



PBR HAWAII
 & ASSOCIATES, INC.

MEETING NOTES

MEETING DATE: August 6, 2024

PRESENT:

Project Team:

1. Lillie Makaila, DHHL
2. Julie-Ann Cachola, DHHL
3. Ku‘upuamae‘ole Kiyuna, DHHL
4. ‘Olana Chow, DHHL
5. Catie Cullison, PBR HAWAII
6. Nathalie Razo, PBR HAWAII
7. Makena Bassett, PBR HAWAII

Beneficiaries/ Community Members:

TOTAL ATTENDEES:	67
Total Beneficiaries:	51
Applicants:	21
Lessee:	25
Both:	5
Others:	12
No response:	4

SUBJECT: Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Hawai‘i Island Plan Update Beneficiary Meeting, Round 1

ATTACHMENTS: A) PowerPoint Presentation, B) Land Use Designation Updated Maps, C) Fact Sheets, D) Comment Cards

1. Meeting Overview and Highlights

This meeting was the first of three rounds of meetings to discuss and receive feedback from DHHL beneficiaries on updated land designations for the Hawai‘i Island Plan Update. The purpose of this meeting was to educate the beneficiaries on the current Hawai‘i Island Plan and receive input on proposed Land Use Designations for the Hawai‘i Island Plan Update.

Tables were set up around the room with copies of initial drafts of the Proposed Land Use Designation Maps (Attachment B) and Fact Sheets (Attachment C) for each tract. As meeting attendees arrived they were asked to sign in and were given comment cards (Attachment D) for attendee review and use during the rest of the meeting. The comment cards listed each tract of DHHL land and included space for beneficiaries to leave their input about the proposed land use designations. During sign in, attendees were encouraged to

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Executive Vice-President / Principal

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Senior Vice-President / Principal

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visit the tables prior to the start of the formal presentation. Sticky notes were also provided for beneficiaries to leave comments on said documents

Lilliane Makaila of DHHL led the presentation (Attachment A) and meeting. She began the presentation with a review of the meeting agenda, as well as the overview and approach for the Hawai'i Island Plan Update, giving background information on the original Hawai'i Island Plan and the purpose/process of the Plan Update, and introducing the timeline of the project. Lilliane followed this with an emphasis on the incorporation of beneficiary knowledge in the Plan Update, and gave a brief explanation of the updated Land Use Designations generated from the 2022 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands General Plan Update. The presentation included a brief description outlining each of the Land Use Designations and for what they are used.

Following this, she went over each DHHL tract in both Hilo, Puna, and the 'Āina Mauna Legacy Lands, and compared the 2002 Hawai'i Island Plan Land Use Designation¹ to the proposed Land Use Designations identified. She went through each tract before opening the presentation to comments and input.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, beneficiaries were asked to participate and provide feedback. Beneficiaries could participate by raising their hands to provide oral comment and/or walk around the room to review the maps and leave comments on their comment cards, sticky notes, or discuss their input with the project team. Oral comments brought up during the Q&A period were recorded by PBR HAWAII and is summarized below. A more detailed account of beneficiary oral comments can be found in Section 5.

The meeting closed when beneficiaries had no further comments or input to share with the project team.

The following key topics were identified in oral comments:

- Understanding local conditions and incorporate diverse perspectives; consider historical land uses and improve stewardship
- Clarifying timing and impact of new designations on current waitlists; address potential delays in ongoing projects
- Improving communication and accountability of DHHL's updates and progress reports; enhance accountability and follow-through
- Expediting the lot awarding process; ensure adherence to timelines
- Beneficiary engagement – tailor outreach/communication to beneficiaries; improve customer service interactions;
- Support for subsistence agriculture; address implementation concerns of all LUD.

¹ Note: The 2002 Hawai'i Island Plan is the main source for identified land use designations; however, some tracts are more recent acquisitions or were subject to planning efforts more recently than 2002, in those instances the most recent reference was utilized.

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2. Comment Card Comments

- a. We received 6 comment cards from beneficiaries with comments regarding the proposed Land Use Designations. These comments will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

3. Fact Sheet Comments

- a. We received 4 comments on the Fact Sheets with comments regarding land characteristics and proposed Land Use Designations. These comments will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

4. Large Map Sticky Note Comments

- a. We received comments on all 13 Large Maps with questions about the land, land characteristic comments, Land Use Designation suggestions, and expressing priority for projects. These comments will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

5. Beneficiary Question and Answer Input

a. Comment During the Presentation:

1. Beneficiaries recommended using a laser pointer to enhance presentation clarity, suggesting that it would be less distracting compared to pointing directly at the screen. They also advised simplifying and enlarging maps by including only relevant keys and designations. The current maps were deemed too cluttered and overwhelming. Beneficiaries proposed enlarging the key for better visibility and removing extraneous notes and information from the maps. Additionally, they suggested making some of the maps larger and more zoomed in to improve readability and focus on the most pertinent details.

