



CONFERENCE REPORT

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| TO: | Department of Hawaiian Home Lands | | |
| FROM: | G70 | | |
| DATE: | November 2, 2021 | LOCATION: | Virtual Meeting via Zoom |
| PROJECT: | Malama Cultural Park, Moloka'i Special Area Plan | PROJECT NO: | 219014-01 |

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| SUBJECT: | Beneficiary Consultation Meeting #3 | NO. OF PAGES: | 6 |
| THOSE PRESENT: | DHHL: Pearlyn Fukuba, Andrew H. Choy, Shelly Carreira, Mona Kapaku Commissioner Zachary Helm Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez G70: Kawika McKeague, Cody Winchester, Janice Jensen | Community Members: Iwalani Kadowaki, Irene, Olivia Ming-Toi Riel, Charles Ka'ahanui III, Patricia Tamashiro, Liko Wallace, Cora Schnackenberg, Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito, Ahu Kukui O Molokai (AOM), Bridget Mowat, ph# 808-213-5091, Ruth Tanielu, Galaxy A10e, Sybil Lopez, Penny Martin, Kapua, Ikaika Tanabe, Pat Tamashiro | |

SUMMARY:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and G70 hosted a third beneficiary consultation meeting with beneficiaries from the Island of Moloka'i. Due to limitations of social distancing and travel restrictions to the island of Moloka'i due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually on November 2, 2021, from 6:00-8:00pm via Zoom. Approximately 17 meeting attendees participated in this meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide updates to the community of where the project stands in the overall process to create the Malama Cultural Park Special Area Plan (Malama SAP). The meeting focused on identifying issues, opportunities, and priorities in five (5) planning zones within the park. The meeting also presented a range of management strategies and an introduction to the disposition options that would be available during project implementation. Beneficiary input was sought on all of these discussion items. Additionally, presentation materials were distributed prior to the meeting and are also available on the DHHL website. Survey questions were made available on the DHHL website via a Google Form.

Welcoming & Pule

- The meeting commenced at approximately 6:03pm.
- Pearlyn Fukuba (DHHL) provided a welcome.
- Kawika McKeague (G70) provided introductions for Commissioner Helm, the DHHL team, and the G70 team.
- Community member Liko Wallace opened with a pule.
- Prince Kūhiō's vision for DHHL is to help foster healthy Hawaiian communities. Part of that effort involves the stewardship of natural and cultural resources as well as building a sense of community.
- A project timeline was shared to inform beneficiaries of the work that has been completed to date and the next stages of the community planning process.

Background Information

G70 provided a presentation outlining the purpose and need of the Special Area Plan; key findings from previous research, site visits, studies, and consultations; key management issues, and five management goals identified for the Park. A diagram illustrating the planning process was also presented to show the work completed to date and the next steps for completing the Special Area Plan.

Park Planning Zones

G70 shared a figure identifying the five Park Management Zones. The five zones include 1) Canoe Area, 2) Wetland, 3) Malama Platform, 4) Community Area, and 5) Parking. Each zone was evaluated based on the existing conditions, management issues, threats, and future action alternatives. Beneficiaries were then asked to reflect upon and respond to the following questions:

1. What kinds of activities should occur in each zone?
2. What skills and experience should a future community partner possess?
3. What do future community partners need to conduct appropriate activities and uses with each zone?

A summary of beneficiary feedback is provided below. It should be noted that rather than summarizing the range of mana'o shared, the descriptions provided below, although not verbatim minutes, try to authentically represent the "voice" of the comment as shared to us in the meeting:

