

## **Department of Hawaiian Home Lands `Āina Mauna Legacy Program Executive Summary**

In 1921, the federal government of the United States set aside as Hawaiian Homelands approximately 200,000-acres in the Territory of Hawai`i as a land trust for homesteading by native Hawaiians. The avowed purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was returning native Hawaiians to the land in order to maintain traditional ties to the land.

The Hawai`i State Legislature in 1960 created the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for the purposes of administering the Hawaiian home lands program and managing the Hawaiian home lands trust. The Department provides direct benefits to native Hawaiians in the form of homestead leases for residential, agricultural, or pastoral purposes. The intent of the homesteading program is to provide for economic self-sufficiency of native Hawaiians through the provision of land.

In turn, the mission of the DHHL Hawaiian Homes Commission as stated on its website is:

“To manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust effectively and to develop and deliver land to native Hawaiians. We will partner with others towards developing self-sufficient and healthy communities.”

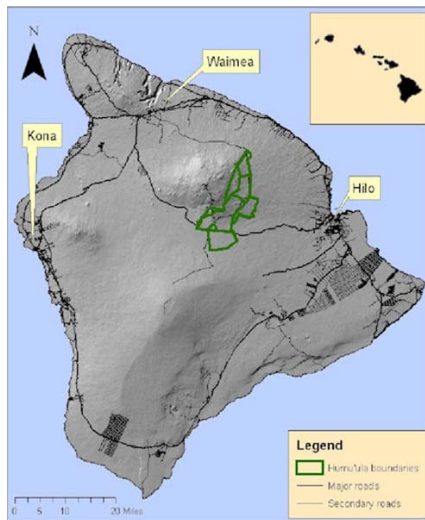
### **Enhancing the Legacy at Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua**

DHHL is looking at its responsibility as a land manager not just to provide homes to its beneficiaries, but also to provide for the management and protection of native lands to support both cultural and resource management activities and create homesteading opportunities for the future.

DHHL seeks to restore portions of the Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua lands in perpetuity to conserve these native forests and natural habitats for future generations. In doing so the Department is looking beyond housing and into a more holistic approach for communities and land management.

DHHL believes that the Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua lands have the potential for serving as a sustainable native forest and land unit by simultaneously providing environmental, economic and social benefits to the trust and its beneficiaries, in perpetuity by linking traditional cultural knowledge and modern science.

Therefore, the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program is to be developed to take into consideration not only the immediate needs of the area, but also traditional cultural knowledge, and how best to manage the legacy for the area for future generations. By creating a sustainable plan for the area, the lands can be conserved and restored while also providing an economic resource for DHHL and its beneficiaries. The time commitment for the Legacy Program and restoration of the land is long term, essentially for the next 100-years and beyond.



ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program Area

## ʻĀina Mauna

ʻĀina mauna, or mountain lands, reflects a term used affectionately by elder Hawaiians to describe the upper regions of all mountain lands surrounding and including Mauna Kea.

Native Hawaiian traditions and historical accounts describe the lands of Humuʻula and neighboring Kaʻohe - those areas extending from shore to around the 6,000-foot elevation - as having once been covered with dense forests, and frequented by native practitioners who gathered forest-plant resources, birds and food. The larger ʻāina mauna were frequented by individuals who were traveling to the upper regions of Mauna Kea to worship, gather stone, bury family members, or deposit the piko (umbilical cords of newborn children) in sacred and safe areas; and by those who were crossing from one region of the island to another.

