



CONFERENCE REPORT

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TO:	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)		
FROM:	G70		
DATE:	March 13, 2024	LOCATION:	Kilohana Recreation Center
PROJECT:	'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Settlement Plan	PROJECT NO:	221047-01
SUBJECT:	Community Meeting #5	NO. OF PAGES:	5
THOSE PRESENT:	G70: Kawika McKeague, Barbara Natale, Kahealani Winchester, Pi'ilani Smith DHHL: Andrew Choy	Participants: 42	

SUMMARY:

Community Meeting #5 for the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Settlement Plan Project was held on March 13, 2024 at the Kilohana Recreation Center. A pule was offered to bless the food, and Leimana Naki provided the pule for the meeting.

Kawika began the meeting by introducing the project team and general housekeeping. He then discussed the purpose of today's meeting, which is to 1) recap the 'Ualapu'e Planning Process to date, 2) discuss the alternative sites analysis, and 3) discuss next steps moving forward in the DHHL administrative rule process and with the Ahonui Homestead Association (AHA) request for right-of-entry (ROE).

A timeline of the planning process was presented. The Project began in 2021, and has completed three beneficiary consultations, five community meetings, and a handful of other meetings and talk-stories. Concerns heard throughout the planning process include:

- Cultural, Historical and Archaeological Sites
- Provision of Utilities to Homestead
- Natural Resources: Flooding, Drainage, Soil, and Erosion
- Site Safety, Wildfire and Roads
- Preference for selection of 'ohana from Moloka'i
- Opposition to the 'Ualapu'e location, but support for DHHL's homesteading mission
- Examination of alternative locations for homesteading in Moloka'i
- Change in lot locations if pursuing settlement at 'Ualapu'e

A discussion about the Alternative Sites Analysis was provided. Seven locations were examined through this process: the 'Ualapu'e Lower Lots, Ka'amola, Pua'ahala, Kapuaoko'olau, Mākolelau 1, Mākolelau 2, and the Kamehameha V Highway parcels. The results of this analysis were first presented to small groups in February 2024. Community members provided there is community restoration work being done at Ka'amola, and Pua'ahala is DLNR conservation land. The remainder of the locations are located within "dark corridors", areas of minimal light pollution that are critical to native bird migration. The remainder of the small group discussions focused on:

- Starting slow at 'Ualapu'e – phase with lower lots first to see how it goes
- Need to address outstanding concerns – archaeological sites, water, fire, erosion, and flooding
- Beneficiaries living here in the future need to be ma'a with the land and lifestyle
- Need for administrative rule change to prioritize those from this place
- Ahonui Homestead Association request for Right of Entry to mālama 'āina

Kawika and Andrew continued the presentation with next steps for the project. First, DHHL will provide a project update to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). DHHL will also initiate the

UNLESS WRITTEN OBJECTION IS RECEIVED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, WE ASSUME STATEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN ARE ACCEPTED

administrative rule change process to provide preference for lineal descendants. This process takes approximately 1-2 years. Concurrently, DHHL will process the AHA ROE request. Dickie presented the purpose of the ROE to begin mālama 'āina work at 'Ualapu'e. The ROE request includes a beneficiary consultation at AHA's request.

The floor was opened for Q&A, and a summary of key discussion points are provided below:

