

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

Minutes of Monday, March 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
Hale Pono'i, 91-5420 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Oahu, 96707,
and Interactive Conferencing Technology (ICT) Zoom

PRESENT Kali Watson, Chairperson
Walter Kaneakua, O'ahu Commissioner
Michael L. Kaleikini, East Hawai'i Commissioner (9:45 a.m.)
Sanoë Marfil, O'ahu Commissioner
Shaylyn Ornellas, Kauai Commissioner
Makai Freitas, West Hawai'i Commissioner

EXCUSED Pauline N. Namu'o, O'ahu Commissioner
Archie Kalepa, Maui Commissioner
Lawrence Lasua, Moloka'i Commissioner

COUNSEL Hokulei Lindsey, Deputy Attorney General

STAFF Richard Hoke, Executive Assistant to the Chairperson
Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Secretary to the Commission
Juan Garcia, Homestead Services Division Administrator
Kalani Fronda, Land Development Division Acting Administrator
Liliane Makaila, Planning Office Acting Administrator
Nancy McPherson, Planning Office Planner
Frank Hall, Land Management Division Administrator
Linda Chinn, Land Management Division Special Projects
Kahana Albinio, Land Management Division Income Property Manager
Lehua Kinilau-Cano, NAHASDA Manager
David Hoke, Enforcement Team Administrator

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Chairperson Kali Watson. Six (6) members were present in person, (1) tardy, and three (3) excused, establishing a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Watson announced adjustments to the meeting agenda, stating that Item G-2 would be taken out of order and moved up to follow the consent agenda, while Item F-1 would be moved to the last Item before the lunch break at approximately 11:30 a.m. The Commission would recess at noon for an executive session, contested case hearing, and lunch. The DHHL community meeting was scheduled that evening at Blanche Pope Elementary School in Waimānalo at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION/ACTION

Commissioner Kaneakua moved and Commissioner Freitas seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS OF MINUTES

a.) March 16-17, 2026, Regular Meeting

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini and seconded by Commissioner Kalepa to approve the March 16-17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

PT-1 De Mont Manaole – Items C-1, E-2, F-2, F-3, and E-5

D. Manaole testified in support of several agenda Items while also attempting to provide the Commission with confidential documents related to Item F-2 for their consideration, which prompted guidance from Chair Watson to submit them to the Deputy Attorney General for review regarding possible executive session confidentiality. He expressed support for geothermal exploration under Item C-1, noting some cultural concerns on Hawai‘i Island, but stating fewer issues with exploration in Lualualei. He supported the Waipouli housing project under Item E-2, highlighting that 26 beneficiaries would soon be housed without long delays, and praised its progress despite prior controversy. He strongly supported EC Trucking under Item F-3, describing the company as reputable and beneficial to the Nanakuli community, and endorsed Item E-5 regarding Homestead Lease Awards and Land Development progress. He explained that he raised the F2-related documentation early to potentially influence the Commission’s perspective and concluded by reaffirming his overall support for the listed Items.

PT-2 Puni Kekauoha – Item G-2

P. Kekauoha testified on behalf of Kula No Nā Po‘e Hawai‘i in support of two recommended grant awards under Item G-2, explaining that one grant would support the Pilina Pūowaina project, a Kupuna supportive living center planned above Stevenson Middle School to serve elderly residents in Papakōlea, Kewalo, and Kalawahine who face accessibility challenges, and would fund due diligence requirements tied to a previously approved right of entry. She emphasized that the project was shaped by a year of community engagement supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and aimed to provide services such as medical care, transportation, and other support for Kupuna. She also described the second grant supporting the Hawaiian Homestead Health Survey, which Kula had conducted since 2014 across multiple islands including O‘ahu and Maui, gathering community health data to guide development and planning, and stated that with continued funding they planned to conduct three additional surveys, inviting Commissioners to connect them with other homestead communities interested in needs assessments and data collection.

PT-3 Mervina Cash-Kaeo – Item F-4

M. Cash-Kaeo testified in support, noting that her organization served an average of 457 individuals per month at the site through employment, training, and various support services. In response to a question from Chair Watson about funding stability, she explained that although federal funding had recently been uncertain, at one point, all grants were abruptly canceled, and she successfully advocated for their reinstatement. She added that Native Hawaiian funding had remained relatively secure because it was tied to broader Native American funding pools that had been legally protected, and she expressed relief that such funding continued to be recognized as legitimate.

PT-4 Patty Teruya – Item F-3 & F-4

P. Teruya had expressed condolences on behalf of the Wai‘anae Coast community for the passing of Senator Colleen Hanabusa, recognizing her dedicated service, support for Native Hawaiians, and advocacy for women. She had voiced strong support for Agenda Item F-2 involving the Alu Like project in Nānākuli, highlighting the organization’s impactful programs for kūpuna, keiki, and youth, as well as the value of its accessible facility on Hawaiian Homestead land, and encouraged approval of the right of entry to continue benefiting the community. She also supported Item F-4 regarding EC Trucking, noting that the company consisted of local beneficiaries who had long contributed to fire mitigation and community safety efforts, provided essential heavy equipment services across Nānākuli and Wai‘anae, and played a critical role in disaster preparedness, urging the Commission to approve their right of entry to strengthen community resilience.

PT-5 Ohana Unity Party – Pikachu Shelby

P. Shelby supported approving all agenda items but emphasized urgent storm-related crises in Kapa‘ahea and Nānākuli, where flooding, power outages, and sewage up to six feet deep stranded residents and damaged homes, including roofs collapsing. He urged the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to coordinate with city, county, state, and FEMA resources to aid affected Native Hawaiian communities, noting similar impacts on Maui and Hawai‘i Island. He also referenced unresolved community concerns, including alleged mismanagement of cemetery funds, and stressed the need for immediate and long-term support to address housing damage, mold, and infrastructure issues affecting residents.

PT-6 Yvette Masaoka – Item D-14

Y. Masaoka explained that she had been awarded her homestead in 2003, but faced years of harassment from a neighboring lessee, causing her family financial hardship and placing her on the relocation list in 2014. Since then, she has received few suitable offers, with the Keaukaha home in Hilo being the first viable option. She noted that her Kurtistown home had an appraised value of \$330,000, with a remaining mortgage balance of approximately \$55,000, and she sought clarification on whether the department would pay the mortgage balance directly or if she would be responsible. She emphasized the urgency due to already being approved for a Keaukaha home loan, the steep and hazardous landscape of the property requiring a retaining wall, backfill, and fencing for her grandchildren and pets, and the prolonged process delaying her family’s transition. She requested that the net proceeds be dispersed at the time of the lease swap and asked for guidance on the timeline for the Keaukaha lease award so the transition could proceed without further delay.

PT-7 Shaena Dela Cruz Hoohuli – Nanakuli Concerns

S. Dela Cruz identified herself as part of Build Team 50, a community-driven initiative promoting unity, integrity, and support, and highlighted her roots in family, faith, and Nānākuli homestead. She stressed that strong communities are built on relationships, culture, and mutual care, and advocated for service, aloha, and compassion to build a stronger future for the next generation. Although she was not on the agenda, she requested the opportunity to discuss the Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery later, noting its importance to many families in the community, and expressed gratitude for the Commission’s service to homestead communities.

II. ITEMS FOR DECISION MAKING

A. CONSENT AGENDA

HOMESTEAD SERVICES DIVISION

- D-2 Approval of Consent to Mortgage (see exhibit)
- D-3 Approval of Streamline Refinance of Loans
- D-4 Approval of Homestead Application Transfers / Cancellations (see exhibit)
- D-5 Approval of Certify Applications of Qualified Applicants for the month of February, 2026 (see exhibit)
- D-6 Commission Designation of Successors to Application Rights-Public Notice 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024(see exhibit)
- D-7 Approval of Assignment of Leasehold Interest (see exhibit)
- D-8 Approval of Amendment of Leasehold Interest (see exhibit)
- D-9 Approval to Issue Non-Exclusive Licenses for Rooftop Photovoltaic Systems for Certain Lessees (see exhibit)
- D-10 Commission Designation of Successor – PAULETTE K. LANE, Residential Lease No. 12930, Lot No. 108, Ka’uluokaha’i, Oahu
- D-11 Commission Designation of Successor – BEVERLY P. DOI, Residential Lease No. 1269-A, Lot No. 201-B, Keaukaha, Hawaii
- D-12 Commission Designation of Successor – CADE K. KUAMOO, Residential Lease No.

- 4260, Lot No. 314, Keaukaha, Hawaii
- D-13 Commission Designation of Successor – DAVID K. KEAULANA, Residential Lease No. 8388, Lot No. 97, PKE, Oahu
- D-14 Request to Surrender Lot – YVETTE SATOMI MASAOKA, Residential Lease No. 9970, Lot No. 6-A, Kurtistown, Hawaii

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Juan Garcia presented 13 Items (D2 to D14) for approval.

J. Garcia presented 13 consent agenda Items for approval, including Items D-10 through D-13, which involved the designation of successors for the respective leases. He also discussed Item D-14, which requested approval for a lessee to surrender her existing lot and relocate to a new lot in Keaukaha, a process approved in 2014. He explained that although the lessee had been offered several other lots, she selected the Keaukaha property, which had been constructed by students at Hawaii Community College, and that surrendering her current lot was a necessary step for the relocation.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kaneakua asked for clarification regarding Yvette Masaoka’s \$330,000 appraisal question. J. Garcia explained that after subtracting the \$55,000 mortgage, about \$274,000 in net proceeds were due to her. Normally, the proceeds were paid only after a qualified applicant took over the lease, but the department could advance up to 90% with Commission approval, retaining 10% for costs such as appraisal and cleanup.

Commissioner Kaleikini asked about the timing for Item D-14 and the surrender decision. J. Garcia said the relocation request was made in 2014 due to a neighbor dispute, that multiple lots had been offered, and that a Keaukaha property appraised at \$324,000 had been selected. She was approved for a VA loan, and once the Kurtistown lot was surrendered, her lease would be amended, and the lot would go to the next waitlist applicant. Commissioner Kaleikini inquired about advancing proceeds for property improvements. J. Garcia explained that the fiscal office could expedite the payment, but the advancement would require Commission approval, which could be requested at the next meeting. Commissioner Kaleikini confirmed that the first step was deciding on the surrender today, with advancement potentially decided at the following meeting.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini seconded by Commissioner Kaneakua to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A’OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini	X		X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua		X	X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

REGULAR AGENDA

PLANNING OFFICE

ITEM G-2 Approval of Recommendations for Various Grant Awards (see exhibit)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Liliane Makaila and Grants Specialist Gigi Cairel presented the following: Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission Approve the Recommendations for Various Grant Awards.

L. Makaila mentioned that a revised version of the materials was available and indicated that they intended to walk the Commissioners through the revisions. G. Cairel explained that they identified a few oversights in the narrative, though all information in the agenda tables and attached exhibits were correct and available on the website. She clarified that the \$219,750 award listed for Waimea was intended for Wai‘ohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders, added a previously omitted \$216,000 award to Waimea Nui Agriculture, Inc. under RFP 002, and corrected the La‘i ‘Ōpua 2020 award amount to \$278,200. She confirmed that these were the only changes, noted that she had reprinted the submittal with the correct figures, provided extra copies, then offered to read the recommendations to the Commission.

L. Makaila explained that the grant solicitation was released on October 29, 2025, with a proposal deadline of January 12, 2026, and that approval was being requested in March, aiming to start grant agreements by July 1. She summarized the FY26 grant budget, including four RFP solicitations: 002 for facility improvements with \$5 million budget, 003 for program implementation with \$1.8 million, 004 for community capacity building with \$200,000, and 005 for disaster preparedness with \$2 million, totaling \$9 million, though the legislature had allocated \$10 million, with \$1 million restricted.

She further noted that over \$21 million in requests had been submitted, highlighting the high demand and need demonstrated, and explained that seven applications were disqualified for submittal issues, and three were late and not reviewed. She presented the grant recommendations by RFP, detailing amounts requested and recommended: \$5,379,750 for 002, \$1,875,250 for 003, \$125,000 for 004, and \$1,620,000 for 005, noting that some funds were being reallocated to meet recommendations. She addressed the \$1 million cap, describing the complex process for requesting release and encouraging preliminary approval from the Commission to expedite potential allocation, acknowledging that no guarantees are provided.

She also outlined the plan to supplement contracts for partially funded projects, including Wai‘ohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association (over \$200,000 of the \$1 million request) and Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation (one-third of the request), to eventually provide an additional \$500,000 to each if funds were released. She displayed the amended FY26 grant budget incorporating these potential supplements, requesting full approval of \$10 million, the legislature’s total allocation, and concluded by opening the floor for questions or discussion.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Freitas inquired whether applicants who were disqualified or missed the deadline had reached out for guidance or support to correct their submissions. He expressed strong support for pursuing the remaining \$1 million in restricted funds, emphasizing that leaving any allocated money unused would be detrimental to beneficiaries. He noted that this was the first year receiving the \$10 million allocation and stressed the importance of maximizing the funds for capacity building, offering the Commission's support in that effort.

L. Makaila responded by recognizing the difficulty G. Cairel faced in contacting disqualified or late applicants. She explained that the department reviewed the reasons for disqualification and considered ways to strengthen future participation, but could not retroactively change decisions to maintain fairness and integrity in the process. She suggested providing capacity-building support to homesteads to better prepare

them for future solicitations and emphasized that annual grant cycles would allow them to address these challenges more effectively next year.

G. Cairel added that all disqualified applicants were notified in writing and offered technical assistance to review proposals and improve future submissions. She clarified that most disqualifications were due to noncompliance with the Hawaii Compliance Express system, which was outside the department's control, leaving it up to applicants to address those requirements.

Commissioner Ornellas asked about the methodology behind the grant recommendations, questioning whether a scoring matrix determined who was recommended. G. Cairel explained that the scoring process was clearly outlined in the RFP, covering organizational capacity, community support, project readiness, and points allocated in each category. She added that the committee also considered past experience with applicants on DHHL projects or land dispositions, combining scores with practical knowledge of grantee performance.

L. Makaila highlighted that budget justification was a critical factor affecting scores, noting that unrealistic or incomplete budgets—missing compliance, permitting, or other essential components—negatively impacted evaluations. She suggested that capacity-building support could help applicants improve in this area for future solicitations.

Commissioner Ornellas inquired about the committee's composition, and L. Makaila confirmed there were three members, all staff. G. Cairel explained that previous community review committees were abandoned due to conflicts of interest, and occasionally, technical experts were brought in when specialized knowledge was needed. Commissioner Ornellas questioned oversight, and L. Makaila clarified that the process followed State Procurement Office RFP procedures.

Commissioner Ornellas raised concerns that past recipients might have an advantage over new organizations. G. Cairel responded that grant orientations, workshops, and a dedicated capacity-building RFP were available to new and startup organizations, though historically underutilized. She noted that the capacity-building grants had increased from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per application, allowing new organizations to receive training, develop boards, and prepare for larger grants. Ongoing outreach to encourage new applicants, ensuring opportunities for growth and participation in future solicitations.

Commissioner Marfil asked whether applicants who were not awarded grants received their scorecards to learn from and improve future applications. G. Cairel explained that traditionally, the scorecards were not provided, but they could be shared upon request because evaluations included both numerical scores and qualitative information. She noted that a consultant also provided follow-up technical assistance to help applicants review and strengthen their proposals for the next cycle, though she cautioned that this support was funded by older, remaining funds and would be limited once those funds were exhausted.

Commissioner Marfil emphasized the importance of building capacity among applicants and encouraged those who were not awarded to reach out to take advantage of the support and guidance for future submissions. G. Cairel added that she often urged beneficiaries to "practice on us," explaining that, unlike federal funding, where mistakes can immediately disqualify applicants, the department provided a supportive environment to help applicants learn and improve. She concluded by reiterating the department's commitment to working with applicants to strengthen their proposals for future grant cycles.

Commissioner Kaleikini asked whether the grant workshops were offered statewide. G. Cairel explained that, depending on resources, workshops were held in Kapolei, Hilo, and Molokai, noting that even when one was held in Kapolei, half the attendees came from neighbor islands, indicating high demand. Commissioner Kaleikini inquired about online access, and G. Cairel said they offered a virtual option, but it was challenging to condense a two-day class into a few hours. She noted that participation was strong; at the Kapolei session, 50 signed up, but only 30 could attend, so some were turned away. Commissioner Kaleikini suggested increasing the budget to allow for more workshops.

L. Makaila added that a positive trend was emerging; long-time homestead leaders were bringing younger generations to the training to ensure continuity and succession planning. Commissioner Kaleikini asked about the allocation for the 004 capacity-building category, noting that only \$125,000 was awarded out of \$200,000. She explained that any unawarded funds were reallocated to other categories where awards exceeded the original budget, specifically 001 and 005.

Chair Watson concluded by thanking both Cairel and Makaila, highlighting their innovative approach in managing the grant process, and expressed appreciation for their contributions

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Freitas seconded by Commissioner Kaneakua to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini	X		X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua		X	X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

Public Testimony – Patty Teruya - Expressed gratitude for the \$25,000 awarded to the Wai‘anae Coast Community Foundation (WCCF) to support the annual Prince Kuhio legacy. She addressed Item G-2, exhibit A, and explained that the denied \$75,000 grant was intended to complete a 2022-approved \$980,000 retail/commercial project for Hawaiian homesteads, not a new for-profit venture. She highlighted inconsistencies in the denial, noting that a Department of Hawaiian Homes permit had been issued for work from August 2025 to August 2026, and that the submitted budget was fully justified. The denial delayed the project, leaving units empty, and emphasized that the project supported native Hawaiian beneficiaries and complied with mercantile provisions for homestead businesses. She requested that the Commission defer or amend the denial, reflect the 2022 approval and issued permit, and provide a recommendation.

Public Testimony – Keoki Aiwohi - Had been working on a long build-out and came to clarify the status of a permit needed to connect electricity to his unit. Hawaiian Electric was waiting for permit approval, and he was unsure whether his existing permit, issued by Tim, was valid, as it referenced a “pathway not granted yet.” Chair Watson acknowledged the situation, noting that Keoki was at the forefront of the department’s renewed permitting process, and advised him to make the permit available for review. Keoki stated that his mother had already addressed other issues, so his main concern was confirming the permit to proceed with electrical service.

Public Testimony – DeMont Manaole - Expressed overall support for the department and its staff while raising concern about a statement he found offensive regarding trust beneficiaries being excluded from a decision-making role due to potential bias. He had interpreted this as implying that Native Hawaiians could not be trusted within their own trust, which echoed past sentiments where the department made communities feel voiceless and controlled. He argued that excluding trust beneficiaries from grant-related decision-making undermined that progress. He suggested that if beneficiaries could not serve directly on decision panels, they should at least be hired into roles that influence decisions, as they had a stronger vested interest in the trust

than non-beneficiaries, whose loyalty might lie with the state. He emphasized the need to balance, reconsider, and reword the policy to avoid alienating the community and to maintain the growing trust between the department and the people.

Public Testimony – Pat Kahawaiolaa - He criticized the application review process for excluding Native Hawaiians from committees due to perceived bias, arguing that qualified beneficiaries with integrity and expertise should be included and could be vetted, with recusal processes handling any conflicts of interest. The process failed without Native Hawaiian participation, emphasizing that beneficiaries, as defined under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, deserved a voice alongside Commissioners. He also challenged the denial based on for-profit status under Act 207C1B, noting that even churches generate profit, making the reasoning inconsistent and offensive. He had urged the Commission to revisit the issue and work toward a fair, inclusive process that ensured proper representation of Native Hawaiians.

Public Testimony – Nani Peterson – Supported Item G-2 and earlier testimonies urging changes to better serve Kanaka ‘Ōiwi, that ineffective policies should be reviewed. She expressed disappointment that the Kids Hurt 2 grant, which she was part of and said met all criteria, had been denied despite addressing serious trauma and healing needs on the Wai‘anae Coast, noting that decision-makers often lacked direct understanding of the community. She urged the Commission to reassess policies, include more Kanaka ‘Ōiwi in decision-making, and avoid any form of oppression or suppression, emphasizing their responsibility to support community wellbeing and financial needs, while stating they would seek other funding and asking the Commission to engage more deeply with the community.

Public Testimony – Walker Rowsey - Executive director of Kids Hurt 2 Hawaii explained that the funding opportunity had come at a critical time for homestead communities along the Wai‘anae Coast. He described a recent surge in tragedy, particularly among youth, including a spike in suicides across the island that had significantly impacted Wai‘anae, noting that their organization alone had witnessed six youth suicides in the past four weeks. He stated that the grant review acknowledged no faults in their application and recognized the services as critical and needed, but denied the grant because other proposals were deemed a better fit. Emphasizing that these issues disproportionately affected Native Hawaiian and homestead communities, he urged the Commission to look beyond the final reviewer rankings and reconsider the decision, given the urgent and severe needs.

Public Testimony – Sybil Lopez - Spoke in support of G-2, echoing Uncle Pat and other testifiers, that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and homestead associations and how they should be given primary preference for grants since the funds come from their trust and should directly benefit them. Her organization’s experience of being denied a DHHL grant due to submitting it one minute late, noting they were an emerging, 100% beneficiary-led and governed organization on Moloka‘i working to build capacity while supporting homestead associations that choose not to establish 501(c)(3) status, so they could focus on community work rather than administration. She also highlighted that DHHL was currently updating its NHDPP plan and had recently visited Moloka‘i, encouraging beneficiaries to engage in the process to ensure their needs were prioritized, and emphasized that their efforts on Moloka‘i were focused on keeping beneficiaries at the forefront and ensuring they directly received the benefits.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Marfil questioned the rationale for denying funding to the Wai‘anae Coast Community Foundation. L. Makaila clarified that the denial was not due to disqualification, the permit, or supporting a for-profit endeavor, but rather because there was insufficient funding to support all qualified applicants. She acknowledged the difficulty of assigning zero recommendations, noting it reduced the impact of distributing the \$10 million. Commissioner Marfil sought further clarification on whether permitting and for-profit concerns were still cited as reasons, expressing confusion about the discrepancy between the stated explanations and the true cause: limited funds.

