B Lab Statement on Waiākea, Inc's B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for bottled water companies:

"Bottled water companies are eligible for B Corp Certification with additional review by the Standards Advisory Council and, at minimum, incremental disclosure on their public B Corp profile regarding material sensitive issues in the industry."

Waiākea, Inc (Waiākea) is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's statement on the bottled water industry and B Corp Certification here.

Summary of Company

Waiākea was founded in Hilo, Hawai'i in 2012 as a Hawaiian volcanic water company. With a mission to sustainably provide naturally healthy Hawaiian volcanic water, while contributing to and promoting clean water access, conservation, and education for those in need throughout the islands and around the world.

Waiākea, Inc's Industry Practices

Water Access

Waiākea sources their water from the Kai Well located in Keaau, Hawai'i using a submersible Grundfos pump. The Kai Well is located in one of the wettest regions of the Big Island of Hawai'i and within one of the most robust aquifer units in the State of Hawai'i. The Kai Well is a 6 inch diameter cased, deep well with a total well depth of 249 feet. This deep freshwater well taps into the Kea'au Aquifer, a freshwater basal aquifer underlying the Keaau region.

Waiākea owns the land and the well, while the water source is part of the larger publicly owned Mauna Loa Aquifer system. The company pays meter fees for water access which is the same as other stakeholders in the area (e.g., local farmers, and industrial users). The company's water access is overseen by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health Hawai'i.

The company has a restrictive use agreement with the owners of an adjacent lot whose land partially falls within a 200-foot radius of the Kai wellhead. The adjacent owners agreed not to conduct activities on that land that could be detrimental to the well water quality. Examples of activities the adjacent owners contractually avoid include, chemical storage that could leach into the aquifer, hazardous landfill, septic system or absorption field, herbicides or pesticides usage,

surface wastewater recharge absorption system, and structures that could contribute to groundwater seepage.

The company has not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices or easier water access. The company has not experienced any stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.

Sustainable Water Usage

Waiākea is committed to bottling no more than 1% of the sustainable yield of the aquifer. The sustainable yield of the Kea'au Unit is set by the Commission on Water Resource Management at a recharge rate of 395 million gallons per day (mgd). To put this in perspective, the entire island of Oahu has a total sustainable yield of 407mgd. Sustainable yield is defined as the amount of groundwater that can be pumped on a sustained basis. Sustainable yield estimates are generally based on current precipitation data for each region. Since the land use of the Kea'au region is dominated by agriculture near the well site and conservation lands at higher elevations, actual pumpage is far below the sustainable yield.

The majority of the recharge for the basal aquifer in this region, the Keaau aquifer, would be from the slopes of Mauna Loa between elevations 1,200 feet and 3,600 feet. The 234.65 inches of annual rainfall in this region primarily infiltrates the ground rather than flowing on the surface of the land in rivers or streams. As the water travels through the multiple layers of volcanic rock, it is naturally filtered and purified on its way to replenish the basal aquifer.

According to the well completion report, the Kai Well was extensively pump tested in 2017 at a maximum rate of 250 gallons per minute. The water quality parameters of electro-conductivity and chlorides did not rise with increased pumping rates or over the duration of the test. Drawdown of the water level within the cased well was recorded throughout the pump tests and maximum readings of .82ft are typical for this region. Water level recovery after the pump was turned off was rapid, which suggests high permeability of the underlying volcanic rock. The data suggests that the aquifer is not sensitive to pumping and demonstrates the robust nature of the Kea'au Aquifer. The pump test results would be considered excellent for both qualities of water and yield.

Waste

Waiākea's full line up of products is all sustainably created and all have an end-of-life plan. Their OceanPlast® bottles are made of 100% post-consumer recycled PET which is collected from an ocean-bound waterway, lake, or ocean. 100% of the company's water bottles are recyclable.[1] Other water products include aluminum bottles that can be refilled up to 100 times and spouted boxes that can be upcycled.

In addition, Waiākea participates in additional initiatives to reduce plastic waste pollution, including the below:

- Improving the optical sorting at collection and deposit centers throughout Hawai'i to increase material collection yields
- Funding public service announcements in conjunction with the state to encourage recycling and bolster the HI5 program, which is a deposit beverage container program
- Supporting policies that encourage manufacturers to create recyclable plastics; believes no non-recyclable materials should be allowed to be produced
- Participating in beach cleanups and ocean partnerships