1. **Inviting Other Homestead Associations:** Community members discussed inviting other homestead associations to share their experiences with settlement at future meetings.
2. **AHA ROE:** A question was asked regarding the size of land AHA is requesting in their ROE. Dickie provided that the AHA request for ROE encompasses approximately 400 acres in 'Ualapu'e. A participant asked if G70 has assisted AHA with their ROE. DHHL provided that G70 has not assisted with the AHA ROE.
3. **Cultural Monitoring and CIA:** Community members requested DHHL hire a cultural (not archaeological) monitor. A cultural monitor has a focus to help, to guide and assist in the process, knows the rules and proper protocols. DHHL responded that there is a grants program that could be used to fund a cultural monitor. A question was asked if a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) was completed for the project. G70 provided that the CIA was included in the scope for the Environmental Assessment (EA), but the EA has not yet moved forward.
4. **Beneficiary Input and Community Concerns:** A question was asked regarding tonight's meeting – why was this meeting not open to all beneficiaries, and why is it not available on Zoom? It was reiterated that this is a Community Meeting, not a beneficiary consultation.
5. **Settlement Timeline and Rule Changes:** A question was raised regarding the timeline for the project: "How long from now until the homesteads are awarded?" DHHL provided the timeline for settlement depends on administrative rule changes, which is currently uncertain. Another participant asked, "What is the final deadline for G70 and this project?" DHHL provided the G70 contract ends in June 2024, but that does not necessarily mean the project comes to a hard stop.
6. **Ho'olehua Land Usage and Subdivision:** A participant provided that the alternatives analysis did not examine the possibility of subdividing underutilized agricultural lots in Ho'olehua. Many of these lots are too big for people to hit the requirement of 2/3 utilization of the lot. Subdividing this land would help reduce the number of those who are non-compliant and increase the number of lots in an area with existing infrastructure. DHHL said there are preliminary plans in place to look at unencumbered lots in Ho'olehua for subdivision.
7. **ROE Application and Community Engagement:** There were concerns expressed by the community on Ahonui's ROE request to steward the land. Community members requested that in addition to the normal DHHL Beneficiary Consultation for land use requests, AHA do a community meeting on their ROE request and plans to malama 'āina. The community meeting would be to work together with the Mana'e community to do things "right". According to one participant, the whole project should have begun with the ROE. Dickie was open to that, and not taking Ahonui's land use request at the April meeting was discussed.
8. **Off-Grid Living and Conservation:** A participant asked why DHHL is giving "scraps" of land to our kanaka, when the land is not set up for success. Other community members replied that this kuleana settlement is for those who know the effort and investment it takes to live off-grid. Uncle Mango reiterated the words of Aunty Twinkle Burgess: "If you give someone kuleana, you awaken their mana."

9. **Native Rights and Land Ownership**: There were discussions about native rights, land ownership, and the historical context of land seizure and conservation. A participant asked if there was a way for DHHL to hold the mauka land in trust in perpetuity, or sell the land. DHHL replied that they are not allowed to sell their lands, but there are other methods of ensuring that lands are not used for homesteads.

10. **Future Plans and Concerns**: Concerns were raised about the cost of land, future generations' ability to afford living in the area, and the need for sustainable development practices. There were some at the community meeting that were still opposed to any homestead project in 'Ualapu'e, even if it was only the lower lots.

Following the discussion, Uncle Mango provided the closing pule. The meeting ended at approximately 7:33pm.

'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Community Meeting #5

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Participants:

Koko Johnson
Dickei Stone
Healani Stone
Lori Buchanan
Herbert Hoe
Ehulani Kane
Julieanna Naki
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata
Zhantell Dudoit Lindo
Dulcie Pitcher
John Pitcher
Palmer Naki
Jade Kiyonaga
Dartangon Bicoy
Julie-Ann Bicoy
Gavin Pelekane Tamashiro
Wailau Pelekane Tamashiro
Pat Tamashiro
Tim Meyer
Tevita He
Anuheia Pupuhi
Leimana Naki
Diane Armstrong
Charles Pelekane
Phil Stephens
Mary Fiorentino
Alma Gamiao
Kawai M
Heather Place
Zelia Kalipi Wills
Jan Lathan
Kawehi Soares
John Sabas
Wren Wescoatt
Nancy Wescoatt
Leimana Ritte-Camara
Terry Klerlein
Russel Phifer
Sharylynn
Kamaile Carcisle
Zaida Place
Gaspar

COMMENT FORM

Comments: _____

Alternative sites were a discussion. Lower 'Ualapu'e lots being one. For these three 'Ualapu'e lower lots, is or did sea-level rise data / predictions be taken place as research for future data. Personally, I have done sea level rise work, and specifically in this area (mainly in the east parcel) in the next 60 years, sea level rise will affect this area, east of the fishpond makai of lots is marsh land, or wetland.

Other alternative sites in mind could be, the leases that have 40 acres and are not using it / or not in compliance, split these lands and use for alternative sites.