



**The Senate**  
**Office of the President**

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 2, 2016

Via Electronic Transmission: [Ginny.Pressler@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:Ginny.Pressler@doh.hawaii.gov)

Virginia Pressler, M.D.  
Director  
Hawaii State Department of Health  
Kinau Hale  
1250 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter dated July 25, 2016 from Nancy Woo, Assistant Director, Ecosystems Branch of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Alec Wong of the Clean Water Branch, Environmental Management Division, Department of Health (DOH)

By electronic transmission dated July 28, 2016, this office received a copy of the above-referenced letter relating to the "Mahaulepu Watershed – Waiopili Ditch Sanitary Survey, Kauai Part 1, dated March 2016 (Sanitary Survey) and associated water quality data".

After reviewing the contents of the July 25, 2016 letter from the EPA, a meeting was held in my office on July 31, 2016, in attendance were yourself and DOH Deputy Director for Environmental Health Administration, Keith Kawaoka to discuss the DOH's proposed course of action relating to the EPA's directives and concerns.

The EPA letter addresses several issues relating to the Waiopili Ditch Sanitary Survey, including, "[i]n order to protect public health, Hawaii DOH must post a sign informing the public that the water flowing across the beach does not meet Hawaii's recreational water quality standards."

In response to this EPA directive, Deputy Director Kawaoka stated that appropriate signage will be posted and that your department is currently working with the EPA on appropriate signage language, appearance and location, and that your office will inform me when the signage will be installed.

With regard to the other matters raised by the EPA, Deputy Director Kawaoka further stated that your department had already been consulting and working with the EPA to address those issues.

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While I appreciate DOH's staffing, budgetary and resource limitations, it is clear that appropriate signage is required and should be installed at the Waiopili Ditch mouth where it feeds into the ocean as directed by the EPA.

Thank you for your prompt and professional attention to this matter and I await to hear of DOH's responses to the EPA in a timely manner.

If there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact myself or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.D. Kouchi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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RONALD D. KOUCHI  
Senate President

cc: Keith Kawaoka