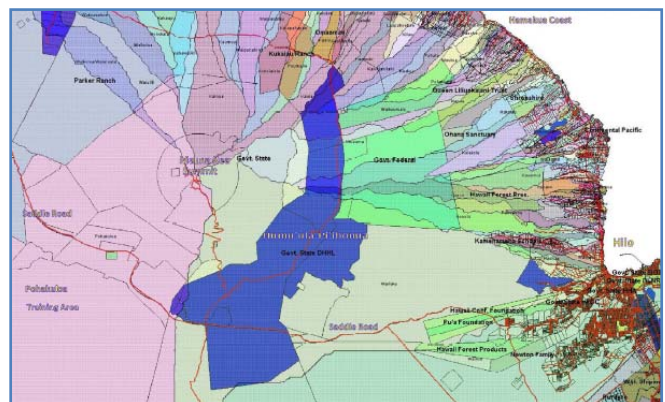
Historically, uses of the Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands were limited to managed sheep and cattle grazing. The introduction of cattle, sheep, goats and the proliferation of wild dogs on the ʻāina mauna is believed to have started as early as the 1820s. By 1850, the cultural and natural landscape had been significantly altered by roving herds of wild ungulates. Ranching interest, having become formalized, began to establish ranching stations and operations on the mountain lands. Thus, areas once forested soon became open pasture lands.

Parker Ranch held the longest ranching lease to the property, from the early 1900s to 2002, and their lease extended around Mauna Kea to the Puʻuhuluhulu vicinity. Initially, Parker Ranch invested in sheep ranching and then focused on cattle operations until the end of their lease with DHHL in 2002. Since 2002, when existing cattle leases expired, most of these lands have been inactive. Efforts to restore the land's productivity via gorse control, native bird corridors and koa forest restoration have begun in priority areas.

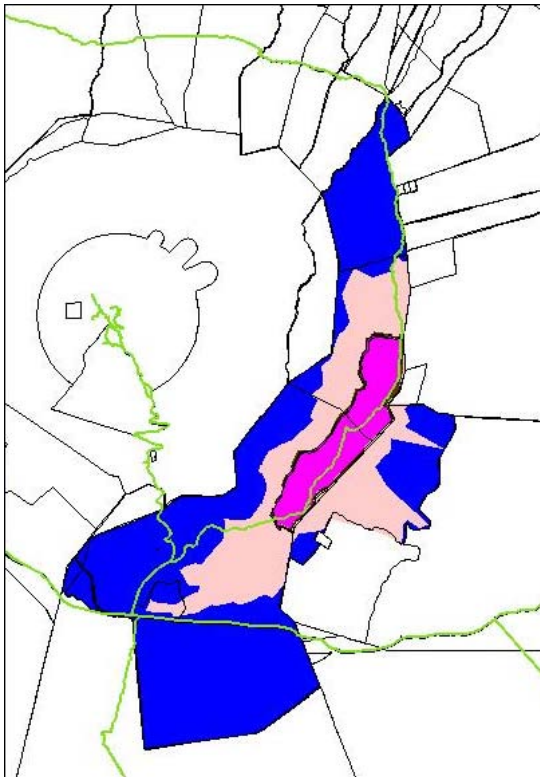
The Humuʻula/Piʻihonua area is made up of approximately 56,200-acres owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands located on the northeast slopes of Mauna Kea. The Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands are the largest contiguous parcel under jurisdiction of DHHL. The Humuʻula parcel is approximately 49,100-acres in size and the Piʻihonua parcel, located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Humuʻula, is approximately 7,078-acres in size. ʻĀinahou, comprising approximately 11,124-acres, is the subsection of Humuʻula south of Saddle Road and is currently under license to the State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The lands of Humuʻula are characterized by their isolation, high elevation, cool temperatures and lack of infrastructure (roads, potable water, telephone, power, etc.). The area is somewhat isolated with the closest public facilities (schools, hospitals, police and fire services) located in Hilo (25-miles and 40-minutes by car) and Waimea (30-miles and 55-minutes by car).

With elevations ranging from approximately 4,500-to 9,000-feet mean sea level, the lands experience cooler temperatures ranging from an annual mean of 58 °F at the 5,000-foot elevation to 45 °F at the 9,000-foot elevation, with frost conditions occurring during the winter months. Rainfall varies greatly over various portions from an annual mean of 45-inches in the upper elevations to 120-inches in the lower elevations near the Saddle Road.



