

MEETING NOTES

**Hawaiian Home Lands Beneficiary Consultation Meeting
On the 'Āina Mauna Legacy Program Humu'ula Game Management Pilot Project
Kūhiō Hale
Waimea, Hawai'i
July 8, 2013
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

Beneficiary Consultation Meeting Agenda

- I. Pule and Introductions
- II. Purpose of Beneficiary Consultation
- III. Presentation of Pilot Project
- IV. Open Discussion
- V. Next Steps and Closing

The following is a summary of the comments received during the “Open Discussion” that occurred during the meeting:

1. There might be possible radiation contamination of sheep meat from Pohakuloa Training Area activities.
2. Is it policy that there is only one consultation meeting? I thought there were three consultation meetings.
DHHL: This specific game management project involved regular consultation over a year with an advisory group made up of community members. Additionally, the 'Āina Mauna Legacy Program, of which this project is a part of, had numerous consultations, as well as public comment periods as a part of the the environmental assessment process.
3. I like hear from Ala Lindsey, he represents the (Waimea) Homestead Association. He is a life long hunter and knows the land.
4. Where is the economic chair, there are community members for two of the three areas (subject-matter areas)?
DHHL: We do not have a project to fund yet. This project needs to receive Commission approval before it can move forward. But if we do get approval, DHHL's intention is to involve our beneficiaries in the economic aspects of this project.
5. My name is Ala Lindsey. I got involved a year ago. I heard the Hilo people were going to do a hunting project, so I jumped on the committee. I was curious to learn about what was going on. I hunted on that mountain from young boy time. My dad fought for that mountain since the 60's. DLNR has been doing a hell of a job eradicating the sheep and just leaving it on the land. But now we have opportunity to manage sheep on our land to hunt and to teach our keiki. If we do not open this door now, we are going to lose it. We not going get this chance again. It's a small project, about 700 acres. If we can get this to work, we can open up more land for hunting. We can open up more lands for our people to get food.

Hunting is a lost art. Our people don't even know how to cook it. DHHL hasn't allowed hunting in the past. This is a project that can open up doors. We cannot go on mountains anymore they won't allow it. We got to get permission, special passes to go to our mountain.

6. Who is "they"?

Ala Lindsey: When I say "they", I mean the government.

7. If hunters want to hunt and get a permit, what kind of permit do you need?

DHHL: Hunters will need to obtain a DLNR hunting license in order to participate in this pilot program. In order to get a DLNR license, a person needs to pass the hunting safety class.

8. Ala Lindsey: A lot of the sheep are deformed from inbreeding. We want to remove those that are from the herd. We going to put the good sheep in a special area to learn from them and study them. We want to show that the sheep, the bird, the trees, the land, the man, can all co-exist. If you take out the sheep, the fire is going to come because the sheep are not eating the grass. The sheep are a problem because there are a lot of sheep. But if we can bring their number down, maybe they will not be a problem. We can manage the amount of sheep and we can use our people to manage the sheep. The goal is to get this pilot program started so that we can get people hunting. I just want to teach my babies and everyone else's babies how to hunt and give to the kupuna that cannot go up there.

9. How soon, how fast can this project start?

10. Ala Lindsey: One of the big things that DHHL showed in the presentation was the cost of the project. That is a barrier. The advisory group hopes to get plenty of volunteers to help reduce costs. Then the next thing is the cost of materials. The cost of materials will be a lot. One of the first things the advisory group wanted to do was to put a fence up to stop the road kill. The advisory group is looking for volunteers to stop the road kill.

DHHL: One of the questions DHHL would like to get feedback on from meeting participants is who should be allowed to hunt on DHHL lands? DHHL staff has a legal responsibility to manage trust lands for trust beneficiaries as defined by the 1920 Act.

11. Perhaps for people who are not DHHL beneficiaries, they can pay a fee to hunt. Trust beneficiaries would be allowed to hunt for free. For road kill in Alaska, there is a phone number that you can call to notify authorities. The authorities collect the road kill and call people on a list who are interested in receiving the meat from the road kill.

