



**Maku'u Regional Plan Update  
Beneficiary Consultation #2  
MFHHA, Pāhoa, HI  
July 31, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Participants:** A total of seven (7) people attended the Beneficiary Consultation on July 31, 2025, at the Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead Association (MFHHA) site. Of the seven (7) attendees, five (5) self-identified their beneficiary status as lessees in Maku'u, one (1) self-identified as a potential successor, and one (1) identified as an applicant.

### **Project Team:**

- DHHL: Lillie Makaila
- Townscape: Sherri Hiraoka and Kylie Yonamine

### **Handouts Provided:**

- Draft Community Values & Vision
- Slideshow Presentation

## **AGENDA**

- Welina, Pule & Introductions
- Presentation on Regional Plans & Review of BC#1
- Discussion: Draft Community Values & Vision Part 1
- Refreshment Break
- Discussion: Draft Community Values & Vision Part 2
- Closing & Next Steps

## **PRESENTATION**

To open the beneficiary consultation #2, Lillie Makaila began by briefly introducing herself and the consultation team. A pule was offered by an attendee to begin the presentation. After the pule was concluded, Lillie provided the meeting's agenda, expectations and kuleana, meeting objectives, project timeline, and a recap from the previous beneficiary

consultation meeting. The review and recap section of the presentation included the discussion of the purpose of a regional plan and the update process to the existing Maku'u Regional Plan from 2010, which was followed by a group discussion to review the nine (9) draft community values that were created based on the discussion from the first beneficiary consultation meeting. Lillie emphasized to the Maku'u community that the regional plans are beneficiary-driven and are centered around identifying and advancing priority projects that they would like to see within their community. The last Regional Plan for Maku'u was completed in 2010.

## COMMUNITY VALUES GROUP DISCUSSION

After the presentation, Lillie facilitated a group discussion to review and edit the nine (9) draft community values that were created based on the discussion from the first beneficiary consultation meeting. Attendees were invited to provide feedback, and the revisions to the initial Community Values are shown below. Additions are underlined, while deleted text are shown with a ~~strike through~~.

### ~~Community Values~~ 'O Maku'u Ke Kahua

#### 1. Aloha kekahi i kekahi

We value relationships grounded in aloha, integrity, and mutual care. We uplift one another through laulima, pilina, and a strong sense of 'ohana. Guided by our kūpuna, we honor our shared kuleana to support and care for one another. We treat this community as 'ohana and we take pride in the values of aloha kekahi i kekahi, aloha 'āina, and mālama 'āina, especially in caring for the Maku'u area.

#### 2. Aloha ~~Ke~~ Nā Akua

Our relationship with ~~Ke~~ Nā Akua is vital to grounding our actions, intentions, and identity as a community. We honor different bodies of akua. We honor our 'āina and elements in our spiritual foundations through pule, ceremonies, and dedicated spaces. ~~For reflection and guidance.~~ Our community is deeply rooted in traditions and practices that respect our culture, honor our ancestors, and foster spiritual growth.

#### 3. Nurturing 'ohana (keiki to kūpuna) ~~Keiki~~ through Education, Culture, and Community

Through education, our 'ohana ~~keiki~~ grow to be kūpa'a, grounded in their cultural identity, committed to their community, and steadfast in upholding the values and traditions of their kūpuna. We cherish our 'ohana ~~keiki~~ and instill the importance of a'o aku a'o mai, the giving and receiving of knowledge. As a community, we work together to protect and nurture our 'ohana ~~keiki~~, embracing the value of hānai and recognizing that raising our lāhui ~~children~~ is a shared kuleana.

#### 4. Building Community Capacity and Economic Resilience

As a community, we strive to be self-sufficient and economically independent to support our programs and initiatives. We are committed to building community capacity through educational opportunities and access to resources. The creation and success of the

Maku'u Farmers Market enables us to offer programs and support projects that benefit our community, such as the Māla Ho'oulu 'Ike and Māla Ho'onauao programs, while also serving as inspiration for our 'ohana keiki and other homestead communities seeking to build self-sufficiency and resilience.