G. Cairel explained that in 2022, the Commission had awarded a \$980,000 grant to the Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Association for a community-based project identified in the regional plan, aimed at improving

three village spaces to attract businesses, emphasizing its grassroots, community-driven nature. She contrasted this with the Waianae Coast Community Foundation proposal, noting it was a nonprofit serving essentially as a pass-through for a single for-profit business rather than a grassroots homestead association, and that it lacked clear social or community goals such as workforce training for disabled or low-income individuals. She added that the foundation had greater access to other financing, had only spent half of its previous grant by 2024, and that the application raised too many questions, while other proposals better aligned with the Community Grants Program’s goals. Commissioner Marfil suggested that for future proposals, the foundation could highlight its existing workforce training and community hiring strategies to strengthen its application.

MOTION TO AMEND

That the HHC: (i) on page 2 of the addressed Item, under amount \$219,7500, to approve the name change from Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders’ Association to Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association; (ii) on page 2 to include \$216,000 awarded to Waimea Nui Agriculture; and (iii) on page 3, under the La’i ‘Opua 2020, to change amounts from \$282,000 to \$278,200.

MOTION ON AMENDMENT/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Freitas seconded by Commissioner Kaneakua to approve the amendment as stated above.						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A’OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini	X		X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua		X	X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

ITEM C-1 Approval of the Budget to Support Geothermal Exploration and Development on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Trust Lands.

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Office of the Chairman Property Development Agent Russell Kaapu presented the following: Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission Approval of Budget to Support Geothermal Exploration and Development on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Trust Lands.

R. Kaapu outlined a budget request while providing context through a presentation he had previously delivered to a state geothermal working group. He aimed to update the Commission on ongoing geothermal efforts, priorities, challenges, and next steps. He briefly reviewed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the department’s founding principles before presenting a historical timeline of geothermal exploration on Hawaiian homelands, starting with the adoption of the Ho‘omaluo energy policy in 2009, which prioritized renewable energy development, including geothermal, though initial efforts focused on solar and wind energy.

He outlined key developments: a 2014 Hawai'i Attorney General opinion granting DHHL full geothermal royalties and authority over its resources; a 2016 Don Thomas report identifying geothermal potential on Mauna Kea; and a 2021 proposal by Malama Solomon for a geothermal and undersea cable project, which DHHL declined due to uncertainty and capacity limitations.

In 2022, DHHL received about \$500,000 under Act 205 to advance geothermal exploration, hiring Michael Consulting to expand on prior research. By year-end, maps presented to the Commission identified geothermal potential across multiple islands, highlighting overlaps with DHHL lands and guiding future development considerations.

In 2023, a permitted interaction group (PIG) was formed, chaired by R. Kaupu, to study geothermal strategies. The group met four times, heard from various experts, and compiled data and best practices to support DHHL's planning and decision-making.

R. Kaupu then stated that knowledge about geothermal resources on Hawaiian lands was limited, with more unknowns than knowns. He explained that in other parts of the world, such as New Zealand, Iceland, Malaysia, and the Philippines, governments led geothermal exploration with significant funding, but Hawaii lacked similar government investment. Early studies by Professor Don Thomas indicated geothermal resources existed across all islands, with proven energy at the Puna Geothermal Venture on Hawaii Island and unexpected heat discovered near Saddle Road adjacent to Hawaiian homelands. Despite evidence of resource potential, government support for exploration remained minimal.

The 2023 PIG concluded that DHHL lacks the capacity and funding to develop geothermal independently, recommending public-private partnerships where DHHL provides land and community engagement while private entities handle technical development.

In 2024, DHHL partnered with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to host statewide community listening sessions, allowing beneficiaries to learn about geothermal potential and share input. Concurrently, the University of Hawaii, led by Professor Nicole Lauzzi, conducted additional studies on Mana Road and near the Pohakuloa well, confirming geothermal resources and identifying rock formations that required further study. In the 2025 legislative session, DHHL proposed bills for additional geophysical exploration and slim hole drilling, both of which failed. However, DHHL successfully secured \$1.2 million in federal earmark funds through the University of Hawaii for further exploration on Hawaii Island.

He also described participation in NREL's Indigenous Knowledge Exchange, including visits to Hilo and Aotearoa. The experience highlighted cultural considerations, lessons from Māori leadership, and the importance of responsibly managing geothermal resources through culturally grounded approaches.

(Item C-1 resumed after Executive Session)

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

ITEM F-1 Approval to Issue a Right of Entry to Spectrum Oceanic, LLC, Portions of Various TMKs Statewide--Islands of Maui, Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, State of Hawaii

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall and Land Agent Andrew Sante presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval to Issue a Right of Entry to Spectrum Oceanic, LLC, Portions of Various TMKs Statewide--Islands of Maui, Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, State of Hawaii

F. Hall explained that the request covered various TMKs statewide and was subject to conditions outlined in the meeting packet, and he recommended approval of the permit. He also noted that A. Sante was present to assist with the presentation and answer any questions from the Commission.

A. Sante reiterated his recommendation for approval of a non-benefit, non-exclusive statewide right-of-entry (ROE) permit for Spectrum Oceanic LLC, noting that ROE 704 served as a relevant precedent for interim telecommunications access. ROE 704 previously allowed Hawaiian Telcom to continue providing internet service to homesteads after the sale of SIC assets, serving as a temporary arrangement until a longer-term telecommunications framework was established. Spectrum currently has no similar interim agreement allowing access to provide internet services to beneficiaries and stated that the proposed statewide ROE would enable Spectrum to conduct due diligence and install infrastructure, giving beneficiaries more internet service options ahead of upcoming housing projects in 2026 and 2027. He also noted concerns raised from recent Waimana complaints regarding alleged carrier-specific treatment issues, which he deferred to legal counsel, while offering to answer procedural questions about the proposed ROE.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Ornellas asked whether a map had been created to visually show the locations covered by the proposed permit, since it referenced “various sites,” stating it was important to understand the impacts on the specific areas involved. A. Sante responded that a finalized map was not yet available because Spectrum Oceanic LLC would identify the installation areas through exhibits after permit approval, but he noted he had received a list that morning of 26 current and potential locations for installation, which he could circulate. He explained that the permit process would require those sites to be formally identified later by exhibit and reviewed through the Chair for approval to ensure the requests were appropriate.

Commissioner Kaleikini asked about the timeline for the proposed month-to-month, one-year ROE for Spectrum, specifically when Spectrum would return after completing due diligence so beneficiaries could begin accessing their services. A. Sante responded that a specific timeline had not yet been established and would need to be developed, explaining that the one-year ROE was intended to allow Spectrum time for due diligence and installation while the department continued to address issues raised in Waimana-related complaints and work toward finalizing a broader telecommunications licensing framework. Commissioner Kaleikini expressed concern that firm deadlines should be set for Spectrum’s return to ensure accountability and timely access for beneficiaries, rather than allowing the process to extend over the full year without clear milestones.

Chair Watson questioned whether the proposed non-exclusive statewide right-of-entry (ROE) was intended solely for due diligence or would also allow Spectrum to begin installing equipment, noting that the language referenced installation, operation, and maintenance. A. Sante responded by referencing a prior ROE issued for the Pu‘uhona Homestead, explaining that Spectrum had already completed due diligence there but was awaiting approval to proceed with installation and that, as a result, those beneficiaries did not currently have Spectrum as an internet provider option. He clarified that the current ROE framework was similar in allowing due diligence and potential future installation, subject to further authorization. Chair Watson further raised concern about whether Spectrum’s infrastructure work would overlap with the department’s broadband initiatives and noted that staff could provide technical clarification.

Broadband Coordinator Jaren Tengan explained that Spectrum was already present in many Hawaiian Home Lands and that the proposed right-of-entry (ROE) was intended primarily to regularize and clean up administrative records while allowing Spectrum to expand its network, as Hawaiian Telcom does. He clarified that Spectrum’s services were part of a broader broadband infrastructure and that the ROE would support network expansion and competition in line with telecommunications policy.

Chair Watson questioned whether granting statewide access might limit future competition or give Spectrum an unfair advantage, but J. Tengan explained that telecommunications operated as a competitive industry under federal law and that DHHL could not regulate rates directly. He stated that introducing additional providers would encourage competition, which could help lower costs for beneficiaries, citing areas like

Anahola, where limited providers could otherwise charge higher prices. He also explained that Hawaiian Telcom had obligations as a carrier to provide service, while Spectrum would be entering based on its own business decision, with the ROE enabling due diligence and potential service expansion.

J. Tengan further clarified that Hawaiian Telcom and Spectrum operated under different regulatory frameworks, but both provided broadband services, and modern technology allowed multiple providers to deliver similar internet capabilities. He emphasized that having multiple providers increased competition and improved affordability while also improving resilience during emergencies, as multiple networks could support faster recovery if one system failed.

Chair Watson sought clarification on whether the ROE allowed immediate installation or required further review, expressing concern about oversight and impacts on beneficiaries. J. Tengan and A. Sante explained that Spectrum would still be required to follow standard due diligence and departmental review processes, with ongoing oversight to ensure compliance and to evaluate decisions before installation. Chair Watson emphasized the need for continued monitoring to ensure beneficiary interests are protected and that impacts are properly assessed before any final installation actions proceed.

Public Testimony – Homelani Schaedel – The Malu’ōhai homestead internet service had originally come through Oceanic and later continued through Spectrum via existing coaxial infrastructure rather than fiber optics, while Hawaiian Telcom had since been approved by the Department to install and promote fiber service. Spectrum’s service was a continuation of legacy infrastructure, but residents were now being encouraged to switch to Hawaiian Telcom, which offered fiber options and competitive pricing. She experienced internet issues during the meeting and considered switching providers, noting Hawaiian Telcom’s \$30 monthly promotion compared to her roughly \$50 monthly Spectrum bill, though she explained that pricing often depended on bundled packages that included multiple services, whether they were used.

Public Testimony - Patrick Kahawaiola’a - Testified that telecommunications providers in Hawai‘i had changed over time, noting Spectrum’s evolution from Time Warner to Comtec to Charter and its long but uneven service history in areas like Keaukaha and Pana‘ewa, where some roads remained unserved due to cost decisions. He contrasted this with Hawaiian Telcom’s quicker expansion into underserved areas during bankruptcy transitions and infrastructure takeovers, which he viewed as more responsive, though he also raised concerns about how services were delivered and whether households were being directly served. While he understood competition and non-exclusive access, decisions should prioritize Native Hawaiian beneficiaries’ needs for affordable, reliable home connectivity and questioned whether granting non-exclusive rights would truly improve access and lower costs.

Chair Watson requested a motion to convene an executive session under HRS § 92-5(a)(4) to consult with attorneys regarding issues related to the right-of-entry for Spectrum. Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini. Seconded by Commissioner Kaneakua, the motion was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IN

12:05 PM

The Commission convened an executive meeting pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), HRS, to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Commission’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities on the following matter:

1. Discussion on Right of Entry Permit to Spectrum Oceanic, LLC, Portions of Various TMKs Statewide-- Islands of Maui, Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, State of Hawaii

EXECUTIVE SESSION OUT

1:05 PM

The Commission reconvened its executive session and reported that it met with its counsel to discuss issues related to its powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities concerning Item F-1.

ITEM F-1 (Continued) Approval to Issue a Right of Entry to Spectrum Oceanic, LLC, Portions of Various TMKs Statewide--Islands of Maui, Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, State of Hawaii

A. Sante proposed an amendment to section four of the motion to clarify how DHHL would ensure Spectrum’s installation and access were properly implemented while protecting beneficiary interests and land management oversight. Properties accessed under the right-of-entry (ROE) would be identified through exhibits that could be amended as installation opportunities arose, subject to approval by the Land Management Division. Before any exhibit approval, Spectrum would be required to submit a written justification demonstrating that its proposed access or installation would provide beneficiaries with equitable provider choice. He explained that the amendment was intended to ensure that the Land Management Division reviews all proposed exhibits and to require Spectrum to justify how its actions would support fair access and competition for beneficiaries.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua, seconded by Commissioner Marfil, to amend the motion to include under section four: subject to approval by the Land Management Division. Prior to approval of any exhibit, Permittee shall submit a written justification demonstrating that the proposed access or installation will provide beneficiaries with equal opportunity of provider choice

ACTION ON MOTION AS AMENDED

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua, seconded by Commissioner Marfil, to approve the motion as amended above.						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A’OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua	X		X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil		X	X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

ITEM C-1 (Continued) Approval of the Budget to Support Geothermal Exploration and Development on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Trust Lands.

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Property Development Agent Russell Kaupu presented the following:
Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval of Budget to Support Geothermal Exploration and Development on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Trust Lands.

R. Kaupu resumed his presentation by describing his participation in an Indigenous knowledge exchange in Aotearoa, where he was welcomed into a Māori marae and received a symbolic tokotoko, or talking stick, representing cultural authority and a shared ancestral connection between Hawai’i and

Aotearoa through a legend of geothermal energy originating from Hawai‘i. He explained that the experience reinforced the deep cultural significance of geothermal resources and the responsibility to protect and manage them, as Māori traditions traced their geothermal origins to ancestral ties with Hawai‘i. Māori communities maintained control over their resources while still partnering with industry, highlighting the importance of balancing cultural stewardship with development.

Global and Māori geothermal practices, explaining the phased development process from exploration to production, with investment increasing as risk decreases. He noted DHHL remains in early exploration with limited data and funding, and highlighted additional uses of geothermal energy such as industrial applications and sustainable cascading heat systems.

Upon returning, he focused on advancing funding efforts, noting that while new legislative bills in 2026 had failed, earlier 2025 bills remained viable due to the biennial legislative process, and funding could still be secured through budget measures. He added that DHHL had also pursued federal earmark funding, including a new \$1 million request to expand exploration beyond Hawai‘i Island, building on prior efforts. He credited leadership for accelerating geothermal initiatives and emphasized the importance of securing resources to move beyond early exploration. He also identified priority areas across the islands where geothermal potential overlapped with DHHL lands, including multiple sites on Hawai‘i Island such as Humu‘ula, Pi‘ihonua, Pu‘ukapu, Kawaihae, and South Point, as well as locations on Maui, Moloka‘i, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i. He stated that these areas were targeted for further study to determine viable geothermal resources that could benefit the department and its beneficiaries, reinforcing the goal of responsibly developing these resources for long-term community benefit.

He outlined a three-stage development plan: early exploration at 12 sites (\$4–5M), slim hole drilling at six sites (\$40–50M), and full development at three sites (\$150–200M each). Due to limited public funding, DHHL may rely on private investment and proposes a public-private partnership model using a development entity to attract capital and support energy and economic projects.

DHHL is planning community outreach meetings to share information, gather input, and incorporate cultural perspectives. He emphasized DHHL’s leadership role based on its legal authority, trust responsibility, and alignment with state and federal energy goals, informed by Māori development models.

He noted that DHHL uniquely serves as both governing authority and beneficiary representative, positioning it to leverage public resources while remaining accountable to its communities. He emphasized geothermal development’s potential to generate revenue and broader economic opportunities for beneficiaries.

He addressed industry concerns about Native Hawaiian opposition, stating DHHL’s outreach efforts can build understanding and support. He concluded by outlining a proposed \$1 million internal budget to fund early exploration, outreach, and matching requirements, while preparing for future beneficiary consultation

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Ornellas asked how geothermal development risks could be reduced aside from funding, referencing the initial graph. R. Kaupu explained that risk reduction was primarily achieved through gathering and analyzing data to better characterize the geothermal resource. The use of geophysical methods, where surface equipment sent signals into the ground and the returned data was interpreted by experts, such as those at the University of Hawai‘i, to determine whether key elements heat, water, and rock permeability, were present, all of which were necessary for successful geothermal development, and emphasized that this data-driven process helped confirm resource viability and reduce uncertainty in potential development areas.

Commissioner Ornellas asked whether the \$500,000 contract with Waika Consulting had been completed and whether its report had been incorporated into the department’s data, helping advance the geothermal project’s risk reduction. Hawaii’s historically high electricity costs, sometimes triple the national average, and noted Kauai’s progress in renewable energy through solar, while stressing the need to move away from fossil fuels. However, she raised concerns that nearby communities, such as Anahola, had not directly benefited from

existing energy projects despite hosting infrastructure, highlighting the importance of meaningful, visible community benefits rather than abstract or indirect gains. She also pointed out the need for clearer communication and stronger justification for geothermal development under the department's authority. She further reflected on cultural and perception challenges, noting that, unlike in Aotearoa or places like the Netherlands, geothermal energy was not widely embraced locally as a natural gift or resource to be utilized. She stressed that successful community engagement would require education, relatable examples, and tangible benefits that residents could clearly see and experience.

R. Kaupu acknowledged these concerns and explained that leadership had prioritized ensuring that any future geothermal development would include substantial, quantifiable community benefits, such as access to more affordable electricity through mechanisms like microgrids and energy distribution systems, with costs expected to be significantly lower than current utility rates.

Chair Watson opened the discussion to public testimony.

Public Testimony - DeMont Manaole - Supported the project and recommended that Lualualei be chosen as the first development site, saying local communities like Wai'anae, Maili, Nanakuli, and Lualualei would likely support it based on his outreach and that it could serve as a strong pilot project. He strongly opposed involving Hawaiian Electric (HECO), warning that its participation could undermine or "kill" the project and argued that the project should remain locally controlled and only engage outside utilities on the project's own terms. Chair Watson responded that HECO would still be needed for the electrical distribution system and stated that the Commission would need to negotiate with the utility.

Public Testimony - Terri Napeahi - Testified about geothermal development funding, legislation, and oversight in Hawaii, organizing her comments into three areas: long-term historical experience from Hawaii Island—especially Puna; legal and permitting requirements for geothermal exploration and drilling; and current legislative proposals. She argued that there was extensive historical evidence from communities living near the Puna geothermal plant that should not be ignored, and she criticized what she viewed as insufficient or delayed beneficiary consultation. She also raised concerns about permitting and transparency, stating that geothermal exploration—such as proposed work at Humu'ula on Mauna Kea—would require strict compliance with state permits and that past monitoring and studies (including by HGGRC and the University of Hawaii) had not adequately shared information with beneficiaries. She further questioned the use of public funds and the reliability of predictive "probability maps" used in resource assessments.

Public Testimony - Jan Makepa - Raised concerns about geothermal drilling impacts, asking whether drilling could reach the water table and affect drinking water quality. Waianae Valley Homestead had been identified as a potential site, but she said residents had not yet been fully consulted, and she expressed mixed feelings about disturbing the land while also emphasizing the need for open-minded community discussion and resident input. She asked whether homesteads that support geothermal development would receive direct financial benefits and sought clarification on how proposed geothermal industrial parks would operate if local resources were found. She expressed interest in upcoming statewide community meetings to better understand the project and ensure community voices were included.

Public Testimony - Jojo Tanimoto - Questioned specific benefits Hawaiian Homelands beneficiaries would receive from geothermal development compared to the general public and sought clarity on how those benefits would be distributed. She criticized the Kawaihae consultation process as inadequate, saying residents had not been given sufficient access to project information to provide meaningful feedback and that transparency and right-of-entry to review plans were lacking. She also asked how geothermal development would affect or align with existing or proposed hydroelectric projects in Kawaihae, referencing past failed efforts like the Kahena Ditch and Lālāmilo well. She expressed concern that repeated changes in energy planning had left communities uncertain and excluded and concluded that the lack of clear information and timing made it difficult for residents to properly evaluate or comment on the proposal.

Public Testimony - Patrick Kahawaiolaa - Testified that while geothermal development decisions on Hawaiian Home Lands would ultimately depend on beneficiary views, his main concern was that beneficiaries were being engaged too late in the planning process after decisions had largely been made. He questioned whether communities near projects were receiving meaningful benefits from trust land developments, citing examples like Anahola where residents saw little direct return, and he raised concerns about how revenues from such projects were being used, including whether they truly benefited beneficiaries. He called for earlier and more structured beneficiary involvement, suggesting each community should select representatives democratically to participate from the outset, and emphasized that although the Hawaiian Homes Commission held legal authority, beneficiary participation should be central to decision-making.

Public Testimony – Sybil Lopez – Testified in support of geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Homelands, emphasizing that beneficiaries and homestead associations were essential to community wellbeing and should be actively included throughout the process. She urged the Department and Commission to work closely with beneficiaries by holding listening sessions, improving consultation, clearly translating technical information, and ensuring community input was properly documented and incorporated into planning. She stressed the importance of involving trusted local associations to maintain transparency, cultural grounding, and alignment with homestead priorities, and said this approach would build trust while ensuring beneficiaries’ voices and values (kuleana) were reflected in decision-making. She concluded by encouraging support for geothermal exploration while ensuring meaningful, ongoing beneficiary participation.

Comm. Kaneakua stated that beneficiary consultation had consistently been a core initiative of the Commission and that lessons from past successes and failures should be used to improve future decision-making rather than discourage action. He emphasized that the Commission should move forward proactively with geothermal exploration rather than waiting for others to lead, arguing that delaying action could cause the state to miss opportunities as it transitions away from fossil fuels and risk becoming only an energy consumer rather than a producer. He also clarified that “perfect storm” should be understood as a “perfect opportunity” rather than a negative situation, and said communities should be engaged directly to determine where geothermal is welcome and where it is not, allowing benefits to be directed to supportive areas. He also said that the potential benefits for beneficiaries outweighed concerns and that investment should begin now rather than being delayed for years. He concluded by stating his support for the geothermal exploration initiative and indicated that the proposed budget and planning efforts were adequate and appropriate for moving the project forward.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Freitas seconded by Commissioner Kaneakua to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A’OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas	X		X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua		X	X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

LAND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

ITEM E-1 Ratification of Agreements Between the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and Department of Human Services, and Approval of Advancement of Trust Funds for Use Under the 2025 Tri-Party Memorandum of Agreement for Water System Improvements at Wahikuli, Villages of Leiali‘i, Maui, Hawai‘i

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission approve the Ratification of Agreements Between Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and Department of Human Services, and Approval of Advancement of Trust Funds for Use Under the 2025 Tri-Party Memorandum of Agreement for Water System Improvements at Wahikuli, Villages of Leiali‘i, Maui, Hawai‘i

K. Fronda explained that the submittal included ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 21, 2024, between the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and ratifying a Tri-Party Agreement dated August 25, 2025, involving DHHL, the Hawaii Department of Human Services, and HHFDC. The proposal also sought approval for the interim use of \$10 million in DHHL trust funds to support infrastructure improvements tied to the project, and acknowledgment of a \$10 million commitment from the County of Maui from general excise tax set-aside funds, expected to be transferred before the end of fiscal year 2026. He indicated that he would further explain the project timeline, benefits to the Hawaiian Home Lands trust, fiscal impacts, and next steps in his full presentation.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Freitas seconded by Commissioner Kaleikini to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas	X		X			
Commissioner Kaleikini		X	X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEM E-2 Approval of Lease Award and Cancellation of Corresponding Application - Courtyards at Waipouli – Rent with Option to Purchase Residential Project Lease Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i (see exhibit)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval of Lease Award and Cancellation of Corresponding Application - Courtyards at Waipouli – Rent with Option to Purchase Residential Project Lease Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i.