DHHL: That's a good idea. DHHL is hopeful that if this project is successful, there will be no more road kill on Saddle Road.

12. How many sheep can an authorized hunter kill?

DHHL: DHHL and the advisory group's current proposal is to hold a lottery to select from a pool of interested beneficiaries. If you are drawn from the lottery, you are entitled to a day of hunting. Hunters would have a bag limit of one animal. But the bag limit may change in the future depending upon research and assessment of the sheep population.

13. I am concerned that only the good animals will be hunted and only the junk ones will be left to breed future generations. I would not want to feed my children meat from the deformed ones.

14. Ala Lindsey: The advisory group had wanted to first trap the sheep in order to distribute the sheep to those who wanted to raise them. But we cannot remove live animals from this area.
15. We want to be able to relocate live animals from Humu'ula to raise in other areas, why can't we do that?
DHHL: We cannot transport live sheep because of DOA and DOH regulations.
16. What about the wild cows that have been moved off of the mountain?
DHHL: Live animals can only be relocated from one area to another only if they will be immediately slaughtered. If an animal is transported live and the intent is to raise the animal, DOA requires the animal to be tagged and tracked over time. If someone took an animal home, DOA may send staff periodically to check on the animal. The reason for that is to track disease. For example, if a herd started to be infected, they want to know where the infected animal came from. The rule for hunting is that you can kill the animal onsite, bury the unusable parts on-site, and take the meat home.
17. DLNR Forestry just moved 300 head of sheep from Mauna Kea to Keauhou. How was DLNR able to do that given DOH and DOA rules?
DHHL: In order to be compliant with the existing rules, DLNR would have had to have tagged all of those animals prior to relocating them.
18. How many of the Waimea Homestead is involved with this? Ala Lindsey took on this kuleana for almost two years representing our Homestead. These are important issues and if we want to get involved, we need to join Ala. We cannot sit idle and let DHHL tell us what to do.
19. What I hear from Ala tonight is that he needs a fence. The main step is putting a fence up. I can donate two poles. Everyone can give something.
20. What is OHA doing for this project?
DHHL: OHA is a potential funding source. DHHL can explore opportunities to collaborate with OHA if this project receives approval by the Commission.
21. Does DHHL have a genetic profile of the herd? I purchased a herd from Parker Ranch and spent a lot of money to upgrade the herd. But even after my efforts to improve the herd, I could not get the animals into a slaughter house because of DOA restrictions. If DHHL does end up culling whatever remains of that herd, DHHL may want to entertain a commercial sheep raising program. If DHHL wants to feed our families, you should have sheep that are the best meat sheep you can put together genetically.
Ala Lindsey: Right now, DHHL and the advisory group's priority is to deal with the sheep that are on the mountain now and to put up a fence to better manage those sheep.
22. These days, you do not see people making their own fence post. You only see them buying fence posts. We need to learn how to make our own.
23. Can we recycle existing fence on Hawaiian Home Lands for this project. There's miles and miles of existing fence.
DHHL: That's an excellent idea. DHHL can look into that.
24. DHHL: We want to know if this project is a move in the right direction.
Audience "Yes." [big applause from participants]