b. Q&A/Group Comment Period:

1. Emphasized the importance of understanding local conditions, such as those in Honomū, from a ground-level, community-oriented perspective. They found the presentation to be overly detailed and overwhelming, suggesting that it did not adequately account for the diversity of experiences and historical uses of the land. They encouraged DHHL to incorporate these diverse perspectives and historical contexts into land use designation decisions. Concerns were also raised about DHHL's track record in following through on plans and the effectiveness of their stewardship. The commenter criticized the use of the term "stewardship," arguing that DHHL had not demonstrated effective management and care of lands and current developments.
2. Inquired about the current implementation status of new land designations and their availability in tracts. They sought clarification on whether new designations would affect the waitlist for homestead lands and whether the process would be expedited for those already on the list. It was explained by DHHL that once a beneficiary's ticket was drawn, they would be offered the option of a new land use

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opportunity that aligned with their original request (eg. if they requested agriculture, they would have subsistence agriculture as an option to pick from among other agricultural options). The goal was to offer alternatives that might be accepted more readily, thereby potentially shortening the waitlist.

3. Expressed concern about the progress of development in Honomū, questioning whether new designations might delay current projects. They also noted dissatisfaction with DHHL's communication regarding project statuses, feeling that inadequate updates led to a lack of excitement and increased frustration among beneficiaries.
4. Observed that there were numerous available lots that had yet to be awarded and expressed frustration over delays in the lot awarding process. They noted that both they and others they knew had been awarded lots but faced delays in actually receiving and moving onto the land. They suggested prioritizing the process of awarding these lots and getting people onto the land more promptly, rather than focusing on new land designations and developments.
5. Expressed appreciation for the presentation and complimented the quality of the maps but voiced frustration over the lack of tangible progress from previous meetings. They strongly urged that the community hold DHHL's leadership accountable for ensuring that proposals are effectively implemented. They called for more decisive action and accountability from DHHL's chairman and council to achieve meaningful progress.
6. Reported not receiving a postcard invitation for the meeting and suggested that DHHL directly contact beneficiaries to solicit their perspectives and input on land matters/designations. They recommended providing more detailed and specific information tailored to individual tracts, particularly those that beneficiaries are personally interested in. Additionally, they expressed disappointment with the local DHHL office, noting that they and others had experienced poor customer service, including rudeness and unhelpfulness, which contrasted sharply with the expected "aloha spirit."
7. Showed gratitude to the team and expressed concerns about the perceived lack of progress despite repeated meetings. They sensed a significant disconnect between DHHL leadership and the community and were apprehensive about the adequacy of education for subsistence agriculture awardees, fearing that without proper training, awardees might struggle to effectively manage and utilize the land.
8. Noted a perceived lack of accountability regarding timelines from DHHL, pointing out that while many ideas and proposals were presented, there was often a failure to stick to proposed timelines or provide clear schedules for implementation. They called for more precise and consistent timeline management to ensure that projects and proposals are executed as planned.
9. Sought clarification on the specific types of feedback DHHL required from the community to be most effective and helpful. They were then informed that DHHL

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was interested in detailed feedback regarding beneficiaries' preferred land tracts, desired types of land use, and perspectives on where designations should be placed on non-leased lands.

- 10.** Expressed enthusiasm for the Pāpa'ikou acquisition and the Honomū development, particularly in regard to subsistence agriculture designations, which they believed offered valuable opportunities. Their positive outlook reflected a strong interest in the potential of these new initiatives to enhance land use and community welfare without the obstacle of financial pre-qualifications.
- 11.** Voiced frustration with the waitlist and the progress of projects, questioning why planning continued when DHHL already had land available that could be used immediately. They were concerned that ongoing planning efforts might be delaying the use of already available land, emphasizing the need for more immediate action to address current land needs.

This is our understanding of the topics discussed and the conclusions reached. Please give PBR HAWAII written notification of any errors or omissions within seven calendar days. Otherwise, this report will be deemed an accurate record and directive.

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HAWAI'I ISLAND PLAN UPDATE
BENEFICIARY MEETING, ROUND 1 – HILO AND PUNA
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ATTACHMENTS TO SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT A: PowerPoint Presentation

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HAWAI'I ISLAND PLAN UPDATE
BENEFICIARY MEETING, ROUND 1 – HILO AND PUNA
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ATTACHMENTS TO SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT B: Land Use Designation Updated Maps

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ATTACHMENTS TO SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT C: Fact Sheets

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ATTACHMENTS TO SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT D: Comment Cards