



**Maku'u Regional Plan Update
Beneficiary Consultation #4
MFHHA, Pāhoa, HI
September 4, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Participants: A total of six (6) people signed in at the Beneficiary Consultation meeting on September 4, 2025 at the Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead Association (MFHHA) site. Of the six (6) people that signed in, five (5) self-identified their beneficiary status as lessees in Maku'u and one (1) self-identified as Other.

Project Team:

- DHHL: Lillie Makaila
- Townscape: Gabrielle Sham

Handouts Provided:

- Presentation Slides
- Draft Priority Project Profiles

AGENDA

- Welina, Pule & Introductions
- Presentation – Draft Regional Plan Update
- Discussion – Priority Projects
- Next Steps & Closing

PRESENTATION

Lillie Makaila opened the meeting by introducing herself and the consultant team. A pule was offered by an attendee to begin the meeting. After the pule, Lillie reviewed the meeting agenda and gave a brief overview of the priority project voting results. She described the voting process, the total number of ballots received, and the breakdown of the results.

DISCUSSION ON PRIORITY PROJECT

Following the presentation, Lillie facilitated a group discussion to review the top five priority projects selected by homesteaders. For each project, she outlined key issues and opportunities, described the desired outcomes, and identified potential implementation steps. Meeting participants shared questions and comments, which are summarized in the bullet points below.

1. Homestead Safety and Security

- Explore the feasibility of securing the entire homestead (e.g., gated community).
- Evaluate whether gates can be installed at existing entry points to the homestead. There are three entry points.
- Consider emergency vehicle access requirements for any gated community.
- Hold more robust discussions regarding Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) risks.
- Digitize maps of potential UXO area to better visualize potential risks and solutions.
- Explore funding sources and integrate more conversations about UXO risks (not every homestead faces this issue).
- Address traffic safety measures from people speeding, gunfire, and drag racing.
- Consider installing speed bumps. There were some discussions about this issue prior to the pandemic, but implementation would require coordination with adjacent lot owners where the speed bumps are being proposed.

2. Hālau Initiative

- A specific site for the kūpuna housing has not been identified. Further discussion is needed, but it should be located on DHHL lands.
- There may be opportunities for DHHL to acquire new land from Act 14, which still includes some outstanding land transfers to the Department.

3. Support for Agriculture Use and Infrastructure

- Building permits – preference for permitting to go through a DHHL permitting system instead of the County.

4. Alternative Financing Program for Homesteads in Lava Zone 2 and Partnership for Kūpuna Housing

- Current funding opportunities are available for new lessees, but not for existing lessees who have been trying to build their homesteads.
- Provide funding opportunities for existing lessees who have been in Maku'u for at least five years and are seeking to improve their land. Funding should cover repairs, renovation, and new construction.
- Consider using the self-help housing program model. While these are typically for residential homesteads, explore whether they can be applied to other homestead types.
- As mentioned above, preference for building permitting to go through DHHL.

5. Water

- Do not support construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant for adjacent lands due to concerns about potential impacts to the homestead in the event of facility failure.

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY PROJECT VOTING

Voting for the priority projects will open on September 11, 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.

The voting period will close on September 25, 2025, allowing time to finalize the regional plan and present it to the Hawaiian Homes Commission in October.

CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

Lillie concluded the meeting by providing a summary of the next steps. The planning team will send emails with instructions to all meeting attendees notifying them of the draft plan and comment period.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.