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Issue My concern about the lack of responsibility of management of natural resources was what sparked my interest in water rights. While examining Hawaii's past and present, I identified a major issue: the clashing priorities of traditional sustainable practices, and the ever-expanding goals of modernization. Our island condition, however, makes us a practical microcosm to investigate smart living.

Project Description Living history is what makes my project unique, realistically achievable, and idiosyncratic to and for society. Hawaii's activism started from those who were inspired to work to support Hawaii through grassroots efforts. At the very start of my project I was introduced to Mr. Eric Enos, the founder of the Ka`ala Cultural Learning Center and he recalled an oral history for me about the plantation era and water diversions, as well as his personal struggle to attain water on his land for agricultural, cultural, and educational purposes. Other organizations that I gained experience with, and researched were the Protect Kaho`olawe Ohana, The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission, and The Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership. From these organizations, I learned about the power of policy and regulation. Without any means of management or limits, resources are overused, but with unmanaged policy and regulation, resources are not protected or accessible. While I had set out to learn about policy I observed that it required a perfect balance to be effective.

Project Outcome My National History Day essay, "The Evolution of Water Rights in Hawaii: The Struggle To Balance Cultural and Economic Responsibility," represents the combination of historical research and personal action. This process has set the grounds for my senior project, in which I will study what it takes for educational outreach to be successful, and how to support ecofriendly pieces of legislation.

Request From a broad perspective I would like to request that our legislators support ecology and local friendly legislation to help Hawaii preserve its beauty, resources, and economy. A personal and highly conducive request of mine would be to receive guidance and suggestions of how I can propose or support new or budding pieces of legislation.