



Ka'ū Regional Plan
Beneficiary Meeting
October 26, 2011
Meeting Memorandum

PRINCIPALS

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Attendance: Thomas Kaniho, Adrienne Kekoa, David Kuahiwinui, Winifred P. Hanoa, Jackie Kalua'u, Rodney Kuahiwinui, Paul Makuakane, Jeffery Kekoa, Alike Sylva, William Kekoa Jr., Dennis Kaawa, Robin Cyprano, Ernest Macomber Breithaupt, Dean Kaniho, Tissy Kaniho, Wade Baji, Cynthia Baji, Robert Da-Mate, Leifi Hao, Gaylen De Coito, Shelley Reyes, Nolan Makuakane, Kathy Hashimoto, Michael Sylva, Suzanne Kaliko, Ronald Kaliko, Liz Auluwaimaka, B. Young, C. Beck, Daryl K. Kalua'u, Gary Davis, Joseph Akiu Jr., Winona Makuakane

Staff: Louis Hao, Kaleo Manuel, Ulu Lota, Ellery Batino

Consultants: PBR Hawaii – Scott Abrigo, Malia Cox

Opening:

The meeting was open in prayer led by Ms. Pele Hanoa.

Welcoming:

Mr. Kaleo Manuel welcomed the participants and introduced the DHHL Staff and consulting team. Mr. Manuel described the agenda for the evening, and went through the proposed meeting schedule.

Introduction of DHHL Planning Process:

Mr. Manuel described the DHHL planning process and the benefits of community participation to get the appropriate projects identified based on the needs of the community.

1. *General Plan* - Statewide plan with long-term perspective establishing goals and objectives for DHHL.
2. *Strategic Plan*- Statewide focus with shorter term perspective that creates an action plan for each program area based on goals and objects of the General Plan.
3. *Island Plan*- Islands plan have a long-term perspective (around 10 years) to establish the following”
 - a. Land use goals and objectives from General Plan
 - b. Develop appropriate “zoning” within land holdings to meet needs of beneficiaries while ensuring proper stewardship of the ‘āina
 - c. Identify needs, opportunities of beneficiaries through surveys, focus groups and community consultation
4. *Regional Plans*- Regional plans are being developed for 20 regions throughout the State. The regional plan is a tool that the community can utilize to move things along that are important to them as well as hold the department accountable.

Overview of Regional Plan

Scott Abrigo, PBR Hawaii, described information contained in the regional plan and the method for developing a project list for Ka'ū. Each plan follows a standard format. The components within each regional plan are listed below:

1. Political Boundaries and Leaders
2. Community Stakeholders
3. Partnering Benefits
4. History and Culture
5. Hawaiian Home Lands and Adjacent Land
6. Regional Demographics
7. Development Trends
8. Infrastructure – Existing and Planned
9. Issues and Opportunities
10. Potential Project descriptions
11. Priority Project list and implementation parameters

Review of Issues and Opportunities Identified in 2010

Mr. Abrigo went through the issues and opportunities identified by beneficiaries during a meeting held on August 11, 2010. The issues were subdivided into the following categories and will be included in the issues and opportunities list memorialized within the regional plan.

2010 Issues

Resource Management

- Lua o Palahemo and other cultural sites are being desecrated
- Poaching and cutting fences is occurring in the lower R.P. area.
- Fire breaks are needed.
- There isn't a regional fire control plan
- There is a national Landmark at Kalae. Historic preservation of the area is necessary.
- DHHL has limited resources to provide adequate enforcement.

Infrastructure

- Renewable Energy
- Water

Education

- Inform all on the cultural significance and site sensitivity of the area.
- Develop Cultural Group/association.
- Create signage.

Economic Development

- A centralized area should be identified for commercial activities.
- License eco-tours within DHHL lands.
- Explore vending opportunities.

Open Discussion-

Throughout the meeting, the floor was open for attendees to ask questions, discuss, and

brainstorm ideas, issues, and concerns. Attendees had numerous comments and questions. These have been consolidated in this section.

1. *Attendee Comment:* What is the total amount of land available? How many acres are developable for residential?
DHHL Response: The lands in Ka'ū were evaluated during the 2002 Hawai'i Island Planning process. The land uses based on development potential has been identified and was mapped in the Island plan. One of the needs identified in 2002, was for additional residential opportunities in Ka'ū. Based on the inventory at the time, Wailau was designated as a priority project for future residential development. However, DHHL subsequently acquired scattered vacant lots within Discovery Harbor. These lots must be leased to eligible beneficiaries before the Department will consider the development of Wailau.
2. *Attendee Comment* Can we get more lands/money based on Act 14?
DHHL Response: The Department has been working to make the trust whole. Lands have been identified, and the acquisition of these lands is nearing completion. The monies owed to the department are being paid back. The repayment is expected to be completed in 2014.
3. *Attendee Comment* We need to educate people regarding Kalae and the cultural and natural resources in the region. Put up signs, if you are caught with vehicles, they should be confiscated.
4. *Attendee Comment* What made homes expensive (past awards) was that everything had to be built to county codes. If DHHL utilizes exemptions a home could be built for a lot less. The use of exemptions would result in homes similar to the coffee shacks from the 1920s and 1930s that are still standing today. These types of homes are safe and affordable to build.
5. *Attendee Comment:* Can Habitat for Humanity be done in Ka'ū. Can we do a solely self-help community here in Ka'ū?
6. *Attendee Comment:* Are the royal patents being looked at?
Response: This regional planning process focuses on DHHL lands, and does not address patents within the private landholdings.
7. *Attendee Comment:* An attendee indicated that there may be some land claims between Kalae and Mahana bay. This should be settled before DHHL licenses eco-tours.
8. *Attendee Comment:* Green Sands is a money maker. A proposal was sent to DHHL to manage the area and generate revenue.
9. *Attendee Comment:* Non-Hawaiians are doing illegal activities. You cannot stop eco-tourism, but some method should be developed to ensure Hawaiians from Ka'ū benefit.
10. *Attendee Comment:* More suitable agriculture lands should be made available. Wai'ōhinu was traditionally a very productive region. If agriculture is pursued, it should occur in Wai'ōhinu.