Zone 1: Canoe Area

- For this zone we want to leave it as the canoe area because we have nowhere else to go. There are other places to BBQ. We have nowhere else to run practices. We've never refused anybody from the club. We have scholarships in place for real hardship. We try hard to be inclusive. We see other activities-gathering limu, swimming, walking dogs, running. Canoe clubs have a real visible big presence, but we don't use it exclusively and we won't tell people to get out if they don't belong to our club, but we're here because we have nowhere else to go. Our storage shed is mobile and small just big enough to hold our paddles, etc. Our parking area next to the canoe hale should not be a concern for oil leaks. We have trash cans there and we empty them. Who is going to take care of it? People come and use it but don't take care. If people ask for that stuff, please identify who should be responsible for that.
- My suggestion would be to keep the canoe area as the canoe area. It's historical- fits the park. It's established already. There is a lot of space in other parts of the park to have your picnic areas. I think we have to plant trees (in other planning zones) for shade to draw families to picnic in that area. It's so dry, I don't know if there's even water (access) over there. We should be planting now, doing it as a community. I am very supportive of the canoe clubs to be there. They mālama the place. We use the canoe club hale for many other things. It's a good staging area for other events, as well as canoe races.
- Those of us in the canoe clubs have been doing our part. We are very accepting of other uses. We don't chase people away. The area we've been using all these years is perfect for the canoe culture. I don't want the canoe area to turn into a picnic area. There are other areas in the park for that. When we do hui and maintain/clean the park (all the zones) it would be nice if everybody was involved in caring for the area. Community members will often work off their community service hours in the Park.
- It is a small area, but during the canoe seasons we are down there almost 7 days a week. We need access to our equipment, and the ability to come and go at all hours of the day (early morning and evening).
- AOM supports the canoe clubs staying in Zone 1.
- The canoe area is not that big. It is the staging area for race events. Historically, it has had a physical presence for generations.

- The canoe clubs are fine in this area. I just want to make sure we have access to the beach to take our grandchildren crabbing and swimming. Perhaps on the west side of the property there can be a clear dedication of beach access.
- Who takes care of the maintenance of this park? Are you looking for a group/association to come and take care of the park?
- Canoe area is in a good location and they have maintained and improved that area.
- The stairs by the road are there for public access. You can go down to the beach any time. We were told to stop building/planting, doing wetland restoration when DHHL took on the property. That's why we took on this plan so that we can move forward. Of course, we want to put more plants down there that are appropriate. We've also done tons of education at the Moloka'i Canoe Club. It is very accessible and easy for kids to use the facilities for these purposes. The two canoe clubs pay the bill for the water that is already there.
- Everyone seems to be on the same page of what should be there- the canoe clubs should continue to be there.

Zone 2: Wetland

- We do not want a big focus on the wetlands to the point where we are kept away/restricted from the area (i.e., due to securing permits and government approvals like the Army Corp of Engineers). The wetlands provide opportunities for 'āina based education. We teach kids about the benefits of having a wetland.
- If you want to restore the wetland, all the invasive pickleweed has to go. It can be restored. I've talked to a wetland expert who has said she would help us. Businesses have volunteered equipment and work to do the restoration with native plants. There would also have to be predator control for when the native birds return. Even in its current form we have been able to teach about wetlands. We have dreamt of having interpretative signage, fencing, and a boardwalk around it to be accessible as an area for education. We talked to the oil company and they have monies for these projects and were interested in helping us as well. We've done our research.
- The wetland catches the water coming from mauka. I look for 'uhaloa in that area and notice that it's very, very dry. We should prepare it for the water that is supposed to come during climate change, but there are other areas that need more attention right now.
- For wetlands, people expect to see water, but just because you don't see water doesn't mean it's not a valid wetland. They cored the area, and it is indeed a classified wetland, the water is underneath. They have a valid role in our environment. Wetlands capture toxins in the environment. We've lost a lot of our wetlands to development.

Zone 3: Malama Platform

- Are the archaeological sites kapu? **G70 response:** Any consideration of restoration would require addressing the need of a preservation plan. Any subsurface excavation/construction may require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) due to the presence of the subsurface archaeological layer throughout most of the upper areas of the park (Zone 4 and 5). This layer may contain some tangible evidence of prehistoric settlement. Additional cultural studies and archaeological mitigation may be required before restoration of the platform could occur.