DHHL Humuʻula-Piʻihonua Lands in the ʻĀina Mauna



*Map Noting Extent of Gorse Infestation*

*Blue – Humuʻula-Piʻihonua Property*

*Salmon – Extent to gorse infestation*

*Pink – Gorse containment area*

### ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program

The ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program serves as a guide as DHHL moves forward in managing the Humuʻula/Piʻihonua area to conserve its legacy for future generations while also serving as an economic resource. The Legacy Program is an extension of prior planning and activities at the site. Findings, recommendations, background information and other references from many of these prior documents are included and edited into this program.

The lands of Humuʻula and Piʻihonua represent the most important native forest areas remaining in the DHHL trust. These lands provide a glimpse into the natural environment and native forests which are disappearing throughout the state. The area serves as valuable habitat to many native and endemic species. The area's proximity to Mauna Kea also makes it a valuable cultural resource. These lands have the potential for serving as a sustainable native forest and land unit by simultaneously providing environmental, economic and social benefits to the trust and its beneficiaries in perpetuity.

The ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program incorporates prior planning efforts and serves as a policy framework related to the overall use and management of the property; the implementation process will occur after the Legacy Program is adopted. The following principles, areas of focus and goals serve as the foundation to the preparation and implementation of the ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program.

### Legacy Program Mission

The mission of the ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program and its implementation is to protect approximately 56,000-acres of native Hawaiian forest that is ecologically, culturally and economically self-sustaining for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, its beneficiaries and the community.

The vegetation is dominated by an understory of exotic pasture grasses over much of the lands with koa/ʻōhiʻa forest found in the lower portions of Piʻihonua, especially in the lands adjacent to the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Scattered koa and māmane are found over the northern portions of Humuʻula with scattered māmane found in the upper elevations, especially adjacent to the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The vegetation on the ʻĀinahou lands generally consists of scattered scrub vegetation of ʻōhiʻa and native shrubs.

A significant vegetative feature on these lands is the gorse plant, a noxious weed which covers between 10,000 - 13,000-acres in the central portion of the Humuʻula lands. In high densities, this impenetrable shrub renders the land nearly useless. Because the gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 70-years, the eradication strategy must be long-term and comprehensive in its approach. The need to control and eradicate gorse on the property cannot be overstated.

From a biological perspective the māmane forests are important in that they serve as a critical habitat for palila, an endangered native bird. Several endangered or threaten native bird species also are associated with the koa/ʻōhiʻa and koa/māmane forest areas. The ʻĀinahou lands, which serve as a public hunting and game reserve area, also serves as a refuge area for the Hawaiian goose (nēnē).

## Goals

Initial goals for the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program include:

Goal 1: Develop an economically self-sustaining improvement and preservation program for the natural and cultural resources (invasive species eradication and native ecosystem restoration) and implementation strategy.

The focus of the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program shall be on:

- Restoration and enhancement of DHHL trust resources;
- Identify immediate and future opportunities for DHHL beneficiaries;
- Removal of invasive species - gorse, etc.;
- Conserve natural and cultural resources and endangered species;
- Address reforestation and restoration of the ecosystem;
- Develop revenue generation, reinvestment in land to sustain activities;
- Provide educational and cultural opportunities;
- Identify and secure partners to sustain activities;
- Identify opportunities for alternative/renewable energy projects; and
- Be a lead and/or model for others to engage in ecosystem restoration in a culturally sensitive manner based on partnerships to develop a self-sustaining model

Goal 2: Develop an outreach program to gain interest, participation, and support from the Hawaiian Homes Commission, DHHL Staff, beneficiaries groups, cultural practitioners, natural resource scientists, and the broader community for the Legacy Program and its implementation.

## **Summary of Priority Issues and Focus of the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program**

The ultimate long term goal for DHHL is an economically-sustainable, healthy native forest ecosystem at Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua. In achieving this goal, the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program will serve as a guide for managing existing and future activities and uses and to ensure ongoing protection of DHHL's trust property. In preparing the Legacy Program many prior studies and reports dealing with the Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua region were reviewed and incorporated into the Legacy Program.

The `Āina Mauna Legacy Program is a "living document" that is intended to be flexible and is subject to change, as times and needs change. Therefore, the program should be re-examined on a periodic basis (possibly every 5-years) to ensure that it addresses DHHL's needs in the future. The following is a list of immediate actions.

## **Immediate/Short Term Actions – Summary Listing**

1. Form the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program Implementation Council
  - a. The implementation process will include the Council, Beneficiary and community involvement and participation in advising the Department and Commission
2. Initiate the First Rural Homestead Development (on south-eastern part of property)
3. Initiate the Humu`ula Sheep Station Adaptive Reuse Plan
4. Initiate Expanded Ecotourism Opportunities
5. Initiate Use of Remote Accommodations
6. Initiate Gorse Eradication (consider all viable gorse eradication opportunities, with commercial timber appearing to be the most viable and beneficial to the Department)
  - a. The activities are combined to highlight the actual benefit of forestry to fight gorse and restore the native forest – and, it generates revenue
  - b. Incorporate Carbon Credit opportunities to DHHL
  - c. Use timber license/lease as DHHL implementation of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative
  - d. Consider a long-term agreement to accommodate multiple planting/harvesting rotations
  - e. Require periodic native forest restoration (i.e. at 5-year intervals) on or outside of leased area

7. Investigate and implement additional areas for sustainable koa forestry opportunities. Allows for opportunities for revenue generation; allows for enhanced restoration of native forest
8. Initiate a set-aside of portions of the property for restoration and enhancement purposes
9. Pasture uses (focused on fire fuel mitigation, consistent with Fire Plan – additional acreage) around Keanakolu-Mana, Saddle and Mauna Kea Access Roads
10. Initiate unmanaged-ungulate eradication over entire property. Cattle and other ungulates are vectors for the spread of invasive species (including gorse) and have a negative influence on native forest restoration. Implementing unmanaged-ungulate eradication (primarily sheep, cattle and goats) and allowing management of pigs (so long as the resources are protected) will provide food for beneficiaries, reduce the impacts to the forest resources and generate revenue for the Trust
11. Initiate state, federal and private grant applications to support resource restoration
12. Initiate a Safe Harbor Agreement for threatened/endangered plants, birds and animals over entire site

Disposition of the respective commercial licenses, leases, etc. to implement these actions would be through a broad RFQ/RFP process to select the best qualified applicants (background, experience, financial capability, business plan, etc.) to conduct the respective activities – to the extent permitted by law, preference will be given to native Hawaiians. Homestead and Pasture agreements would be under the typical DHHL disposition process for these types of uses. Any required environmental review would be conducted by the applicant/selectee, based on the details of their specific proposal.

#### Forests and Forestry Uses on the Site

“Forest” and “Forestry” are used in various contexts in the Legacy Program. At various places, “Native Forest Restoration”, “Commercial Timber to Fight Gorse” and “Sustainable Koa Forestry” are referenced. Each references different aspects of dealing with forests and forest products. After 150-years of sheep and cattle ranching, the formerly dense forest became significantly altered by these activities and the forest landscape was converted primarily to open pasture land.



Native Forest Restoration focuses on restoration and enhancement of portions of the Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands in perpetuity to conserve these native forests and natural habitats for future generations. This includes the koa/ʻōhiʻa forest ecosystems on the makai portion of the property and the māmane forest on mauka portions of the site.

Commercial Timber to Fight Gorse focuses on controlling and eliminating this invasive weed. Gorse is shade intolerant and DHHL field trials show that shade from trees inhibit the ability for gorse to grow and spread. It is anticipated that licensed commercial-scale timber planting (using eucalyptus, sugi, or other trees) will shade the gorse sufficiently to keep it from producing seeds and that each year some portion of the seed bank will be removed. Thus, timber planting can serve both as a gorse control and eradication mechanism, as well as an income generator.

It is important to understand that all suggested crops other than koa are designed to initially address and control the gorse, then support the eventual reforestation of the land back to a native koa forest. Eucalyptus and Sugi should be replaced with native koa where possible once it has been determined that the gorse, and its seed germination, is no longer a threat. Sustainable Koa Forestry approach suggests restoration of koa for future sustainable commercial sales. Koa is one of the predominant tree species found naturally in the Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands. It is presently the highest value timber crop in Hawaiʻi. It grows easily and well in this area if introduced ungulates are removed. Restoring the Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands to koa through carefully planned and managed reforestation is its highest and most compatible economic use.