25. DHHL would like to know if there are any further ideas the meeting participants may have to improve this project.
26. When is the next meeting of the advisory group?
DHHL: Next Friday, July 12, at 9:00AM in the DHHL East Hawaii District Office. The focus of the meeting will be to make sure that we incorporate what we heard from the two Beneficiary Consultation meetings we held and to make sure we are on track to have a good presentation at the August Commission meeting. By end of August, early September, we hope to start doing things with the herd.
27. Are the advisory group meetings open?
DHHL: Yes, all the meetings are open. All you have to do is contact myself [Mike Robinson] or one of the committee chairs and let us know that you would like to participate.
28. The road that goes to the Mauna Kea summit, is that a DHHL road? We need to charge a toll if it is. We can also give those that use the road a water bottle that with a label that describes to people what the advisory group would like to do with these lands.
DHHL: DHHL will look into that idea.
29. DHHL: DHHL would like to get guidance from meeting participants on who gets to hunt? Right now, DHHL is leaning towards the policy that eligible hunters would only include beneficiaries and a guest of the beneficiary. Both beneficiaries and the guest also need to obtain a DLNR hunting license and complete the hunting safety class as well.
30. There should be one month a year set aside for keiki to hunt.
31. The keiki should get to hunt, but it should be safe for them to hunt.
32. DHHL: DHHL and the advisory group intend to make hunting opportunities available to all Hawai'i Island homesteaders and beneficiaries who are homestead applicants.
33. DHHL: DHHL and the advisory group also proposed the idea that beneficiaries would be allowed to bring a guest when they hunt. The guest does not have to be a beneficiary. The guest could be a keiki.
34. There are people with hunting licenses that have said they would like to help those without hunting licenses to get their license.
35. For sheep that hunters do not want the animals, can you donate them to homeless or others?
DHHL: Yes, that is something we can consider.
36. Not all beneficiaries are 50 percent Hawaiian. Can you define what a beneficiary is?
DHHL: Beneficiaries as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act are native Hawaiians that have one-half (50%) Hawaiian ancestry or more and are at least 18 years old. If a beneficiary that meets the above requirement has received a homestead lease, the beneficiary can succeed that lease to a relative that is at least 25 percent Hawaiian blood.
37. What will happen to the animals that are part of the original cleaning of the herd? Will they go to the people who are helping volunteer?
DHHL: DHHL and the advisory group developed some specifics on "animal distribution". Lets say there were 300 or 400 animals we needed to get rid of to reduce the herd. Who gets those animals? The initial idea was that the animals would go to beneficiaries. It

could go to people who were donating posts or volunteering to help. Not all of them would go to the volunteers because there are some people who are unable to volunteer because of physical limitations like kupuna. So there would be a percentage that would go to every Hawaiian Home Land community association for them to distribute amongst their community. Tentatively, DHHL and the advisory group were looking at a distribution of 70 percent goes to the volunteers and 30 percent goes to the community associations.

38. DHHL: What do the meeting participants think about that idea?

Attendee: It's a good start

39. Will hunting be on the weekend only?

DHHL: No, for those that get to hunt, they will have a window of seven to ten days to pick one day to hunt. The specifics about timing and hunting seasons need to be worked out further with the advisory group.

40. We retired people can go hunt during the week.

41. We are at a good start. We are at the infancy of this project. But lets make sure that we are not limited by the system that we are put into. I have grandchildren that are not 25 percent. I know things will change and evolve. We are all Hawaiians and we all have the same mouth and opu that make us hungry. Make sure that in the long-term all Hawaiians will get to be a part of this.

42. Mahalo for coming and sharing this information with us. I want to know about future meetings related to this project.

DHHL: We are creating lists of interested people who may want to serve on the advisory group and/or one of its three sub-committees, or volunteer, or donate.

43. This program should be for beneficiaries and their family. Families hunt together.

44. Who owns the big stick, who is calling the shots? If the cattle is on Hawaiian Home Lands, does the state tell you to fence it off. What is the point of doing all of this for nothing in return? Who is making the money?

DHHL: There are a bunch of different issues embedded in your questions. For DHHL, the foundational goals of the project are what we are here for today. One of the goals is to manage these resources on Hawaiian Home Lands for Hawaiians. That is the ultimate goal. Inclusion of beneficiaries in that decision making process is what drives the project. The second goal is restoration of the these resources. With taking comes giving back and we believe that everyone as a Hawaiian understands that value. The last goal is research. Research drives decision making. Without data, people can say it is hearsay. Everyone is drawn to this project for different reasons. It is not always about the "dollar" and as a trust, DHHL realizes that it is not money that is always driving us all the time, it is building communities that are self-sufficient in perpetuity. Perhaps someday, this project can make money. But the immediate issue for DHHL is liability. That is why DHHL needs to communicate with those that will use the resource to determine the best way to sustain these resources in perpetuity.