Zone 4: Community Area

- I would like to see more activities offered to youth and teens. I would like to see BBQs, tables, vegetation. For landscaping, certain plants could help with erosion and fire prevention. For commerce, a farmer's market wouldn't be a bad idea. Also, the park could have bike rentals to ride down to the wharf and have some sort of bike path.
- Could there be something like a covered pavilion type area for shade? It could host cultural education events.
- The jailhouse should be removed. It is dangerous and could blow over in the wind.
- Our canoe club used the bathrooms in the past and volunteered to clean it regularly. There have been weddings there, big events. The hula mound is not dedicated. I think it was just built as a stage. I could see this as a place where homesteaders come to do markets and family events. We could have hosted a film showing there. Who will pay the bills and who is in charge of it? **G70 response:** We are looking for specific individuals/ groups who want to be in charge of management actions like this.
- In the past we discussed it being more of a natural setting. Not so much for parties, but a community space for outdoor gatherings and entertainment. You sit around the amphitheater where the entertainment would be and have booths on the side. There isn't any lighting in that area. There are no bathrooms or working water. The hui should get together and decide how we would like to get these things done. The trees were beautiful, but they didn't get watered.
- This would have been a good place to showcase the George Helm film.
- It was beautiful with the trees, but I think we need plants that belong in that area and are designed for those conditions with little irrigation. That would help solve the water problem. The monkey pods don't belong and should be removed.

Zone 5: Parking

- The canoe club has a 20 foot container in the parking area that currently houses equipment. We took it upon ourselves to put it there because all the boats are parked there. I don't like the boats there.

Management Strategies

G70 shared four potential management strategies that could be implemented at the Park. The four strategies include 1) a single entity managing the entire park and its resources, 2) a single umbrella organization that coordinates the care and management of the park, 3) having multiple entities with delineated areas and defined responsibilities, and 4) having multiple entities, each with a specialized expertise, managing dedicated resources throughout the entire park. Beneficiaries were asked to reflect upon and respond to the four options presented. A summary of beneficiary feedback is listed below:

- I like how it has been run. So, I guess that is the option of multiple entities with delineated areas. But because we're individual clubs, we still want to be part of the whole. We were looking at a nonprofit that would run the "A" portion (umbrella scenario) that would consist of the hui that would be made up of community people so that it's not just one person making the decisions and managing it. Our specific area is fine by ourselves (canoe club), but we help mālama the area around us to give back. But if that area would be included in the whole park for maintenance, it would be one less worry for the clubs and involve more of the community.
- The short term may be multiple entities, but maybe over time it would make sense for different reasons to evolve into an umbrella entity. The plan should reflect a periodic update and evaluation to see if it's working in the current model.
- It depends on community involvement and dedication/interest. Community interest may increase in the future.

- I like the umbrella entity because you have the “A” group taking on the administrative kuleana and the “B’s” and “C’s” under that group can still maintain their kuleana. The “A” group should have a 501(c)3 and have executors in place to do the paperwork required to run something like this and then we would report to them and work together with them to maintain our areas that fall into their larger area. Multiple entities option is working for the canoe clubs, but the park is suffering. The umbrella keeps us with the piece of that pie and we’re still doing our part. We could probably get insurance through that “A” group.
- We do have this multiple entity strategy in place right now - do we start from there? The umbrella strategy could support an organization that could have the ability to raise funds while the smaller hui(s) take care of their kuleana
- The canoe clubs are able to raise funds. If you’re talking about the park as a whole, then I think the umbrella entity might be a good idea.
- If you’re worried about the administrative portion, we have no problem talking to DHHL.
- What I’m hearing from DHHL, is that they’re not wanting to be that “A” group. Some of the groups that have offered to be that umbrella, have paid positions in their nonprofit. I don’t have a problem with the way things are now, except that things have been put on hold. I feel like we’re in limbo. We’re looking at not just the canoe clubs, but the whole park. DHHL does not want to be that entity that we call when we have needs. The umbrella shows that someone would take on that role and oversee the whole thing.
G70 response: The idea of the “A” here is not DHHL. It would be a community hui that would interface with DHHL. The plan would document existing conditions and formalize what you are doing there now. Once we identify the strategy, how we get there with the options that exist in the present DHHL structure can be done in one of 4 ways (disposition slide). The plan could also document that the strategy to be deployed in the “short” term (to be defined) could be the multiple entities scenario but based upon certain criteria, the management of the park could evolve to an umbrella scenario.

