



**MALAMA CULTURAL PARK SPECIAL AREA PLAN**  
**Stakeholder Small-Group Meeting Recap**  
July 28, 2020 | 6:00-7:30 pm

**ATTENDEES**

**Project Team:**

DHHL: Pearlyn Fukuba  
Andrew Choy  
Shelley Carreira  
Gigi Cairel  
Mona Kapaku

G70: Kawika McKeague  
Cody Winchester  
Janice Jensen  
Kai Akiona-Ferriman

Keala Pono, Archaeological Consulting: Windy McElroy

**Community Participants:**

Commissioner Zachary Helm, Hawaiian Homes Commission  
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Maui Council Member  
Penny Martin, Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club  
Pinky Gaspar, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i, Board President  
Liko Wallace, Moloka'i Canoe Club  
Kapua Lauifi, Kalama'ula Homesteaders Association, President  
Faith Tupulotu, Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance, Board President  
Rosie Davis, Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance  
Sybil Lopez, Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association, Board President  
Hala Pa-Kala, Kamiloloa-One Ali'i Homestead Association  
Cora Schnackenberg, Ahonui Homestead Association

**SUMMARY**

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and G70 held a joint small group meeting with beneficiaries and park users from the island of Moloka'i. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via the GoToMeeting mobile application on July 28, 2020, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project team, discuss the purpose and background of the project, and to determine the best path forward for convening future stakeholder consultation meetings. Approximately 16 attendees participated in the meeting. Presentation materials were distributed prior to the meeting and will also be made available on the DHHL website.



## **MINUTES**

The meeting commenced at approximately 6:05 pm.

### **1. Welcome & Pule**

Kawika McKeague (G70) and Gigi Cairel (DHHL) welcomed everyone to the meeting and Hawaiian Homes Commissioner Zachary Helm provided the pule. G70's project staff, Kawika McKeague, Cody Winchester and Janice Jensen, gave brief introductions of themselves and their personal and professional backgrounds.

### **2. Stakeholder Introductions & Pilina to the Malama Cultural Park**

- Meeting participants introduced themselves and shared their relationship to the Malama Cultural Park.
- Many different groups use the park for a variety of ways.
- Several participants noted that they had participated in previous planning efforts for the Park.
- Some participants shared a sentiment of frustration that many of the objectives proposed in earlier plans had never materialized.
- Members of the Moloka'i and Wa'akapaemua Canoe Clubs presently care for the hula mound, Malama Platform, and the wetland.
- Members of the canoe clubs stated that they would like to remain in the Park and continue their stewardship of the area's resources.
- Attendees were pleased that DHHL acquired the land for the Park and designated the land as a Special District.
- Attendees shared a vision of the park as being useful to all homesteaders and would like to see it play a role in education. The park can be the host of a healthy environment, cultural education, market events and healthy activities like canoe paddling.
- Participants voiced an interest in working collaboratively together to move the project forward and do what is right for the people of Moloka'i. There was a general consensus that this process is a step in the positive direction.

### **3. Meeting Objectives**

G70's role is to act as a facilitator and provide technical support that will serve to bring the community's vision of the park to life. Community input is critical to the process. Participants are encouraged to email the project team as a direct means of communication at [MalamaCulturalPark@g70.design](mailto:MalamaCulturalPark@g70.design)



#### 4. Project Background & Purpose of the Special Area Plan

- In 1995, the State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), proposed the development of the Malama Cultural Park. At the time, land ownership of the 11.734-acre Malama Cultural Park site was shared between the County of Maui (7.14 acres) and the State of Hawai'i (4.594 acres). The project resulted in the creation of a Master Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The purpose of the original Master Plan was to develop a public park which would provide a focal point for Moloka'i's history and culture. The original plan proposed construction of a grass amphitheater and stage, arts and crafts center, canoe storage building, immersion school, restrooms, and other park facilities.
- By 2010, the Master Plan for the park had not been implemented to a significant degree. 'Aha Kukui o Moloka'i, a non-profit which focuses on the functional use of the Hawaiian outrigger canoe, proposed to undertake construction of the Halau Wa'a Project to better accommodate ongoing canoeing activities on the Maui County-owned portion of the park. The project resulted in the creation of an EA to develop a halau to provide a covered space for storage and repair of canoes, as well as meeting space for gatherings associated with paddling activities
- The DHHL portion of the park was acquired by the Department in 2011 due to its central location and its historical, cultural, and recreational opportunities for beneficiaries. These lands were part of the restitution from the Act 14 settlement process, an agreement that the state entered into in 1995 to compensate DHHL for the misuse of Hawaiian Home lands.
- As the park was only transferred into the DHHL land inventory in 2011, it was not included in the Moloka'i Island Plan (2005) or the Moloka'i Regional Plan (2010). DHHL designated the park as a Special District in 2018 with the goals of preserving and protecting the location's natural and cultural resources. The 2019 Moloka'i Regional Plan update notes the Special District designation for the park and acknowledges the need to develop a Special Area Plan.
- The Special Area Plan for the park will support the intent of the Moloka'i Regional Plan and will guide DHHL in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources, as well as help with implementing a park management structure and allocating funds.
- The purpose of developing a Special Area Plan for the park is to formalize the understanding of current agreements and look for other opportunities for collaboration. The plan will also help define the appropriate uses for the park with respect to the many natural and cultural resources and activities taking place there.



