

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

September 15 - 16, 2025

To: Chairman and Members, Hawaiian Homes Commission
Through: Lilliane K. Makaila, Acting Planning Program Manager
From: Gigi O. Cairel, Grants Specialist
Subject: (For info) NHDPP Update

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None; for information only.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The NHDPP was established in 1998 under Hawaii Administrative Rule 10-6.1. Its purpose is to "improve the general welfare and conditions of native Hawaiians through educational, political, social, cultural, and other programs," with the "goal to increase self-sufficiency and self-determination of native Hawaiian individuals and native Hawaiian communities."

The NHDPP is prepared every two (2) years, goes through Beneficiary Consultation, and goes to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for final approval.

Since 2012, the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (DHHL) has been time-extending the 2012-2014 Native Hawaiian Development Program Plan (NHDPP). And, it was again approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) in June 2025 for a time extension through Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. (Exhibit A). Based on annual budget and staff allocation, DHHL has been implementing the NHDPP in the areas of individual development (ie, homeownership and financial literacy counseling; and agriculture and pastoral lessee technical assistance) and community development (i.e., community liaisons and DHHL Community Development grants).

Other NHDPP programs and activities in the past have included the following.

Individual development:

- College scholarships
- Student volunteer opportunities

Community development:

- Homestead leadership meetings with the department
- Nonprofit training and technical assistance
- Assistance with creating new homestead associations
- Conference scholarships

DISCUSSION

An update to the NHDPP is needed to better reflect today's beneficiary needs and priorities. The department plans to conduct extensive outreach and Beneficiary Consultation (BC) statewide starting in the fall 2025. The tentative schedule and activities are as follows.

Subject to Change

	Phase	Task	Timeframe (subject to change)
1	Outreach, Community engagement, Beneficiary needs assessment	NHDPP webpage Conduct survey Conduct on-island and virtual meetings statewide	Fall/winter 2025
2	Draft NHDPP update	Synthesize input from Phase 1	Jan-Feb 2026
3	Beneficiary Consultation statewide	Conduct on-island and virtual meetings	Mar-Apr 2026
4	30-day Public Comment period	Revise the draft based on beneficiary feedback.	May 2026
5	Final NHDPP Update	Prepare final NHDPP update for HHC review and approval	Summer 2026

Historically, the NHDPP is primarily funded by the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund (NHRF). NHRF was created by the 1978 Constitutional Convention to finance various activities intended to exclusively benefit native Hawaiians. The source of revenue for this fund is primarily derived from 30% of state receipts, derived from lands previously cultivated and cultivated as sugarcane lands and from water licenses. NHRF has been in decline significantly in recent years.

Further, per HAR 10-6.1-6, NHDPP may also be funded by federal, state, county and private resources. In accordance with the HHC-approved FY 26 department budget, \$10,000,000 is allocated for Grants from State General Funds and \$179,000 in Trust funds is allocated for agriculture technical assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

None; for information only.