



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TRUST
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

**Maku'u Regional Plan Update
Beneficiary Consultation #1
MFHHA, Pāhoa, HI
July 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Participants: A total of 12 people attended the Beneficiary Consultation on July 17, 2025 at the Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead Association (MFHHA) site. Of the 12 attendees, eight (8) self-identified their beneficiary status as lessees in Maku'u, three (3) self-identified as potential successors, and one (1) self-identified as "other".

Project Team:

- DHHL: Lillie Makaila
- Townscape: Gabrielle Sham and Kylie Yonamine

Handouts Provided (attached):

- Project Fact Sheet
- Meeting Agenda
- Slideshow Presentation
- Community Values & Visioning Activity

AGENDA

- Sign-in
- Welina, Pule, & Introductions
- Presentation on Regional Plan Update
- Visioning Exercise Part 1
- Refreshment Break
- Visioning Exercise Part 2
- Closing & Next Steps

PRESENTATION

Lillie Makaila opened the beneficiary consultation meeting by introducing herself and the consultation team. A pule was offered by an attendee to begin the presentation. After the pule concluded, Lillie discussed an overview of the meeting agenda, expectations and kuleana, and a brief overview of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' (DHHL) planning

system. During the brief overview of the DHHL planning system Lillie emphasized that the Island Plans guide the DHHL land use for each island, and Regional Plans maintain focus on each of DHHL's 23 regions statewide. The last Regional Plan for Maku'u was completed in December of 2010.

Updates on 2010 Priority Projects

1. Priority Project #1: Farm Plans, Capacity Building, & Promotion of Agriculture
 - a. Many lots are vacant due to lack of infrastructure, economic constraints/cost of major farm equipment, and lack of agricultural education/training.
 - b. The 2010 Maku'u Regional Plan Update (RPU) described a vision to create a cooperative for sharing large farm equipment, as well as training/support for agricultural practices and developing farm plans.
 - c. 'O Maku'u ke Kahua has taken the lead on agricultural education through their Māla Ho'oulu 'Ike initiative.
 - o Educational workshops, garden work, and take-home activities.
 - o Shade house facility and hydroponics.
2. Priority Project #2: Build a Community Center
 - a. Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 Environmental Assessment was completed in 2011.
 - b. The MFA is currently working to fund construction.
 - c. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the MFA received a \$100,000 grant from DHHL to assist in the cost for updating plans, obtaining permits, and starting construction.
3. Priority Project #3: Enforcement of Lease Provisions
 - a. Many lots remain vacant, in violation of the requirement to begin farming within one year of being awarded a lease.
 - b. In 2020, DHHL staff discovered 300+ abandoned vehicles on 3 adjacent homestead lot in Maku'u. DHHL & the County partnered to remove these abandoned vehicles & debris that same year.
 - c. DHHL responds to complaints with evidence that are brought to their attention at: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/lessee-information/>
4. Priority Project #4: Maku'u Offsite Water System
 - a. The DWS Pāhoa Water System only services Maku'u lots below 523 feet elevation. A new source needs to be developed to service the remaining lots above.
 - b. This project was in motion when an exploratory well was drilled at 826 feet elevation during the time of the 2010 Maku'u RPU.
 - c. The well still needs to be converted to a production well, and a reservoir and supporting facilities need to be built after completion of chlorination and pressure testing of the existing pipes.
 - d. Awaiting testing.

5. Priority Project #5: Sustainability and Renewable Energy Initiatives

- a. 2009 Maku'u Farmers Association Renewable Energy Pilot Program – wind power producing enough energy for the Māla.
- b. During the 2010 Update, beneficiaries expressed a desire to explore solar, recycling, and anaerobic wastewater treatment.
- c. No Renewable Energy Land Use designations were proposed thus far for the Maku'u area in the ongoing DHHL Hawai'i Island Plan update process.

After the presentation, attendees took a brief break before the community values and visioning activity. Prior to beginning the activity, attendees chose to remain as one group and were guided by the following questions:

1. What are the values that guide/shape this community?
2. What does that look like in your community?
3. What does your homestead and/or the broader Maku'u area look like?
4. What does it feel like?
5. What about the community are your mo'opuna proud of?

COMMUNITY VALUES & VISIONING ACTIVITY DISCUSSION

- **Aloha kekahi i kekahi**

- Loving and caring for one another
- Integrity (steadfast/doing the right thing)
- Mālama 'āina
- Aloha 'āina
- Laulima
- Pilina
- 'Ohana
 - Kūpuna

- **Aloha ke akua**

- Pule
- Ceremonies
- Physical space
- Spiritual guidance

- **Keiki**

- A'o aku a'o mai
- Hānai
- Kūpa'a

- **Market**

- Powerful entity
- Capacity building

- Education
- Economic development
- Revenue generation
- Inspiration
- **Māla Ho'oulu 'ike**
 - Community garden
 - Growing with plants through all stages
 - Sustainability
 - Mālama 'āina/Aloha 'āina
 - Kuleana
 - Mo'o kū'auhau
 - 'Ōlelo
 - Mo'olelo
 - Culture and practices
 - Food security
 - Returning to the culture
 - Inspiration
 - Hāloa
 - Wai
 - Community collaboration/participation
- **Kūpuna**
 - 'Ike
 - Legacy
 - Strong foundation to kīpaipai
 - Care for kūpuna
 - Physical space for:
 - History
 - Capturing mana'o
 - Cemetery
- **Hālau**
 - Hale
 - Kaiāulu
 - Kīpuka
 - Vital role of resources and community coming together especially during lava flows/emergencies
 - Pu'uhonua
 - Gathering place
 - Funding
 - Partnerships

- **Ahupua'a**
 - Taking care to become a model for other homesteads/places
 - Resources:
 - Natural
 - Access to resources within the area
 - Example: Planting near the imu area
 - Sustainable
 - Oli/Mele
 - Lā'au lapa'au
 - Wahi pana
 - Pele
- **Pele**
 - Mo'olelo
 - Lineal descendants
 - Interaction with the 'āina
 - Understanding Pele is of high importance.
 - Understanding the role of homesteading on the 'āina.
 - Learning to be successful is understanding how to interact with Pele.
 - "We don't rip her up."
 - She is very active.
 - Success here is understanding the relationship between Pele and the people.

REVIEW & NEXT STEPS

After attendees finished the activity, Lillie reviewed the notes once more with the group and asked if anything was missing, and attendees confirmed the notes captured their values accurately.

Lillie concluded the beneficiary consultation meeting by outlining the next steps and informed attendees that she and the consultants will refine the community values discussed, which will be presented at the next beneficiary consultation meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2025. This meeting will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at MFHHA.

QUESTIONS

Additional questions/comments were posed during the presentation by meeting attendees. These are noted below:

- How can lessees get loans for properties in Lava Zones 1 and 2? This is causing funding issues and preventing loans from the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will not fund housing projects in Lava Zones 1 and 2. DHHL could instead offer funding options that use DHHL trust funds which do not have the same constraints.
- Housing and caring for kūpuna should be made a priority.
- Is a native forest considered agricultural use?
 - Yes. Forestry uses and agroforestry are not restricted on homestead lots.
- Will DHHL be charging and providing water to us?
 - The previous regional plan for the area identified a water system for the region though this project is not currently funded.
 - A meeting participant shared that water systems are not needed, as Maku'u residents can use rainwater catchment systems and many already rely on rainwater for their water needs.