



CONFERENCE REPORT

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TO:	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)		
FROM:	G70		
DATE:	October 12 and 13, 2020	LOCATION:	Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
PROJECT:	Malama Cultural Park, Moloka'i Special Area Plan		
SUBJECT:	Beneficiary Consultation #1	NO. OF PAGES:	6
THOSE PRESENT:	DHHL: Andrew Choy, Pearlyn Fukuba, Commissioner Zachary Helm	G70: Kawika McKeague, Cody Winchester, Janice Jensen, Kai Akiona-Ferriman	

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and G70 held a joint public meeting with beneficiaries and park users from the Island of Moloka'i. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom on October 12, 2020, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. A second beneficiary consultation was also held virtually on October 13, 2020, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The agenda for both meetings was the same. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project team, discuss the purpose and background of the project, reflect on past planning efforts, and discuss opportunities and constraints at the park site. An approximate total of 19 attendees participated in the first round of meetings. Presentation materials were distributed prior to the meeting and are also available on the DHHL website.

Welcome & Pule

- The meeting on October 12, 2020 commenced at approximately 10:35 am.
- Cody Winchester (G70) welcomed attendees to the meeting and Kawika McKeague (G70) provided the pule.
- It was Prince Kūhiō's vision for DHHL to help foster healthy Hawaiian communities. Part of that effort involves the stewardship of natural and cultural resources as well as building community.
- A brief orientation to Zoom was provided so that attendees would feel comfortable participating and understand how they could communicate with the project team during the meeting.
- Pearlyn Fukuba (DHHL) described the mission of DHHL and introduced the department's project team.
- Kawika McKeague (G70), introduced the G70 project team and shared past and ongoing planning efforts on Moloka'i.

- 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
- The meeting agenda included a presentation portion as well as an opportunity for group discussion.

Presentation by Cody Winchester (G70):

The presentation had a duration of approximately 1 hour and covered the following topics:

1. Describe the existing conditions at the project site and surrounding area
2. Share the purpose and scope of the project
3. Define the goals, process, and expectations for the Special Area Plan
4. Discuss how beneficiaries help in this planning process
5. Summarize the feedback received during the small group community leader meeting on July 28th, 2020
6. Reflect on prior planning efforts for the park
7. Identify how the 'āina informs the development of the plan
8. Evaluate strategies, challenges, needs and concerns

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 presentation showcased an updated version of the 1995 Master Plan for the Malama Cultural Park. Components highlighted and discussed in this plan include:

- Conservation of the wetland environment
 - Construction of an overlook for visitors to view the native plants and birds that inhabit the area.
 - The wetland would be used for educational purposes by including signs with information about the species present.
- Hale Malama (visitor information center for the Malama Platform)
 - Construction of a visitor center providing information on the history and significance of the Malama Platform.

- Kūpuna area
 - Shaded area near Malama Platform with seating provided in a conversational arrangement.
- Amphitheatre / Pā Hula
 - Development of a grassy, gently sloped lawn area for outdoor performances.
 - Raised wood or concrete floor area to serve as a stage.
 - Planting of large umbrella type trees planted along the south and west side of the amphitheater for shade.
- Hula Hālau Pavilion
 - Development of a structure to serve as a backstage area with toilets and dressing rooms for performers.
 - Structure for hula instruction and rehearsal located near the amphitheater.
- Language Immersion School
 - Space for keiki to learn Hawaiian language and culture.
- Canoe sheds
 - Structures for storing canoe club equipment designed with traditional Hawaiian construction practices.
- Beach Support Building
 - Used for lū'au preparations, fish cleaning, etc.
 - Equipped with showers and toilets.
- Arts and Crafts Building
 - Construction of an area for gathering and making local crafts.
 - Used as marketplace to sell the artwork and pre-prepared food.
 - Equipped with public toilets.
- Parking lot
 - Asphalt pavement.
 - Space for 139 automobiles.
- Orientation kiosks and signage located at main points of entry

- Removal of Historic Jailhouse
 - The structure is in poor shape and a potential safety hazard.
- Landscaping with native Hawaiian trees and shrubs
- Site lighting to improve safety and hold nighttime events.

Only a few of the actions planned in the 1995 Plan for the Park were actually realized including a comfort station with restroom and showers developed on the County portion of the park, paved walkways, and partial construction of the pā hula.

The presentation included a series of poll questions to determine which components from the 1995 Master Plan the beneficiaries still liked and wanted to see carried forward in the Special Area Plan.

Group Discussion:

At the conclusion of the presentation, the audience had a 45-minute opportunity to ask questions and provide comment. Beneficiaries were asked the following question:

When can Malama Cultural Park be more than just a park?

Discussion Highlights:

- There was a general public confusion about whether the park is accessible. A “no trespassing” sign had been posted.
- The Malama Cultural Park has been a place for canoeing. For some clubs, it is their gathering place/canoe hale.
- Fisherman used to hanapa’a at the park.
- The park used to be a softball field and a family gathering place.
- The park should tie into Moloka’i history and culture.
- The park should be a place for cultural-based natural education – a place to learn about wetlands, plants, and animals.
- People gather at the park for fellowship.
- The park is a little oasis. Kauanakakai is a hot place.
- The park is Kaunakakai’s beach. Even though it is surrounded by industrial uses, its still *our* beach. It’s a place to surf, collect limu, and gather as a community. The park is a place to take a little break from the city.

- Originally the park was meant as a place for cruise ship visitors to learn about and experience Hawaiian culture. It could be the first stop for folks getting off the boat. It could be a place for Hawaiian education and a market before going into town.
- The park was gorgeous when it first opened. Now it's in disarray.
- The park is known as "the canoe place." It is the only place where canoes can access the island. Canoes need to be by the water.
- As kids, we grew up in that area. Parents. Grandparents paddles. Kids and grandkids have "continued on" taking care of that space.
- The park should continue to support education. Each of the schools used to come down and share their science projects. It's awesome that we have that area for future generations to learn of their history and to take care of their area- both the water and the land.
- The 1995 Plan by DBEDT was supposed to have 3 phases. Canoes are supposed to be where they are. There was a lot of involvement by our community. The other two phases did not come into being. There was a problem with the water system. A lot of trees died that would have provided shade and would have been beautiful.
- The park is a place to go and enjoy lunch. People go to the "Canoe Shack".
- The park does not have trash pick-up or maintenance. We need to think about educating people to pick up rubbish.
- There is a concern about sea level rise. The park should be designed for future projections of sea level rise. What is the lifetime of those buildings?
- The park should focus on maintenance (leech systems, security, issues of homelessness, and rubbish).
- The park should be greener and more welcoming. It needs an irrigation system. The plan should look at alternative non-potable water sources.
- The Park can be more than just a park when 'ohana feel connected to place. When visitors know of the cultural connection to this place.
- A small memorial was built and family allowed to go and visit often. Family has taken the kuleana to mālama the park. The park is a place for healing. The family spends hours cleaning up the space.
- What is MCP going to look like is important, but how it will be maintained is more important. The park must have an implementation plan. The plan should really support family and community stewardship of the place.

- Nephews and nieces go to see “dad’s park” – a sense of connection. Keiki start asking questions about what this place was, but for them it starts with “dad’s park”. With this vision, they see greater responsibility.
- There are issues of homelessness and drug use in the park. If there is no stewardship component, then it will be hard to ensure proper management. Who is going to kick out that aunty living in the bathroom or uncle defecating?

Beneficiary Consultation #1, held on October 12 and 13, 2020, ended approximately one and a half hours after the meetings had commenced.