K. Fronda requested approval to award a 99-year lease of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands property at the Courtyards at Waipouli to 26 listed applicants. The proposal also included approval to cancel the corresponding residential applications once the lease awards were conveyed. He introduced the Item to Chair Watson and the Commissioners as part of the agenda for consideration.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua	X		X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu‘o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

Public Testimony – Kenna Stormogipson – Criticized the Waipouli Courtyards housing project, arguing it was unpopular among beneficiaries since only 26 of 1,515 applicants selected it and suggesting the \$25 million investment was disproportionate to the limited renovation work required. She raised concerns that displaced residents were not being provided comparable housing, referencing ongoing lawsuits, including one from a Kauai-born Hawaiian beneficiary who received a 90-day notice without suitable relocation options. She also questioned the project’s financial structure, including a \$4.2 million construction budget and a \$2.5 million developer fee for what she described as low-risk, light rehabilitation work, and suggested the contractor received excessive compensation without clear competitive scrutiny. She further cited limited beneficiary support, noting less than 2% participation from the Kauai waiting list and a petition from 71 beneficiaries alleging inadequate consultation, concluding that both residents and beneficiaries were dissatisfied and that the project raised serious concerns about fairness, transparency, and public benefit.

**ITEM E-3 Approval of Lease Award and Cancellation of Corresponding Application-
Pu‘uhona Subdivision Residential Lots - Waikapū, Maui (see exhibit)**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:
Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval of Lease Award and Cancellation of Corresponding Application - Pu‘uhona Subdivision Residential Lots - Waikapū, Maui

K. Fronda recommended approval of 99-year lease awards of DHHL lots to two listed applicants in the Pu‘uhona Subdivision residential offering in Waikapū, Maui. He also requested approval to cancel the corresponding residential applications once the lease awards are conveyed.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Marfil seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A’OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil	X		X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEM E-4 Approval of Environmental Assessment, Ho‘olehua Scattered Lots Subdivision; Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i, Hawai‘i; TMK Nos. (2)5-2-005:031; (2)5-2-026:003, :014, :016, and :017, Pu‘u Kapele Ave. (por.), Farrington Ave. (por.) and Mo‘omomi Ave. (por.)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda, Land Agent Robert Ing & Planner Nancy McPherson presented the following:
Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval of Environmental Assessment, Ho‘olehua Scattered Lots Subdivision; Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i, Hawai‘i, Pu‘u Kapele Ave. (por.), Farrington Ave. (por.) and Mo‘omomi Ave. (por.)

R. Ing and N. McPherson. R. Ing referenced a prior informational update from January and then recommended that the Commission approve a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on the final Environmental Assessment for the Ho‘olehua Scattered Lots Subdivision in Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i, seeking formal environmental approval for the project to proceed.

Consultant Carly Fukuda of Munekiyo Hiraga, explained that her firm had prepared and processed the Chapter 343 Environmental Assessment for the project and intended to cover key slides, but due to technical issues with the presentation, she suggested pausing the slide review and addressing Commissioner questions

first. After confirming that the Commissioners had no questions and noting that the project was relatively small and straightforward, the discussion shifted toward proceeding with action.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua	X		X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

ITEM F-2 Approval to Extend the term of Right-of-Entry Permit No. 750 issued to De Mont Kalai Manaole, Lualualei, Oahu Island, Tax Map Key No. (1) 8-6-001:052 (p)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall and Planner Julie Cachola presented the following:
 Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval to Extend the term of Right-of-Entry Permit No. 750 issued to De Mont Kalai Manaole, Lualualei, Oahu Island

F. Hall initially described a 30-day extension intended to allow time to relocate unauthorized vehicles from the property, but Chair Watson clarified the Item included a longer extension, and F. Hall corrected the record to state that staff recommended an 11-month extension from May 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. He explained that the extension would only be valid if the permittee successfully relocated the vehicles and remained in full compliance with all existing terms and conditions of the permit.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kaneakua supported the pilot project, stating it was valuable to the Commission and beneficiaries because it was providing important lessons and demonstrating progress through D. Manaole's work. He expressed support for continuing the project, noting that extending it for another year would allow more time to achieve and show the successes they were aiming for.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua seconded by Commissioner Marfil to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini	X		X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua		X	X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEM F-3 Approval to Issue Right-of-Entry Permit, EC Trucking, LLC, Nanakuli, Island of Oahu, Tax Map Key No (1) 8-8-007:002 (p)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall and Supervising Land Agent Kalei Young presented the following: Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to Approval to Issue Right-of-Entry Permit, EC Trucking, LLC, Nanakuli, Island of Oahu.

F. Hall explained that the permit would allow the company to repair and maintain existing access roads in Nanakuli Valley to improve fire truck access to Hawaiian Homestead residences and to use approximately three to five acres for stockpiling and storing aggregate materials and equipment needed for road repair. He noted that no other uses would be allowed without prior written approval from DHHL, and that the permit would be subject to conditions outlined in the packet.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Marfil questioned the value provided to the Department by EC Trucking’s work, noting that although the submittal described the work as being done at no cost, the department should still quantify its value for transparency and beneficiary understanding.

K. Young responded that while there was no exact dollar valuation, a prior bid from Royal Contracting estimated the work at about \$800,000 and projected a two-year timeline, which she used as a rough benchmark for the value of the services being provided. Commissioner Marfil agreed that having an estimated value or return on investment was important for demonstrating a clear reciprocal benefit between the department and its vendors.

Commissioner Kaneakua supported Commissioner Marfil’s request for clearer quantitative and qualitative measures of project benefits, explaining that the Commission needed to demonstrate tangible value to beneficiaries and ensure it was acting in their best interests. He emphasized that there was strong beneficiary interest in extending leases and agreements for Native Hawaiians on waitlists or existing leases and stated that documenting both measurable and community-based benefits was important for maintaining accountability and trust.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Marfil seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil	X		X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEM F-4 Approval of the Issuance of License Agreement to Alu Like, Inc., Nanakuli, Island of Oahu, TMK: (1)8-9-005:022

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall and Income Property Manager Kahana Albinio presented the following: Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to Approval to Issuance of License Agreement to Alu Like, Inc., Nanakuli, Island of Oahu.

F. Hall explained that the license would allow Alu Like to operate, use, and maintain existing office and classroom space to provide programs and services supporting DHHL trust beneficiaries. He noted that the approval would be subject to the conditions outlined in the Commission's packet. K. Albinio acknowledged and recognized President Mervina Cash-Kaeo for her attendance and time at the meeting.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Marfil seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil	X		X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEM G-1 Declare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Final Environmental Assessment for the Ka'ū Hawaiian Culture Community Center, Tax Map Key No. (3) 9-5-005:003 (por.), Wai'ōhinu, Ka'ū, Hawai'i.

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Liliane Makaila presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission declare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Final Environmental Assessment for the Ka'ū Hawaiian Culture Community Center, Wai'ōhinu, Ka'ū, Hawai'i.

L. Makaila informed the Commissioners that the Item was straightforward and required little discussion, noting that since the October draft there have been no significant changes. She reported that only two comments were received on the draft, both of which had been addressed and incorporated into the final version, and she then opened the floor for any questions or discussion.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kaneakua thanked her for her continued work. He noted that they had anticipated a Finding of No Significant Impact and expressed appreciation that the matter had been brought forward for consideration in a timely manner.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua seconded by Commissioner Freitas to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas		X	X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua	X		X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Six (6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE

ITEM H-1 Transfer of Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund Balance – End of 3rd Quarter, FY26

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Philip Ngyuen presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Transfer of Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund Balance – End of 3rd Quarter, FY26

P. Ngyuen recommended transferring approximately \$1.1 million from the Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund to the Hawaiian Home General Loans Fund as part of the department's financial management process.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini seconded by Commissioner Marfil to approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini	X		X			
Commissioner Kalepa						X
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua						X
Commissioner Marfil		X	X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			6			3
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Six(6) Yes votes, (3) Excused						

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

ITEM C-3 For Information Only - Status Report of DHHL Enforcement Unit Efforts and Statistics (February 9, 2026 – March 9, 2026)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Enforcement Team Administrator David Hoke presented the following:

D. Hoke provided an update covering February 9 through March 9, reporting 16 new requests for enforcement investigations (bringing the annual total to 27), 24 reports submitted during the period (56 total for the year), and four official correspondences issued. He also summarized field activities, including a March 6 site visit to Waimea on the Kona side with Commissioner Kaneakua to assess a homeless-related situation and problematic lots, as well as continued beneficiary engagement efforts. He noted participation in Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) meetings in Pana’ewa on March 5 and Papakōlea on March 9, emphasizing that NSW programs were increasingly important for community safety support due to staffing limitations within the unit.

Public testimony - Pat Kahawaiolaa - Testified on behalf of the Keaukaha Pana’ewa Community Association to thank Enforcement Administrator D. Hoke and his staff, along with Hawaii County Police, for addressing illegal land use and environmental concerns on DHHL lands. He acknowledged enforcement progress but raised concerns that previously cleared sites were being reoccupied and that a renewable energy project involving 12 acres had not fully completed its due diligence and cleanup responsibilities, leading to repeated issues and inefficient use of beneficiary resources. He urged the department to ensure project developers fulfilled their obligations rather than displacing users from site to site, and he concluded by expressing appreciation for enforcement efforts.

ITEM C-2 For Information Only - Legislative Update 2026

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. NAHASDA Government Relations Program Specialist Oriana Leao presented the following:

O. Leao reported that the Hawaiian Homes Commission had previously approved 13 legislative proposals, five of which were submitted to the governor's package for review by state agencies and ultimately resulted in three being included in the governor's administrative package, while the remaining proposals were introduced directly by legislators.

Several key bills were still alive, including HB2309, which expanded lease transfer and succession rights to include siblings' children; HB2049HD3, which restructured the conveyance tax, created new revenue allocations including funding for Hawaiian Homelands infrastructure and housing (up to 30% or \$60 million), and adjusted taxation for residential and multifamily properties; and HB2017HD3, which created a non-refundable tax credit for agricultural investments on Hawaiian Homelands beginning in 2026.

Other proposals such as exemptions from general excise taxes for DHHL housing projects, historic preservation authority bills (some of which failed or were not heard), governance participation in HCDA, geothermal resource funding, land transfers to DHHL, increased loan guarantee limits, and economic development appropriations tied to Act 96, noting that many had stalled in finance committees or were still under review, while others required further refinement before reintroduction.

HB2309 remained active and included in the governor's package, several geothermal-related and infrastructure funding bills were partially advanced or still pending hearings, and some proposals, such as Rental Housing Revolving Fund allocations, had been deferred, while DHHL continued to support additional bills outside its formal package.

HOMESTEAD SERVICES DIVISION

ITEM D-1 HSD Status Reports

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None or Information Only. Homestead Services Division Administrator Juan Garcia presents the following:

- A. Homestead Lease Totals & Monthly Activity Reports
- B. Delinquency Report

J. Garcia presented the D1 informational Item covering monthly lease, application, and loan reports for the department. He noted that Exhibit C included an update on an extended interim construction loan issued for a home project in Kewalo and stated that staff were available to answer any questions from Commissioners. He also reported that the division was continuing work with its modernization team and consultants to migrate from an outdated data system to a new platform, acknowledging that the transition had created ongoing challenges that affected the accuracy of some reported figures. He explained that the department was actively working to improve data reliability and expected to provide more accurate and dependable reports within the next few months once the system migration stabilized.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Ornellas questioned the declining delinquency report, and J. Garcia confirmed that delinquencies had decreased statewide by about 1.6% across all islands. The department had added staffing to the loan services branch, including a newly hired loan services manager, and was working to fill additional positions while also exploring outsourcing options due to limited internal capacity. He explained that the department planned to increase contested case hearings and improve borrower support through financial counseling, budgeting assistance, and referrals to outside programs, while also working through a backlog of

cases already under decision and order that could result in modified repayment plans or, in some cases, lease cancellations if all other efforts failed.

Commissioner Ornellas raised concern that more than 34% of delinquencies were over 180 days old and asked for the underlying causes. J. Garcia responded that many cases involved borrowers already in contested hearings and under formal decision orders, some of which were being reviewed for possible modification or cancellation, though staff aimed to provide one final opportunity for repayment support before taking stronger action. He added that additional hearing officers had been brought in to expand the number of hearings and improve case processing, which would ultimately lead to more repayment plans or rare lease terminations.

Delinquency causes often included major life changes, financial hardship, reluctance to disclose problems within families, shame, overspending, gambling, and other personal challenges, explaining that some borrowers struggled silently while avoiding seeking help. He emphasized that staff were trying to balance compassion with enforcement while encouraging accountability and helping prevent families from losing their homesteads.

LAND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

ITEM E-5 For Information Only – Land Development Updates (Options & Opportunities related to Housing. Partnerships with Governmental Agencies, 501(c)(3) entities, and other Hawaiian Trusts, 2026 Homestead Lease Awards Schedule, House Bill 2049 Relating to Housing, and 10-year Projection)

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda and Project Manager Elijah Davidson presented the following:

K. Fronda provided an overview of DHHL’s housing development strategy, fiscal initiatives, partnerships, and project timelines, explaining that the department was advancing a new approach involving project leases, financial assessments, and financial literacy support to help beneficiaries and developers structure financing and accelerate vertical housing development. He reported that DHHL had expanded partnerships with state agencies, nonprofits, and organizations such as Hawaii Community Assets, Hawaii Homeownership Center, and others, which supported beneficiary financial counseling and case management, and he noted that these collaborations and financing tools had helped unlock approximately \$2 billion in development funding, including a \$41 million revolving loan managed through Hawaii Community Lending for owner-builder projects.

He then outlined upcoming fiscal year 2026 housing award events across multiple islands, including rescheduled and planned sessions for Pana‘ewa, Honomū, Kona, Maui, West O‘ahu, Ewa Beach, Nanakuli, Moloka‘i, and other sites, while also noting continued efforts to secure additional legislative funding for project lease developments. He also discussed HB 2049, a conveyance tax bill that had progressed through multiple legislative committees with amendments and was still moving forward, which would restructure conveyance tax rates, dedicate revenues to housing and infrastructure, and potentially provide about \$60 million annually to DHHL.

The department was evaluating a 10-year development strategy to complete phase two of 28 housing projects, using projected conveyance tax revenues and municipal bond financing to provide upfront construction funding and accelerate delivery timelines. He concluded by presenting island-specific projections and emphasizing key performance milestones, such as “breaking ground” and “key turnover,” which were used to track construction start and occupancy timelines. These projections were intended to help communicate project delivery expectations to legislators and stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

K. Fronda confirmed that he would be presenting additional information at the Waimānalo event, including details on approximately 200 Waimānalo housing offerings, and acknowledged Commissioner Kaneakua's reminder to clearly communicate those opportunities to the community.

Commissioner Marfil asked about the number of homes available at an upcoming Honolulu selection event. K. Fronda stated 50 subsistence agricultural lots. Chair Watson added clarification on the overall statewide figures, noting a higher total count, and he further explained that the Honolulu allocation included 11 residential units and 100 subsistence agricultural lots. The discussion focused on ensuring accurate and clear communication of housing and agricultural lot availability across upcoming beneficiary selection events.

PLANNING OFFICE

ITEM G-3 For Information Only - Integrating Coastal Zone Management in Hawaiian Home Lands – NOAA Project of Special Merit

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Acting Administrator Liliane Makaila and Planner Nancy McPherson presented the following:

L. Makaila explained that the initiative was a significant benefit to the department because the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, a partner state agency, had fully funded the project, allowing the department to investigate an issue affecting homesteaders at no cost beyond staff participation.

N. McPherson explained that the project was funded through the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development's Coastal Zone Management program with NOAA support, making it a no-cost-to-DHHL initiative focused on improving coastal zone management compliance for Hawaiian Home Lands. The effort was grounded in the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and Hawaii's Chapter 205A framework, along with related environmental laws such as Chapter 343, and aimed to address ongoing uncertainty about how county special management area and shoreline regulations applied to DHHL properties. The project had been previously introduced to the Commission in December 2024 as part of a CZM update.

Solutions Pacific representative Rebecca Soon presented a collaborative DHHL coastal zone management study with OPSD and consultants to clarify how federal and state CZM laws apply to Hawaiian Home Lands. The project addressed uncertainty created by the Coastal Zone Management Act and Hawaii's Chapter 205A framework, in which counties implemented regulations, but DHHL was not clearly integrated into the process, creating a legal gray area regarding shoreline and SMA jurisdiction. The project's purpose was to analyze how CZM rules should be applied to DHHL lands, potentially inform legislative changes, and create a clear implementation roadmap. The study aimed to support homestead development by clarifying permitting in special management areas, reducing conflicts with counties, strengthening DHHL land use authority, and improving coastal resilience planning in response to sea level rise.

The project's goals included producing a practical roadmap for DHHL, counties, and the state, defining procedures for lessees, and improving communication of CZM requirements. The work was based on legal analysis, review of department practices, statewide case studies, and extensive beneficiary engagement through meetings and site visits across multiple islands and homestead communities. She concluded that the study found a longstanding legal tension between DHHL's independent land authority and CZM enforcement, resulting in inconsistent practices and regulatory uncertainty. The forthcoming recommendations were intended to resolve these issues before transitioning to the next presenter.

Kahālāwai Consulting LLC representative Dr. Jonathan Likeke Scheuer explained that the Coastal Zone Management project had been developed after extensive consultation with Commissioners, beneficiaries, and DHHL staff to address long-standing confusion and inconsistent treatment of Hawaiian Homelands within coastal zone regulations. He stated that past decision-making had not consistently centered beneficiary

experiences and that jurisdictional uncertainty between DHHL and county coastal permitting systems had created a legal gray area, capacity constraints, and inconsistent outcomes across islands. The project, therefore, aimed to clarify authority under the Coastal Zone Management Act, streamline processes, protect cultural and coastal resources, and create a consistent statewide approach while respecting DHHL's independent land use authority.

He reported that multiple policy options had been evaluated, ranging from maintaining the status quo (which was not recommended) to internal DHHL improvements, intergovernmental agreements with counties, expanded staffing or integration with county planning processes, and even the creation of a full DHHL coastal zone program. However, the preferred recommendation was to amend Chapter 205A of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Act to explicitly recognize DHHL as an authority, clarify that DHHL could comply through its own internal processes rather than adopting a full county-style permitting system, and establish a streamlined checklist-based review process like federal agency coastal reviews. This approach was intended to avoid adding additional permitting burdens on beneficiaries while still ensuring compliance with coastal management goals.

Implementation would require legislative amendments to Chapter 205A and the development of an internal DHHL consistency checklist system supported by additional staffing, likely one to two coastal planners. He emphasized that although the proposal would require some resources, it would reduce long-standing delays for homesteaders, improve coordination with counties, protect coastal resources more effectively, and provide clarity for projects within the special management area.

N. McPherson explained that the next steps for the Coastal Zone Management project would involve conducting a statewide beneficiary consultation because the proposed programmatic changes could affect Hawaiian Homelands across the state, particularly areas within the Special Management Area. She stated that the results of this consultation would be compiled into a report and brought back to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for acceptance, followed by a formal action Item for adoption. After approval, the department will begin implementing the recommended changes based on both Commission direction and beneficiary input. She also noted that initial discussions were underway regarding potential funding sources to support new coastal zone management planner positions, and that these funding conversations would continue as the project moved forward.

ITEM G-4 For Information Only - Status Update on Plan Implementation in Ko‘olaupoko Moku – O‘ahu Island Plan and Waimanalo Regional Plan

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Acting Administrator Liliane Makaila presented the following:

L. Makaila provided a status update on O‘ahu planning efforts, focusing on the Ko‘olaupoko Moku under the 2014 O‘ahu Island Plan. She explained that the area included major DHHL holdings in Waimānalo, Hāiku (near the H-3 corridor), and Waiāhole, noting that Waiāhole contained a small number of agricultural homestead lots previously transferred from HHFDC. She also highlighted that although approximately 1,400 acres of mauka watershed land in Waimānalo was not suitable for homesteading, local beneficiaries strongly valued retaining it within the Hawaiian Homelands inventory due to its cultural and environmental importance. Updated land acquisition efforts would likely change future planning maps and expand homesteading opportunities.

She reported on the regional planning program, which included 23 regional plans across the islands, with the Waimānalo Regional Plan most recently updated in 2024. She summarized the top beneficiary-identified priorities in Waimānalo: expanding agricultural homesteads due to high demand beyond the existing 683 residential lots; improving the heavily used Kauhale Waimānalo community facility; establishing a direct trust fund grant or loan program to support aging homes built as early as the late 1930s; developing a 64–65 acre Waimānalo Business Park with potential industrial and partnership opportunities; and exploring extensions and equity improvements for long-term homestead leases, including issues tied to 99-year leases and potential

extensions up to 199 years. She noted that while some of these proposals were controversial and required higher-level legal or congressional consideration, preliminary research had not yet begun due to capacity limits.

