

Honokōwai Homestead Community Master Plan

Beneficiary Consultation Meeting #3

November 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Beneficiaries: The following attendees were identified based on their zoom “participant name”

Blossom Feiteira, Christi Keliikoa, Duke Paoa, G Tihada, Nora Makahanaloa, Puamana, Randy Awo, Shawn Kanae, Tamara Akiki, Maile Paltin, Gracey Gomes, Jarrett Kanekoa, Kalei, Kamanu Kahaialii, Kanani Higbee, Kaupo ‘Ohana, Keaka Mitchell, Kekai, Kekoa Enomoto,

DHHL Staff: Andrew Choy, Julie-Ann Cachola, Malia Cox (Planning Office), Mona Kapaku and Toni Eaton (Maui District Office)

DHHL Consultants: Planning Consultants Hawaii, Inc: John Summers and Mike Summers

I. Opening Remarks-

Andrew Choy welcomed attendees to the meeting. This meeting is the third in a series of planning meeting to engage beneficiaries in the process creating a master plan for Honokōwai.

Attendees were asked to sign in by typing their preferred name into the chat box for attendance. In addition, attendees were also asked to indicate in the chat box if they attended a previous Honokōwai meeting.

Julie Cachola explained the purpose of the meeting and covered the proposed agenda for the evening.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide an update on the process
- Collect feedback regarding the preferred plan.

II. Background Information on HHCA and DHHL’s acquisition of Honokōwai:

Ms. Cachola explained why the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was past and how it was included in the requirements for admission of Statehood. She further explained that the

original land trust did not include any lands in West Maui. In 1994, Honokōwai was transferred to DHHL as part of a settlement. In 2007, DHHL purchased additional lands in west Maui totaling 76 acres in Leali'i.

- III. Overview of planning process and DHHL activities affecting west Maui since the acquisition of Honokōwai:
- a. 2003- DHHL developed a master plan for Honokōwai.
 - b. 2004- the Maui Island plan developed for Honokōwai.
 - c. 2007- 250 residential lots in the pipe at Leali'i, with 104 already awarded
 - d. Only 65 agriculture lots awarded in all of Maui

IV. Description of lands and surrounding area

Ms. Cachola explained that there are water resources in and around DHHL's Honokōwai lands. She further explained that the water resources within Honokōwai were excluded from DHHL's acquisition of lands in Honokōwai. The Honokōwai lands are split by the very deep Honokōwai gulch. Ms. Cachola described the lands and developments surrounding DHHL's lands. She explained that there may be opportunities to work together with surrounding land owners to synergistically develop the region.

V. Current Planning Process

DHHL is working with Planning Consultants Hawaii (PCH) in developing a Master Plan for Honokōwai and PBR HAWAWII (PBR) to prepare an environmental assessment. A summary of the studies conducted to date was given by Mr. Choy and Ms. Cachola.

A brief synopsis of the previous 2 beneficiary consultation meetings was provided followed by a summary of the proposed preferred alternative.

VI. Discussion

Attendees were invited to discuss and engage with the staff regarding the preferred alternative. The following is a summary of the discussion comments.

- A summary of Leali'i should be provided
- Interim dispositions should be considered
- Undivided interest lease- the purpose of it was to help kupuna get a lease so they could pass it to the next generation. The idea is creating a legacy. A participant suggested that while there were issues with the undivided interest award program, HHC should re-look at it. DHHL staff opined that the legislature does not really understand the undivided interest but agrees that the program does help protect the bloodline from falling away from the trust because the kupuna on the list passes away.

- An ag development/education center is still an opportunity for helping get the beneficiaries on to the land.
- The project should be phased, but agriculture should come first.
- Off-grid campgrounds within the community area should be considered. This could get people on land faster and create a presence to keep interlopers off.
- Multiple participants were concerned that only 21 people attended the meeting. They opined that there should be more people involved. This is our island, many kupuna have died waiting on the list.
- DHHL asked if it was easier to participate virtually? The participants said yes. DHHL asked if beneficiaries would be open to doing a zoom meeting in the day? Participants indicated that a combo or series of meetings would be work.
- What are the compliance issues? If they refuse to comply, we have the right to remove them. The solutions are there, we need to have community involved.
- A beneficiary opined that many beneficiaries do not want to be involved until the DHHL is ready to move dirt. This beneficiary indicated that she seeks out others to make sure they have information. Leali'i awarded 104 lots, 95 were from Lahaina. Beneficiaries need to do the work and handle the kuleana of getting the beneficiaries to do their work so they can stand in line and be ready to receive a lot.
- The issue is how much money DHHL can get from legislature for CIP. So as a community, beneficiaries need to hui up to make sure they can support projects and get more money
- The issuance of geo-bonds is a concern and should be discussion should be prioritized. The issue will be the debt service. If DHHL gets \$350M, where will DHHL get \$\$ to pay the debt. It seems sad, but the beneficiaries should be involved to choose the projects.
- How can the training part sooner? Would it need infrastructure? It needs to be accessible. It needs water. It should be adjacent to an access road. It can use rural utilities services grant program. So please, hurry up with the EA so this training project can move forward.
- The haves and have nots fight needs to stop. Beneficiaries need to come together as one voice to the legislature.
- Where are the potential affordable housing on Maui? Blossom told the county what projects DHHL has on the books. She noticed Lanai, Hana. Would chair be willing to consider Waikieu (east Maui). DHHL staff indicated that it is on the docket with plans on requesting during the spring of 2021.

VII. Next Steps-

Based on the discussion, the participants indicated the preferred plan was okay if the department put agriculture first or simultaneously with residential in the first phase.

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The next step is to progress and publish the draft EA during first quarter of 2021. If there are not significant comments, then hopefully DHHL can publish the Final EA during the summer of 2021.

Once the EA is complete, the project can move into design, construction, then award.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 pm.

This is DHHL's understanding of the topics discussed and the conclusions reached.