

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION WATER POLICY PLAN DRAFT FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Vision

Our vision is that there will be adequate amounts of [water](#) and supporting infrastructure so that homestead lands will always be usable and accessible, to enable us to return to our lands to fully support our self-sufficiency and self-determination in the administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), and the preservation of our values, traditions, and culture.

Mission

In a manner consistent with our [values](#), the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) shall strive to ensure the availability of adequate, quality [water](#) by working cooperatively to:

- Understand our trust water assets;
- Plan for our water needs;
- Aggressively understand, exercise and assert our water rights;
- Develop and protect water sources; and
- Manage water systems.

Values

1. **Waiwai:** [Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua](#). The availability of water to our lands and people is integral to the trust and our mission.
2. **Waihona:** [Ua lehulehu a manomano ka 'ikena a ka Hawai'i](#). Honoring and documenting our knowledge about water is essential to managing it.
3. **Mālama:** [He ali'i ka 'āina; he kauwā ke kānaka](#). We consider water to be part of our genealogy and so we manage it in a manner that cares for its long-term sustainability for all things, as we also use it productively for our mission.
4. **Laulima:** [E lauhoe mai nā wa'a; i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina](#). We are one people who now share Hawai'i with others. DHHL is only one of many Hawaiian serving institutions. We will assert our rights while considering our larger lāhui 'ōiwi and the larger world in which we live.

Policies

It is the policy of the HHC and the DHHL to:

1. Dedicate the time and attention necessary, including development of a [Water Assets Inventory \(WAI\)](#), to appropriately manage water.
2. Expressly determine and plan for our future water needs both internally and by actively participating in broader water management, use and protection efforts in Hawai'i.
3. Educate ourselves and others continually on our water rights, and aggressively exercise them in a manner that balances our uses with other [Public Trust](#) water uses to the extent possible.
4. Foster self-sufficiency of beneficiaries by promoting the adequate supply of water for homesteading when developing or managing water.
5. Foster the self-determination of beneficiaries by seeking ways for beneficiaries to participate in the management of water.
6. Develop, manage, and steward water in a manner that balances cost, efficiency, and [Public Trust](#) uses in the short and long term.
7. Make water decisions that incorporate the traditional and place-based knowledge of our people and are clear and methodical in their reasoning.
8. Affirmatively communicate our decisions, our reasoning, and our performance in managing, stewarding, and using water.

Goals

To achieve our Mission and comply with our Policies, the Goals of the HHC and the DHHL are to:

Part I. Understand our trust water assets

1. Develop and manage a [Water Assets Inventory \(WAI\)](#).
2. Revise the DHHL submittal template to the HHC for water related decisions.
3. Revise budgets to show the total costs of a) water system management b) all spending on water issues.
4. Affirmatively communicate with beneficiaries regarding water decisions, performance, and water rights.
5. Staff and organize the DHHL consistent with importance of water to the trust.

Part II. Plan for our water needs

6. Develop and consistently maintain near- and long-term projections of water needs.
7. Design and develop homesteads optimizing cost and water conservation.
8. Support watershed protection and restoration on DHHL lands and source areas for DHHL water.

Part III. Aggressively understand, exercise and assert our water rights

9. Consistently and aggressively advocate for the rights of the beneficiaries, the DHHL, and the HHC to water.
10. Partner with trust beneficiaries in water advocacy efforts.
11. Engage in updates to all [Hawai'i Water Plan](#) elements to ensure DHHL water needs and rights are addressed.
12. Advocate that all water use permit applications properly address the water rights of DHHL and other Hawaiian water rights.
13. Advocate that boards of water supply have the spirit of the HHCA faithfully carried out in their actions.
14. Ensure that all legal provisions for the licensing of state water are followed.

Part IV. Develop and protect water sources

15. Carefully weigh alternatives regarding the dedication or DHHL management of new water systems.
16. Methodically and consistently manage and allocate water credits.
17. Support the drilling of wells by beneficiaries for their own use on lots where appropriate.

Part V. Manage water systems

18. Secure revenue and reduce operation costs so DHHL water systems break even financially over the long term.
19. Manage DHHL water systems consistent with legal requirements.
20. Increase security and reliability for DHHL water users.
21. Continue to pursue development of agricultural water systems.
22. Pursue resolution by the Department of Agriculture of prior audit findings in the management of the Moloka'i Irrigation System and full repair of the System.

Delegation of Authorities and Reporting

1. Delegation
 - a. The Hawaiian Homes Commission delegates authority to the Chairperson to prepare an Implementation Program for this Water Policy Plan.
2. Reporting
 - a. The Chairperson shall submit the proposed Implementation Program to the Hawaiian Homes Commission annually in conjunction with the Department's budget request.
 - b. The Chairperson shall annually report on progress on execution of the approved Implementation Program and overall progress towards achieving the goals of and maintaining compliance with the Water Policy Plan.

Legal Authorities

1. [Hawai'i State Constitution](#)
2. [Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, as amended](#)
3. [Hawai'i State Water Code, HRS 174C](#)
4. [In the Matter of Water Use Permit Applications \(Waiāhole I case\)](#)
5. [Wai'ola o Moloka'i](#)

Related Plans and Policies

1. [DHHL General Plan](#)
2. [DHHL Energy Policy](#)
3. [Hawaiian Homes Commission Beneficiary Consultation Policy](#)

References

1. 1983. Puku'i, Mary Kawena. 'Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings. Honolulu: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.
2. Aia I hea ka wai a Kāne? (Traditional chant, "Where is the water of Kāne?")

Definitions:

Hawai'i Water Plan: The Hawai'i Water Plan and its parts, as detailed in Part III of the Hawai'i State Water Code (HRS 174C), is the state's "program of comprehensive water resources planning to address the problems of supply and conservation of water" (HRS 174C-2(b)).

Public Trust: As delineated in the Hawai'i Supreme Court [Waiāhole I](#) and [Wai'ola O Moloka'i](#) cases, public trust uses of water include domestic uses, traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, the protection and procreation of fish and wildlife, the maintenance of proper ecological balance and scenic beauty, and reservations of water for the DHHL.

Water: In this policy, water includes mists, fog, rain, and other precipitation; water as it flows above or below ground, and into the ocean; water used for homesteading; alternative sources including waste, brackish, and salt water; water used in the exercise of traditional and customary practices; infrastructure used to produce, store and transmit water; and water we use as well as water to which we have rights.

Water Assets Inventory (WAI): A comprehensive geographically referenced database of the water assets of the DHHL, including traditional knowledge related to water, DHHL owned water infrastructure, current and future water demand, water agreements, water credits, and potential water sources.

Approval Date

Policy approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission on _____.