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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

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Meeting Notes

**'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project
Beneficiary Meeting #3 (virtual)
For DHHL Applicants on the Moloka'i Agriculture Wait List
November 30, 2022 – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

For more information, please contact:
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CONFERENCE REPORT

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TO:	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)		
FROM:	G70		
DATE:	November 30, 2022	LOCATION:	Virtual
PROJECT:	'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Settlement Plan	PROJECT NO:	221047-01
SUBJECT:	Beneficiary Consultation #3	NO. OF PAGES:	6
THOSE PRESENT:	G70: Kawika McKeague, Barbara Natale, Ryan Char, Pi'ilani Smith, Kai Akiona-Ferriman DHHL: Andrew Choy, Gigi Cairel, Cedric Duarte, Sara Okuda, Solana Rosa Tutop		
		Zoom Participants: 17	

SUMMARY:

The third Beneficiary Consultation for the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Settlement Project was held virtually via Zoom on November 30, 2022. The meeting began at approximately 6:04pm.

Cora Schnackenberg provided the pule. Kawika welcomed the participants and provided a brief overview of the meeting. He began with the meeting purpose, which is to receive DHHL waitlist applicant feedback on the initial lot layout for the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project.

Pi'ilani conducted the first round of polling:

1. Are you an Applicant, Lessee, Both, or Other?

- a. Applicant (4/10, 40%)
- b. Lessee (0/10, 0%)
- c. Both (1/10, 10%)
- d. Other (5/10, 50%)

2. Where are you from?

- a. 'Ualapu'e (2/10, 20%)
- b. Mana'e (5/10, 50%)
- c. Moloka'i (1/10, 10%)
- d. Other (2/10, 20%)

3. What topics you would like to learn more about? (Select all that apply)

- a. Slope and Erosion (4/10, 40%)
- b. Subsistence agriculture (7/10, 70%)
- c. Archaeological sites (4/10, 40%)
- d. Water availability (8/10, 80%)
- e. Individual Wastewater Systems (5/10, 5%)
- f. Possibilities on one acre (0/10, 0%)
- g. Community use spaces (1/10, 10%)
- h. Community access to hunting, gathering, cultural areas (4/10, 40%)
- i. Community impacts (5/10, 50%)

Andrew Choy provided an overview of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the role of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole.

Kawika provided the background of the DHHL Kuleana Homestead Program. It’s a designation for available, unimproved homelands that is suitable for lessees who wish for immediate access to the land for subsistence uses. He also clarified that the DHHL Kuleana Homestead Program is separate and distinct from kuleana lands. Kawika described the differences between the Kuleana Homestead and Conventional Homestead leases. Kuleana leases offer a “fast-track” to get on the land, offers an unimproved lot, and more responsibility is placed on the lessee.

The HHC determines which DHHL waitlist to use, and DHHL is to provide metes and bounds of lots and an unpaved rights-of-way to the awarded lots. The lessee must participate in the Kuleana Homestead Association and help maintain rights-of-way and lots.

Kawika reviewed the concerns provided by beneficiaries, as well as those from the Mana’e community. Concerns shared by both beneficiaries and community members include water and waste disposal, slope and erosion, cultural and historical sites, and access for hunting and cultural practices. He then presented the land and resource evaluation, which utilizes 15 categories of weighted significance criteria to identify sensitive areas within the project site.

Ryan Char presented a summary of the initial lot layout. In essence, the project is primarily looking at 58 acres located at the lower portion of DHHL’s 400 acres of land. Although there was an initial preference for lots over 1 acre, it becomes more expensive per lot if lots are larger and less in number.

The lot layout uses existing roads so that the DHHL makes minimal new roads, thus keeping costs down. The primary road would come up the Ualapue Tank Access Road. A secondary lower portion road would connect to an existing public road. The roads would also help to intercept water and either redirect water to the gulches or be used for homesteading purposes.

The lot layout considered the location of the archaeological sites and implemented buffers around the sites. Sites could potentially be re-used, but that option will be re-visited later in the process after consultation has taken place with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). There are 1,000 ft setbacks for the ‘Ualapu’e well and a private well, therefore lots are not proposed in these setback areas. These areas can be used for lots, however, it would require additional scrutiny with regard to subsurface sewage disposal.

