



**Maku'u Regional Plan Update
Beneficiary Consultation #3
MFHHA, Pāhoa, HI
August 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Participants: A total of fourteen (14) people signed in at the Beneficiary Consultation meeting on August 7, 2025 at the Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead Association (MFHHA) site. Of the fourteen (14) people that signed in, ten (10) self-identified their beneficiary status as lessees in Maku'u, three (3) self-identified as potential successors, and one (1) self-identified as an applicant and a potential successor.

Project Team:

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

Handouts Provided:

- Meeting Agenda
- How To: Priority Project Voting
- Revised Community Values & Vision ('O Maku'u Ke Kahua)
- Presentation Slides

AGENDA

- Welina, Pule & Introductions
- Presentation – Brief Review of BCs #1 & #2
- Develop and Refine Project Ideas List
- Overview of Priority Project Voting Process
- Next Steps & Closing

PRESENTATION

To open Beneficiary Consultation #3, Lillie Makaila began by briefly introducing herself and the consultation team. An oli and pule were offered by Maku'u lessees to start the meeting. Following the oli and pule, Lillie reviewed the meeting agenda, kuleana and expectations, meeting objectives, project timelines, and provided a recap of the two previous beneficiary consultation meetings.

The recap highlighted the purpose of a regional plan, the updates that will be made to the regional plan, and the process for updating the 2010 Maku'u Regional Plan. The updates will include a vision statement, community values for the region, and implementation action steps for each priority project. Lillie also reviewed the community values ('O Maku'u Ke Kahua) and vision statement, discussed consultation letters sent to agencies and responses received, and reviewed the 2010 Regional Plan priority projects and concerns.

PRIORITY PROJECT IDEAS – GROUP DISCUSSION

Following the presentation, Lillie facilitated a group discussion to draft priority projects for the Maku'u homestead community. The community expressed many concerns ranging from trespassing and illegal activities to water usage from Maku'u and identified priority projects that they envisioned within their community. The attendees collaborated and proposed seven (7) project ideas that are listed below.

1. Hālau Initiative

- 3-acre area
- Provide space for:
 - Certified Kitchen
 - Gathering space with the capacity to hold conferences and large gatherings, a hula studio, and technology space
 - Health center
 - Meetings and learning
 - Restrooms
- Refer to the conceptual plan in the 2010 Regional Plan.
- Identify space within the community to create a cemetery for 'ohana.

2. Housing for Kūpuna and the Community

- 5-acre parcel where kūpuna could enjoy living, with indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Designated 'ohana spaces.
- Incorporate native landscaping on the property.
- See proposed project from the Lunalilo Trust website, which featured 122 units with options for live in caretaker and different room sizes.
- Facilities for Kūpuna Day Care and supported living services.
- Use DHHL Trust Funds to offer loans to beneficiaries in Lava Zone 2 that are not able to access other funding sources.
- Seek policy change for requiring three denial letters for funding.

3. Water (Beneficiary Consultation, Water Catchment, and Alternative Systems)

- Conduct appropriate Beneficiary Consultation for any changes or proposed water system projects in the community. There needs to be input from the beneficiaries.
 - Provide an option for homesteaders or DHHL to be water operators and developers. Preference for water operators would be: 1) community entity; 2) DHHL; and then 3) County.
- A percentage of revenue generated should be provided to protect natural resources.
 - Negotiate a Community Benefits agreement
- Identify a new water source
 - Build capacity for the future
 - Rain water catchment is the preferred option instead of using groundwater.
- Homesteaders want the option to choose between water catchment or connecting to the County water.
- Utilize sustainable, recyclable, and reusable water systems within the community that do not have a negative impact on the 'āina.

- Homesteaders prefer having a small water treatment that allows water to cycle through plants and miscellaneous networks.
- Priorities for water distribution in the Puna region should be given to homesteaders.
- Installation of smart meters for water.
- Fire hydrants in the community have no water, which is currently in violation of federal regulations.

4. Safety and Security

- Implement security measures.
- Community concerns include:
 - Safety
 - Drugs
 - Fire
 - Illegal Squatting
 - Illegal dumping including animal dumping
 - Illegal hunting
 - Invasive species (ex. wild pigs)
- Need financial assistance with fencing off property to improve safety and security.

5. Support for agriculture and agriculture infrastructure

- Fencing properties and funding
 - A potential funding option is for the homestead to work together as a single entity to complete a project, receive reimbursement, and then roll the reimbursement funds into the next project.
- Financial support for UXO scanning for grubbing, grading, and ground disturbance.
- Financial support for properties in Lava Zone 2
 - Offer loans directly from DHHL Trust Funds.
 - Properties in Lava Zone 1 or 2 can't access NAHASDA funding.
 - Make funding available through DHHL for development of housing for properties that don't qualify for NAHASDA.
 - Policy change so that three denial letters are not required from a lender.
- Shared use of large equipment
- Quarry
- Butcher processing station
- Product co-op store
- Mulching area
- Water distribution/Water well

6. Solar Renewable Energy Project

- Identify 30 acres.
 - Kāheakeola Place as a potential site.
- Support solar farm, but not interested in wind turbines.
- Goal for this project is to use the renewable energy to help power up Maku'u.

7. Address Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

- Conduct and support UXO scanning.
- DHHL to fund additional remediation.
 - Address pollutants and hazards on the 'āina.
- Hold all parties responsible for damages.
 - Homesteaders should not be liable for proper removal of UXO.
- Use LiDAR to detect UXO.
- Research other types of scanning and technology.

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY PROJECT VOTING

Voting for the priority projects will open on August 14, 2025, and will be available through the following methods: postal mail, email, online via Google Form, and phone.

For those who prefer to vote by mail, hardcopy voting forms will be available for pickup from MFHHA, with postage stamps provided. To validate each vote, voters must include their contact information and their address or awarded lot number.

Attendees agreed that only lessees will be allowed to vote. If a lease includes more than one individual, each individual on the lease will be permitted to vote. Voters may cast up to five (5) votes and may allocate multiple votes to the same project. It was also agreed that the names of voters, along with their respective votes, would be shared publicly to ensure transparency.

The voting period will close on August 28, 2025, allowing time to finalize the regional plan and present it to the Hawaiian Homes Commission later this year.

CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

Lillie concluded the meeting by providing a summary of the next steps. The planning team will prepare the list of projects for the voting form. They will also send postcards and emails with voting reminders and instructions to Maku'u beneficiaries to encourage participation.

The next meeting, Beneficiary Consultation #4, will present the draft plan. It will be held on September 4, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the MFHHA Site.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.