Write-in Comments:

45. Fencing is good, but area is too small to sustain 1,000 sheep. Larger area is needed. Access fee to Mauna Kea should suffice financial needs. Stocking other areas on Mauna Kea DHHL should sustain rest of sheep population. Tax dollars should be lobbied to continue this project. We are tax paying citizens. Put the dollars to use.
 46. Great project and a start or beginning to multiuse of land in food security, restoring our dryland forest and conducting research. I am sure there are more opportunities that this project can grow into but for now, we are very supportive of moving forward. Also we should shift presentations and lead from Mike to beneficiary representation like Ala.
 47. Volunteers for fence materials. Kokua Hana Lima. Me'a. Meeting should be in Waimea and not Hilo. Please follow up – Holomua.
 48. If my mom is beneficiary but does not hunt, will I be able to put my name in the lottery?
 49. I support the 'Āina Mauna project. We just need to start instead of going in circles about things that are the end product. The end product is that it happens.
 50. Could we have another beneficiary consultation meeting? Would like to be on a committee to help. Mahalo for coming! Can we get the notes completed and emailed to us??!
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Verbal Comments Received After Meeting:

51. Resources belong to all beneficiaries of the trust despite what island you are on. How far is DHHL going to take this regionalization of resources and empowering communities to manage these resources? If I live on O'ahu, and I want to hunt here, I should be able to or if I want to fish in Ho'olehua, I should be able to. If you want to make resources proprietary by island, then you pay for it, don't expect money from the state. Resources belong to everyone!

LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS FROM SIGN-IN SHEETS

(in alphabetical order by last name)

FIRST NAME, LAST NAME	CITY
Anderson A. Agustin Sr.	Kailua-Oahu
Rayland Aina	Honokaa
Micci Aiona	Kamuela
Spencer Akana	Kamuela
Theodore Akau	Kamuela
Shantelle Akau	Kamuela
Tui K. Ala	Honolulu
Charisse Ala	Honolulu
Cleon Bailey	Kamuela
Genesis Bell	Kamuela
Kaleo Bertelmann	Kamuela
Pelika Bertelmann	Kamuela
Lana`eanuheaulua`au Bertelmann-Sanchez	Kamuela
Alvin Chong III	Kamuela
Jay Clifford	Waikoloa
Juienie Dowsett	Kamuela
V. Fergerstrom	Kamuela
Bully Fergerstrom	Kamuela
Jim Fukunaga	Kamuela
Donald Graciedis	Kailua-Kona
Representative Faye Hanohano	Pahoa
David Hudson	Kamuela
Patricia Hudson	Kamuela
Mike Hudson	Kamuela
Lenyle Ikeda	Kamuela
Kyle Ikeda	Kamuela
Leslie K.J. Julian	Pahoa
Maxine Kahaulelio	Kamuela
Wendell Kaiawa	Kailua-Kona
Guy Kaniho	Kailua-Kona
Kalani Kaniho	Kailua-Kona
Vernon Kaniho Sr.	Kamuela
Cari Kapuniai	Kamuela
D. Taylor Kapuniai	Kamuela
Jerry Kauahi	Kamuela
Betty Lau	Kamuela
Christopher Lewi	Kamuela
Ala Lindsey	Kamuela
Jovaustin Murray-Thornton	Waipahu
Sheye Nihau	Kailua-Kona
Danny Pajimula	Kamuela
Walter Puhi Jr.	Kamuela
Jose Salinas	Kamuela

FIRST NAME, LAST NAME	CITY
Sonny Shimaoka	Kamuela
Dorothy Souza	Kamuela
Diana Terukina	Kamuela
Roscoe Tolentino	Kamuela
Sheri Wahinekapu	Kailua-Kona
Gerald L. Wahinekapu	Kailua-Kona
Charlie White	Kamuela
Sam Whitehead	Kamuela

Estimated number of meeting participants: **60-70**

Total number of participants that signed in: **54**

Number of participants that self-identified as DHHL beneficiaries on the sign-in sheet: **36**