Kawika discussed the possibilities of homesteading on one acre, and the possibilities of Community Use/Special District spaces. There are a range of potential uses in the Community Use areas such as potential communal gardening, if awardees find that a one-acre homestead is not enough to meet their needs. Community Use areas could also be used for Resilience Hubs in case of emergency. Ryan then presented various topographic renderings of one-acre homestead lots with 1,500 sf buildings for visual representation of how this settlement would look like within the existing community.

Ryan continued the presentation by discussing roads and erosion control. Roads can serve as erosion control using swales, drains, dips, etc. Maintenance is critical for successful erosion

control, and it will be critical that the land is under management and utilizes some of these best management practices and stabilization (e.g. contour farming/terrace farming).

According to archaeological finds, some of these areas were used for small farming, and that use can potentially be replicated. Water would need to be directed by the way roads are engineered. Ryan then covered potential water options. Catchment is still a possibility, even with limited rainfall. Lastly, Ryan discussed potential wastewater options, including individual wastewater systems (IWS), incinerator toilets, composting toilets, and greywater reuse.

- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** Where the residential lots are proposed there is "hardpan". Similar to several sites on Kahoolawe, West Molokai and other areas throughout the state. Hardpan is very degraded and not suitable for farming. Restoration efforts to mitigate hardpan is extremely labor intensive, extremely costly and will take a very long time to mitigate/restore. To date, millions of dollars has been spent on hardpan mitigation on Kahoolawe with little success.
 - **Andrew:** Looking at the soils is something that we can re-examine as we move forward in this process. The EA process will require a Soils section, where we can take a further look into the soil in the area. We definitely want to make sure that we put our beneficiaries in a good position to be successful.
 - Based on the number of sites, we know that there was a lot of settlement in the area. We need to continue to study those sites and how they were used to understand what can be done in this area.
- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** The same "patterns" and conceptual plans were used in Kawela Plantation subdivision and failed to perform as planned and the result is tons of silt unto the fringing reef in Kawela....just sharing
 - **Ryan:** It would be interesting to know if the Kawela Plantation design was actually implemented and maintained throughout the life of the project. We can definitely look at that as well.
- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** There is no greywater reuse approved by DOH.
 - **Ryan:** We do think that that will be changed as the Department of Health looks to update rules, therefore this is something we want to consider as a potential option in the future.

Pi'ilani started the second round of polling:

1. **What do you think of the initial lot size?**
 - a. Too Large (1/6, 16%)
 - b. Too Small (0/6, 0%)
 - c. Perfect Size (5/6, 83%)
2. **What do you envision for Community Space uses?**
 - a. Communal garden spaces, composting areas (2/6, 33%)
 - b. Resilience area with an open pavilion, composting toilets (3/6, 50%)
 - c. Other (1/6, 16%)
3. **How should cultural/archaeological areas and sites be cared for?**
 - a. Fenced for preservation and protected (1/6, 16%)
 - b. Restored for education and re-use (3/6, 50%)

- c. Allowed to remain in current condition (least cost) (2/6, 33%)

4. Should the community have access control – gates?

- a. Yes, gates at entries to the community with approved access (1/6, 16%)
- b. No, it is land open to all homesteaders and community (5/6, 83%)
- c. Yes, but gates should be open at all times and closed only if absolutely needed (0/6, 0%)

5. Would 4x4 vehicular access to the site be acceptable to you or is a graded, paved access road preferred? (cost implications)

- a. I can drive an off-road vehicle and deal with roads that may be washed out or in disrepair until the homestead community fixes the roads (1/6, 16%)
- b. I can drive an off-road vehicle and deal with roads that may be washed out or in disrepair but only for a day or two (3/6, 50%)
- c. I need drivable access at all times using a standard vehicle. Emergency vehicle access is critical for me (2/6, 33%)

6. Does the provision of access to piped water (either to fill tanks or to each lot) define this project?

- a. Yes a storage tank, fed by DWS, and supply to lot (1/6, 16%)
- b. Yes a spigot in Ualapue (4/6, 66%)
- c. Yes a spigot in Kalama'ula (0/6, 0%)
- d. No, I will provide my own water (1/6, 16%)

- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** Can you add the option of "none of the above" to every poll question....this poll is not helpful for me to provide feedback thank you. I cannot participate in a one-sided poll.
 - **Kawika:** Duly noted. We cannot change the poll in live-time, but can keep this in mind for the future.
- **Verbal comment by Pat Tamashiro:** What is meant by #4 community access?
 - **Ryan:** In terms of hunting access, cultural protocol, gathering, etc.
- **Chat comment by Mahina Poepoe:** What funding has DHHL allocated for this project so far? Is there a project cost to end of project and allocation?
 - **Andrew:** The contract was about \$400,000 for initial planning, only up to design. For design and construction costs – the department will need to find funding for construction. There is currently no funding for this. The department first needs to determine those costs and then find the funding for it.

Kawika discussed next steps, presenting a timeline of the project thorough the next community meeting (early 2023) and the Kuleana Homestead Settlement Plan (2023). Andrew said this timeline completes the planning phase.

- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** And the \$400k budget covers all of that?
 - **Andrew:** Yes. It covers the subconsultants and the planning process through the Environmental Assessment.

- **Chat comment by Lori Buchanan:** For the future can we have a better schematic of the process.
 - **Andrew:** Yes. We can definitely do that.

Pi'ilani started the third and final poll.

1. **Training may potentially be offered to prepare families for this off-grid lifestyle. Would you be interested in any of the following?**
 - a. Site development (5/6, 83%)
 - b. Erosion control (6/6, 100%)
 - c. Farming techniques (4/6, 66%)
 - d. Native plant restoration (5/6, 83%)
 - e. Cultural site restoration / re-use (5/6, 83%)
 - f. Home construction (5/6, 83%)
 - g. Off-grid utilities (5/6, 83%)
 - h. Emergency preparedness – fire prevention (5/6, 83%)
 - i. Potential vendors (3/6, 50%)
2. **Do you feel the community has the resources, ability, and means to provide long term maintenance and repair of roadways?**
 - a. Yes (1/6, 16%)
 - b. No (1/6, 16%)
 - c. Yes, but needs support from DHHL (4/6, 66%)
3. **Would you be willing to wait for the provision of water or a paved road if it meant it would take DHHL longer to award the land?**
 - a. Yes (2/6, 33%)
 - b. No (4/6, 66%)
4. **If offered, would you accept a 1-acre kuleana homestead lot as laid out in the initial lot layout for the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project?**
 - a. Yes (5/6, 83%)
 - b. No (1/6, 15%)
 - c. Undecided

- **Chat comment by Mahina Poepoe:** For some of these questions, I think you would need to ask the actual awardees. Like for question 2.

Kawika then opened the floor to beneficiary feedback, questions, comments and concerns.

Lori Buchanan: Please consider not doing pre set polls in the future.

Cora Schackenberg: There was another group that focuses on Fire Prevention [Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization]. I would like to see their suggestions. I think the terraces that Andrew mentioned...I would like to know where they are. I'm interested in types of plants for wildfire.

- **Kawika:** One of our partners is the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, based in Hawaii Island. They provide fire services in gathering data, analyzing spread, etc. They've been part of our conversations and there will be a report that gets integrated.

Mahina Poepoe: Will the next community meeting be in-person?

- **Kawika:** Yes. The next meeting is slated for early 2023 and will be in-person

Yolanda Tanielu: Fences. If I do get awarded, I will put a fence. It’s for safety reasons. If my neighbors going plant their pakalolo or whatever, thats their business. I don’t want them to come into my yard, take the gas out of my tank. These are things I learned in Ho’olehua. We have an autistic child, so it’s for safety. My next door neighbor filled up his gas and now no more. For those of us that are parents, the safety is for our family. I don’t open the gate for anyone but family. My house is in the middle with the fence all around. I have grandkids. I don’t want them pulling other peoples plants. I dont want people to scare my family. In our days, we get all kine troubles. Gun shooting. The other thing I’m worried about is the pigs and the deers with the fence. Do we have the right to shoot it?

- **Kawika:** Mahalo for sharing those thoughts. What resonates is the care, security and wellbeing of your ‘ohana. It’s going to take the formation of this community to build relationships with each other, with ‘āina.

Pat Tamashiro: Yolanda is right, we have issues all over Moloka’i.

Cora provided a pule to close out the meeting. The meeting ended at approximately 7:45pm.