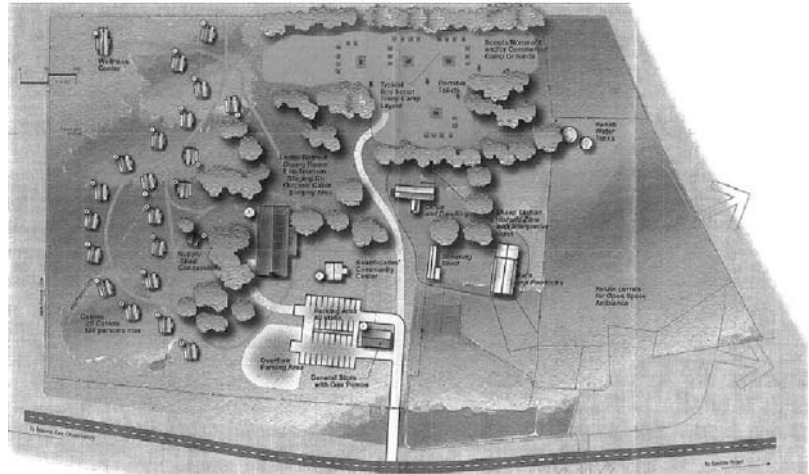


### Self-sustaining Funding with Reinvestment into the Property

One of the central focuses of the ʻĀina Mauna Legacy Program is that the activities and programs implemented need to be economically self-sustaining, with the goal to reinvest the revenue into the management of the property. In considering revenue generation, several opportunities exist:

- Use of Humuʻula Sheep Station – Commercial Activities

The Humuʻula Sheep Station Adaptive Reuse Plan proposes a mix of land uses, wherein the property is divided into three principal sub-areas: Historic/Community Center (5.5-to 6.0-acres); Open Campground (2.0-to 2.5-acres) and Commercial (7.0-to 8.0-acres), including commercial, retail, recreational, camping, cabins, lodge and restaurant activities appropriate to a transient or visitor market. Likewise, DHHL could use part of the property for its own administrative/accommodations needs.



- Forest Products and Biomass for alternative energy opportunities (liquid fuel and electricity.)

Several forestry products and alternative energy producers have been identified as possible users of large scale areas for forestry development. Some of these have recently requested use and leasing of nearby State lands for these purposes. To fully implement this opportunity, it is important that timber operations at Humuʻula attempt to capture all possible value from planted trees, such as veneers, lumber, and/or wood chips, as well as fuels and carbon sequestration credits.

Carbon Offsets/Credits are a key component of national and international emissions trading schemes that have been implemented to mitigate global warming. Credits can be exchanged between businesses or bought and sold in international markets at the prevailing prices.

- Ecotourism and Recreation Use

Ecotourism and recreation related activities, a growing sector of the island's visitor industry, have great potential here due to the natural resources of these lands. Other than providing an area, such as the Humuʻula Sheep Station, to service and manage these activities, these uses and activities could be integrated and managed within other proposed economic uses. The Humuʻula Sheep



Station may serve as a central site to stage and coordinate eco-tourism activities over the entire property.

The potential uses and activities include (many of these are noted and discussed in the "Humuʻula Sheep Station Adaptive Reuse Plan"): Biking Tours, Bird Watching Tours, Lodge/Campsites, Hiking Tours, Horseback Tours, Wilderness Resort/Guest Ranch, Nature/Historical Tours, Volunteer "Service" Trips.

