
Chapter 3

Summary of Conclusions and General Recommendations

3 SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objective of the Kaua'i Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) Update is to set forth the allocation of water to land use to guide the county in its planning, management, and development of land use and water resource strategies and policies for sustainable development. For all aquifer system areas (ASYA), development to the highest extent allowed by the General Plan and County Zoning are sustainable. Specific recommendations were presented for each ASYA in the ASYA chapters; however, the WUDP Update promotes several common key themes which are applicable island-wide.

1) Reserve the Highest Quality of Water for the Most Valued End Use

The highest quality water should be reserved for the most valued end use, thus the “need” for water is emphasized. Potable water is considered the highest quality water; and the sustenance of life is considered the most valuable end use. Landscaping is viewed as a luxury, not a necessity for life; hence, usage of potable water for landscaping is considered unessential and is discouraged. Lower quality non-potable water, such as recycled water, brackish ground water and untreated surface water, should be utilized for landscaping and agriculture where feasible, thereby reserving potable water for human consumption.

If there is a practical alternative water source available, such as recycled water, that alternative source should be used in lieu of ground water or surface water. Use of alternative water sources can be promoted by installing alternative water systems in the proximity of concentrated development. It is noted that installation of alternative water infrastructure can be costly and take years to implement. Proper community planning and development is necessary to ensure the success of this process.

2) Promote Water Conservation

Water resources are a finite resource that should be managed and used wisely. It should be conserved and not wasted. Incorporating conservation measures into planning for future water system improvements helps to ensure the long-term viability of Hawai'i's water resources. End users and water purveyors should work together to conserve water. End users can follow the demand-side conservation practices described in **Section 1.5.7.2** to reserve potable water only for the sustenance of life, and water purveyors can follow the supply-side conservation measures described in **Section 1.5.7.1**. Water audits by a utility are an important tool to determine and pursue opportunities for water conservation and efficiency improvements. Other conservation measures could consider requirement of neighborhood development and new construction to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.