's Ulupono Initiative: http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/pollution-in-mahaulepu/article_9f69f058-58dd-11e4-8350-cb213541d22e.html **"And in this particular case, he said posting signs could make it seem like DOH has sided with Kawaiiloa Development LPP, the owner of the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa and the Poipu Bay Golf Course, which is suing HDF over the proposed dairy."**

In a letter to FOM and Surfrider dated July 25, 2016, the EPA shared with FOM and Surfrider their recent directive to DOH. The EPA, that provides funding and federal oversight, made it clear that EPA disagrees with the actions and decisions of DOH:

"EPA notes that all enterococci samples collected by Hawai'i DOH exceeded the recreational water quality standard. Specifically, sampling sites closest to the coastline indicate enterococcus values 40 - 50 times above the water quality standard. The significant magnitude of water quality standards exceedance at the mouth of the Waiopili Stream and the proximity to coastal recreation waters provides a reasonable expectation that the coastal recreation waters in the area are being adversely impacted. The Waiopili Stream mouth, like many coastal stream mouths across the Hawaiian Islands are used for recreational purposes by people visiting the beach."

"Regardless of the source, elevated enterococcus levels can pose a potential public health risk to people that recreate in the impacted water. In order to protect public health, Hawai'i DOH **must** post a sign informing the public that the water flowing across the beach does not meet Hawai'i's recreational water quality standards."

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