

**DHHL WATER POLICY PLAN STATEWIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS  
KAPOLEI MIDDLE SCHOOL, KAPOLEI, O'AHU  
NOVEMBER 5, 2013  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

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**Attendance:** 23 people signed in; about 40 people present.

DHHL: PLO - Kaleo Manuel (Project Manager), Nancy McPherson, Ulu Lota, Julie-Ann Cachola

CONSULTANT: Jonathan Scheuer

**Handouts:**

- Agenda
- DHHL Water Kuleana Handout
- Conversation Mapping Handout

**Presentation:**

Kaleo Manuel provided an overview of the Water Policy Plan process, its context and relationship to the planning system, and the work done to date in developing the plan. Jonathan Scheuer synopsized the history of water law in Hawai'i and also presented the specific rights and kuleana DHHL and the trust have related to water.

**Conversation Mapping:**

In order to gather mana'ō from beneficiaries and the community that would help guide what information should be included in the Water Policy Plan, the Department used a tool called "Conversation Mapping." The following triggers were used to initiate conversation amongst meeting participants:

- Ola I Ka Wai: What are the key water issues in your community?
- E Malama I Ka Wai: How should DHHL balance the development and protection of water?
- He Kuleana Ko Kakou: How should DHHL assert its rights to water?

\*Please see the attached conversation maps.

**Open Discussion:**

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

- So much history. When are we going to stop paying for water?  
DHHL: What the HHC Act says "water free of all charge" means that DHHL the agency does not pay for it. Homesteaders need to contribute to the upkeep of the water system. Homesteaders are paying for the maintenance of the water system, the pipes, the wells, the pumps that get water to their house. They are not paying for the water. When the City and County developed its water systems, it was at a time in which energy was cheap. Now it costs more to transmit water miles across the island. One of the things that the water policy plan can address is how far away from water sources should DHHL build? Build in dry areas or wet areas?
- Can DHHL get rate reductions from BWS for homesteaders? Can we have a flat rate that will not increase? Homesteaders would still be paying for the upkeep of the system.

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- DHHL: On other islands homesteaders pay lower rate because they are on the DHHL system. DHHL subsidizes most of the cost to maintain those systems.
- We are paying too much for water. As a lessee, it seems like being a beneficiary is more of a burden than it is a benefit.
- BWS should reduce water rates for beneficiaries.  
DHHL: DHHL has some tanks in some areas that are tied into the system. In the future, perhaps DHHL can look at negotiating a deal with the County before turning over the infrastructure it developed to the County.
- What is the difference between a Ground Water Management Area and Surface Water Management Area?  
DHHL: GWMA = permit needed for wells and SWMA = permit needed for stream diversion.
- What permits needed to develop a well?  
DHHL: Two permits that are needed to develop a well are (1) Well construction permit and (2) Well installation permit (?)
- How do native Hawaiian water rights help homesteaders?  
DHHL: DHHL has to be better at asserting its rights. DHHL needs to exercise its rights. DHHL also needs to be adequately funded by the state.
- With regards to water policy and law; you will not know what your rights and power are until you fight for it.
- Why don't we use \$ to build infrastructure to deliver water?
- I do not think the Hawaiian Homes Commission will have political will to exert those rights. I do not think DHHL water rights are relevant to everyday lessee concerns about paying water bill.
- Song entitled "Muliwai" provided by beneficiary at meeting (see attached)
- Pictures of various leeward issues and water issues were posted by a beneficiary
- An old map of the islands was also provided by a beneficiary

All handouts, notes, and conversation maps can be found on the DHHL website at:  
**[dttl.hawaii.gov](http://dttl.hawaii.gov)**