- State, Federal and Private Grant Opportunities

## Comparison of Legacy Program Mission, Goals and Priorities with the Proposed Immediate Actions

- Restoration and enhancement of DHHL trust resources
- Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources and Endangered Species
- Address reforestation and restoration of the ecosystem
  - Reinvest the revenue derived from property into management/restoration
  - Consider a term (i.e. 50-year) conservation encumbrance over portions of the property
  - Initiate additional areas for sustainable Koa Salvage opportunities
  - Require interim gorse-control timber operator to participate in native forest restoration
  - Incorporate “volun-tourism” (visitors volunteer) support into ecotourism activities
  - Pasture uses (focused on fire fuel mitigation, consistent with Fire Plan - additional acreage)
  - Initiate unmanaged-ungulate eradication over entire property
  - Initiate a Safe Harbor Agreement for threatened/endangered species over entire site
- Identify opportunities for DHHL Homesteading
  - Opportunities for homesteading across the entire landscape of Humuʻula/Piʻihonua lands
  - Initiate the first rural homestead development
  - Forested areas also provide DHHL with an option for future homesteading
- Removal of invasive species - gorse, etc.
  - Initiate gorse eradication (consider viable options; commercial timber appears most beneficial)
    - Forestry fights gorse and restores the native forest – and, it generates revenue
    - Incorporate Carbon Credit opportunities to DHHL
    - Use timber as DHHL implementation of the Hawaiʻi Clean Energy Initiative
    - Consider a long-term agreement to address multiple harvesting rotations
    - Require periodic native forest restoration on or outside of leased/licensed area
  - Continue the ʻŌiwi Lōkahi o ka Mokupuni o Keawe gorse to charcoal demonstration project
  - Initiate unmanaged-ungulate eradication over entire property
  - Pasture uses (focused on fire fuel mitigation, consistent with Fire Plan - additional acreage)
- Identify and secure partners to sustain activities
- Develop revenue generation with reinvestment in land to sustain activities
  - Initiate state, federal and private grant applications to support resource restoration
  - Initiate implementation of the Humuʻula Sheep Station Adaptive Reuse Plan
  - Initiate expansion of Ecotourism
  - Initiate process for Use of Remote Accommodations
  - Investigate and implement additional areas for sustainable koa forestry opportunities
  - Interim use of commercial scale timber operations (timber as tool to control gorse)
  - Incorporate Carbon Credit opportunities in interim timber operation
  - Consider a term (i.e. 50-year) conservation encumbrance over portions of the property
  - Gorse-control timber operator native forest restoration could be “match” for grants
  - Volun-tourism efforts for native forest restoration could be “match” for grants
  - Initiate unmanaged-ungulate eradication over entire property
- Provide educational and cultural opportunities
  - Restored, healthy native forest provides a variety of opportunities for gathering, cultural practices and opportunities to see and understand native forest ecosystems
  - Humuʻula Sheep Station as gateway and staging area – campgrounds used by groups
- Identify opportunities for alternative/renewable energy projects
  - Rural developed homesteads; opportunity for photovoltaic, water catchment/reuse etc.
  - Interim use of commercial scale timber operations (biomass for alternative energy)
- Be a lead and/or model for others to engage in ecosystem restoration in a culturally sensitive manner based on partnerships to develop a self-sustaining model

**In Fulfilling the Mission, Goals and Priority Issues, a Proper Balance is Required**

We are reminded that the foundation of the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program is based on the HHC Mission Statement and the Legacy Program Mission, Goals and Priority Issues. The `Āina Mauna Legacy Program evaluates and balances conformance of competing uses with these overarching principles. Ultimately, and as an over-arching principle, the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program is about and for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, the Land and its Beneficiaries.

**Homesteading for Beneficiaries**

The `Āina Mauna Legacy Program incorporates several opportunities for homesteading across the entire landscape of the Humu`ula/Pi`ihonua lands. The bulk of the homestead opportunities are anticipated to be phased in once the land has been restored to productive use. This area includes the significant portions of the site that are proposed for sustainable koa restoration.

These forested areas also provide DHHL with an option for future homesteading. Once the koa restoration is accomplished, DHHL will have the opportunity to consider creation of agricultural homesteads using forestry for beneficiaries or homestead sites in the forest. The commercial koa forest management operations can continue, with the DHHL and beneficiaries benefitting directly from the commercial sale of koa.