11. *Attendee Comment:* A water study was done, and there is a lot of water in Ka'ū. Large amounts are going straight into the ocean.
Response: DHHL has attempted to capture this water in the past. A test well was drilled, potable water was not discovered. Source development is extremely expensive, and based on the Departments limited resources, other more cost effective strategies will need to be pursued.
12. *Attendee Comment:* Development Codes, Covenants and Restrictions (DCCRs) violate constitutional rights. DCCRs are the reason that Discovery Harbor is failing.
13. *Attendee Comment:* The cost of the turn-key homes is the reason lease of lots in Discovery Harbor is failing.
14. *Attendee Comment:* There is a difference between utilizing ATVs to access resources, and for recreational use.
15. *Attendee Comment:* ATVs are destroying natural resources like the naio papa, found only in Kalae.
16. *Attendee Comment:* There are too many people at Mahana. It makes it difficult to utilize traditional fishing practices privately.
17. *Attendee Comment:* Is there infrastructure in Wailau?
18. *Attendee Comment:* There is no water in Wailau
19. *Attendee Comment:* Is there a Ka'ū wait list?
Response: During the meeting, DHHL staff indicated that old area lists would be first, then the Hawai'i Island list. However, it appears that while there are old area lists, there is not one for Ka'ū. Therefore, the Hawai'i Island list would be utilized to fill homestead leases based on date of application.
20. *Attendee Comment:* Can an applicant be on both the pastoral and agriculture lists? Can you grow crops like 'uala, corn, kalo on a pastoral lease?
DHHL Response: A beneficiary must choose either agriculture or pastoral applicant list. The Department is looking into growing crops on pastoral leases.
21. *Attendee Comment:* The Memorandum of Agreement between the County and DHHL should be discarded because it is unenforceable.

Issues and Opportunities:

At the conclusion of the regional planning process discussion, the floor was opened to discuss issues and opportunities with the intent of creating a potential project list for this region. These issues were memorialized on chart paper to allow attendees to comment and adjust when necessary. The following list of issues has been grouped by category rather than in sequential order. Issues raised during open discussion have been incorporated into this section as appropriate. This list as well as the listed generated in 2010 will be utilized to create a list of

potential projects for consideration by the community during the November 18, 2011 meeting.

Water

1. Increasing transmission of water into Kalae is needed.
2. Source development is necessary to access the substantial groundwater resources.

Community

1. The community should form an association.
2. Ecotourism proposals should be approved by the community in conjunction with the DHHL Land Management Division.

Natural Resources

1. Access within Kalae needs to be regulated.
2. Recreational use should be regulated
3. Utilization of all-terrain vehicles should be regulated taking into account the differences between recreational use and use for accessing resources.
4. Regulation should include an educational component including signage and some type of public forum.

Homesteading

1. More affordable housing opportunities need to be developed.
2. More self-help homes are needed.
3. DHHL should consider turning the remainder of the lots in Discovery Harbor into a Community Self-Help project.
4. Alternatives to the turn-key option/set builder are necessary. The options should be for residential, agriculture and pastoral.
5. Building Code is not flexible enough to allow alternative building types, construction practices.
1. Discovery Harbor DCCRs should be evaluated to determine if provisions are hindering the applicants from accepting lots.

Agriculture (Farm and Pastoral)

2. DHHL should consider a partnership with DLNR to make agriculture lots available to DHHL beneficiaries on the DLNR lands
3. Wai'ōhinu should be considered for agricultural homesteading

District Manager

Prior to the close of the meeting, the new DHHL District Manager, Lewis Hao, briefly talked with the attendees. He indicated that he is part of the district, and came to the meeting to understand the issues. He indicated that the people of Ka'ū can work to create their own destiny by working together on things like creating an association, a non-profit organization or self-help housing.

Schedule

1. The next meeting is currently set for Friday, November 18, 2011.

2. This meeting will focus on identifying up to five priority projects
3. Attendees were encouraged to continue to contemplate issues, opportunities, and potential projects relevant to the region.
4. DHHL has set aside Saturday, November 19, 2011 for site visits based on the input provided by the beneficiaries.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm.