

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION WATER POLICY PLAN

July 22, 2014

Vision

Our vision is that there will be adequate amounts of [water](#) and supporting infrastructure so that homestead lands will always be usable and accessible, to enable us to return to our lands to fully support our self-sufficiency and self-determination in the administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), and the preservation of our values, traditions, and culture.

Mission

In a manner consistent with our [values](#), the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) shall strive to ensure the availability of adequate, quality [water](#) by working cooperatively to:

- Understand our trust [water](#) assets;
- Plan for our [water](#) needs;
- Aggressively understand, exercise and assert our [kuleana](#) as stewards of [water](#);
- Develop and protect [water](#) sources; and
- Manage [water](#) systems.

Values

1. **Waiwai:** [Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua](#). *Unfolded by the water are the faces of the flowers.* The availability of [water](#) to our lands and people is integral to the trust and our mission.
2. **Waihona:** [Ua lehulehu a manomano ka `ikena a ka Hawai`i](#). *Great and numerous is the knowledge of the Hawaiians.* Honoring and documenting our knowledge about [water](#) is essential to managing it.
3. **Mālama:** [He ali`i ka `āina; he kauwā ke kanaka](#). *The land is a chief; man is its servant.* We consider [water](#) to be part of our genealogy and so we manage it in a manner that cares for its long-term sustainability for all things, as we also use it productively for our mission.
4. **Laulima:** [E lauhoe mai nā wa'a; i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka `āina](#). *Everybody paddle the canoes together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.* We are one people who now share Hawai`i with others. DHHL is only one of many Hawaiian serving institutions. We will assert our rights while considering our larger lāhui `ōiwi and the larger world in which we live.

Policies

The HHC and the DHHL are seeking to be proactive in our management of water. Our Priority Policies are to:

1. Expressly determine and plan for future [water](#) needs and actively participate in broader [water](#) management, use and protection efforts in Hawai'i in order to secure [water](#).
2. Aggressively exercise, reclaim, and protect Hawaiian home land [water kuleana](#).
3. Develop, manage, and steward [water](#) in a manner that balances cost, [efficiency measures](#), and [Public Trust](#) uses in the short and long term.
4. Affirmatively communicate our decisions, our reasoning, and our performance in managing, stewarding, and using [water](#) before and after making major [water](#) decisions.

Additionally, the HHC and the DHHL should consider in their work the following statements:

5. Educate beneficiaries, the DHHL, HHC, and other stakeholders continually on our [water kuleana](#).
6. Foster self-sufficiency of beneficiaries by promoting the adequate supply of [water](#) for homesteading when developing or managing [water](#).
7. Foster the self-determination of beneficiaries by seeking ways for beneficiaries to participate in the management of [water](#) by delegating authority related to [water](#) subject to the discretion of the HHC as described in the [HHCA](#).
8. Make [water](#) decisions that incorporate traditional and place-based knowledge of our people and are clear and methodical in their reasoning.
9. Make efforts to understand, maintain, and improve the quality of [water](#) as it moves into and through our lands and is used by beneficiaries.
10. Affirmatively consider the development and use of [alternative sources](#) of [water](#) and [efficiency measures](#) in [water](#) decision-making.
11. Ensure that [water](#) decisions are consistent with other Departmental [policies](#), programs, and plans including but not limited to the [Energy Policy](#) and Agricultural Program.
12. Explicitly consider [water](#) availability and the costs to provide adequate [water](#) when developing new homestead areas, designating land uses, issuing land dispositions, or exchanging properties.

Goals

To make progress on achieving our Mission and complying with our Policies, the Priority Goals of the HHC and the DHHL are to:

1. Affirmatively communicate with beneficiaries regarding [water](#) decisions, performance, and [water](#) rights on a regional and annual basis.
2. Aggressively, proactively, consistently and comprehensively advocate for the [kuleana](#) of the beneficiaries, the DHHL, and the HHC to [water](#) before all relevant agencies and entities.
3. Develop and manage a [Water Assets Inventory \(WAI\)](#).
4. Support watershed protection and restoration on DHHL lands and source areas for DHHL [water](#).

Additional goals that DHHL and the HHC shall seek to achieve, based on the availability of resources, organized by Mission activities, are:

Part I. Understand our trust water assets

1. Revise the DHHL submittal template to the HHC for [water](#) related decisions.
2. Revise budgets to show the total costs of a) [water](#) system management b) all spending on [water](#) issues.
3. Staff and organize the DHHL consistent with importance of [water](#) to the trust.

Part II. Plan for our water needs

4. Determine current and foreseeable future needs based upon periodic reviews of [water](#) availability projections that incorporate climate change, projected beneficiary demand, [alternative sources](#) and [efficiency measures](#).
5. Design homesteads and manage lands to create and enhance [water](#) availability, optimizing costs, use of [alternative sources](#) and [efficiency measures](#).