Finally, she provided updates on specific land development projects, including the 52-acre Long's Farm site adjacent to Waimānalo Country Farms, planned for approximately 60% residential and 40% subsistence agricultural use, potentially yielding around 120 residential lots and 36 agricultural lots. She also referenced the Hāiku project, which was undergoing environmental compliance review with a draft and final environmental assessment forthcoming. Overall, she emphasized ongoing planning work, beneficiary-driven priorities, and anticipated future land expansion and development opportunities in the Ko'olaupoko region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Chair Watson concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their patience and participation, noting that the agenda for the day had been completed. He reminded attendees that a community meeting was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Blanche Pope Elementary School. He also outlined the next day's agenda, which would begin at 9:30 a.m. with public testimony, followed by the J Agenda.

RECESS

3:31 PM

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
Hale Pono'i, 91-5420 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Oahu, 96707,
and Interactive Conferencing Technology (ICT) Zoom

PRESENT Kali Watson, Chairperson
Walter Kaneakua, O'ahu Commissioner
Micahel Kaleikini, East Hawai'i Commissioner
Sanoë Marfil, O'ahu Commissioner
Makai Freitas, West Hawai'i Commissioner (ICT)
Shaylyn Ornellas, Kauai Commissioner

EXCUSED Lawrence Lasua, Moloka'i Commissioner
Pauline N. Namu'o, O'ahu Commissioner
Archie Kalepa, Maui Commissioner

COUNSEL Hokulei Lindsey, Deputy Attorney General

STAFF Richard Hoke, Executive Assistant to the Chairperson
Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Secretary to the Commission
Juan Garcia, Homestead Services Division Administrator
Frank Hall, Land Management Division Administrator
Kalani Fronda, Land Development Division Acting Administrator
David Hoke, Enforcement Team Administrator
Ruby Nuesca, Office Assistant to the Commission

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 am by Chair Watson. Five (5) members were present in person, one (1) on Zoom, and three (3) excused, establishing a quorum.

Chair Watson outlined the morning session: starting with public testimony, then addressing the carryover Item F-5 from the previous day, followed by the J Agenda. The Commission will break for lunch at noon and reconvene at 1 p.m., if needed, to finish the remaining J Agenda Items.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

PT-1 Wayne Hirakawa – Item J-9 Vacancy Notice

W. Hirakawa testified regarding a 30-day notice to vacate issued to him and other sub-lessees of the Hawaiian Community Development Board at a Kalaeloa property, despite being compliant, on-time tenants using the site for truck staging. He expressed concern over the short notice and lack of outreach or relocation assistance from DHHL, questioned why no alternatives were offered, and noted that other tenants were reportedly receiving low-cost leases elsewhere. He urged DHHL to help relocate affected businesses or to consider converting their subleases into direct leases, emphasizing that multiple Native Hawaiian businesses were impacted and seeking clarification on whether any such support or options were under consideration.

Chair Watson explained that he had recused himself from involvement with the Hawaii Community Development Board due to a conflict of interest, but stated that the department's goal was to address mixed tenant activities and pollution concerns on the site, noting that the current month-to-month leases did not support the highest and best use of the land. He said the plan was to clear all tenants, clean up the parcel, and transition it into a long-term lease through a competitive bid, aligning with a broader effort to convert short-term tenants into long-term arrangements that better served both the trust and its beneficiaries.

He added that while the parcel would be cleared, the department recognized compliant tenants and might allow short-term extensions, and emphasized ongoing development in the area, including a major industrial project, as well as other sites where displaced tenants could potentially relocate with preferential consideration and possible rent adjustments. He assured that the department would work with affected tenants during the transition and directed him to contact Executive Assistant to the Chairman Richard Hoke and Supervising Land Agent Kalei Young for assistance

PT-2 Jonathan Alexander – Item J-9 Vacancy Notice

J. Alexander also confirmed he was seeking the same extension as previously discussed, and indicated he would speak directly with Richard Hoke, while Chair Watson acknowledged the request.

PT-3 Jeremiah Tamba – Item J-9 Vacancy Notice

J. Tamba also confirmed he was seeking the same extension as previously discussed, and indicated he would speak directly with Richard Hoke, while Chair Watson acknowledged the request.

PT-4 Brian Eslava – Item J-3

R. Eslava testified on behalf of tenants at 91-1085 Enterprise Avenue, explaining that about eight years earlier, Steve Hoke had supported him during a difficult time, and that support became critical again after he lost his full-time military career in 2020 due to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, leaving him to support his wife and three young children. He stated that the auto-related work site had helped him survive financially, making it difficult to leave despite understanding and respecting the Department of Hawaiian Homelands’ rules and the need to vacate. He noted that many tenants had already begun relocating, but some, including himself, had not yet secured new opportunities, and he requested assistance—not as a handout but as a “hand up”—in finding ways to continue supporting their families and contributing to Hawaii’s economy.

Chair Watson told him he could meet with Executive Assistant Richard Hoke, who was already outside speaking with other tenants in similar situations, and clarified that he was a tenant, not an employee of Steve Hoke. He reiterated that all tenants, including HCDB subtenants and those under Steve Hoke, would be required to vacate the property, acknowledged that he had been there for about 8 years, and encouraged him to speak with staff to explore possible assistance.

PT-5 Perry Mason – Item J-9

P. Mason, owner of Mason’s Towing and Recovery, testified that he had operated his business on the parcel since 2013 and had consistently passed all environmental inspections, and while he understood and accepted the requirement to vacate the property, he expressed concern that the 30-day deadline was unrealistic given the length of time he had been there and the scale of his operation. He explained that the site had been like a home where he raised his 17 children, many of whom had worked for him, though he now largely operated alone, making it difficult to relocate everything quickly. He requested additional time to move his business and mentioned that while obtaining a future lease with Hawaiian Homes would be ideal, his immediate need was simply more time to complete the transition.

Chair Watson acknowledged his long-standing work with at-risk youth and encouraged him to continue, advising him to work with R. Hoke and consider nearby development opportunities, while stressing that the parcel needed to be cleared due to environmental concerns and problematic tenants.

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

A. WORKSHOP

ITEM F-5 For Information Only - Genesis Oahu, Solid Waste to Sustainable Fuels and Tire Processing Plant DHHL Lands in Honouliuli, Ewa, Oahu Island TMK: (1)9-1-013:117

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

F. Hall introduced the informational Item regarding a request to lease a Hawaiian homelands parcel for a solid waste and sustainable fuel renewable energy project, including a pyrolysis plant. He noted that the applicant, Genesis O'ahu, was represented by Anthony Alto and Tim Newberry, who were present to give a presentation and facilitate discussion.

A. Aalto, accompanied by T. Newberry, presented the Genesis O'ahu project to the Commission, explaining that they planned to build a Pyrolysis Biorefinery on DHHL land to convert 1,300 tons of waste per day into 22 million gallons of renewable diesel annually, producing no odors, near-zero emissions, and no landfill byproducts, while creating 250 high-paying, long-term local jobs. He shared his personal background, highlighting over 20 years of residence in Hawaii, his work on documentaries addressing homelessness and climate change, and his leadership roles with the Sierra Club and HART, while noting that both he and T. Newberry were motivated by a deep sense of aloha 'āina and a commitment to the local community. He emphasized the urgent waste management crisis on O'ahu, citing the impending expiration of H-Power's contracts and landfill limitations, as well as the projected multi-billion-dollar costs to maintain or replace current waste-to-energy infrastructure.

He further detailed the technology behind the project, explaining that pyrolysis has been used for over 100 years and involves heating organic matter in a sealed system to produce gas, which is then refined into renewable diesel. He described the plant's self-contained process, which produces only biochar as a solid byproduct, generates two million gallons of irrigation-quality water annually, and can process materials that H-Power cannot, such as automobile shredder residue and wastewater sludge, moving O'ahu closer to reduced reliance on a daily landfill. He highlighted strong financial backing of over \$300 million, technology performance insurance, and support from local government officials, noting that permitting was expected to take about six months, with construction targeted within a year.

He also addressed community impact, explaining measures to ensure odor-free operation through indoor, negative-pressure processing with HEPA filtration, automated material sorting and pelletizing, and a self-contained system where escaping gas would reduce fuel production efficiency. He outlined community benefits, including a commitment to invest 1% of profits in local organizations, hire locally, and collaborate with Leeward Community College for workforce training, as well as the broader environmental benefit of enabling the city to retire H-Power and eventually close Waimanalo Gulch landfill. He concluded by requesting permission to engage with DHHL beneficiaries to discuss the project further.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kaleikini explained his understanding that the proposal involved developing a project on DHHL lands to convert municipal solid waste into biofuel as the end product, emphasizing the importance of engaging with community beneficiaries as part of due diligence. He asked whether the developers had coordinated with the entity responsible for solid waste management, noting the upcoming termination of the H-Power contract in 2032. In response, A. Aalto explained that the city was supportive but would not divert its collected waste away from H-Power during the transition period to avoid negatively impacting its financial model; however, private haulers handled additional waste streams, and the mayor had indicated openness to the project securing that waste independently. A. Aalto had added that they already had letters of intent from private haulers sufficient to support the project's feasibility. Commissioner Kaleikini had clarified that these

agreements were not with the city but with private haulers, then asked about the existing technology, confirming it was operational on the East Coast and in a large facility in the Dominican Republic, and inquired about the capacity of the East Coast facilities currently in operation.

T. Newberry had explained that the East Coast facility was much smaller than the one referenced in the Dominican Republic, as it had originally been built as a demonstration plant located in Lenoir City, Tennessee, where it had operated for over a decade. He had stated that the technology had been vetted at full scale through testing, and based on the successful results, the operators had decided to keep the plant in place, where it had remained operational ever since.

Commissioner Kaleikini stated that significant due diligence still needed to be completed and appreciated that the presenters had come forward early to allow time for consideration and additional input. He had also asked whether the developers had engaged in discussions with potential off-takers for the fuel produced by the process, to which A. Alto had responded that they had begun such discussions with multiple parties, although they were not yet able to disclose the names of those potential partners.

Commissioner Kaleikini had acknowledged that questions about off-takers and financing were part of the due diligence process and noted that capital investors would require a reasonable return, while adding that off-takers had already indicated demand exceeding potential production. It had been explained that the biofuel produced by the project had been certified by the EPA as a drop-in fuel equivalent to conventional diesel, meaning it could be used directly in vehicles, and that the project would allow Oahu to produce its own fuel locally for the first time, reducing reliance on imports and generating economic savings.

T. Newberry had added that they were working with off-takers connected to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), which provided an added level of strategic security by ensuring locally produced fuel could be used locally without dependence on foreign supply chains.

Commissioner Kaleikini expressed enthusiasm for the project and sought confirmation of projections, noting that the plan called for producing approximately 22 million gallons of biofuel annually with estimated net profits ranging from \$150 million to \$170 million, including a 1% allocation for community benefits. He emphasized the importance of clearly highlighting community benefits in future proposals and concluded by expressing excitement and anticipation for the next steps while thanking the presenters.

Chair Watson had explained that the proposed project would need to follow the formal process under HRS 171-95.3 for lease issuance, which required opening the opportunity to other interested parties and submitting detailed information such as project timelines, a financial plan, and funding strategies for the \$350 million development, along with a more complete business plan beyond the conceptual design already provided, while also emphasizing the importance of input from DHHL beneficiaries. He had expressed concern about the project's scale, particularly the plan to process 1,000 tons of material per day, and its potential impact on surrounding developments, including a nearby photovoltaic facility, a possible industrial park, residential housing developments, a veteran center, and other neighboring uses, with specific concern about increased traffic.

T. Newberry stated that the selected location would minimize additional traffic impacts because truck routes would largely mirror existing routes to H-Power, with only minor differences when crossing onto DHHL property. He noted that they were seeking a larger parcel to allow for on-site truck queuing to avoid disturbing nearby tenants.

Chair Watson raised concerns about potential overflow and material storage, and building height due to proximity to an airport. T. Newberry had clarified that all incoming waste would be processed on the same day, eliminating the need for storage, and current plans did not include structures taller than 30 feet and that they were working with Group 70 on further design concepts.

Chair Watson had inquired whether access via Malai Kole Road, particularly the bridge over a drainage canal, had been addressed. A. Aalto had acknowledged concerns about access and infrastructure, explaining that the Department of Transportation (DOT) already had plans to widen the bridge in question, though the main issue was the potential delay in implementation due to the agency's pace. He had stated that their team would be willing to contribute funding, possibly in collaboration with other nearby tenants, to help accelerate the bridge widening project, noting that discussions between DOT and other stakeholders were already underway.

Chair Watson raised concerns about traffic and safety impacts from increased truck activity, especially in light of nearby planned developments that would also generate heavy traffic. He also questioned whether the proposed construction timeline was realistic. A. Aalto responded that while the goal is to begin within a year, permitting delays are possible, but the team intends to move forward as quickly as approvals and consultations allow.

T. Newberry had added that maintaining an ambitious timeline was important to secure and retain investor interest, as delays could cause funders to shift to other projects. Chair Watson had asked whether the project qualified for tax credits, and T. Newberry had confirmed that it did.

Commissioner Ornellas asked whether T. Newberry would be willing to live near the proposed facility; he responded yes, citing environmental benefits and confidence in the technology. He explained the process is enclosed and oxygen-starved, involves no combustion or open flame, and converts produced gas into fuel, noting diesel's high flash point contributes to overall safety.

T. Newberry had further emphasized that the facility would be contained within a building with filtration systems to control emissions, reinforcing his confidence in its safety and environmental compatibility. He had concluded by stating that he would prefer living near this controlled and enclosed facility rather than near an open landfill like Waimanalo Gulch, where odors, dust, and other environmental impacts were less contained and more intrusive.

A. Aalto had explained that they intended to establish an on-site education center to bring school groups and members of the public to observe the waste-to-fuel process, emphasizing that most people were disconnected from what happened to their waste and that current practices at facilities like H-Power, recycling plants, and landfills were largely unseen and often unpleasant; he had expressed the goal of increasing transparency and awareness, and potentially integrating the facility into school environmental studies curricula.

Commissioner Ornellas acknowledged the proposal but raised concerns about competing land uses and asked about alternative locations. A. Aalto stated they had considered other sites but preferred DHHL lands for zoning compatibility and long-term revenue potential. Commissioner Ornellas emphasized the need for a SWOT analysis and questioned whether the project should be prioritized over less controversial options. A. Aalto responded that the project offers environmental benefits and economic opportunities, including jobs and community investment. Commissioner Ornellas requested clarification on the types of jobs and how local workers would qualify for those positions.

T. Newberry described a proposed 18-month training program, potentially in partnership with the University of Hawai'i or Leeward Community College, to prepare local workers for facility jobs. He noted positions would range from advanced technical roles involving AI and robotics to operational roles such as drivers and equipment operators, with opportunities for local training and certification. He emphasized a commitment to hiring local residents and supporting workforce development through subsidized education.

Commissioner Ornellas expressed skepticism about the feasibility of training staff while simultaneously deploying substantial financial and human capital to build the facility. T. Newberry had responded that training would need to begin immediately during the 24-month construction period, incorporating hands-on experience, possible short-term assignments at a Tennessee facility to observe operations, and vendor-led training, with the goal of transitioning staff quickly and efficiently to ensure the facility could operate at full capacity upon completion.

A. Aalto explained that staffing would increase over time, beginning with approximately 150 employees and expanding to about 250 at full capacity. T. Newberry added that the facility would operate 24/7 in three shifts, offering flexible scheduling, and noted potential plans for educational space and on-site childcare, subject to further development.

Public Testimony – DeMont Manaole - Strongly opposed the project on DHHL lands, citing the west side’s long history as a dumping ground and ongoing battles over Waimanalo Gulch and PVT operations. He criticized mainland developers for imposing the project on Native Hawaiian homelands, warning that the community would rise up against it and would not accept it under the guise of benefits. He also contrasted the facility with positive developments like the raceway and hotels, suggested it be relocated to Waimanalo Gulch instead, and cited a recent community meeting where residents expressed overwhelming opposition, emphasizing that Hawaiian homelands were sacred and concluding firmly that the west side would reject the project.

Public Testimony – Jan Makepa - Acknowledged potential benefits such as a 1% community contribution that could directly aid beneficiaries and the possibility of using homestead trash for processing. However, she raised serious concerns about toxic emissions, citing past explosions in Denmark, India, China, Russia, and Germany, and questioned the long-term health risks to the 150 workers, including effects in retirement. She highlighted environmental risks, particularly to the nearby ocean, from trucked-in trash and potential windblown debris, and expressed uncertainty about syngas safety. She also questioned why other state or city lands had not been considered, concluding that the potential risks and unknowns outweighed the benefits and emphasizing the need for more community education before any departmental decision.

Public Testimony – Nani Peterson – Emphasized the Commission’s fiduciary duties, which prioritized providing homes and caring for the kanaka ʻōiwi. She strongly opposed the proposed project, criticizing outsiders for claiming to understand the struggles of the kanaka ʻōiwi and asserting that they had not engaged appropriately with the Wai’anae community or neighborhood boards before approaching DHHL. She also stressed that proper protocol required consulting the local people first, allowing them to represent themselves. She questioned the safety of the project, claiming the presenters had not completed adequate due diligence, and insisted that all aspects of the land, from mountain to ocean, including the people, must be considered.

Public Testimony – Scrappy Podcast - Expressed frustration over the proposed project, emphasizing the struggles of local beneficiaries, including his own difficulty obtaining housing despite being employed and educated. He questioned the promised revenue for Hawaiian Homes and beneficiaries, asking for clarity on net profits after expenses. He criticized the presenters for claiming to be Kama’āina without consulting the local community and insisted that the people, not the Commission, should first qualify any outside developers before using Hawaiian homelands. He acknowledged the potential innovation of the project but suggested that the company consider working with existing operations like PVT or Waimanalo Gulch to manage trash instead, highlighting the need to prioritize the well-being of residents over outside interests.

GENERAL AGENDA - REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Chair Watson kindly reminded the participants to accommodate all testimonies, and that each speaker should be concise and limit remarks to 10 minutes, emphasizing that cooperation would ensure a productive and timely session.

J-1 Jan Makepa – Waianae Valley Homestead Association (WVHCA)

J. Makepa requested an amendment to their general lease for ‘Aina Ike, seeking to extend the department’s lease withdrawal notice from two to three years and restrict it to exceptional circumstances, such as government mandates or natural disasters, to provide stability for long-term planning and reassure funders. She also raised concerns about utility connections and plumbing issues, noting that previous requests for assistance had not been addressed, and requested departmental support to cover the costs of hookups and

repairs to ensure partner tenants could move forward. She discussed Kaupuni Park improvements, highlighting collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation and local representatives to enhance playground and fitness amenities, and requested Chair Watson to open communication with Director Laura Thielen to allow the homestead to contribute additional amenities without conflicting with city or county plans. She further acknowledged prior DHHL grant denials, emphasized ongoing learning, and expressed commitment to collaboration and community development while ensuring the association's efforts aligned with existing plans and communication channels.

J-2 Kalaniakea Wilson – Koa Kia'i

K. Wilson highlighted his dissertation on Americanization and genocide targeting Native Hawaiians, his upcoming book on the near extinction of full-blooded Hawaiians, and the remaining half-blood population. He noted his End the Waitlist program, submitted in October 2023, which included five projects across four government departments and focused on implementing the traditional luakini and kauhale systems to restore land stewardship and community-environment interactions. He emphasized his 12 years of engagement in Mauna Kea with community leaders, associations, and trustees to rehabilitate lands and support beneficiaries. He stated that approval of his program would continue this multi-decade effort and strengthen community-led management of legacy lands.

He outlined historical oppression and genocide against Native Hawaiians, citing failures of state entities like DHHL, OHA, and the Office of Hawaiian Education to fulfill fiduciary duties, leaving waitlist beneficiaries without timely access to land. Kepa Ka'eo stressed the urgency of approving their February proposal to implement the luakini system on the Big Island and provide immediate land access to over 11,000 waitlist beneficiaries. They also requested the inclusion of missing 2017 beneficiary consultation records and reaffirmed their commitment to community collaboration, research, and the restoration of traditional Hawaiian land systems to ensure justice and cultural continuity.

J-3 Garen Mousser, Garry Mousser Jr. – Various Concerns

G. Mousser testified about the struggles his business faced at the Kapolei Community Base Yard, emphasizing its nine-year history serving West O'ahu and providing employment to mostly Native Hawaiians. He described how power outages, landlord disputes, financial losses, and a six-month closure had threatened the business and the HKK Foundation, a nonprofit he created for vocational training in automotive repair. He detailed the extensive infrastructure investments made, the challenges of relocation, and the need for proper space, road access, and utilities. He requested either a direct lease with DHHL for his current parcel or a suitable relocation plan that would allow him to continue operations. He highlighted that losing the business would not only affect his livelihood but also future opportunities for Native Hawaiians, emphasizing his willingness to collaborate with the department on cleanup, improvements, or alternative solutions. Chair Watson acknowledged his testimony, encouraged him to speak with Richard Hoke, and noted that the department intended to issue a long-term lease while exploring ways to assist him.

J-8 Leiana Keliikoa – Paukukalo Hall

L. Keliikoa testified regarding the Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Hall, which had been under renovation since 2024. She explained that for nearly two years, the Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Association had been forced to hold monthly meetings on the Lanai, exposing members to cold and inclement weather, which had caused illness among some participants. She noted that the association had insurance to safely meet in the hall and emphasized the ongoing need for a safe space as they assisted community members recovering from recent storm damage. She also raised concerns about the uncut grass in the park, which posed challenges for the upcoming 42nd Prince Kuhio Ho'olaule'a celebration. She expressed gratitude to staff members Germaine and Charisse, who had been supportive and communicative, but questioned why, despite some recent meetings being held in the hall, the association was still prevented from using it. Chair Watson acknowledged the inconsistency and committed to investigating the matter.

