

**DHHL WATER POLICY PLAN STATEWIDE BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION  
STEVENSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, HONOLULU, OAHU  
APRIL 8, 2014  
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

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**Attendance:** 12 total (5 beneficiaries, 6 other, 1 no response)

DHHL: Kaleo Manuel (PO), Julie-Ann Cachola (PO), Bob Freitas (PO), Nancy McPherson (PO), Ulu Lota (PO), Norman Sakamoto (OCH), Jonathan Scheuer (Consultant)

Other: Representative Faye Hanohano

**Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Water Implementation Program Example
- DHHL Water Kuleana Handout
- DHHL Water Policy Plan Draft

**Presentation:**

Kaleo Manuel provided an overview of the Water Policy Plan process, its context and relationship to the DHHL planning system, and the work done to date in developing the plan. Jonathan Scheuer reviewed the DHHL Water Policy Plan draft that was developed using information and research from Department and external files, feedback from one-on-one interviews in the initial scoping of the project, and mana'o shared during statewide beneficiary informational meetings. The DHHL Water Policy Plan is also consistent with DHHL's legal authorities, rights, and kuleana related to water.

**Open Discussion:**

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

- Q: Preliminary meetings you had, organizational info, is all of this info available? Comments from 2013, word for word, are on the DHHL website?  
A: Yes, everything has been posted to our website.
- Q: What are the definitions of desalinated and distilled water? A: Desal can be done by various means – removing salt from the water. Distilled is pure water. Water in bottles isn't distilled – not drinking water.
- Question/Comment: Coming from Waimanalo – Ko'olaupoko – water was very important – mauka families. He'eia is being put in CZM [SMA?], a boundary all the way out into Kaneohe Bay. DHHL has kuleana out into ocean. Broke up into ahupua'a – I'm a moku person. What they did is very important – concerned about 1,400 acres. A: OIP – ridgelines, steep pali lands. Waimānalo – don't want to give up watersheds, important for health of Waimānalo.
- Q: Distilling water. Concerned about geothermal. I own that – steam is water and water is steam. Want distilled water.
- Q: DHHL properties for residential – traditional uses -- how are you supposed to do that? How are you going to use Traditional Ecological Knowledge? A: Example – lands on Maui, supposed to be ag and residential, Waiohuli may

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have had knowledge in place names that could have informed that development.

- Q: What about places already developed? Cost of water, sewage. What benefit is there for our beneficiaries? A: A lot of this is about the future. Concern now is cost of water with increasing rates. Water and sewer bills are together. Statewide policy – need because DHHL is a trust that covers the entire archipelago. ‘Ohana – on other islands. One of the downfalls – some policies and goals will apply more on one island or area than another. DHHL has been silent or absent at public hearings on water rates – that could change. The way sewer systems are operated. Conserve water + energy: pumping costs. Be innovative to lower costs. Stronger advocacy.
- Q: Everybody has to pay into that maintenance fee. Why are we battling concept of energy efficient systems with DWS – they should be doing it anyway. Don’t see where transitional part fits in – unless DHHL sets aside land. Because we live on an island, doesn’t mean they all see things the same way. O’ahu is better off. Maui’s argument is way different than O’ahu. The issues cross over, but policies shouldn’t apply the same way to all islands – they are all different.
- Representative Hanohano: OHA is also looking at water. Seems DHHL same beneficiary people are in the room – we should work together so we have the same understanding? Shouldn’t DHHL and OHA be a part of that (CWRM) Commission? A lot of different areas with water issues. Have to deal with the Counties, county standards. DHHL should be sitting at the table to make decisions, because going to affect beneficiaries. Water that flows under the land and ends up in the ocean should still be managed for the beneficiaries. Need to look at it more broadly. Need to have more Hawaiian voices in it. We can work on it so we can move it forward. A: CWRM’s history has not been one responsive to NH concerns, traditional and customary practices. Now have a native Hawaiian Commissioner.
- Q: Don’t have the luxury of understanding the concept. When water is next to the person. Ord. 14 – private land, doesn’t say leased land. Sewer hookup – didn’t want. Needed support from Waimanalo – sewer and water hookup. Disagreement with Ray Soon. 35 kupuna were being abused at that time. My bill is \$20/mo., their bill is \$200/mo. now. Need to talk about rates and how it hurts beneficiaries. Abe Piinaia got HUD monies on the mainland. Helped Molokai – MIS. Article should be part of your research. Brings it home to the people. Still catch it from my community for what happened. Kupuna having their water shut off. How my community was treated.
- Q: Do you have any idea how many water permits have been issued, how much water is already being taken out of the island? How it’s affecting HHL? A: Licensed water off of state lands. ID all areas with old plantation ditch systems, being leased to Agribusiness Devt. Corp. – info in different places.

