

**DHHL WATER POLICY PLAN STATEWIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS
BLANCHE POPE ELEMENTARY, WAIMANALO, O'AHU
NOVEMBER 6, 2013
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Attendance: 17 people signed in; about 30 people present.

HHC: Chairman Jobie Masagatani

DHHL: PLO – Darrell Yagodich, Kaleo Manuel (Project Manager), Nancy McPherson, Ulu Lota, Bob Freitas, Andrew Choy, LMD – Kahana Albinio

CONSULTANT: Jonathan Scheuer

Handouts:

- Agenda
- DHHL Water Kuleana Handout
- Conversation Mapping Handout

Presentation:

Kaleo Manuel provided an overview of the Water Policy Plan process, its context and relationship to the planning system, and the work done to date in developing the plan. Jonathan Scheuer synopsized the history of water law in Hawai'i and also presented the specific rights and kuleana DHHL and the trust have related to water.

Conversation Mapping:

In order to gather mana'o from beneficiaries and the community that would help guide what information should be included in the Water Policy Plan, the Department used a tool called "Conversation Mapping." The following triggers were used to initiate conversation amongst meeting participants:

- Ola I Ka Wai: What are the key water issues in your community?
- E Malama I Ka Wai: How should DHHL balance the development and protection of water?
- He Kuleana Ko Kakou: How should DHHL assert its rights to water?

*Please see the attached conversation maps.

Open Discussion:

Below are the questions, comments, or testimony provided either verbally, on green comment sheets, or by letter, by those present at the meeting:

- Is there a law describing whether or not DHHL can reserve water? We can utilize law to protect our water rights. We should know this so we do not repeat past questions over our rights. DHHL: Yes, part of our presentation tonight is to inform the audience about DHHL's water rights per state law.
- Are we represented on the water board? DHHL: The water code requires that one of the commissioners on the state Commission on Water Resource Management needs to be familiar with Native Hawaiian culture and practices. Currently, Kaimana Beamer, who grew up on homesteads, is on the commission.
- Hawaiians should have a priority as a policy.
- Does the military need to get state water permits? DHHL: Yes, federal agencies must follow state law.
- There was an attempt to reserve water for DHHL on Lanai.

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- You asked what does water mean to us? Why are you concerned about that. We are tired about answering that. It looks like you are demeaning the kupuna. You need to know the history before coming to the community. Akua should be first and last about why we are here. DHHL: When we come into communities, it is not our intention to offend. If I said something or did something to offend you, I apologize. Please forgive me.
Jobie: We are trying our best to communicate a complicated issue, water, to the community. The staff person you are talking about is one of my best staff. He cares deeply about our beneficiaries and I lean on him a lot. I trust his judgment.
- When did the law pass that says that DHHL has rights before beneficiaries?
DHHL: There are provisions in the HHCA that state "rights of homesteaders" as well as "rights of the "Department". So it depends upon the context and situation that is being considered.
- What is the purpose of homestead associations? DHHL: Most success occurs when homestead associations and DHHL work shoulder to shoulder.
- Are the current water commissioners appointees of the current governor?
DHHL: Six of eight of the commissioners were appointed by Governor Abercrombie.
- Have studies been done statewide to see where water exists in which DHHL has access to? DHHL: There have been studies done by USGS to identify where and how much ground water there is. DHHL has contributed to some of those studies.
- If we are not hunters, what are we? Fishermen understand the sea, hunters understand the mountain. Know your kilo. DHHL: Cultural knowledge about place is just as important as scientific knowledge. It is something that the plan should promote.
- Native Hawaiians know where water sources are; local knowledge. So the information is not only from science, it is from local sources too.
- Have any studies been done on the Big Island to see where aquifers are located below Hawaiian home lands for homestead purposes
- What is the hydro potential on DHHL lands? Put that in the plan.
- The right hand should know what the left hand is doing.
- Why did CWRM lose eight of its lawsuits?
- The Department should make use of federal funding for H2O conservation, quality, and reuse from especially the USDA, RD & EPA & Dept. of Interior. I would be happy to help.
- Will any of the water rights we have help with a water bill dispute from Board of Water? We recently got a bill of over \$900.00. This might sound silly but do we have any water rights we can use toward this as an argument being that we live on homestead land.
- Email from Kawehi Kanui (11-13-13)
- Pictures were provided by a beneficiary at the meeting

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All handouts, notes, and conversation maps can be found on the DHHL website at:
dhl.hawaii.gov