J-11 De Mont Manaole – Various Concerns

D. Manaole testified about financial and administrative inequities affecting Native Hawaiians, focusing on Mauna Kea access and revenue from tours, observatories, and state agencies, highlighting that DHHL and DLNR failed to collect or distribute funds properly under the Admissions Act. He detailed long-standing breaches of trust, citing historical cases and inequitable settlements that favored outside parties over trust beneficiaries. He emphasized his preference for working collaboratively with the Commission to resolve issues rather than pursue litigation, although he presented a potential lawsuit and a settlement letter to ensure accountability. He criticized the lack of follow-through on serious matters, such as unsafe infrastructure, and stressed the need for the Commission to assert oversight over the department, rather than being directed by it. He commended previous efforts to open dialogue and build trust, citing pilot programs and community leaders managing lands despite political and social pressures. He also urged the Commission to address Mauna Kea access rules, warning that failure to act would leave him no choice but to pursue legal action. Chair Watson responded that the Commission was already engaging with communities to implement revenue-generating plans and beneficiary consultations, but he challenged the exclusivity of these processes, emphasizing the need for transparency and inclusion of all trust beneficiaries, expressing frustration with closed-door decision-making.

Public Testimony - Nani Peterson - Testified about challenges and progress regarding the Aina Maluhia community, explaining that planned discussions with all ‘ohana were disrupted due to illness from recent rain and other circumstances. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to reduce the waitlist and support each other, emphasizing their commitment to working in a pono and culturally grounded way. She described how community members had been patiently waiting for updates from DHHL staff but experienced delays in communication, prompting them to act on the land by planting food and nurturing the ‘āina. She noted that while DHHL used aerial monitoring to ensure pono practices, these methods caused trauma and fear for the people on the land, particularly due to drone flights perceived as invasive. She emphasized the importance of cultural protocols, proper communication, and mutual respect in all interactions, advocating for a collaborative approach that prioritizes safety and cultural values. She also highlighted ongoing communication with staff like D. Hoke, but stressed that current staffing and enforcement measures were insufficient, and she urged changes in policies and procedures to allow respectful access and oversight without threatening the community.

Public Testimony – Kristian Mole – Testified that before living on the ‘āina, she felt helpless and moved from couch to couch, but when she was invited to live there, she realized her identity, heritage, and sense of belonging. She expressed gratitude for the safety, community, and guidance provided by Nani and Dana, which gave her a stable home and cultural grounding. She described feeling violated and fearful when drones were flown over the ‘āina, emphasizing that claims of fires, noise, and other disturbances were false. She also reflected on learning patience, humility, and Hawaiian identity, asserting that being Kanaka was central to who she was. She also shared a personal connection, noting that her father, Robert K. Mole, had lost ‘āina without explanation, and she wished to understand why to honor her father’s legacy.

N. Peterson clarified that K. Mole had been referring to a lease agreement her father had with DHHL and was seeking guidance on who to contact for assistance, after which Chair Watson directed her to speak with Juan for further research into the matter. Mole explained that her father, who was seriously ill in the hospital, had expressed a desire to remove his name from the list, but she resisted and promised to find out what had happened to his land before he passed, emphasizing the urgency and emotional weight of fulfilling his last wish. Chair Watson stressed the importance of obtaining information quickly and suggested the possibility of assigning his position.

J-7 Nalani Kaneakua – Hosea Lovell Foundation

N. Kaneakua, president of the Hosea Lovell Foundation, outlined the organization’s work in ocean stewardship, limu restoration, community partnerships, and cultural education through initiatives such as the Ko‘olau Limu

Project, festival, and Anahola Beach Reserve stewardship. She then raised concerns about a land use conflict, explaining that her foundation was granted a right of entry (ROE) in 2022 for specific TMKs, but in 2023, a separate ROE was approved for the same parcel to the Hokualele Canoe Club. She described how her organization’s project expanded and was later converted into a long-term lease in 2025, which she believed superseded the other ROE. She also reported prior notification to Land Management about a structure built by the Canoe Club and described a recent text she perceived as harassment and intimidation, which she disputed by explaining her brief presence on-site for environmental monitoring. She questioned whether the Canoe Club’s ROE was now void due to her foundation’s lease and formally requested the removal of what she described as an illegal structure and the club’s departure from the property, citing conflicts with legal, ethical, and insurance obligations. In response, Chair Watson asked her to submit a formal letter with documentation so the matter could be reviewed by the Attorney General’s office to determine appropriate next steps.

Public Testimony – Dana Newman – Item J-11 –

D. Newman emphasized that engaging in Hawaiian spaces required proper cultural protocols to create healing and balance, describing “maluhia” as fostering peace, and expressed concern that the department lacked cultural practitioners and often overlooked protocol in places like ‘Āina Maluhia. He noted that enforcement actions and certain staff interactions disrupted cultural practices and created imbalance, stressing the need for respectful engagement. He highlighted the importance of Pilina, stating that personal conflicts should not interfere with supporting houseless beneficiaries seeking stability, and explained that ‘Āina Maluhia provided a safe, culturally grounded space for healing through practices like Hoomana and planting. He urged the department to include cultural practitioners and ensure culturally appropriate engagement to maintain respect and effective collaboration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Watson concluded the meeting by thanking the Commissioners, staff, and all participants who testified. He announced that the next regular Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting would be held on April 20th and 21st at the Lanikeha Community Center in Ho’olehua, Moloka’i, and encouraged attendees to visit the website for the 2026 meeting schedule and information on awards, projects, sales force updates, and more before officially adjourning the session.

ADJOURNMENT

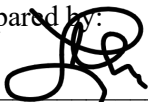
12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Kali Watson, Chairman
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Prepared by:



Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Commission Secretary
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Approved on April 21, 2026 at the Lanikeha Community Center, Molokai.

Attachments:

- 1) Testimony – Item C-1 Kia Iwi Alakai
- 2) Testimony – Item D-14 Y. Masaoka
- 3) Testimony – Item E-1 Emma Yap
- 4) Testimony – Item E-1 Janice Herrick
- 5) Testimony – Item F-2 Kia Iwi Alakai

- 6) Testimony – Item G-2 Jill Takasaki
- 7) Testimony – Item G-2 Kaea Lyons Yglesias
- 8) Testimony – Item G-2 Waimea Aloha Festivals
- 9) Testimony – Item G-2 Alike Lincoln
- 10) Testimony – Item G-2 Amoo Kainoa
- 11) Testimony – Item G-2 Anne Meheula La'i Opuia
- 12) Testimony – Item G-2 Bruce Lindsey Waimea Nui
- 13) Testimony – Item G-2 Charisse Ala Waimea Nui
- 14) Testimony – Item G-2 Chris Juan Hui Aloha Puukapu
- 15) Testimony – Item G-2 Crystal Thorton Waimea Nui
- 16) Testimony – Item G-2 Daniel Manuel Waimea Nui
- 17) Testimony – Item G-2 Diana Terukina Waimea Nui
- 18) Testimony – Item G-2 Gerry Kauahi Waimea Nui
- 19) Testimony – Item G-2 HAP Grant Support
- 20) Testimony – Item G-2 HCF Kids Hurt Too
- 21) Testimony – Item G-2 Janelle Juan Hui Aloha Puukapu
- 22) Testimony – Item G-2 Kaea Whittle Hui Aloha Puukapu
- 23) Testimony – Item G-2 Kori Takaki L2020
- 24) Testimony – Item G-2 Michelle Lewis Hoola
- 25) Testimony – Item G-2 Patricia Hodson – Fire Mitigation
- 26) Testimony – Item G-2 Penny Kaae – Hui Aloha Puukapu
- 27) Testimony – Item G-2 Rebecca Villegas L2020
- 28) Testimony – Item G-2 Sonny Shimaoka Waimea Nui
- 29) Testimony – Item G-2 TBJ CDC Fire Grant
- 30) Testimony – Item G-2 Theodore Bell
- 31) Testimony – Item G-2 Tracy Apoliona L2020
- 32) Testimony – Item J-2 Patrick Kahawaiolaa KOKA Support
- 33) Slide Presentation – Item J-2 Kalaniakea Wilson
- 34) Slide Presentation – Item C-1 Geothermal Working Group



KIA'I IWI ALAKA'I

James J K C Maioho

Kahu of Mauna Ala | Founder, Kiai Iwi Alakai

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Geothermal Development on Hawaiian Home Lands

Policy, Scientific, and Trust Considerations

Prepared for testimony regarding Hawaiian Homes Commission agenda item C on geothermal exploration.

Executive Summary

This paper examines whether geothermal exploration and development on Hawaiian Home Lands is consistent with the purpose of the Hawaiian Homes trust and whether the scientific record supports broad geothermal exploration across multiple islands. The analysis finds that commercial geothermal electricity production in Hawaii has historically been limited to the Puna region on Hawaii Island within the Kilauea East Rift Zone. Other areas across the island chain may contain geothermal heat but generally show significantly lower probability of successful commercial production. Because Hawaiian Home Lands are held in trust for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, any geothermal exploration program should be evaluated carefully to ensure that it aligns with the rehabilitation purpose of the trust and that beneficiaries clearly benefit from any development.

1. Purpose of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act established a public trust intended to rehabilitate Native Hawaiians through access to land. The act envisioned residential homesteading, agriculture, pastoral activity, and community development as the primary uses of trust

lands. While the statute allows leasing for revenue, those leases historically function as tools to support homesteading and beneficiary programs rather than replacing them. For this reason, any proposal to develop industrial scale energy infrastructure on trust lands raises an important policy question: does the activity advance the rehabilitation purpose of the trust or does it divert land and resources away from that mission.

2. Overview of Geothermal Resources in Hawaii

Geothermal energy in Hawaii is associated with volcanic systems and rift zones where heat from magma interacts with groundwater. The most studied geothermal resource in the state occurs in the Kilauea East Rift Zone near Puna on Hawaii Island. This region has hosted the only commercial geothermal electricity production in Hawaii. Other volcanic rift systems such as those associated with Mauna Loa and Haleakala may contain geothermal heat sources, but the probability of commercially viable reservoirs varies significantly depending on geological conditions such as permeability and reservoir structure.

3. Geothermal Probability by Region

State geothermal assessments conducted for the State of Hawaii and related studies have consistently identified the Kilauea East Rift Zone as the area with the highest probability of high temperature geothermal resources capable of supporting electricity generation. Other areas across the islands may contain geothermal heat but often have lower probability of commercial production due to older volcanic systems, lack of permeability, or insufficient reservoir conditions. For example, parts of Oahu including the Koolau and Waianae ranges are associated with much older volcanic structures and are generally considered low probability areas for commercial geothermal production.

4. Financial and Technical Risk of Exploration

Geothermal exploration is expensive and uncertain. Exploration wells may cost five to ten million dollars each depending on drilling depth and geological conditions. Multiple wells are typically required before a viable geothermal reservoir can be confirmed. Even in regions where geothermal heat exists, wells may fail to produce sufficient flow due to lack of permeability in the rock formation. This means that geothermal development carries significant financial risk during the exploration phase.

5. Cultural and Environmental Considerations

Trust lands carry cultural significance and responsibilities that extend beyond economic development. Geothermal exploration and development may raise issues related to groundwater interaction, volcanic hazards, cultural landscapes, and community

consultation. For these reasons, careful cultural impact assessment and beneficiary consultation should accompany any exploration program on Hawaiian Home Lands.

6. Policy Considerations for the Commission

Before allocating trust resources toward geothermal exploration, the Commission may wish to consider several policy questions. First, how does geothermal development advance the rehabilitation purpose of the Hawaiian Homes trust? Second, what scientific evidence supports geothermal potential in specific DHHL parcels being considered for exploration? Third, what share of potential geothermal revenue would directly benefit Native Hawaiian beneficiaries? Finally, how will cultural, environmental, and community concerns be addressed before exploration activities begin.

Conclusion

Geothermal energy may present opportunities for renewable energy development in Hawaii, but those opportunities must be evaluated carefully when they involve lands held in trust for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. The scientific record suggests that commercially viable geothermal production in Hawaii has historically been concentrated in the Puna region. Because exploration in other areas carries greater uncertainty and financial risk, the Commission should ensure that geothermal proposals are supported by strong geological evidence and clearly advance the rehabilitation mission of the Hawaiian Homes trust. There may be better uses for the land that extend immediate benefit to Kanaka- not an interim payday for outside vendors that tie up land for future use with no immediate benefit or relief to the folks on the waitlist. A pilot has been proposed that may return far more immediate saving and benefit to the Trust than betting on a low probability energy production exploration.

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I respectfully submit this email to request your consideration regarding my relocation process and the financial hardship my family has experienced over the past 20 years.

I have been on the Department's relocation list since November 2014 due to ongoing harassment, hostility, and threatening conduct from neighboring lessee Hercules Freitas. The Department has long been aware of this situation, which has created an unsafe and extremely stressful living environment for my family.

Since being placed on the relocation list, I received two relocation letters offering lots on the west and north sides of Hawai'i Island. In August 2025, I received a phone call asking whether I would be interested in relocating to Keaukaha. I immediately accepted the opportunity.

Following that call, I complied with every requirement requested by the Department:

- I obtained a loan pre-qualification letter by September 3, 2025.
- After several weeks of follow-up regarding the appraisal, I received the appraisal selection form on November 8, 2025.
- The appraisal inspection was completed on December 26, 2025.
- On January 13, 2026, I received the appraisal report and acceptance form, which I reviewed, signed, and returned within 48 hours.

Since January, there has been no significant progress other than being asked to reapply for my loan, which required another hard credit inquiry and negatively impacts my credit profile.

To better understand the status of the process, I met with DHHL staff via Teams on March 3, 2026 and again on March 9, 2026. During those meetings, I was informed that I needed to sign a form surrendering my current lease, which I have now completed. I was also informed that the Commission will be asked to approve the surrender of my current lease on March 16, 2026 and, at a later meeting on April 20, 2026, to approve the award of the Keaukaha lease.

My current home was appraised at \$330,000, while the Keaukaha home is being offered for \$324,000. However, the Keaukaha property has a steep drop-off behind the home that will require immediate installation of a retaining wall, backfill, and fencing in order to ensure the safety of my grandchildren and keep my pets safely within the property.

Due to the years of hardship, stress, and unavoidable financial burden my family has endured while trying to protect ourselves from the ongoing situation with Mr. Freitas — all of which has been documented with the Department — I respectfully request the Commission's consideration of the following.

After the proceeds from the appraisal of my current home are applied to the payoff of my existing mortgage and the purchase of the Keaukaha home is complete, I am requesting that any remaining proceeds be released to me upfront rather than delayed or distributed at a later time.

This will allow me to immediately complete the required safety improvements to the Keaukaha property and safely transition my family into the home.

For 21 years I have not rented my home; I carried and paid a mortgage, upkept and made improvements on my home, investing in it as my family's long-term security. I believe it is reasonable to request that the proceeds from my home be made available without stipulations so I can complete the necessary safety improvements and move my family forward without further hardship or delay. After enduring years of documented conflict and waiting on the relocation list since 2014, my hope is simply to transition into a safe home where my grandchildren can live and play without risk. I respectfully ask that you consider my request with the same care and fairness you would want for your own family under similar circumstances.

I respectfully ask the Commission to review the details of my situation and consider this request.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yvette Masaoka

From: dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov
To: [Burrows-Nuuuanu, Leatrice W](#)
Subject: New submission from Submit Public Testimony (March 2026)
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:40:09 PM

Name

Emma Abihai-Yap

Email

ekahuaabihai@gmail.com

Message

Date: March 13, 2026

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Emma Yap and I am a Lessee on Waiohuli Homesteader and am an HHCA beneficiary. I am submitting testimony regarding: Agenda Item E-1.

I ask the Commission to defer action on this item. This matter directly impacts Maui communities, and Maui Island Commissioner, Archie Kalepa, is not present to weigh in on behalf of Maui beneficiaries. Given the importance of decisions involving Hawaiian Home Lands trust resources, it is appropriate that the full Commission—including Maui representation -- participate in this discussion.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has a fiduciary responsibility to manage trust lands, water, and funds for the benefit of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Decisions involving infrastructure investments, water access, and the use of trust funds must clearly indicate this.

Water is also a public trust resource under the Hawaii State Water Code Chapter 174-C, which requires responsible and sustainable management of aquifers and water systems.

For the record, Island Commissioners please consider the following:

1. How much water will DHHL receive as a direct result of this Tri-Party Agreement?
2. Will that water supply be sufficient to support current and future Hawaiian Home Lands communities, particularly given concerns about aquifer pumping pressures?
3. Before committing \$10 million in trust funds, can the Department confirm that this infrastructure investment primarily benefits HHCA beneficiaries and that reimbursement from the County of Maui County is legally secured?

Deferring this item does not stop progress. It ensures that when progress happens, it happens with transparency, with full Commission participation, and with the confidence that speaks to the heart of your fiduciary responsibility to beneficiaries this trust was created to serve.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.
Emma Yap



KIA'I IWI ALAKA'I

James J K C Maioho

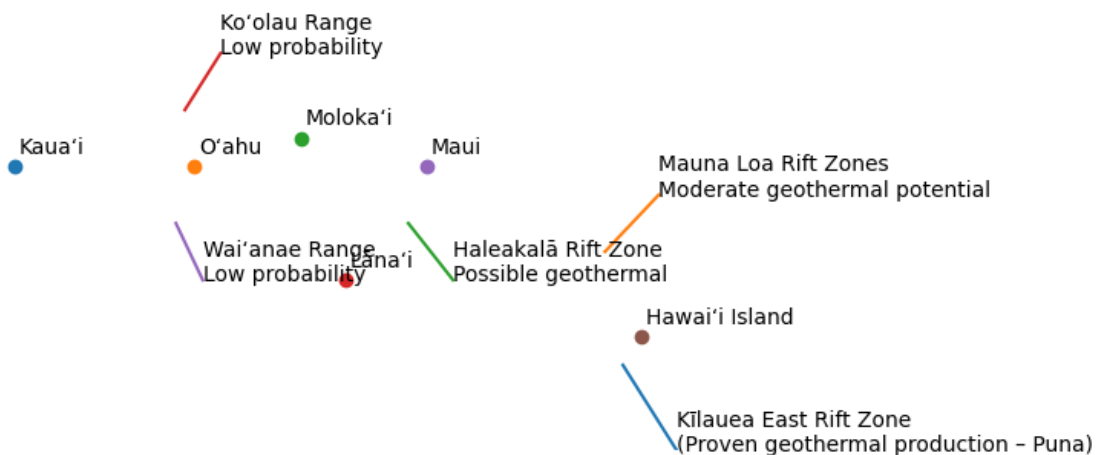
Kahu of Mauna Ala | Founder, Kiai Iwi Alakai

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Geothermal Context Map – Hawai‘i Rift Zones

This reference map highlights the volcanic rift systems associated with geothermal potential in Hawai‘i. Commercial geothermal electricity production has historically occurred only in the Kīlauea East Rift Zone in Puna on Hawai‘i Island. Other volcanic rift zones may contain geothermal heat but generally involve significantly higher exploration uncertainty.

Hawai‘i Geothermal Context Map - Volcanic Rift Zones



Geothermal Probability Comparison by Region

Region	High-Temperature Geothermal Probability	Notes
Kīlauea East Rift (Puna)	Very High	Only proven geothermal electricity production in Hawai‘i
Mauna Loa Rift Zones	Moderate	Geologically favorable but less developed
Haleakalā Rift (Maui)	Moderate to Low	Possible geothermal heat sources
Kawaihae / Kohala	Low	Limited evidence of commercial geothermal reservoir
Ko‘olau Range (O‘ahu)	Very Low	Older volcanic system
Wai‘anae Range (O‘ahu)	Very Low	Geological conditions not favorable for major geothermal fields

Testimony – Agenda Item C (Geothermal)

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is James Jay Kaleimamahu Crowningburg Maioho, a Native Hawaiian beneficiary. I appreciate the Department exploring geothermal energy because responsible economic development may help strengthen the future of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

At the same time, the Commission carries a fiduciary responsibility under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The lands under your care were placed into trust for the rehabilitation of Native Hawaiians through homesteading, land access, and community development. Any new development must therefore be evaluated through that lens.

The geological record in Hawai‘i shows that commercial geothermal production has occurred only in the Kīlauea East Rift Zone in Puna. Other areas across the islands may contain geothermal heat but generally show significantly lower probability for successful commercial production.

I am not here to oppose responsible exploration outright. However, before DHHL commits resources, beneficiaries deserve transparency regarding which parcels are under consideration, what geological evidence supports those locations, and how geothermal development would directly benefit Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

These lands represent one of the most important resources our people have for the future. Ensuring that decisions are grounded in sound science and consistent with the purpose of the trust will strengthen the credibility of the Department and the Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Three Minute Testimony – Agenda Item F-2

Support for De Mont Kalai Manaole Right-of-Entry Permit

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is James Jay Kaleimamahu Crowningburg Maioho, a Native Hawaiian beneficiary of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust. I am here to express my support for the requested extension of the Right-of-Entry permit for De Mont Kalai Manaole.

Many beneficiaries recognize that a significant amount of Hawaiian Home Lands remain unused while thousands of Native Hawaiians continue to wait for opportunities to reconnect with ‘āina. Programs that allow responsible stewardship access can help bridge that gap.

Right-of-Entry permits allow beneficiaries to begin mālama ‘āina activities, community engagement, and planning while longer-term homestead development processes continue. In many cases these permits represent the first step toward activating lands that might otherwise remain idle.

For these reasons I respectfully support the extension of the Right-of-Entry permit for Mr. Manaole and encourage the Commission to continue developing responsible pathways that allow beneficiaries to engage with and care for trust lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: [Badajos, Diamond](#)
To: [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#); [Nuesca, Ruby Lyn D](#)
Cc: [DHHL ICRO](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Item G-2 – Support for Kids Hurt Too Hawaii
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 8:46:45 PM

Forwarding.

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From: Jill Takasaki Canfield <jill.takasaki.canfield@hawaiiliteracy.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2026 11:30:45 PM
To: DHHL ICRO <dhdl.icro@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item G-2 – Support for Kids Hurt Too Hawaii

Aloha Chairperson and Commissioners,

On behalf of Hawaii Literacy, I am writing in strong support of Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i's grant application under Item G-2.

Hawaii Literacy is proud to partner with Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i on the Wai'anae Coast, and we have seen firsthand the care, compassion, and healing they bring to children, youth, and families. Their work addresses a critical need in our community. Grief, trauma, and loss affect every part of a young person's life, including emotional well-being, family stability, school engagement, and the ability to build healthy relationships. These experiences can also affect literacy, learning, attendance, and family engagement, making it even harder for children and families to thrive without the right support.