Part III. Aggressively understand, exercise and assert our water rights

6. Secure adequate and enforceable reservations of [water](#) for current and foreseeable future needs for all of its lands across the islands.
7. Partner with trust beneficiaries in [water](#) advocacy efforts.
8. Engage in updates to all [Hawai'i Water Plan](#) elements to ensure DHHL [water](#) needs and rights are addressed.
9. Advocate that all [Water Use Permit Applications](#) properly address the [water](#) rights of DHHL and other Hawaiian [water](#) rights.
10. Advocate that County Boards of Water Supply and other County agencies that affect [water](#) have the spirit of the [HHCA](#) faithfully carried out to protect DHHL

water uses as a [Public Trust](#) use of [water](#) and manage rates so they are affordable by beneficiaries.

11. Ensure that all legal provisions for the licensing of state [water](#) are followed.

Part IV. Develop and protect water sources

12. Carefully weigh alternatives regarding the dedication or DHHL management of new [water](#) systems.
13. Methodically and consistently manage and allocate water credits.
14. Support the drilling of wells by beneficiaries for their own use on lots where appropriate.
15. Partner with Department of Health and others on [water](#) quality education and outreach.
16. Continue to pursue development of agricultural [water](#) systems.

Part V. Manage water systems

17. Secure revenue and reduce operation costs so DHHL [water](#) systems break even financially over the long term.
18. Increase security and reliability for DHHL [water](#) users.
19. Pursue resolution by the Department of Agriculture of prior audit findings in the management of the Moloka'i Irrigation System and full repair of the System

Delegation of Authorities, Reporting, and Consultation

1. Delegation
 - a. The HHC delegates authority to the Chairperson to prepare an Implementation Program for this Water Policy Plan, which shall be subject to the approval by HHC. The Program shall identify tasks to implement each goal, and shall specify tasks that apply statewide as well as tasks that apply to different islands or regions under each goal.
2. Reporting
 - a. The Chairperson shall submit the proposed Implementation Program to the HHC annually in conjunction with the Department's budget request.
 - b. The Chairperson shall annually report on progress on execution of the approved Implementation Program and overall progress towards achieving the goals of and maintaining compliance with the Water Policy Plan.
3. Consultation
 - a. The Chairperson shall consult with the HHC on any major water issues not contained in the Implementation Program.

Legal Authorities

1. [Hawai`i State Constitution](#)
2. [Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, as amended](#)
3. [Hawai`i State Water Code, HRS 174C](#)
4. [In the Matter of Water Use Permit Applications \(Waiāhole I case\)](#)
5. [Wai`ola o Moloka`i](#)
6. [Kauai Springs, Inc. v. Planning Commission of the County of Kauai](#)

Related Plans and Policies

1. [DHHL General Plan](#)
2. [DHHL Energy Policy](#)
3. [Hawaiian Homes Commission Beneficiary Consultation Policy](#)

References

1. 1983. Pūku`i, Mary Kawena. **'Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings**. Honolulu: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.
2. **Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne?** (Traditional chant, "Where is the water of Kāne?")

Definitions

Alternative sources: Alternative sources include but are not limited to the water developed through reuse and recycling technologies and best practices, capture of flood waters, desalinated waters, and other sources as may be appropriate for proposed uses.

Hawai`i Water Plan: The Hawai`i Water Plan and its parts, as detailed in Part III of the Hawai`i State Water Code (HRS 174C), is the state’s “program of comprehensive water resources planning to address the problems of supply and conservation of water” (HRS 174C-2(b)).

Efficiency Measures: Efficiency measures include optimal design and development, alternative energy utilization, changing in behavioral practices and technologies that support onsite distributed wastewater systems.

Kuleana: Kuleana encompasses both rights and responsibilities. DHHL’s water kuleana includes its responsibilities under its mission and the legal rights to water enshrined in the HHCA and state Constitutional and statutory provisions. Kuleana exists within the genealogical and spiritual relationship between water and the lāhui `ōiwi.

Public Trust: As delineated in the Hawai`i Supreme Court [Waiāhole I](#) and [Wai`ola O Moloka`i](#) cases, public trust uses of water include domestic uses, traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, the protection and procreation of fish and wildlife, the maintenance of proper ecological balance and scenic beauty, and reservations of water for the DHHL.

Water: In this policy, water includes mists, fog, rain, and other precipitation; water as it flows above or below ground, and into the ocean; water used for homesteading; alternative sources including waste, brackish, and salt water; water used in the exercise of traditional and customary practices; infrastructure used to produce, store and transmit water; and water we use as well as water to which we have rights.

Water Assets Inventory (WAI): A comprehensive geographically referenced database of the water assets of the DHHL, including traditional knowledge related to water, DHHL owned water infrastructure, current and future water demand, water agreements, water credits, and potential water sources.

Approval Date

Policy approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission on July 22, 2014.