#### **5. Sustaining Community through Cultural Practice and Knowledge**

Our ~~Māla Ho'oulu 'Ike~~ programs ~~embody embodies~~ a return to ancestral food systems, including the sharing of mo'olelo, 'oli, mele, and the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. We restore our connection to the 'āina, strengthen food security, and encourage community participation and collaboration. We strive to maintain a balanced, symbiotic relationship between people and the land to provide for one another and to grow together through all stages of life. We honor the sacred importance of mo'okū'auhau, recognizing that our genealogy deeply connects us to our kūpuna, our 'āina, and to each other.

#### **6. Honoring, Caring for and Continuing the Legacy of Our Kūpuna**

We value the 'ike passed down by our kūpuna, those with us and those who came before us, and are committed to creating and maintaining physical spaces that honor our past and support our future. These spaces allow us to preserve our history, capture and share mana'o, and ensure our kūpuna have a place to rest. We carry forward their legacy, affirm our kuleana to care for our kūpuna, and build a strong foundation to kīpaipai future generations.

#### **7. Stewarding the Ahupua'a**

We serve as a model of a thriving, sustainable ahupua'a, integrating traditional knowledge and responsible gathering of resources within the region. We honor and protect our wahi pana and maintain a deep spiritual connection to Pele and lineal descendants of Puna. In doing so, we lead by example for other homesteads across Hawai'i.

#### **8. Strengthening Community through Gathering Space**

We support one another, valuing the strength and resilience of our kaiāulu. Our community spaces serve as a kīpuka, an oasis, a place where homesteaders can gather, reconnect, and build pilina. These spaces play a vital role in providing shared resources, especially during times of natural hazard or emergency. They are a pu'uhonua for our community, offering refuge, safety and collective care.

#### **9. Honoring and Understanding Pele**

We honor the mo'olelo and 'ike passed down by our kūpuna and is still upheld by the lineal descendants of Puna, which guide our relationship with the 'āina and deepen our understanding of Pele, an active, powerful, and living presence in this landscape. Success on this 'āina comes from recognizing the sacred relationship between Pele and the people, and learning how to live in respectful interaction with her. As we are reminded, "We don't rip her up." We carry the responsibility to honor her through careful stewardship, cultural awareness, and understanding the role of homesteading on the 'āina.

Additional comments during the group discussion session are summarized below.

- We need to dig deep to find the values of the mana'o. A lot of the values are expectations and "how we do it" in our community and actions.
- The Maku'u homestead is different from other homesteads across the Hawaiian Islands because everything is internal for our community. With guiding actions and programs in our community that are implemented by our community members, which have been built and carried out through the generations.
- How can we find out if there are projects in the vicinity of our community? Does the occurrence and presence of development in the vicinity of an area impact the Regional Plan update for the community?
  - DHHL will check and bring comments and emails with them to the next meeting, as consultation with the county and state may be required.
- "People in the community drive the actions of the community."
- "We work as one, but with westernization we have to be separate."
  - This quote is in reference to the history and current status of our two non-profit organizations (Māla Ho'oulu 'Ike & OMKK) in the Maku'u community.
- The words "Community Values" do not fully capture the mana'o of our community, we prefer to use the verbiage "'O Maku'u Ke Kahua" instead.
- We want to incorporate and facilitate a collaboration between our programs pre-existing 'Laulima' framework with our new 'O Maku'u Ke Kahua to connect and guide the regional plan update.
  - Language and Education
  - Arts and Culture
  - Unifying Grassroots & Government
  - Learning environment
  - Incorporating Health and Wellness
  - Maintaining Sustainability
  - Aligning to Resiliency & Resistance

## **COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT GROUP ACTIVITY DISCUSSION**

The following vision statement was drafted:

"As established by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, Maku'u strives to ho'opulapula and perpetuate Native Hawaiian values and traditions. We support our 'ohana to become self-sustaining by being grounded in 'ike kūpuna and growing through educational and employment opportunities for future generations."

Attendees utilized the MFHHA (Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead Association) Vision Statement as their inspiration to fully capture their community's vision statement for the Maku'u Regional Plan update. Meeting participants agreed that the vision statement above accurately captures and represents the Maku'u community.

## **CLOSING & NEXT STEPS**

Lillie closed the meeting by reviewing the next steps. She and the consultants will revise the draft values to properly reflect the mana'o that was shared during the meeting. At the next beneficiary consultation meeting, handouts with the revisions will be provided, but the majority of the time will be reserved for brainstorming and refining project ideas for priority project voting. The next meeting, Beneficiary Consultation #3, will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at MFHHA.