Expanding Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i's services in Nānākuli and Wai'anae homestead communities is needed. These communities are rich in strength, culture, and resilience, yet many families face significant barriers to accessing grief and trauma support close to home. Community-based, culturally grounded services can make a profound difference by meeting youth and families where they are and helping them heal in ways that are relational, respectful, and rooted in community.

As a partner, Hawaii Literacy understands how important it is for children and families to have places of connection, encouragement, and hope. Healing-centered support helps create the conditions for young people to learn, grow, and thrive. It strengthens families and contributes to healthier, more connected communities overall. Programs such as peer support groups, Surf for the Soul, and community events provide not only support for grief, but also a sense of belonging, healing, and care that is essential for long-term well-being.

We believe Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i is providing a much-needed service, and we respectfully urge the Commission to approve this grant application so that this important work can continue and expand in Nānākuli and Wai'anae homestead communities.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to the well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,
Jill Takasaki Canfield



Jill Takasaki Canfield | Executive Director
(808) 537-6706 | 245 N Kukui St #202 | Honolulu, HI 96817



From: [Lowe, Michael L](#)
To: [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support – La‘i‘ōpua 2020
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:41:33 PM

Leah,
FYI

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From: Halau Kaeaikahelani <kaeaikahelani@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:27:20 PM
To: DHHL ICRO <dhdl.icro@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support – La‘i‘ōpua 2020

Aloha Members of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Commission,

On behalf of **Hālau Ka‘eaikahelani**, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the grant proposals submitted by **La‘i‘ōpua 2020** to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

From the perspective of a **Kumu Hula**, spaces that allow Hawaiian culture to be practiced, taught, and experienced within the community are essential. La‘i‘ōpua 2020 has created such a place in West Hawai‘i. The environment they have established provides opportunities for families and youth to connect with ‘ike Hawai‘i through hands-on learning that honors the traditions and values of our kūpuna.

Through cultural gatherings, ‘āina-based activities, and community events, La‘i‘ōpua 2020 helps strengthen the connection between people, culture, and place. These opportunities allow keiki and their families to experience cultural practices in meaningful ways—learning not only the traditions themselves, but also the values of kuleana, laulima, and aloha that guide them.

For cultural practitioners, places like La‘i‘ōpua 2020 are important because they create a living environment where culture is not simply taught, but lived and shared among generations. This type of community-centered space helps ensure that our traditions, language, and practices continue to grow strong within our communities.

For these reasons, **Hālau Ka‘eaikahelani strongly supports the funding of La‘i‘ōpua 2020’s proposed projects**. Their work continues to provide valuable opportunities for cultural learning and community connection for Hawaiian Home Lands families and the broader West Hawai‘i community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Ka‘ea Lyons-Yglesias
Kumu Hula
Hālau Ka‘eaikahelani

Me ke aloha,

Kumu Ka'ea Lyons
C: 808-960-7728

Kumu Kahelelani Lyons
C: 808-557-1612

Hālau email: kacaikahelelani@gmail.com

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"In the journey of our hula we are guided by the source"

To: DHHL Commission

From: Kumu Micah Kamohoalii

Date: March 12, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Support of the DHHL Grant Program and Awardees

Aloha Chair, Commissioners, and Members of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,

I am writing in strong support of the DHHL grant program and the awardees selected to carry this important work forward. I also wish to extend my sincere mahalo for the award granted to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

This funding is more than a grant. It is an investment in community capacity, cultural continuity, and the long-term well-being of Hawaiian homestead communities across Hawai'i Island. Through AFIOH, this support will strengthen outreach, increase hands-on cultural education, expand workshops and community festivities, and deepen beneficiary engagement in ways that are both practical and transformative. The project is designed to serve existing DHHL homestead communities through cultural practice, leadership development, volunteer engagement, and stronger organizational systems. The impact of this grant will be felt far beyond one event or one district. When our homestead communities are strengthened, the entire island benefits. Healthier families, more engaged youth, stronger cultural identity, increased local economic activity, and a deeper sense of place all contribute to a more resilient Hawai'i Island.

It is important to recognize that when Native Hawaiian communities thrive, everyone benefits. When Hawaiians are supported in reclaiming culture, building leadership, and strengthening community, that well-being extends outward to our schools, businesses, neighborhoods, and island as a whole.

Mahalo for continuing to invest in programs that uplift our people and create lasting impact for future generations.

Aloha,

M. Kamohoalii

Kumu Micah Kamohoalii
AFIOH Festival Director

To: DHHL Commission
From: Laenette Hudgins
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Mahalo and Support for the DHHL Grant Program

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to share my heartfelt support for the DHHL grant program and for all of the awardees who have been selected. I also want to express deep gratitude for the grant awarded to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

This support means so much to our communities. It gives life to programs that bring people together, reconnect families to culture, and create meaningful opportunities for our kūpuna, parents, and youth to learn side by side. Through AFIOH, this grant will help expand cultural workshops, strengthen community participation, and serve homestead communities throughout Hawai'i Island.

These kinds of investments matter because they reach people where they are. They help strengthen identity, pride, belonging, and connection. They help communities remember who they are and what they carry. That kind of impact cannot be measured only in numbers, though the reach is significant. It is measured in stronger families, stronger relationships, and stronger communities.

When Hawaiian homestead communities are thriving, the whole island thrives. The values nurtured in our communities — aloha, mālama, kuleana, and 'ike kupuna — benefit everyone.

Mahalo for believing in the people, programs, and communities doing this work.

Me ke aloha,



Laenette Hudgins,
AFIOH - Moananui Ocean Festival Chair

Subject: Testimony of Support and Mahalo

Date: March 13, 2026

Aloha nui,

I humbly offer my testimony in support of the DHHL grant program and the awardees who have been chosen. I especially wish to offer mahalo for the grant awarded to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

For many of us, this work is not new. It is the continuation of what our kūpuna prayed for, struggled for, and entrusted to us. Programs like AFIOH help to keep our 'ike, our practices, and our ways of gathering alive. They give our people a place to stand, to learn, to remember, and to carry things forward with dignity.

This grant will help strengthen homestead communities by supporting cultural education, workshops, outreach, and opportunities for people to participate in meaningful ways. It will serve not only one generation, but many. It will create space for children to learn from elders, for families to reconnect, and for communities to grow stronger together.

Mahalo for supporting this work and for honoring the communities who continue to mālama our people.

With aloha and respect,

Denise Murphy
AFIOH – Paniolo Festival committee member

To: Department of Hawaiian Homeslands Commission
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Supporting the DHHL Grant Program and Thanking You for This Award

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of the DHHL grant program and its awardees, and to sincerely thank you for awarding funding to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

As a parent and community member, I see how important these kinds of programs are for our families. Our children need spaces where they can learn culture by doing — through workshops, gathering with others, listening to stories, learning protocol, and seeing that culture is alive all around them. Families need positive spaces where generations can come together and build stronger relationships.

This grant will directly help strengthen those opportunities. It will support outreach, education, workshops, and community programming across homestead communities on Hawai'i Island. That means more access, more participation, and more chances for our families to stay connected to one another and to our heritage.

When our homestead families are stronger, our island is stronger. Communities with pride, purpose, and connection create healthier outcomes for everyone. That is why this funding matters so much. It is not only helping one organization — it is helping strengthen the future of Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo for your investment in our people and in the future of our communities.

Sincerely,

Leila Ryusaki

Leila Ryusaki
PR Specialist Aloha Festival, Moananui Ocean Festival Poke Chair

To: DHHL
From: Nauileilima Murphy
Date: March 13, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Support of Cultural and Community Investment

Aloha Chair and Commission ,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of the DHHL grant program and the current awardees. I also wish to extend my gratitude for the grant awarded to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

As a cultural practitioner, I understand that culture cannot survive on words alone. It must be practiced, taught, shared, and lived. Programs like AFIOH do exactly that. They create opportunities for hands-on learning, cultural protocol, intergenerational exchange, and meaningful engagement rooted in place and community. The grant will help expand these efforts across homestead communities and strengthen the systems needed to sustain them. This kind of funding protects far more than events. It protects 'ike. It protects relationships. It protects confidence in identity. It supports practitioners, volunteers, families, and community leaders who are committed to keeping our traditions active and accessible.

When Hawaiians thrive, culture thrives. And when culture thrives, the entire island benefits. Our communities become stronger, our youth become more grounded, and our shared future becomes healthier and more resilient.

Mahalo for supporting work that nourishes both people and place.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

N. Murphy

Nauileilima Murphy
Alii Ball Chair, Puukapu homesteaders, teacher, cultural practitioner

To: DHHL

From: Stallone Chartrand

Subject: Support for DHHL Grant Funding and Appreciation for the AFIOH Award

Aloha,

I write in support of the DHHL grant program and the awardees whose work strengthens Native Hawaiian homestead communities. I also want to express my sincere thanks for the grant awarded to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

This award is significant because it supports not only cultural education and community engagement, but also the broader health of Hawai'i Island. AFIOH's model strengthens communities through workshops, events, leadership development, and outreach, while also creating opportunities for artisans, farmers, small businesses, cultural practitioners, and local vendors. The application itself highlights both cultural and economic benefit.

This is exactly the kind of funding that creates ripple effects. Stronger homestead communities lead to stronger local economies, stronger partnerships, and stronger island-wide networks. Investment in Hawaiians is not isolated investment — it is investment in the whole community.

Respectfully,

S. Chartrand

Stallone Chartrand

AFIOH Vice Chair

Subject: Testimony Supporting DHHL Grants that Benefit Our Youth and Communities

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in support of the DHHL grant program and its awardees, and to say mahalo for awarding funding to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

One of the greatest strengths of this grant is its impact on youth. Our young people need opportunities to learn directly from their communities, from cultural practitioners, and from their kūpuna. They need spaces where they can build identity, confidence, and pride in who they are. AFIOH creates those spaces through cultural workshops, events, and opportunities for intergenerational learning and participation.

This kind of investment helps guide our youth toward stronger values, stronger relationships, and stronger purpose. It reminds them that they belong to something larger than themselves. It also supports families and community leaders who are working hard to create positive pathways for the next generation.

When we invest in Hawaiian youth and homestead communities, we invest in the future of the whole island. Everyone benefits from stronger leaders, healthier families, and more connected communities.

Mahalo for making that investment.

Sincerely,

Chrystal Murray-Thornton

Paniolo Festival Activity Coordinator / Waimea Nui Athletics

Subject: Strong Support for DHHL Grant Program and AFIOH Award

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the DHHL grant program and for the awardees selected this year. I also want to sincerely thank you for awarding funding to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

This grant will make a real and lasting difference for homestead communities across Hawai'i Island. AFIOH is designed to expand cultural education, strengthen outreach, increase participation, and build stronger systems for community engagement and sustainability. It serves existing DHHL homestead communities and creates opportunities for deeper cultural connection, leadership, and family participation.

The impact of this investment will extend beyond the homesteads. When Hawaiian communities are strong, organized, culturally grounded, and thriving, the entire island benefits. Stronger communities create stronger futures for everyone.

Mahalo for your commitment to funding work that uplifts Native Hawaiians and strengthens Hawai'i Island as a whole.

Respectfully,

Uilani Macabio

Moananui Ocean Festival - Heihei Wa'a Chair

Subject: Mahalo for Investing in Homestead Communities

Aloha mai kākou,

I write today in support of the DHHL grant program and the awardees, and in deep appreciation for the grant awarded to Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association and Aloha Festivals Island of Hawai'i.

This funding affirms something our communities have always known: when you invest in Hawaiian homestead communities, you invest in leadership, culture, education, resilience, and the future of this island. Through AFIOH, this grant will expand cultural workshops, strengthen engagement across homestead communities, support community-based learning, and build the systems needed to sustain this work well into the future.

The impact will not stop at one program or one place. It will reach families, youth, kūpuna, practitioners, volunteers, vendors, and communities throughout Hawai'i Island. It will help keep traditions alive, create opportunity, and strengthen the social and cultural fabric of our island.

When Hawaiians thrive, all others thrive. That is the truth of these islands. The wellness of Native Hawaiians is tied to the wellness of Hawai'i itself.

Mahalo for recognizing that truth and for supporting programs that help our people and our island rise together.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Jacy Medina

Waimea Living Treasures Award's Committee Member

100% support of WNCDC Grants:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I would like to offer my sincere Mahalo to DHHL and the Hawaiian Homes Commission for supporting the next phase of planning for the Waimea Nui Community Development Initiative.

I sit on the Aha Kupuna, Council of Elders, as Vice Chair for the Waimea Nui region. For many families in Waimea Nui, these projects represent long-standing goals for our community, now 74 years in the making. The development of a cemetery, recreation facilities, and cultural access areas are projects that have been discussed and envisioned by beneficiaries for three to four generations. As a Kupuna, watching our community grow, organize, develop, watching our Opio grow up and take on Kuleana, has been impressive!

I rarely speak out, but this time I have to! This funding will allow our organization to complete the professional plans needed to move these projects forward so that future generations of homesteaders can benefit from them. I want to see this!

Mahalo for continuing to support the vision and progress of the Kanaka of Waimea Nui.

Sincerely,

Alika Lincoln
V/Chair
Aha Kupuna O Waimea Nui

From: [Lowe, Michael L](#)
To: [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#); [DHHL ICRO](#)
Subject: Fw: Letter of Support - La'i'opua 2020
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:48:34 PM
Attachments: [email signature NEW.png](#)

Agh,
Sorry, 1 more. FYI

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From: Kawehi Inaba <kawehi.inaba@laiopua.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 5:01:05 PM
To: DHHL ICRO <dhdl.icro@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support - La'i'opua 2020

Aloha Members of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Commission,

I respectfully submit this letter in support of the grant proposals submitted by **La'i'opua 2020** in response to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands funding opportunities.

Since becoming Executive Director, I have had the privilege of working alongside our board, staff, community partners, and homestead families to continue advancing the vision that led to the creation of La'i'opua 2020. Founded in 2006 and supported through DHHL's **Kulia I ka Nu'u capacity-building program**, L2020 was established to help develop community resources and programs that support native Hawaiian beneficiaries and families living in the Kealakehe–La'i'opua region and throughout West Hawai'i.

Over the years, La'i'opua 2020 has worked to create a place where education, culture, food systems, and workforce opportunities come together to serve our community. The facilities developed on our 'āina allow us to provide youth enrichment, workforce training, culinary education, cultural learning, and community gatherings for families living on and around Hawaiian Home Lands.

Our work is guided by the belief that this space serves as a **pu'uhonua for our community**—a safe space where families can gather, learn, and strengthen their connection to culture and 'āina. Through partnerships with schools, cultural practitioners, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders, we continue to build programs that reflect the priorities of the community we serve.

The initiatives proposed through these grant applications will allow La'i'opua 2020 to expand programs that support youth, strengthen food systems, and provide workforce and culturally grounded learning opportunities for families across West Hawai'i.

Mahalo to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Hawaiian Homes

Commission for your continued commitment to Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries and the communities they call home. We appreciate your consideration and the opportunity to continue this work in our community.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ms. Kawehi Inaba – Executive Director



HHC Meeting for March 16-17, 2026

Agenda Item G-2

Fire Grant Mahalo!

Aloha Chair and Honorable Commissioners,

Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo-Nui! We feel the Love!

Our lands in Pu‘ukapu have long been known as a place where Ali‘i and Kanaka gathered to care for the ‘āina and discuss matters important to the community. Today we carry that same responsibility to protect our homes, families, and lands from the growing threat of wildfires. It’s nice to know “We Matter”!

This grant will allow our community to mālama our ‘āina by reducing hazardous vegetation, maintaining emergency access routes, and preparing trained volunteers to respond when fires occur. We’ve been planning for this for the past five years! This means a lot to our people, so again Mahalo Nui!

We are grateful for the partnership we’ve built with DHHL and our beneficiary organizations of Waimea Nui that makes this work possible.

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to protecting Hawaiian Home Lands.

Me ka mahalo,

Wade Bruce Lindsey
Bruce Lindsey
CDC-Board
Waimea Nui

March 12, 2026
Hawaiian Homes Commission
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
HHC Meeting March 16-17, 2026
Agenda Item G-2 Exhibit A Improvements to facilities
Subject: Written Testimony in Support

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the approval of grant funding to support the work of Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

For our community, this funding represents an important step forward in strengthening our ability to serve beneficiaries and support agricultural initiatives that help families reconnect with the land and build greater food security within our homestead community.

The support from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands affirms that locally driven solutions and community leadership remain central to the future of Hawaiian homesteads. We are grateful that the Commission continues to invest in programs that empower beneficiaries to grow and sustain their communities.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to our homestead communities and for supporting this important effort.

With appreciation,

Charisse Ala

Charisse Ala
Treasurer
Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

As Board President of Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for your support, time, and thoughtful consideration of the grant proposals submitted under the RFP-26 funding cycle.

Our organization is committed to protecting and caring for our community and 'āina. These grant proposals represent important efforts to support the needs of our pastoral community and to continue the stewardship work that is so vital to our people and our lands.

Mahalo again for your dedication to serving the beneficiaries and communities across Hawaiian Home Lands. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit these proposals and for your continued support.

Mahalo,

Chris Juan
President
Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu

Short Shout-out in Support of this Grant:

Aloha Chair Watson and Members of the Commission,

Mahalo to DHHL for making the recommendation and supporting parts of the planning and design phase of the Waimea Nui Community Development Initiative.

This funding will allow WNCDC to complete architectural and engineering plans for three important community projects: The Waimea Nui Cemetery, the Fitness and Recreation Complex, and the Mauna Kea Access Road cultural facility.

These projects have been identified by beneficiaries for many years and represent important steps toward building self-sufficient community facilities on Hawaiian Home Lands. Our youth have struggled; I know because I was one of them! My Papa told me that when he was 12, in 1952, DHHL was going to build a park in our community lands, he died a few years ago at 85! So I joined the homestead to see this vision through, and now I have 7 children, all beneficiaries, and I'm not about to tell my children and grandchildren the same thing!

I am completely involved in our community development and have taken on the Youth Division, with fitness & recreation, training facilities, and athletic fields. Mahalo to our leadership in our CDC and their determination to bring this to life. Wow, Real Planning! No longer conceptual, and infrastructure and roads now in place. The Waimea Nui Youth Association thanks you dearly and appreciate your continued support of beneficiary-driven development.

Very sincerely,

Chrystal Murray-Thornton
Chairperson - WNYA

3/12/2026

Hawaiian Homes Commission
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
HHC Meeting March 16-17, 2026
Agenda Item G-2 Exhibit A Improvements to facilities
Subject: Written Testimony in Support

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

Please accept our sincere appreciation for the grant funding awarded to Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

We view this support as an important partnership between the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and community-based organizations working directly with beneficiaries. The funding will help strengthen our capacity to carry out programs that serve our homestead community and contribute to long-term sustainability and opportunity for HHCA beneficiaries.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with DHHL and the Hawaiian Homes Commission as we advance projects that support agricultural development, community engagement, and responsible stewardship of our homestead lands.

Mahalo for your trust in our organization and for your ongoing commitment to Hawaiian Homestead communities.

Respectfully,

Daniel Manuel

Daniel Manuel
Director
Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

March 12, 2026
Hawaiian Homes Commission Meeting
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
HHC Meeting March 16-17, 2026
Agenda Item G-2 Exhibit A Improvements to facilities
Subject: Written Testimony in Support

Aloha e nā Commissioners and Chair,

Mahalo nui loa for approving grant funding for Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc. Your support helps strengthen our ability to mālama ‘āina and continue the work of cultivating both land and community within our homestead.

Agriculture has always been an important foundation of Hawaiian self-sufficiency. Through this support, we are able to continue building programs that reconnect families with the land, strengthen food systems, and pass knowledge to the next generation of beneficiaries.

We deeply appreciate the Commission’s continued commitment to supporting initiatives that honor the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and uplift our communities.

Mahalo again for your support and for the important work you do on behalf of Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Diana Terukina

Diana Ululani Terukina
Director/Secretary
Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

Grant Support Letter – WNCDC Planning

Aloha Commissioners,

Mahalo Nui for supporting the planning and design work for the Waimea Nui Community Development Initiative.

For many years, beneficiaries of the Waimea Nui Region have envisioned community facilities that would support the cultural, social, and spiritual wellbeing of our people. Among the most meaningful of these projects is the development of a cemetery where our families may mālama our loved ones within our homestead community.

These projects reflect the vision of our kūpuna and the aspirations of future generations who will inherit these lands. It just seems strange that you can be born on our lands, grow up on our lands, raise a family on our lands, but when you Hala, you have to leave our lands! This just doesn't seem right. WNCDC has worked diligently in "Figuring it Out" on how to get a cemetery on our community lands, not just for Waimea Nui, but state-wide.

We are ready for the plan and design phase, and through WNCDC, this action is becoming a reality, so Mahalo for helping us move one step closer to making this vision a reality.

Mahalo Nui,

**Gerry Kauahi
Chairman
Waimea Nui Historical Preservation and Burial**

Please support Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's Grant Applications for DHHL FY 2026

Proposed Grant Applications

1. RFP 2026_004 – Capacity Development

HAP will request funding to support **Strategic Planning Consultation and Development**. This effort will strengthen organizational capacity, improve long-term planning, and better position HAP to serve the Pu'ukapu pastoral community in alignment with DHHL priorities.

2. RFP 2026_003 – Existing Homesteads

HAP will request funding to support the **expansion of our Community Safety and Land Stewardship Program** through a three-year pilot road improvement project within the Pu'ukapu Pastoral Subdivision. This project will include:

- Contracting for a professional road assessment & utilize findings from the assessment in combination with the RM Towill 2012 recommendations and input from the Community Road & Safety Concerns Committee
- Implementing targeted improvements in three priority areas, including road widening, proper crowning, installation of cold plane (or other recommended materials), and proper compaction
- Conducting a community survey at the conclusion of the pilot to guide recommendations on whether and how to continue future road improvement efforts

3. RFP 2026_005 – Disaster Planning

HAP will request funding to support fire mitigation and emergency response efforts through the **installation and rehabilitation of cisterns (water catchments)** in strategic locations, particularly on lots with homes. These catchments would serve as water sources during wildfire events, including use as dip tanks for helicopter operations, and provide critical water access during periods of drought.