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- Q: Is the Dept. looking at returning [getting] the water [systems] back? We are giving away our water. A: BLNR is doing it. They have not consistently consulted with DHHL on issuing licenses. Get the knowledge of what's there first, then start actively getting the water back. Make sure license fees are fair. Ability to weigh what to do in each situation.
- Q: Do you know the history of water in Papakōlea? Water was a big issue in Papakōlea – freshwater springs have destroyed four homes in Kalawahine – we told them there is water wells under that mountain. Gave that land to BWS, supposed to drill wells on that land to get water. They did nothing. People of Kewalo said no – Kalawahine still there, still active. They ignored what the kupuna said in Papakōlea – fractured the community – build or no build. Water is a touchy subject up here. Still affecting families. After they built Kalawahine, they gave BWS land to build 1 M gal tank. Elevation not appropriate. Still have license at bottom of Kalawahine – over 60 years have gone by, that is precious land that the community could use. What will the Dept. do to deal with it? Recall the license. Sore issue. EO – 80 families that lived on Kalawahine were displaced. Sore.
- Q: Important issue you're raising. Stories historically in the past – same concept – could have more people involved part of the stories. Want to develop – hearing the same story again – resurfaces. Action speaks more than words. A: [Newer staff] Not part of the long history. Important to acknowledge it.
- Q: Lots of things going on with us. Evictions. Because of what happened to us – 1998 – purchasing plastic containers, trying to figure out how to get water. City actually stole it from us. Mahealani Cypher, Kaulana Park, \_\_ Lau. A: Deal with these kinds of issues once and for all, decisions weren't made with the right info in the past, or not listening to info that was shared. Honor that knowledge, use it.
- Q: Have you done a survey of the cost of water in 3-5 systems? Separate for different types of water (potable/nonpotable, domestic/ag). A: Have some data on county water rates.
- Q: How are you going to differentiate? A: Licenses to county agencies for \$1/year. Can negotiate at market rate for a license, or we want consideration for water rates for beneficiaries.
- A: History – HHL were dry lands, excluded water rich lands. Always been an issue, a heavy history. Lots of really bad stories about how the Dept. didn't take the actions. Do we get paralyzed by that heavy history? Own it. Hewa, but be liberated by it instead. Revisit every 3-6 years, have a common vision as a community to do things better.
- Q: Judge Richardson was always with us in our meetings. Jump from Commission to High Court. A: Billy's dad overruled all those cases and reestablished Hawaiian water rights. Gov. has nominated Michael Buck for

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CWRM – going for confirmation. Can write in who should be the water commissioner.

- Q: Had 2 meetings for He'eia estuary, Reppuns are involved in this. Don't know the discrepancies between this and Wai'ahole water case. I don't want to see a messed up case in He'eia. Another meeting coming up with CZM on this eventually. A: Wai'ahole is one of the specific cases cited in the Water Policy. Everything is on the website for you to comment on.

**Broad Sheets:**

During the course of the meeting, staff also tried to capture the open discussion and conversation on broad sheets, which are transcribed below.

- What is the difference between the desalinization and distillation of water?
- Are notes “word for word” on the website?
- Ko'olaupoko – He'eia to Waimānalo – [ongoing revisions to the] CZM boundary is an issue related to water
- [Repeat from Waimānalo meeting] concerned w/100 acres of pali lands – protect watersheds
- Opposed to desalinization but want “distilled” on there
- Concerned w geothermal – related to “steam”
- How does traditional knowledge and other policies relate to residential homesteads? “Waiohuli”
  - What about already established homesteads? What benefits moving forward? – water / sewer bills
- System operations by DWS should be their kuleana; why are we charged for that? Especially if they aren't efficient
- DHHL set aside lands for ag
- OHA & DHHL [should] work together on water
- Shouldn't OHA/DHHL have a seat on CWRM? DHHL will be affected.
- [Most beneficiaries] Can't relate to the “concept” of water; [when DHHL does outreach they need to be clear how] it relates to what's happening in my backyard, e.g. Wai'anae “hookup to sewer”
- article – Abe Pi'ianaia – water on Moloka'i – used HUD funds
- BRING IT TO THE PEOPLE. Make it relevant to the community
- Do we know how much water licenses issued and how much water is being used?
  - DHHL not consistently consulted
- History of water related to Kalāwahine – fresh water springs there; if DHHL listened to beneficiaries then four homes wouldn't have been flooded. And caused a fracture in the community; displaced original families
- DHHL license for land at the beginning of Kalāwahine – EO to BWS to build a 1 MG tank; they did a test well at Pūowaina [that found no water]
  - Address the license

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- It's a painful experience [that's why many people didn't come tonight]
- [Is there a statewide] Survey of costs by rates – how can we differentiate between rates?
  - Negotiate better for licenses – better returns or lowered water rates
- Waiāhole case – “don't understand it” – NERRS He`eia – don't want the same thing to happen in He`eia.

**Goal Prioritization:**

Although the DHHL Water Policy Plan draft has twenty-two (22) goals, in order to focus our (HHC, DHHL, and Beneficiary) efforts related to water, attendees were asked to go through a goal prioritization activity. Each attendee was given three (3) dots and was directed to place those dots next to the three (3) goals they felt were the most important to work on implementing in the next three to six years. Below are the results from that activity.

Goal	Description	Dots
1	Water Asset Inventory (WAI)	3
2	Submittal Template	0
3	Budget	0
4	Communicate	6
5	Staff and Organize	1
6	Projections	1
7	Design	0
8	Watersheds	1
9	Advocacy	5
10	Partner	0
11	Water Plan	1
12	WUPA	0
13	DWSs	1
14	Licenses	0
15	Dedication of Systems	1
16	Water Credits	1
17	Wells	1
18	Break Even	0
19	Run Legal Systems	0
20	Security	1
21	Ag Water	1
22	MIS	3

All handouts and notes can be found on the DHHL website at: [dhhl.hawaii.gov](http://dhhl.hawaii.gov)