

**DHHL WATER POLICY PLAN STATEWIDE BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION
HILO HIGH SCHOOL CAFÉ, HILO, HAWAI'I
APRIL 16, 2014
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

Attendance: 32 Total (14 beneficiaries, 6 other, 12 no response)

DHHL: Kaleo Manuel (PO), Andrew Choy (PO), Ulu Lota (PO), Jonathan Scheuer (Consultant), Wally Ishibashi (HHC)

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Water Implementation Program Example
- DHHL Water Kuleana Handout
- DHHL Water Policy Plan Draft

Presentation:

Kaleo Manuel opened the meeting and reviewed the proposed agenda for the evening. Jonathan Scheuer began to provide an overview of the Water Policy Plan process, its context and relationship to the DHHL planning system, and the work done to date in developing the plan, but was asked by the group to stop the presentation and skip to open discussion.

Open Discussion:

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

- I am disappointed with the turnout and number of people that came out tonight. Water is for everyone, it is important. There should be more people.
- You mention that the HHC several times. Do you know that the duties of the commission have been transferred to the Chairman? Why talk about the HHC if powers are transferred to the Chairman.
- I disagree with the vision statement because the Attorney General's has changed the HHCA with all of their opinions that it no longer reflects the original HHCA.
- How are we going to go forward with this if this plan needs to get approved by the commission but the commission has no authority. So what's the purpose? DHHL: The history of this trust has been sad to say the least because it has had so many problems and issues. The HHC members that are there now do want to advocate for beneficiaries rights, they do want to stand up for them.
- Act 207.
- Why has it taken DHHL so long to address water? Water is the existence of man. We have voiced our opinions. I appreciate what you folks are doing. You are the new team. But the same problem has always been the Gov and the AG. They control DHHL, not the Chairman and not HHC. Everything is planned in the back room closed door. We want Hawaiian homes to be controlled by Hawaiians for Hawaiians.

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- The Roll Commission is a farce. They are playing with words. Ceded lands are not public, it belongs to the Hawaiian people. There is no mention of Mauna Kea. That is where the water is coming from. It's the most pristine water. It is being threatened by development.
- We all kanakas here. Only get 40 people, but get 7000. They change everything on the HRS. There are three rates on the bill. The HHCA says water free of all charge. They expect us to farm and ranch without water. That's impossible.
- No Hawaiian administration has been demanding water. Demand water free of all charge. We should be able to manage water resources for residential use. In some cases no more water on Hawaiian Home Lands.
- Keaukaha has been told to tie into the sewer line.
- Congress required the state to adopt the Admissions Act and the Admission Act states that we get water free of all charge. It's the AG that is saying that beneficiaries need to pay for water service. It's their fault.
- DHHL owns Mauna Kea access road. Therefore DHHL owns the top of the Mountain. All of the waters on this island flow from Mauna Kea. How can the plan not say anything about Mauna Kea?
- Who is the responsible party of this meeting tonight? Is it the governor? Who do you work for?
- I am a citizen of this community. Will the decisions effect other citizens.
DHHL: To some degree, yes.

After an hour of open discussion, Kaleo Manuel, for health and safety reasons, officially ended the meeting because of threats and uncontrollable outbursts from those in attendance made to DHHL staff and consultants. Once adjourned, DHHL staff stayed around for an hour to engage those attendees that still wanted to ask questions or provide comments.

Comments received after meeting:

- DHHL should advocate that the county give water meters to Kau homesteaders. Reach an agreement with the county.
- Fee simple owners seem to have more rights than DHHL lessees because they are just lessees, not fee simple owners of land.
- All the HHC members are appointed by the governor. So when push comes to shove, if its going to benefit the beneficiaries or the governor, they going side the with the governor

Green Comment Sheets:

- How come Kaūu is not included in its water plan? When its 1st priority is getting water or more water to DHHL land which the Kaūu Hawaiian Home Land Assc. Would like to work with DHHL. There are 11,000 to 12,000 acres of land in Kaūu that DHHL manages

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- Why hasn't the County of Hawaii administration mayor/Dept. of Water/County Council been informed of this meeting? Not tonight, not at the previous meeting.
- DHHL administration has NEVER DEMANDED for all water licenses for WATER FREE OF ALL CHARGE!
- Why are we paying for water?
- DHHL being a State agency is the issue.
- 3 big springs of Wailuku
- Energy & Water
- Define "adequate" and for whom?
- Define self-sufficiency & self-determination
- Define "spirit" of HHCA
- Allocated credits – to whom?
- I am afraid of the word delegate.
- Choice between beneficiary or governor → what is your decision going to be? I feel like you are just going through the motion.
- With the overall policy, can there be more moku specific issues/work done?

Broad Sheets:

During the course of the meeting, staff also tried to capture the open discussion and conversation on broad sheets, which are transcribed below.

- If you come back, come back to Keaukaha
- Amendments to the HHCA done at the state level by AG's should be questioned
- Rights of the HHC? What rights do they have? Act 207 [1963, deleted Commission and replaced with Department]
- Why are we commenting? What will / how will our comments make a difference / matter when the HHC doesn't have the right to act?
- HHC does believe in the rights the HHC, DHHL, beneficiaries
- Water is existence of man, comes from above; we voiced our opinions before but nothing has happened
- DHHL is under the state; Gov. controls department; got to go back to the people
- [water is] not public; it belongs to the people
- Mauna Kea – not mentioned – largest DHHL acreage, purest water, needs to be on this [included in the policy]
- [at this point, which was mid-presentation, there was a decision by those in attendance to stop the presentation and just go into open discussion]
- DHHL controlled by Hawaiians for Hawaiians
- Get "rid" of draft WPP
- Issues w/HRS revisions
- Water Bills: 3 charges – electricity, facility charge, consumption

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- Where does it say in the HHCA we need to pay for water? What happened to “free” of all charge
- Watson: Dept. has right to free water.
- Other trusts don’t have that clause
- What is the demand of our homestead?
- No more Hawaiian water – on Honomu & Ka`ū
- Keaukaha water case – sewer pipe through DHHL land (1979) for general public
 - Supposed to be compensated
- Admission Act – “states free of all charges”
 - People must vote and adopt this act, done in 1959
- Legislature – provide necessary funds for infrastructure
- We own the road at Humu`ula
 - Congress didn’t just give us a road to nowhere; we own land at the top; no one has paid DHHL to use the road / access;
 - Get past
 - \$ [as well as going forward]
- Who are you?
- Who do you work for?
- How did you inform people about meeting
- As a citizen of the state, does this affect me?
 - This problem for Hawaiians does affect all of us
- Discrimination – by not being invited to these meetings – as a citizen of the state
- Kahale Smith – crooks & criminals [murderers] Molokai case
- Water rights – Keaukaha – current water meters
- Due process
 - Cannot dedicate wells and systems developed by DHHL. Non-homesteaders pay to DHHL not county

Goal Prioritization:

Because the meeting ended early, this meeting did not participate in the goal prioritization activity.

All handouts and notes can be found on the DHHL website at: dhhl.hawaii.gov