Due to the Fire Department's assessment that existing fire tanks in the subdivision are obsolete, and the inability to install fire hydrants, this project addresses a significant gap in emergency preparedness and is a necessary resource for residents, DHHL, and emergency responders.

"I support Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's grant applications to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands 2026 Grant Cycle."

Name	Signature	Puukapu Pastoral Lot #/DHHL Status
1. Jolie Kaale		Lot # 34 Res. Ohana
2. Dudley K Kaale		Ohana
3. MARION KA KAPUNIAI		Lot 1 American Lease
4. Deigen TAKUSHI		Resident - WALKER
5. BRAD KAPUNIAI		JAMES
6. Andis BROWN		Lot # 139

Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu

"For the safety and sustainability of our aloha 'āina"

Please support Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's Grant Applications for DHHL FY 2026

Proposed Grant Applications

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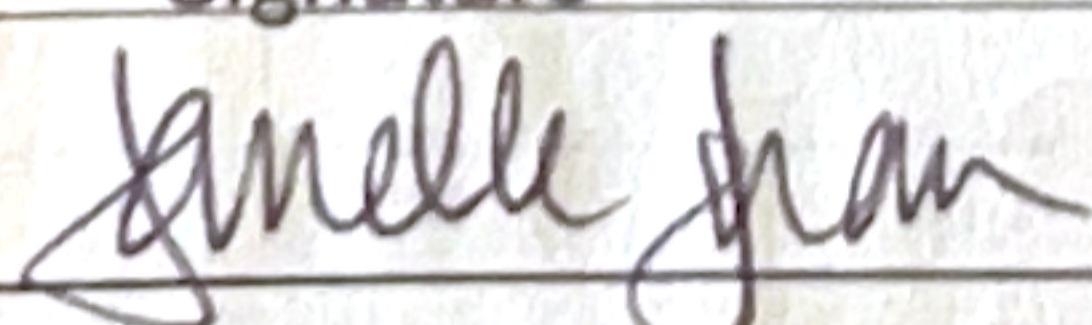
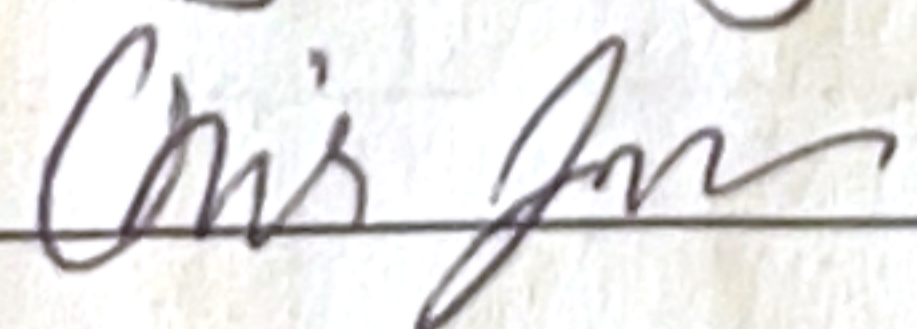
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"I support Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's grant applications to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands 2026 Grant Cycle."

Name	Signature	Puukapu Pastoral Lot #/DHHL Status
1. Janelle Juan		88 / Resident
2. Chris Juan		88 / Successor
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: Pawebby@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Sun, Dec 21, 2025 at 12:11 PM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Eric Tachue

Email

eric@pawebby.com

Phone Number

8082821728

DHIL Status: DHIL Beneficiary/Applicant



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: Pawebby@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Sat, Dec 27, 2025 at 4:27 PM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Christina Renee Franchino

Email

chrfranchino1@gmail.com

Phone Number

DHIL Status: Student or Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: Pawebby@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 4:20 PM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Ashu Howard

Email

ashu@pawebby.com

Phone Number

8082821728

DHIL Status: DHIL Beneficiary/Applicant



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: Pawebby@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 10:1 AM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Jesslyn Chang

Email

jcchang10@gmail.com

Phone Number

8082821728

DHIL Status: DHIL Lessee

DHIL Status: Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: Hil@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Fri, Dec 19, 2025 at 12:23 PM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Bl Kelsoe

Email

blkelsoe@pawebby.com

Phone Number

8082821728

DHIL Status: Pukapu Lessee

DHIL Status: Student or Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

re-ep@pawebby.com <re-ep@pawebby.com>
Reply to: jfranco@pawebby.com
To: Pawebby@pawebby.com

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 12:27 PM

Hil Aloha Pukapu <halohapukapu@gmail.com>

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2026 Grant cycle.
Yes, I support this grant proposal

If Other please specify:

Name

Jamela Ann

Email

jamela@pawebby.com

Phone Number

8082821728

DHIL Status: Student or Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: sunshin@weebly.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Fri, Jun 1, 2024 at 8:20 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Mery Lindsey Kulekoi Grana
Email
kulekoi@weebly.com
Phone Number
808242283
DHIL Status: Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: sunshin@weebly.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Sat, Dec 27, 2025 at 4:29 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Kauahua Winika
Email
winika@weebly.com
Phone Number
8083810985
DHIL Status: Resident of Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: henukajp@gmail.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Fri, Dec 19, 2025 at 4:47 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Kecia Ann
Email
keciaann@weebly.com
Phone Number
716440021
DHIL Status: Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: henukajp@gmail.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Sat, Dec 27, 2025 at 4:06 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Kerina Winika
Email
kerina@weebly.com
Phone Number
8083810985
DHIL Status: Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: henukajp@gmail.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 12:09 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Kerui Springe-Berman
Email
kerui@weebly.com
Phone Number
8084000722
DHIL Status: Resident of Pukapu Lessee



New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

no-np1@weebly.com -no-np1@weebly.com
Reply To: sunshin@weebly.com
To: henukajp@gmail.com

Hil Aloha Pukapu -hildohpukapu@gmail.com
Sat, Dec 27, 2025 at 3:51 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support Hil Aloha Pukapu's grant proposals for DHIL FY 2024 Grant cycle.

Yes, I support 1407 grant proposals

If Other please specify:

Name
Leneer Winika
Email
leneer@weebly.com
Phone Number
808433354
DHIL Status: DHIL Secondary Applicant



Hel Aksh Pulkapra <hulshpulkapra@gmail.com>

New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

Received: nc-ejy@weebly.com <nc-ejy@weebly.com>
To: hulshpulkapra@gmail.com

Fri, Dec 18, 2025 at 7:11 AM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support the Aksh Pulkapra's grant proposals for DPHL FY 2028 Grant cycle.
Yes, support my grant proposals

If other please specify:

Name
Mehi Akshani

Email
mehi.akshani@gmail.com

Phone Number
8002031191

PHIL: Student/Pulka's Lasses



Hel Aksh Pulkapra <hulshpulkapra@gmail.com>

New Form Entry: Grant Proposal Survey

Received: nc-ejy@weebly.com <nc-ejy@weebly.com>
To: hulshpulkapra@gmail.com

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 1:05 PM

You've just received a new submission to your Grant Proposal Survey.
Mark as Spam

Submitted Information:

I support the Aksh Pulkapra's grant proposals for DPHL FY 2028 Grant cycle.
Yes, support my grant proposals

If other please specify:

Name
Neha Jain

Email
neha.jain@gmail.com

Phone Number
8007023541

PHIL: Brain Resident of Pulkapra Lasses

Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu



Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu humbly asks for your consideration and support of our upcoming grant proposals to DHHL FY 2026 Grant cycle.

Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu strives to advocate for and support our pastoral community. To do this work, we must continue to seek funding. A key component is showing that we represent the voice of our pastoral community. Please consider showing your support by signing your name. Consider also filling out our corresponding surveys.

Proposed Grant Applications

1. RFP 2026_004 – Capacity Development

HAP will request funding to support Strategic Planning Consultation and Development. This effort will strengthen organizational capacity, improve long-term planning, and better position HAP to serve the Pu'ukapu pastoral community in alignment with DHHL priorities.

2. RFP 2026_003 – Existing Homesteads

HAP will request funding to support the expansion of our Community Safety and Land Stewardship Program through a three-year pilot road improvement project within the Pu'ukapu Pastoral Subdivision. This project will include:

- Contracting for a professional road assessment & utilize finding from the assessment in combination with the RM Towill 2012 recommendations and input from the Community Road & Safety Concerns Committee
- Implementing targeted improvements in three priority areas, including road widening, proper crowning, installation of cold plane (or other recommended materials), and proper compaction

Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu

3. RFP 2026_005 – Disaster Planning

HAP will request funding to support fire mitigation and emergency response efforts through the installation and rehabilitation of cisterns (water catchments) in strategic locations, particularly on lots with homes. These catchments would serve as water sources during wildfire events, including use as dip tanks for helicopter operations, and provide critical water access during periods of drought.

Due to the Fire Department's assessment that existing fire tanks in the subdivision are obsolete, and the inability to install fire hydrants, this project addresses a significant gap in emergency preparedness and is a necessary resource for residents, DHHL, and emergency responders.

Grant Proposal Survey

** Indicates required field*

I support Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's grant proposals for DHHL FY 2026 Grant cycle. *

- Yes, I support HAP grant proposals
 No, I do not support HAP grant proposals
 Other

If Other please specify:

Name *

<input type="text" value="First"/>	<input type="text" value="Last"/>
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Email

Phone Number

DHHL Status *

- DHHL Beneficiary/Applicant
 DHHL Lessee
 Pu'ukapu Lessee
 Resident of Pu'ukapu Lessee
 Other
- I agree to receiving marketing and promotional materials

Please consider completing our community surveys

...[Community Concerns Survey](#)

March 15, 2026

Aloha Chairperson and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), I am writing in strong support of Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i's (KHTH) grant application (Item G2) requesting \$300,000 to expand their mobile grief and trauma support programs in Nānākuli and Wai'anae. KHTH's programs—including their peer support groups, Surf for the Soul, Poi for the Soul, and communitybased healing events—offer essential spaces for connection, cultural grounding, and emotional resilience for youth and families coping with grief and trauma. While currently serving the Nānākuli and Wai'anae communities, KHTH one day hopes to expand access to their mobile grief and support programs in other homestead communities as well, including Waimānalo and Leialī'i on Maui.

At HCF, we see firsthand the critical need for accessible youth services in these communities, where many young people are navigating significant mental and behavioral health challenges. We believe in preventing and addressing the symptoms and impacts of mental health for all ages, that is why it has been identified as a priority area within HCF's CHANGE Framework under the Health and Wellness sector. KHTH's programs are an important component in our collective efforts to expand access to care for Hawai'i's underserved communities, particularly for our youth and keiki.

The review committee has acknowledged that KHTH provides a "much needed service" with "broad community support." Funding this request will allow them to continue and expand their vital work in our homestead communities, where the need is both evident and urgent. We appreciate your dedication and support to increasing access to these crucial programs and hope you will consider funding this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Elise Inouye

Hawai'i Community Foundation
Director of Policy and Public Affairs
808-566-5529
einouye@hcf-hawaii.org

Aloha Chair Watson and Commissioners,

Mahalo for the consideration of Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu’s grant proposals under the RFP-26 funding cycle. As the Treasurer of Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu and a resident of Pu‘ukapu, it is truly a privilege to live in this community and to care for this ‘āina.

As residents, we see firsthand the needs of our community. Our grant proposals are centered on addressing those needs and supporting the well-being of our pastoral community. The opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in advancing these efforts is deeply appreciated.

Mahalo for your time, dedication, and commitment to our communities and beneficiaries.

With gratitude,

Janelle Juan
Treasurer
Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu

Aloha Chair Watson and fellow Commissioners,

Mahalo for your time and consideration of Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's grant proposals submitted under the RFP-26 funding cycle. I deeply appreciate the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' continued support of our homestead communities. As a homestead beneficiary, resident of Pu'ukapu pastoral Lot 59, and the operations manager for Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu, I get to see firsthand the drive and commitment by our pastoral community to build resilience, ensure safety, and protect our 'aina, and I'm proud to be part of these initiatives.

The proposals submitted by Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu focus on homestead community-driven solutions that support our pastoral homestead community—particularly improving road safety and accessibility, strengthening emergency preparedness and water infrastructure, and building long-term organizational capacity to better serve our beneficiaries.

I know that there is a lot of competition and valuable projects to be considered and we are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this process. Mahalo for the work the Commission and staff do to uplift Hawaiian Home Lands communities across the pae 'āina. I look forward to Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu's opportunity to collaborate more with DHHL in support of our shared kuleana to homestead beneficiaries—particularly our pastoral community—and to the stewardship of these lands.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Kahikina Kaae-Whittle



Operations Manager

Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu

808.386.7080

Kahikinaw@gmail.com

G-2 March Commission Meeting

Written Testimony in support of WNCDC planning grant:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I would like to express my appreciation to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for supporting the next phase of development for the Waimea Nui Community Development Initiative.

For more than a decade, WNCDC and the Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association have worked together to plan and build the infrastructure needed to support community projects on our homestead lands. This grant allows us to move forward with the professional planning and engineering required for three important facilities: a cemetery for our community, a fitness and recreation center for our youth and families, and a cultural access point connected to Mauna Kea.

These projects represent the vision of generations of beneficiaries, I know because I'm the third generation in my family! I have joined the vision of those who have worked toward building a self-sustaining community on Hawaiian Home Lands for my children and my grandchildren.

Mahalo for supporting the continued progress of the Waimea Nui Region.

Respectfully,

Kulike Chong
Kulike Chong
Vice Chair
WNCDC



March 13, 2026

Aloha Members of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Commission,

On behalf of Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the grant proposals submitted by La'i'ōpua 2020 to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Over the past two years, Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation has had the opportunity to work closely with La'i'ōpua 2020 in support of their 'āina-based education programs, and the partnership has been both productive and meaningful. Our organizations have developed a strong and respectful working relationship built on open communication, shared goals, and a genuine commitment to serving children and families in their communities, including Native Hawaiian families and communities.

Throughout our collaboration, La'i'ōpua 2020 has proven to be a thoughtful and reliable partner. The organization approaches its work with professionalism, integrity, and a deep understanding of the community it serves. This has made coordination and collaboration between our organizations both efficient and positive, allowing us to focus our collective efforts on supporting programs that benefit children, including those from Hawaiian Home Lands communities.

La'i'ōpua 2020 continues to provide valuable opportunities for the community through programs that support youth education, cultural learning, workforce development, and food systems. Their ability to bring together community partners and implement programs in a way that is responsive and culturally grounded has strengthened the overall impact of these efforts. From our experience working together, La'i'ōpua 2020 has the leadership, partnerships, and community trust necessary to successfully carry out the initiatives proposed in these grant applications.

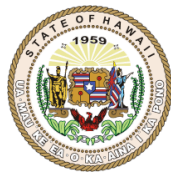
Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation strongly supports the funding of La'i'ōpua 2020's proposed projects. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and supporting efforts that strengthen the well-being and resilience of our communities, including Hawaiian Home Lands communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keahi Makaimoku", is placed below the "Respectfully," text.

Keahi Makaimoku
Chief Executive Officer
keahi@hauolimauloa.org
808-545-4212, ext. 103

Josh Green, M.D.
GOVERNOR



Keith T. Hayashi
SUPERINTENDENT

Kori Takaki
Principal

Janette F.L. Snelling
Complex Area Superintendent

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
KEALAKEHE HIGH SCHOOL
74-5000 PUOHULIHULI ST.
KAILUA KONA, HAWAII 96740

March 13, 2026

Aloha Members of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Commission,

On behalf of Kealakehe High School, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the grant proposals submitted by La'i'ōpua 2020 to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

La'i'ōpua 2020 has been a valued community partner supporting youth and families across West Hawai'i. Through their programs, they create opportunities for students to engage in meaningful learning that connects education, culture, and community. Their work provides important pathways for students to build confidence, strengthen cultural identity, and explore future educational and career opportunities.

I had the privilege of working with La'i'ōpua 2020 during my time at Kahakai Elementary School when the organization launched its first wa'a-based educational program for students. That experience demonstrated the powerful impact of hands-on, culturally grounded learning. Students were able to connect classroom learning with Hawaiian values, teamwork, and 'ike passed down through cultural practitioners and community mentors.

Programs like the KOA enrichment program and the Wa'a Project continue to provide meaningful opportunities for youth throughout West Hawai'i. These initiatives help students develop leadership skills, strengthen their sense of place, and engage in learning that reflects the culture and history of our islands.

La'i'ōpua 2020 consistently works collaboratively with schools and community partners to ensure programs are accessible, supportive, and impactful for students and families. Their commitment to education and community well-being makes them an important partner in strengthening opportunities for our youth.

For these reasons, Kealakehe High School strongly supports the funding of La'i'ōpua 2020's proposed projects. We believe their continued work will provide lasting benefits for Hawaiian Home Lands families and the students of our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kori Takaki
Principal of Kealakehe High School

Testimony Submittal

RE: Grants HHC Meeting: March 16-17. 2026

Agenda Item G-2 – Fire Mitigation

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I would like to extend my heartfelt mahalo-nui to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Hawaiian Homes Commission for supporting the wildfire mitigation work plan in Pu'ukapu.

Those of us who live in Waimea Nui have personally witnessed the growing wildfire risks across our lands. Fires in recent years have burned thousands of acres and threatened homes within our community. This funding gives our community the tools to prepare before the next emergency happens.

Through this project we will be able to reduce dangerous fuel loads, improve firebreak roads, equip trained volunteers, and create defensible space around homestead homes. These steps will make a real difference in protecting families and preserving our lands.

The support of DHHL demonstrates that the safety of homestead communities remains a priority. For that we are deeply grateful.

Mahalo for standing with our community and helping us move forward with this important work.

Respectfully,

Patricia K. Hodson
Secretary -Board Member
WHHA/WNCDC



Hui Aloha Puukapu <huialohapuukapu@gmail.com>

Letter of support PK

penny kaae <aka.sub@gmail.com>
To: Hui Aloha Puukapu <huialohapuukapu@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 13, 2026 at 1:12 PM

Dear Chair, Commissioners, and DHHL Staff,

Mahalo for your consideration of the 2026 grant proposals submitted by Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu and the Waimea Nui Agriculture Division.

My name is Penny Kaae. I am a farmer, a Pu'ukapu homestead beneficiary, and a board member of both Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu and the Waimea Nui Agriculture Division. I write with deep gratitude, but also with urgency, because a very real crisis is approaching Hawai'i quickly.

The war with Iran and the growing instability in the Middle East remind us how vulnerable Hawai'i is. Our islands remain heavily dependent on imported fuel, imported food, and outside systems we do not control. We are not on a sustainable path.

During the pandemic, the State of Hawai'i had the opportunity to pivot from a tourism economy to an agriculture ecosystems economy. It had the opportunity to invest more deeply in local food systems, community resilience, and beneficiary-led solutions. Instead, it doubled down on tourism. That path is 100 percent unsustainable.

Now more than ever, we need to double down on systems like the ahupua'a system, on the family systems and relationships that created thriving Hawaiian communities, and on ourselves. We need to return to the 'ike kupuna that sustained our people on these lands for centuries. The answers we need are not new. They are rooted in the wisdom, practices, and relationships that already proved they work.

That is why these grants matter.

The work of Hui Aloha Pu'ukapu and Waimea Nui Agriculture Division is about creating opportunities for beneficiaries to lead. It is about helping build self-sustaining

‘ohana, which become self-sustaining communities, which in turn become the foundation for a self-sustaining Hawai‘i. When DHHL invests in beneficiary-led agriculture, resilience, and community capacity, it is investing in the future stability of our people and our islands.

Mahalo for recognizing the importance of this work and for considering proposals that are rooted in both immediate need and long-term vision. We remain committed to this work with humility, kuleana, aloha ‘āina, and faith in our people.

With sincere mahalo,

Penny Kaae

Farmer

Pu‘ukapu Homestead Beneficiary

Board Member, Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu

Board Member, Waimea Nui Agriculture Division

Sent from my iPhone

March 12, 2026

Hawaiian Homes Commission
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
HHC Meeting March 16-17, 2026
Agenda Item G-2 Exhibit A Improvements to facilities
Subject: Written Testimony in Support

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc., I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for approving funding for our project.

This investment represents more than financial support. It reflects the Commission's continued commitment to strengthening Hawaiian Homestead communities and advancing the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to support self-sufficiency and community development.

The funding will allow Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc. to strengthen our organizational capacity and improve our ability to serve HHCA beneficiaries through agricultural programming and community initiatives that support food security and stewardship of our lands.

Mahalo for your leadership and for recognizing the importance of community-driven efforts taking place within Waimea Nui.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Oliver Shimaoka

Oliver "Sonny" Shimaoka
Board Chairman
Waimea Nui Agriculture Inc.

**March 16-17, 2026, HHC Meeting
Item G-2**

Subject: Testimony in Mahalo for DHHL Grant Support – Pu‘ukapu Wildfire Mitigation Project

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,

On behalf of the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, I wish to express our sincere mahalo to the DHHL and the HHC for supporting our Pu‘ukapu Wildfire Mitigation Project, and the confidence in our organization!

This funding represents an important investment in the safety and resilience of our homestead communities in the Waimea Nui Region. Over the past decade, our region has experienced significant wildfire events that have threatened homes, infrastructure, and the wellbeing of our beneficiaries, to include my own 300-acre ranch. Through this grant, our community will be able to take proactive steps to reduce hazardous fuels, improve emergency access routes, upgrade fire water infrastructure, and equip volunteer responders who protect our lands and families. This will help them rise above the “Bucket Brigade” that they are known as!

The work supported by this funding will help protect homestead rancher, farmers, and residences across the Pu‘ukapu region and strengthen community preparedness for future wildfire events. It also reflects the Kākou approach - working together to improve the conditions and safety of Hawaiian Home Lands communities.

We deeply appreciate the trust placed in our organization to carry out this important work and we look forward to providing responsible stewardship of these resources.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to the health, safety, and sustainability of our homestead communities.

Respectfully,

Theodore Bell Jr.
Theodore Bell Jr.
Chairman WNCDC

Subject: Testimony in Support and Mahalo for WNCDC Facility Improvement Grant

March 2026 Commission Meeting Item G-2

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,

Again, on behalf of the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Hawaiian Homes Commission for supporting the advancement of the Waimea Nui Community Development Initiative. Over the past ten years we Secured & Spent over 16 million just for the land development and the infrastructure spine.

