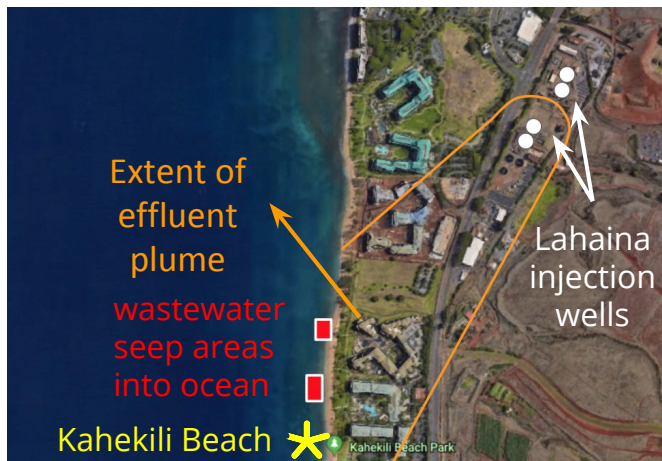


# LAHAINA WASTEWATER INJECTION WELLS FACT SHEET

For decades, Maui County's Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility has pumped 3-5 million gallons of partially treated sewage into Maui's groundwater every day through injection wells. The polluted groundwater is then released into the ocean to the detriment of the nearby reefs at Kahekili Beach. After years of attempting to resolve the issue outside of the court, Maui community groups filed a lawsuit in 2012 under the Clean Water Act, to stop the County from discharging wastewater without a permit. After 7+ years of litigation and two court rulings affirming that the County is in violation of the Clean Water Act, the case has now reached the U.S. Supreme Court. We are asking Maui County to withdraw their case and upgrade the treatment plant instead of continuing to fight the law and jeopardizing the health of the nation's waters.



## QUICK FACTS:

- The Lahaina injection well disposals began in the **1980s**
- **3-5 million gallons** of wastewater is pumped into the injection wells daily
- ~50% of the injected wastewater **discharges in plume near the shore**
- From 1994 to 2006, coral cover at Kahekili **declined by 40%**
- Since 2012, Maui County has **spent \$4.3M** on this lawsuit

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- The **once-pristine reefs of Kahekili are experiencing excessive algal growth and reef degradation** because of the pollution, as shown by decades of kama'āina experience and numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies
- Both the Hawai'i-based district court and the Ninth Circuit appeals court have ruled that **the County cannot freely pollute the ocean via injection wells and must get a permit** under the Clean Water Act
- Maui County has squandered several opportunities to settle the suit and **spent millions in taxpayer dollars to fight the law** instead of putting those funds toward facility upgrades to stop the pollution
- The County has **aligned itself with the Trump Administration and corporate polluters** by asking the Supreme Court for a free pass to pollute the nation's streams, rivers, lakes and oceans through the ground
- Waters and communities across the country would be at risk if Maui County were to win, as **protections under the Clean Water Act would be greatly reduced**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit [bit.ly/lahaina-19](https://bit.ly/lahaina-19) for email form, contact information, and to learn more




**Call and email** the Maui council members. Be sure to **mahalo** Chair King, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, and members Paltin and Sinenci for their support.

**Call and email** Mayor Victorino at 808-270-7855 or [mayors.office@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:mayors.office@co.maui.hi.us) and ask that he withdraw the County's case from the Supreme Court



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