

# THE WATER POLICY PLAN OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

In 2014, after two years of research and beneficiary consultation, the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) passed the Water Policy Plan (WPP), the first comprehensive policy on how they would fulfill their water kuleana since passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act in 1921. The Vision, Mission, Policies, Goals, and Implementation and Reporting required by the WPP helps the HHC and Department determine when and how it will assert rights to water. Since 2014, progress has been made with beneficiaries on asserting the unique rights to water held by the HHC, beneficiaries and Department.

Vision		Mission		
Our vision is that there will be adequate amounts of water and supporting infrastructure so that homestead lands will always be usable and accessible, to enable us to return to our lands to fully support our self-sufficiency and self-determination in the administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the preservation of our values, traditions, and culture.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Understand our trust water assets;</li><li>•Plan for our water needs;</li><li>•Aggressively understand, exercise and assert our kuleana as stewards of water;</li><li>•Develop and protect water sources; and</li><li>•Manage water systems.</li></ul>		
Values				
<b>Waiwai:</b> Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua. <i>Unfolded by the water are the faces of the flowers.</i>	<b>Waihona:</b> Ua lehulehu a manomano ka `ikenā a ka Hawai`i. <i>Great and numerous is the knowledge of the Hawaiians.</i>	<b>Mālama:</b> He ali`i ka `āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. <i>The land is a chief; man is its servant.</i>	<b>Laulima:</b> E lauhoe mai nā wa'a; i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina. <i>Everybody paddle the canoes together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.</i>	
Priority Policies				
1. Expressly determine and plan for future water needs and actively participate in broader water management, use and protection efforts in Hawai`i in order to secure water.		2. Aggressively exercise, reclaim, and protect Hawaiian home land water kuleana.		
3. Develop, manage, and steward water in a manner that balances cost, efficiency measures, and Public Trust uses in the short and long term.		4. Affirmatively communicate our decisions, our reasoning, and our performance in managing, stewarding, and using water before and after making major water decisions.		
Priority Goals				
1. <b>Affirmatively communicate</b> with beneficiaries regarding water decisions, performance, and water rights on a regional and annual basis.		2. <b>Aggressively, proactively, consistently and comprehensively advocate</b> for the kuleana of the beneficiaries, the DHHL, and the HHC to water before all relevant agencies and entities.		
3. Develop and manage a <b>Water Assets Inventory</b> (WAI).		4. <b>Support watershed protection</b> and restoration on DHHL lands and source areas for DHHL water.		
Implementation & Reporting				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Every year the Department must present and have the HHC approve a report on the previous year's performance and the plan for the next year.</b></li><li>• Major water decisions must be made by the HHC, not the Department.</li><li>• Annual briefings on each island with HHC and beneficiaries.</li></ul>				
Achievements Since Adoption				
<b>Inventory:</b> Cooperating in the development of the State Water Projects Plan (SWPP), DHHL has its first estimate of future water needs for all Trust lands.	<b>Water Reservations:</b> Based on the SWPP, surface and groundwater reservations have been secured across Hawai`i. More reservations are still needed.	<b>Advocacy:</b> Developed a program of continued advocacy on water issues before the state Water Commission, as well as the counties.	<b>Presentations and trainings:</b> Multiple statewide beneficiary trainings have been held and planned on how to advocate for HHCA water kuleana.	<b>Securing water:</b> DHHL has secured water use permits, worked on developing new sources, and reached agreements with the counties to provide water.
Learn More				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The full WPP, information on its development, and handouts on DHHL's water kuleana and water law can be found at <a href="https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/po/water/">https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/po/water/</a></li></ul>				