

PAPAKŌLEA REGIONAL PLAN BENEFICIARIES MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Papakōlea Community Center
2150 Tantalus Drive, Honolulu, HI 96813
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Introduction
- II. Issues
- III. Project Ideas

Agenda was distributed. Meeting was opened with a pule. Posters of Ahupua'a map, Regional map and Project lists were placed on easels for public review. The primary purpose of this meeting was to identify potential projects for the Regional Plan.

The following potential projects were identified and discussed:

1. Repair, Replacement and Maintenance of Aging Infrastructure
2. Papakōlea Community Center Park Improvements
3. Native Hawaiian Education and Culture Community Center
4. Hawaiian Homestead Kūpuna Assisted Living Center
5. Pūowaina Interpretive Center
6. Community Clean-Up Project
7. Energy Efficient Homes

Brief descriptions of these projects are as follows:

1. Repair, Replacement and Maintenance of Aging Infrastructure
Due to Papakōlea's aging infrastructure, there are many specific repair and/or replacement projects that need to be addressed by DHHL and/or the City and County of Honolulu in order to ensure the health and safety of our community. The projects relate to: drainage, sewer lines, water pipes, sidewalks, and bus stops. The projects, especially those that replace aging infrastructure, will require substantial funds. This project would address the list of specific problems in phases and provide a means for homesteaders and DHHL to work together to secure necessary funding and attention to these important projects.
2. Papakōlea Community Center Park Improvements
The Papakōlea Community Park is too small and in need of expansion and improvements. Specifically, homesteaders would like to see a new parking lot, court and building improvements, and the use of solar energy to reduce costs and dependency on fossil fuels.
3. Native Hawaiian Education and Culture Community Center
The Center is envisioned to be the piko of the Pūowaina Hawaiian Home Lands that would be used for social, educational, and cultural enrichment and wellness for 'ohana of all ages from infant to kupuna. This would be accomplished through partnerships with other Native Hawaiian organizations that include: Pūnana Leo, providing the foundation of Hawaiian language education; native Hawaiian businesses, providing quality Hawaiian cultural activities and services that support economic development; a certified kitchen and hall to support gatherings and other economic development projects; linkages to surrounding schools, including the University of Hawai'i; and the incorporation of energy efficient designs.

4. Hawaiian Homestead Kūpuna Assisted Living Center
Since the majority of Papakōlea homes are built against the mountains and only have stairway access, the lack of safe housing conditions is a significant concern. The kūpuna assisted living center is envisioned as a “village” for kūpuna to age safely in the community. In addition to providing kūpuna with an assisted-care residence, the project would provide a friendly gathering place for social, cultural, and wellness activities that encourages multi-generational support for Papakōlea ‘ohana. The project would also provide opportunities for native Hawaiian business development which support kūpuna living such as a community market, restaurant, and Hawaiian medical and traditional healing practices. Potential partners include: the University of Hawai‘i, Keiki O Ka ‘Āina-Tutu & Me program, Papa Ola Lōkahi, and Alu Like.
5. Pūowaina Interpretive Center
The Pūowaina Interpretive Center targets the thousands of tourists that come to Punchbowl National Cemetery to pay homage to fallen war heroes. The Interpretive Center will have a number of features to offer visitors, including: a museum with interactive exhibits; a mini-theater where visitors can watch videos on Hawaiian culture and the Papakōlea area; a demonstration area where native artists can demonstrate their crafts; a retail gift/souvenir store; a restaurant; shuttle services to and from the National Cemetery; and other ancillary tours through Makiki, Mānoa, Pauoa, and the Pali. The project would seek partnerships from relevant and interested organizations.
6. Community Clean-Up Project
Homesteaders are concerned about the abandoned cars and abandoned homes that are found throughout Papakōlea homesteads. Homesteaders want to organize a clean-up project or a community clean-up day that would enlist DHHL staff support, along with the support of the homestead community in order to haul out and dump/recycle the abandoned cars. In addition, homesteaders want to make sure that DHHL identify and deal with the abandoned homes in order to make them viable residences that can be awarded to people on the wait list.
7. Energy Efficient Homes
In January 2009, the Hawaiian Homes Commission approved an “Energy Policy” that contains six (6) objectives that promote energy self-sufficiency. Objective four (4) is to provide energy efficiency, self-sufficiency, and sustainability opportunities to existing homesteaders and their communities.” This project would assist homesteaders with the retrofitting of their homes. Retrofit applications may include: solar hot water heating system, insulation/radiant barriers, low-flow toilet and shower head, photovoltaic system, CFL bulbs, ENERGY STAR appliances, energy efficient windows, clothes line, ventilation techniques, and roof/attic vents.

Next Steps: Meeting on October 27, 2009, 6pm to Vote on Priority Projects

DHHL will mail out a list of these potential projects to Papakōlea beneficiaries along with an invitation to attend the next meeting to express their interest in prioritizing these projects for the Regional Plan.