Disposition Options:

G70 shared a table illustrating four disposition options that could be issued to a community organization wanting to take on a specific kuleana in the park. The four options include 1) General Lease, 2) General Lease Nonprofit, 3) License, and 4) Right-of-Entry. Beneficiaries were asked to respond to the disposition options available.

- License looks like the best choice.
- Whatever disposition instrument we use, it should be issued in a way that allows us to change course.
- Can we keep the multiple use (that’s ideal for us as the canoe clubs) and still have another group like AOM fill the other spaces in the multiple use chart? **G70 response:** That is an option.
- Has DHHL considered a commercial lease for the park? **DHHL response:** Because of state procurement laws, DHHL would not be able to directly negotiate with an entity. We would have to put it out for bid and specify the characteristics we would like to see from a prospective lessee.
- So, you could say we have to put it out for bid, but the canoe clubs have to stay there? **DHHL response:** That is correct. We could say that you have to take the canoe clubs as they are, but you have to show us how you would take care of the other park zones. With other formats, like the multiple users, we would probably prefer to do one of the disposition options where we could negotiate directly with an entity.
- How does it work with the homesteader rules? Would you have to be a homesteader? **DHHL response:** In the other examples, there are facilities that people rent. There are no existing facilities to rent at the park right now. Should there be one in the future, we would probably work directly with the group that has the disposition. We would work with that community partner to figure out a procedure and protocol to rent out that facility.

- If we were under the general lease nonprofit, for instance, we could still do Saturday markets and things like that? **DHHL response:** You could still pursue revenue-generating activities, but you would have to show that the revenue is put back into the operations of the non-profit.
- Under the license option, could you have farmers coming to the Park to sell their produce and keeping their earnings? **DHHL response:** It could be, it is a possibility. I want to emphasize that these are possible tools to implement the strategies we discussed earlier. You are familiar with the conditions in your homestead lease. There would be conditions for the prospective lessee.
- I heard over and over that we would like to see a Saturday market and cultural events. I think when we plan for these things, we need to understand these disposition options. It would be bad for us to agree to something and then find out it can't happen because of these conditions. We need to understand how our dreams and visions falls into each space on the table. **DHHL response:** I hear that we want to maintain flexibility to change the management mechanism depending on the activities, and not to lock you in so that you can't do the things you want to do in the future. It might take some creative thinking to not have any one entity locked in.
- When you asked us what our vision was for the park, I wasn't thinking about all this stuff and how these dispositions dictate what we are allowed to do. How do private homestead farmers wanting to sell their produce fall into this? **DHHL response:** We would look at it the other way - what are your dreams, and what vehicle would best serve those dreams. An example from Hawai'i Island is the Maku'u Farmers Market on Sundays. There is a nonprofit that manages the market area but allow small for-profit vendors to participate in selling goods. We could look at something similar should there be strong community feedback that they want these things. The purpose is to show the options for executing one or more of these strategies so that when we do move towards implementation, these terms and ideas are a little more familiar. The ideas we have heard from you all tonight could fall into one of these four categories. There is a means to implement these ideas.

Closing Remarks from Commissioner Helm:

My recommendations, as a former park administrator are to allow general access, to protect and preserve the park historical resources, to keep the canoe clubs involved in the park and planning, have the comfort station use county facilities, install solar lights, plant native plants, develop the parking area using gravel material, install rubbish containers around the park, and install a 5 foot chain link fence on the east side going to the pier to keep traffic out. I would not overdevelop the park. Sea level rise impacts will affect the park. 501(c)3 groups should take over management responsibilities. Contract out maintenance and hire security (for nighttime). To me, the biggest obstacle is liability.

Closing Remarks from Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez:

I want to lend my support however I can help make this park a success.

Closing:

G70 reminded attendees that they could provide feedback after the meeting using the Google Form survey on the DHHL website. The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15 p.m.