Similar to many present-day homesteaders having ranches associated with their homesteads or area for agricultural use associated with homesteads, with the restoration and management of the forest here, future homesteaders may incorporate the management of koa forest into their agricultural homesteads.

Ultimately, decision-makers decades from now may decide whether this is appropriate or not – once the forest is restored. The suggestion is that the Legacy Program expands future options, opportunities and choices for homesteading.

A significant portion of the property (4,500-acres) is proposed for immediate homesteading, (with the first area of about 1,000-acres for 100-to 200-homesteads with consideration for alternative layouts.) Much of Humu`ula, however, is not ready to support a “self-sufficient and healthy community” of homesteaders, as the land’s productivity has significantly declined over the past 150-years. 10,000 additional acres may be considered for future homesteading opportunities.

Since the property was not typically used for long term habitation, there are questions as to the demand for homesteads in this area. Humu`ula is a unique environment that historically has been minimally settled. It is important that beneficiaries are made aware and understand the advantages and disadvantages of living in this area. Given that the immediate homesteading area will be a rural development (cinder roads, catchment water, photovoltaic, septic, etc.) and the area is relatively isolated from employment, schools, shopping centers and other DHHL communities, it is not clear what the demand will be for these types of homesteads.

**Pasture Use for Beneficiaries**

Land reserved for future homesteads (1,000-acres), beyond the first area noted above, is available for interim pasture use. So, whether beneficiaries obtain a homestead or not, there is the opportunity for direct beneficiary benefit and use through additional acreage for pasture use or community pasture.

On the issue of pasture, other specific areas are also proposed for additional acreage for pasture use (consistent with the Fire Plan) – this, too, is proposed to be immediately available for beneficiary use.



This overall area is in the vicinity of 4,000-acres (these land areas are approximate references) - with about 2,000-acres designated for pasture along the Keanakolu-Mana Road and another 2,000-acres on the west side of the Mauna Kea Access Road (below the Radio Tower site and fronting Saddle Road and Mauna Kea Access Road.)



*Wild bull with scattered gorse plants*

### **Unmanaged-Ungulate Eradication**

Another immediate action recommended in the Legacy Program is the eradication of the unmanaged-ungulates across the property. Cattle and other ungulates are vectors for the spread of invasive species (including gorse) and have negative impacts on the native forest ecosystems and reforestation efforts.

Allowing unmanaged-ungulate eradication (primarily sheep, cattle and goats) and management of pigs (so long as the resources are protected) have multiple benefits: (1) beneficiaries will put meat on their tables, (2) eliminating unmanaged-ungulates will reduce the impacts to the forest resources and (3) the trust will generate some income from the sale of the unmanaged-ungulates.

### **Forest Restoration and Management = Job Opportunities**

Along with this, there are several recommendations dealing with native forest restoration and commercial koa forestry. With respect to restoring koa forests for future commercial opportunities, benefits to beneficiaries are immediate, as well as long-term.

Immediate direct and indirect opportunities are jobs related to the forest restoration, including on-the-ground work, supplying restoration needs and services (whether it is equipment, supplies or services to support the reforestation,) as well as the ongoing monitoring and research associated with the restoration efforts.

### **Commercial Forestry = Helping Fund Management Needs**

Once the forest is restored, DHHL has several options that can directly benefit the beneficiaries and the Trust (beyond the benefit of ongoing forest management employment.)

As required in the Mission, commercial forestry will assist in proving necessary funding to help with the overall management of the property.

### **Reforestation Provides Beneficiary Opportunities for Gathering and Traditional Practices**

The restored, healthy native forest provides a variety of benefits and opportunities to beneficiaries through gathering, cultural practices and opportunities to see and understand native forest ecosystems. Since the land is DHHL owned, beneficiaries will have significant benefit for the exercise of cultural traditions.

The site (with restoration to healthy native forest) provides beneficiaries cultural practices access as the only site of this type in the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust inventory.