- The project team will be informed by the prior 1995 and 2010 plans for the park and honor these past efforts whenever feasible. Part of this planning process will be to reaffirm past visions for the park and make adjustments where needed based on new information and community desires.

## **5. DHHL Parks Rules & Current Studies**

- Hawai'i Administrative Rules 10-4-31 to 44, DHHL Park Rules. These rules set the boundaries for the Special Area Plan.
- The Park Advisory Council will play a key role in the governance of the park. This planning process will aim to identify the appropriate processes to manage the park in the long term and will lay the groundwork for establishing the Council and how it will be representative of the community.
- Several studies of the land encompassing the park are presently underway. Keala Pono, Archaeological Consulting, has visited the site to complete an archaeological Literature Review and Field Inspection for the park. A biological survey and an infrastructure assessment are also planned to take place at the park when a visit to the island can be arranged. It will be important to understand the drainage issues to the wetland area, seasonal and climatic changes to the 'āina, as well as the impact of sea level rise and king tides. The studies will also look at nearshore resources, the broader landscape, and the location of the Jaucas sand layer (where 'iwi kūpuna have the potential to be found), as well as the experiences of those familiar with the park and its resources.

## **6. Project Timeline & Community Outreach**

- The current timeline includes three rounds of outreach with five large meetings taking place at intervals as the plan is developed and smaller group and individual meetings taking place in the beginning of the process as information is gathered.
- This schedule is subject to change with the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. The project team will strive to keep everyone informed and up to date on possible changes.
- The project team will be sharing meeting minutes with the group and there will be an opportunity to address any changes or concerns at the next meeting.
- The project team is currently gathering data and would like to revisit some of the ideas from the earlier plans in the first two group meetings. This process will help with mapping out and identifying the multiple user groups for the park.



## 7. Final Questions/Concerns & Closing Statements

- Beneficiaries shared their thoughts on the potential options for holding future meetings in the event that they could not be convened in-person. Participants agreed that it is important to continue having meetings in order to keep the project moving forward.
- The project team wants to be respectful of the Moloka'i community's feelings on the appropriate time for having guests flying over from O'ahu. Inter-island travel may be open when the first round of beneficiary meetings are scheduled in September, but we want to make sure people are feeling safe and prepared to welcome visitors from off island.
- Participants shared their concern of the challenge with participating virtually as not everyone has the equipment that might be needed (i.e. devices, good internet access).
- Beneficiaries expressed that they preferred to talk story and share mana'o in person, however, we should proceed with virtual meetings until we can do so safely.
- A beneficiary suggested that an alternative could involve having the stakeholder group members act as liaisons on the behalf of their associations by having internal meetings where their feedback could be gathered and reported to this group.
- Participants expressed that they would like to see meetings held closer together to maintain the community's enthusiasm for the project.
- One beneficiary concern was regarding sea level rise and park maintenance. Considering COVID-19 restrictions, the work of fixing the park might fall to people on the island who do not have the expertise or resources to address these problems. There was a desire for a geologist to visit the island and study the shoreline.
- Beneficiaries shared a desire to have the State and County be involved in the planning process since they initiated planning for the park and invested in infrastructure. The project team will meet with all the state and county agencies that have been involved. This project is designed to focus specifically on the DHHL parcels, however the park will be looked at holistically.
- Beneficiaries would like to see bathrooms and the water meter relocated to the DHHL side of the park since the bathrooms are currently on the county side.
- The project team would like to stay in contact with everyone attending this meeting to help facilitate the exchange of information.



Commissioner Helm offered a few final thoughts regarding the current state of the pandemic, virtual meetings, and the return of normalcy in the future. He said this project is a start in the right direction and emphasized the need for members of all the associations and the surrounding community to participate and offer their input through whatever means available. Commissioner Helm also drew on his previous experience as a parks director and said the key to a successful park is a good maintenance program. No matter what direction the park takes, the consistency of maintenance, along with the funding, should be of primary importance and that those things would take some planning. He thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting was concluded at approximately 7:40pm.