### **Koa Wood Products for Beneficiaries**

Other obvious benefits to beneficiaries are the opportunities relating to use of the koa wood products. With the restored and expanded forest, practitioners and crafters will have a wide range of (cultural and economic) opportunities for a variety of koa wood product production.



### **Ecotourism – Small Footprint and Limited Impact = Revenue Opportunities for Management**

Other necessary components to fulfilling the Mission’s mandate of economic self-sufficiency are the recommendations dealing with the adaptive reuse of the Sheep Station and eco-tourism opportunities. These items cover a small footprint on the overall landscape and have limited impact on the resources, but provide necessary funds for the self-sufficient operations of the Legacy Program. Here, too, beneficiaries have the opportunity to participate through direct and indirect jobs.

Associated with this, one beneficiary group, Hui Kako’o ʻĀina Ho’opulapula, has a vision for the adaptive reuse of Pu’u ʻŌ’ō Ranch headquarters. They have been actively involved in cleaning and clearing the area. The proposed future use of the site they suggest is consistent with the general recommendations for the “Remote Accommodations”.

### **Gorse Control Critically Important – Otherwise Site is Useless**

Likewise, another beneficiary group’s (ʻŌiwi Lōkahi o ka Mokupuni o Keawe) research project focusing on gorse to charcoal is consistent and compatible with the recommendations for gorse control.

The recommendation implementing the use of commercial-scale timber (such as eucalyptus, sugi, or other) to fight the gorse is consistent with recommendations from others (and demonstrated in DHHL’s field trials) as an effective way to address gorse on a landscape scale. Other viable gorse eradication opportunities can also be considered.



*Koa tree “skeletons” (evidence of former forest) engulfed by gorse*

The need for controlling and eradicating gorse cannot be overstated. Until this destructive plant is removed, beneficiaries will not see or experience benefits from the property.

To date, gorse has been a nuisance and is expensive to control. The recommendations specifically target the removal of this invasive plant, while also generating revenue to the DHHL for management of the remainder of the land. Once the gorse eradication process is well underway, the recommendation is to revert the land back to koa forest and include it with the other commercial koa forest activities.

### **RFQ/RFP Process to Select the Best Qualified Applicants for Commercial Agreements**

The suggestion of using a broad RFQ/RFP process in the procurement of services for the commercial enterprises does not in any way limit the opportunity for beneficiaries to be involved in the process. Likewise, as a State agency, DHHL is obligated to follow state procurement laws. DHHL has the responsibility to look for the best qualified applicants (background, experience, financial capability, business plan, etc.) that can fulfill the Trust's needs at a reasonable price. The RFQ/RFP process serves to produce that.

Consistent with the fundamental purposes of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, to the extent permitted by law, it is the goal of the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program to support economic development, maximize opportunities for beneficiaries and give preference for native Hawaiian beneficiary involvement at all stages of the program's implementation.

Disposition of Homestead and Pasture leases, licenses and/or RPs would be under the typical DHHL planning, funding, development and disposition processes for these types of uses.

### **Opportunities for Beneficiaries to Participate and Benefit are Extensive and Diverse**

As you can see, the opportunities for beneficiaries are extensive and diverse; and, there are opportunities for beneficiaries within each component of the recommendations, whether it is homesteading, pasture, unmanaged-ungulate eradication, native forest restoration, commercial timber, koa forestry, ecotourism or cultural practices. Some of the benefits are proposed to be relatively immediate, while others will necessarily take time for the real benefit to come to fruition. Additionally, the implementation process will include opportunities for Beneficiary and community involvement and participation at all stages of the process.

### **`Āina Mauna Legacy Program is All About the Trust, the Land and its Beneficiaries**

Restoration of the land upon which native Hawaiians have always depended is key to the success of the beneficiaries. Over the past 150-years the land transformed away from a healthy, dense native forest. It will take generations to restore the land back to this healthy condition. Ultimately, and as an over-arching principle, the `Āina Mauna Legacy Program is about and for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, the Land and its Beneficiaries.



**Ola ka `āina, ola ke kanaka**  
**(Healthy/Living Land, Healthy/Living People)**  
The good of the land results in the good of the people.