This grant will allow our organization to complete the architectural and engineering plans necessary to move forward with three important community projects: The Waimea Nui Cemetery, the Waimea Nui Fitness and Recreation Complex, and the Mauna Kea Access Road cultural and visitor access point.

These projects have been identified by the beneficiaries of the Waimea Nui Region through seven decades of planning and consultation. Completing the plan and design phase will allow these community facilities to move from concept to construction and eventually serve hundreds of homestead beneficiaries across the region.

Mahalo to DHHL and the Commission for continuing to support beneficiary-driven development and the long-term vision of our homestead communities.

Respectfully,

Theodore Bell Jr.
Chairman of the Board
Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation

From: [Lauae Kekahuna](#)
To: [Hokulani Fernandez](#)
Cc: [Pat Kahawaiolaa](#); [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#); [Watson, Kali](#); [CAPITOL2023-senrichards](#);
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: KOKA support for management of portions of Aina Mauna Legacy lands
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 11:30:16 AM

Maku'u Farmers Hawaiian Homestead is in support and await next steps to holo mua (moving forward)

aloha,

Lauae

On Sun, Mar 8, 2026 at 2:52 PM Hokulani Fernandez <hoku.fernandez@gmail.com> wrote:

Kaumana Homestead is strongly supporting the cause. What are the next steps?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2026, at 2:43 AM, Pat Kahawaiolaa
<kokua4kupuna2025@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha e Hawaiian Home Commissioners,

I am Pat Kahawaiolaa, A native Hawaiian, as defined, Pursuant to the HHCA 1920 as amended July 9, 1921, (42, 42 stat. 108), 67th Congress and the Ikuha'i of the newly created native Hawaiian Kupuna Advocacy program, under the DOI's native Beneficiary organization (NBO), representing Kupuna on the land and those still waiting to receive an award, those languishing on the wait list many for over 40+ years, which according to the DHHL's own stats numbers 42% of the 39,000 waiting and dying on this death list...

Under the Aina Mauna Legacy program created and adopted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in 2009, some of the following reasons was to be addressed by different NBO to:

- Native Forest Restoration and Sustainable Koa Forestry
- Invasive Plant Control and Remnant Invasive Species Eradication
- Non-Native Wildlife Control and Management (i.e. ungulates)
- Road System, Fencing, Water Systems etc.
- Research and Community Outreach...

To name a few of the activities to better the conditions of the native

Hawaiians as defined, than Commissioner Wally Aea Ishibashi, District Mgr. EHO Louie Hao, Builder Milton Kalai, native Hawaiians John McBride, Hawaiian Village Tours and myself Pat Kahawaiolaa, President of a native community based non profit 501(c)(3) under the IRS Keaukaha Community Association, Inc. (KCAI)...

Brought forward a plan to than DHHL Chair Jobie Masagatani who along with the majority of the Commission, who approved, the 5 listed programs and a portion side aside for ecotourism in our attempt to be sure that non alien or invasive species are being carried to the Hale Pohaku Vistors Center or the summit of Mauna Kea by and wash plant and parking lot on our trust lands nears the current Humuula Sheep station near the entrance off of the Saddle road (DKI highway 2000)....whereby native Hawaiians tour operator would than Schuttle the tourist to Hale Pohaku and beyond...

Commission approval subsequently was given, Liability Insurance procured by KCAI, clearing was to be done by community service offered by the military from Pohakuloa and a building to house the native Hawaiians beneficiaries near the wash plant and sheep station... and after the delays executing the final documentation by the DHHL... this very worthwhile endeavor fell through...

Two (2) of the four beneficiaries have since passed away and a new younger beneficiaries are stepping up to seek fruition of this project to follow the legacy created by Alii Prince Jonah Kuhio, whose legacy set aside 203,000 acres to return the native Hawaiians back to the soil and begin the rehabilitation and sustainable lifestyle of our wa kahiko (Ancestors)...so

I am here to ask your strong Support for the new younger beneficiaries led by Kalaniakea Wilson PhD and Kepa Kaolulo and those joining to continue the legacy of Aina Mauna...

I can be reached for information at (808) 937-8217

Aloha,

Pat Kahawaiolaa,

Kupuna Advocates (KOKA)

Americanization Genocide on native Hawaiians



End the Waitlist Program Luakini System

Kung Hee Fat Choy!!!

Dr. Kalaniakea Wilson

Governors Office General Support & Letters

- Komike o Kupuna Aina Hoopulapula Patrick Kahawaiolaa
- Keaukaha Community Association Kaaka Swain
- Panaewa Hawaiian Homelands Community Association Kauilani Alameida
- Makuu Farmers Market Lauae Kekahuna
- Piihonua Homestead Association Ron & Doreen Kodani
- Kaumana Homestead Association Duncan Seto
- Royal Order of Kamehameha I Kona
- Royal Order of Kamehameha I Kohala
- Royal Order of Kamehameha I Hilo
- Royal Order of Kamehameha I Puna
- Kuamoo Legacy Foundation o Puna Keone Kalawe
- East Hawaii Commissioner 1921 H.H.C.A. Michael Kaleikini
- O.H.A. Trustee Kauai Dan Ahuna
- Mayor Hawaii County Dr. Kimo Alameda

Strong Support for the Younger Beneficiaries Leading Aina Mauna Legacy

- Senator Tim Richards
- Senator Des Coite
- Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
- Senator Loraine Inouye
- Representative Chris Todd
- Representative Keohokapu Leeloy
- DOI Kimo Kaiini Kaloi
- DOI Lisa Oshiro Suganuma

1921 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act

The **100% full-blooded** Hawaiians have been eliminated and are near extinction. **Crimes against humanity continue to target the native Hawaiian population, causing deaths that have continued for five generations.**

Not even the congressionally approved 1921 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which was created to provide federal protection and rehabilitation across all these areas for Hawaiians, made any headway. In fact, more native Hawaiians continue to die while waiting for their rehabilitation rather than being placed on the land. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands is a state entity that continues to violate their own fiduciary duties ruled breach of trust by the State of Hawaii Supreme Court in 2020. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands is a state entity and is unable to fulfill its trust obligation to congress and native Hawaiians. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is a state entity and cannot lead Hawaiians to justice. The Office of Hawaiian Education is a state **entity and** they are unable to provide protection to Hawaiian Kingdom teachers and lead Hawaiians to justice.

Mahalo for this Collaboration!!!

- 11,000 wait listers on the land
- Aina Mauna Legacy work since 2016
- DHHL Consultation 2017 Missing

Americanization Genocide on native Hawaiians



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DHHL Presentation to the Hawaii Geothermal Working Group



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Russell K. Kaupu

Property Development Agent

Office of the Chair

91-5420 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, HI 96707

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Mobile: (808) 829-2630 [text]

russell.k.kaupu@hawaii.gov | www://dhhl.hawaii.gov

“ongoing efforts, next steps, priorities and challenges”

March 4, 2026



PRINCE JONAH KŪHIŌ KALANIANAʻOLE
KEALIʻI MAKAʻAINANA - THE CITIZEN PRINCE
MARCH 26, 1871 - JANUARY 7, 1922

“After extensive investigation and survey on the part of various organizations organized to rehabilitate the Hawaiian race, it was found that the only method in which to rehabilitate the race was to place them back upon the soil.”

- Delegate Kalanianaʻole

Hawaiian Homes Commission Act

On July 9, 1921, President Warren G. Harding signed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 as amended, an effort spearheaded by Prince Kūhiō and a group of advocates.

Through its passage, the United States set aside approximately 200,000 acres of land to establish a permanent homeland for native Hawaiians, who were identified as a “landless and dying” people as the result of disease, intermarriage, and loss of lands.

“After extensive investigation and survey on the part of various organizations organized to rehabilitate the Hawaiian race, it was found that the only method in which to rehabilitate the race was to place them back upon the soil,” Kūhiō wrote to U.S. Senators before the passage of the Act.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act intended to return native Hawaiians to the land while encouraging them to become self-sufficient homesteaders on the leased parcels of trust land.

History of Geothermal Efforts Within DHHL

1.	January 2009	<p>The Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) adopts its HO'OMALUŌ Energy Policy. Objective 2 – “Ko’o: Facilitate the use of diverse renewable energy resources” – states the objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue leasing lands suitable for renewable energy, with priority given to entities that would provide “firm” renewable energy power such as geothermal. • “Seek partnerships for the development of renewable energy resources.”
2.	March 17, 2014	<p>Hawaii Att. Gen. Op. 14-1 is issued to DHHL concluding that: “(1) DHHL is entitled to 100 percent of royalties derived from geothermal resource development on its lands; and (2) DHHL has the sole authority to manage and dispose of geothermal resources on its lands.” Conclusion (1) is codified as a proviso (exception) in HRS §182-7(c) to the general obligation to pay 30% of royalties to the applicable county.</p>
3.	December 9, 2016	<p>Date of final report on “Magnetotelluric and Audio Magnetotelluric Surveys” on DHHL lands on the East Flank of Mauna Kea submitted by Professor Donald Thomas, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, UH Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes. Concluded that measurements made from 70 stations on DHHL lands “that flank the Mana/Keanakolu Road that runs from the intersection with the Mauna Kea Observatory Access Road north toward Waimea where it eventually intersects with Hawaii State 19” indicate: (1) “thermal activity at shallow depths”; and (2) “potential for high elevation groundwater resources in the region that could, if carefully developed, provide a viable water supply for DHHL lessees. Report presented to DHHL staff.</p>
4.	October 19, 2021	<p>Malama Solomon asks the HHC “to consider becoming a founding partner in a business venture to create a sustainable renewable energy future in Hawai’i to provide an opportunity to Hawaiian homestead programs to become a viable beneficiary of these sovereign assets: Geothermal Energy and the Hawai’i Deep Water Cable.” Total funds needed for this project are estimated at \$1 billion (including submarine cable).</p>



HO'OMALUŌ

ENERGY POLICY

To enable native Hawaiians and the broader community working together to lead Hawaii's effort to achieve energy self-sufficiency and sustainability.

OBJECTIVE
1 **Mālama 'āina:**
Respect and protect our native home lands.

ACTIVITIES:

Develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the protection, restoration and preservation of DHHL's forest lands. (An appropriate plan that incorporates the preservation of values, traditions, and culture of Native Hawaiians that restores balance, harmony, and sustainability of the forest lands for future generations.)

Develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the protection, restoration and preservation of DHHL's other lands—lands other than forest lands, lands for homesteading and lands for general lease.

Identify properties in DHHL Land Inventory that have potential for carbon sequestration and determine if carbon sequestration is a viable use of DHHL lands.

Evaluate each Regional Plan to determine if energy self-sufficiency and sustainability goals and objectives should be incorporated into the regions. (The regions contained within the Regional Plans can serve as today's 'ahupua'a' - the past Hawaiian land-management system of self-sufficiency for future generations.)

Develop, implement, and maintain plans to reduce DHHL's carbon footprint (reduce greenhouse gas emission).

OBJECTIVE
2 **Ko'o:** Facilitate the use of diverse renewable energy resources.

ACTIVITIES:

Identify properties in DHHL's Land Inventory that have potential for renewable energy projects.

Pursue the leasing of those lands that are identified as suitable for renewable energy projects. (First priority should be given to entities that would provide "firm" renewable energy power such as garbage-to-energy (mass-burn), geothermal, pump-storage hydropower, solar-thermal and second priority to "as-available" renewable energy power such as wind, solar-photovoltaic, and wave.)

Encourage existing and future general lessees and licensees of DHHL's properties to design and build their facilities so that they are energy and resource efficient.

Seek partnerships for the development of renewable energy resources. In this connection, build relationships that could assist DHHL on non-energy related issues.

Evaluate DHHL's available authorities/powers that could expedite renewable energy projects for the state of Hawaii.

Seek innovative processes to provide reliable electricity, by assisting electric utilities (in a world where energy is an essential but very limited resource) to reduce Hawaii's dependency on fossil fuels.

OBJECTIVE
3 **Kūkulu pono:** Design and build homes and communities that are energy efficient, self-sufficient and sustainable.

ACTIVITIES:

Promote, design, and build new affordable homes (that minimize lifestyle and visual impacts) using the "Hawaii BuiltGreen" and "ENERGY STAR" programs. (These programs ensure the designing and building of new energy and resource efficient homes in Hawaii.)

Strive to plan, design, and build new communities utilizing the "ahupua'a" concept and the "Green Communities" program. (The Green Communities program's criteria are designed to provide a cost effective approach and standard for creating healthy, affordable, and environmentally responsible homes and communities.)

Assist beneficiaries to utilize energy efficiency rebates, financial assistance, tax credits and other incentives offered by utility companies and federal, state and county governments.

Promote the benefits of hybrid electric vehicles to help reduce beneficiaries' transportation (gasoline) costs. (70% of Hawaii's imported fossil fuel is used for transportation that must be use efficiently or conserved.)

Assist beneficiaries to obtain mortgages under the "Energy Efficient Mortgage" program. (The program can help beneficiaries save money and, reduce their loan qualifying income requirements.)

Seek partnerships with federal agencies like with the U.S. Department of Energy that provide access to current state-of-the-art technical advancements in energy.

Seek partnerships that provide grants and other financial assistance for the developments of state-of-the-art net zero energy homes.

Join with electric utilities and the Public Benefits Administration as partners to advocate, communicate and educate the public on state-of-the-art energy initiatives.

Energy efficient homes generate lower electricity and home maintenance costs that would help beneficiaries qualify for a higher home mortgage or increase their purchasing/savings power.

OBJECTIVE
4 **Kōkua nō i nā kahu:** Provide energy efficiency, self-sufficiency, and sustainability opportunities to existing homesteaders and their communities.

ACTIVITIES:

Identify effective energy efficiency and conservation retrofit applications and develop a plan to assist homesteaders with the retrofitting of their homes. (Retrofit applications may include: solar hot water heating system, insulation/radiant barriers, low-flow toilet and shower head, photovoltaic system, CFL bulbs, ENERGY STAR appliances, energy efficient windows, clothes line, ventilation techniques, and roof/attic vents.

Assist homestead communities to achieve potential energy self-sufficiency by identifying properties near existing homesteads that could be utilized for community renewable energy projects that could also generate revenue for their respective regional plan projects.

Seek partnerships to assist homesteaders with retrofits applications and energy self-sufficiency projects.

Help homesteaders lower their monthly electricity and maintenance costs that would increase their purchasing/savings power and generate revenue for their respective Regional Plan projects.

OBJECTIVE
5 **Ho'ona 'auao:** Prepare and equip beneficiaries to promote a green, energy efficient lifestyle in and around communities.

ACTIVITIES:

Seek partnerships that provide opportunities to learn how to live a self-sufficient and sustainable, greener lifestyle.

Develop and implement resource efficiency programs for beneficiaries to reduce, reuse, and recycle resources. These resources include construction and demolition materials, household items, yard waste, and other items which might be sent to landfills or incineration.

Assist homestead communities to become more aware of their energy use and carbon footprint.

History of Geothermal Efforts Within DHHL

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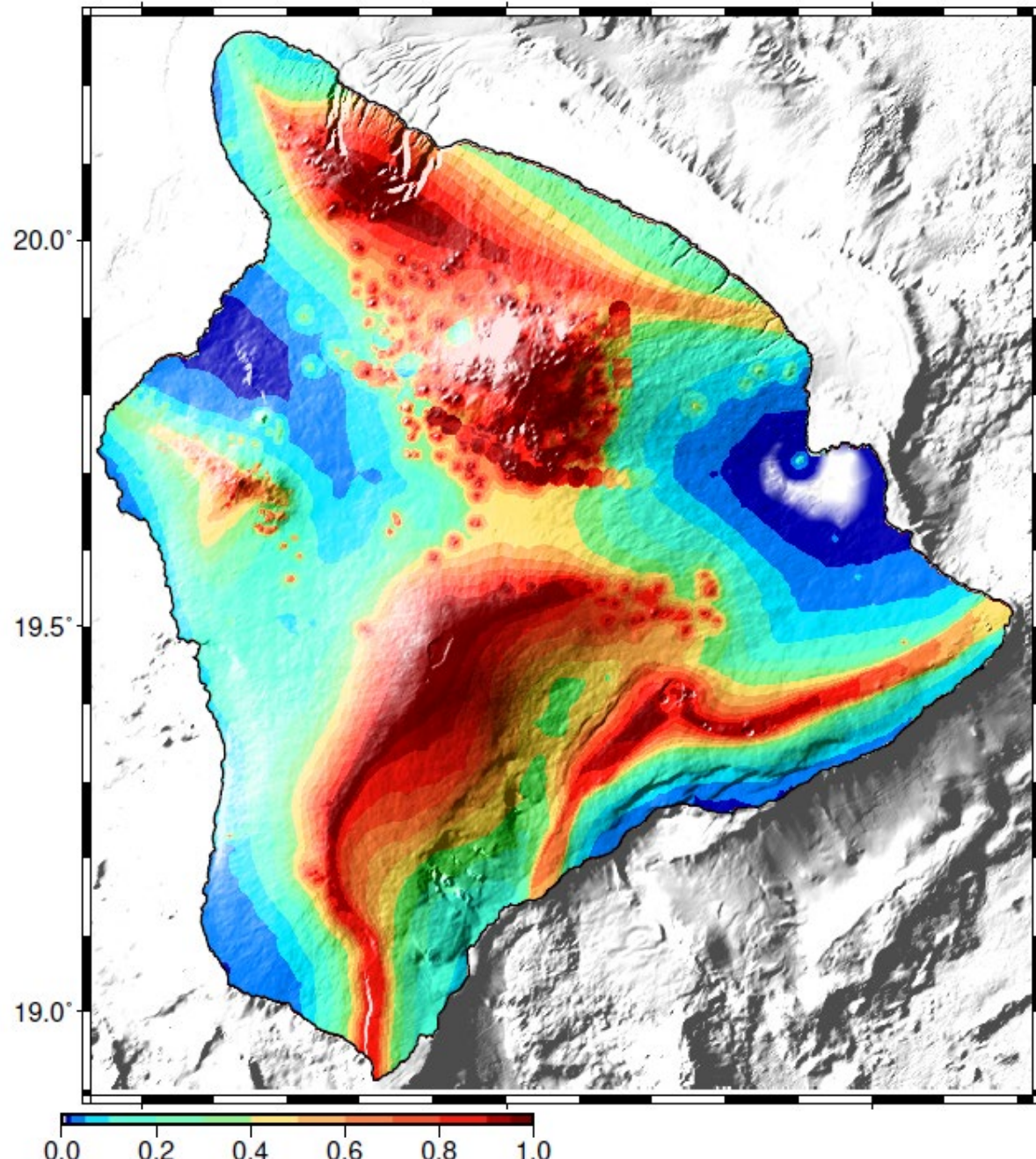
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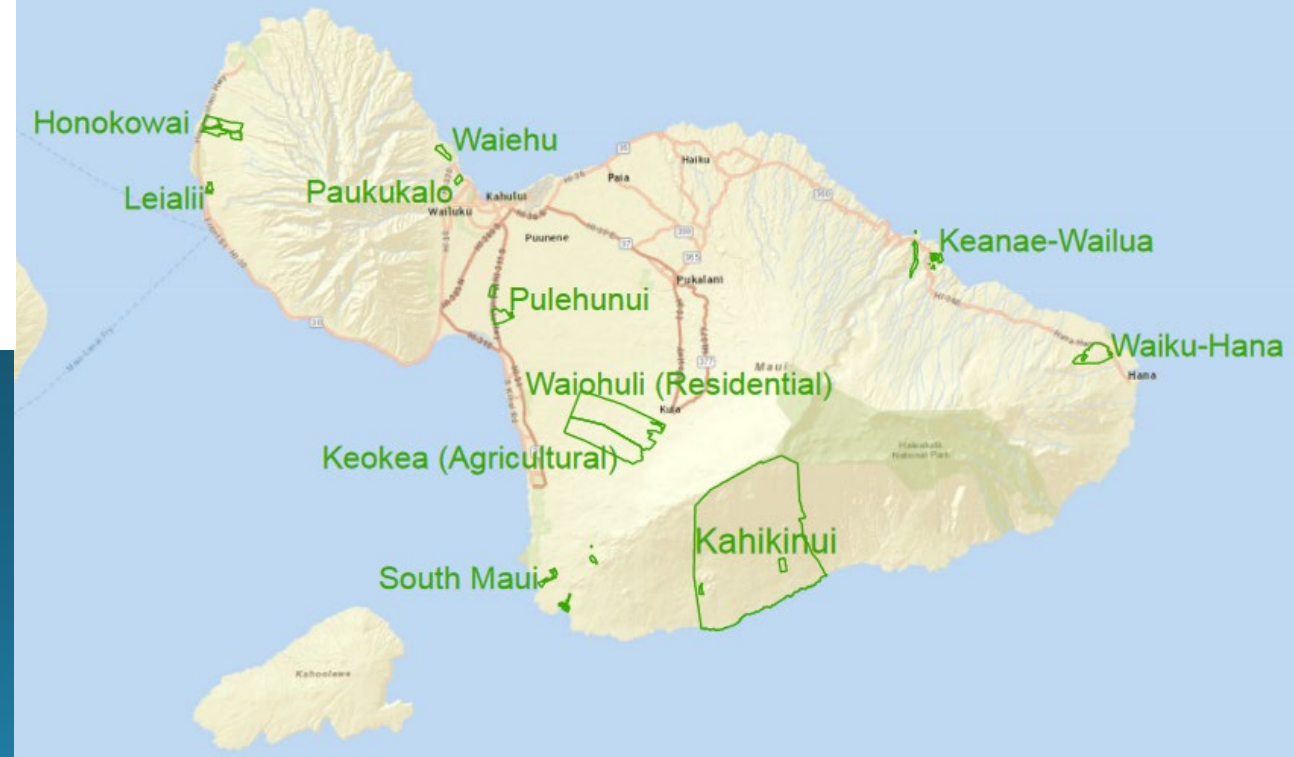
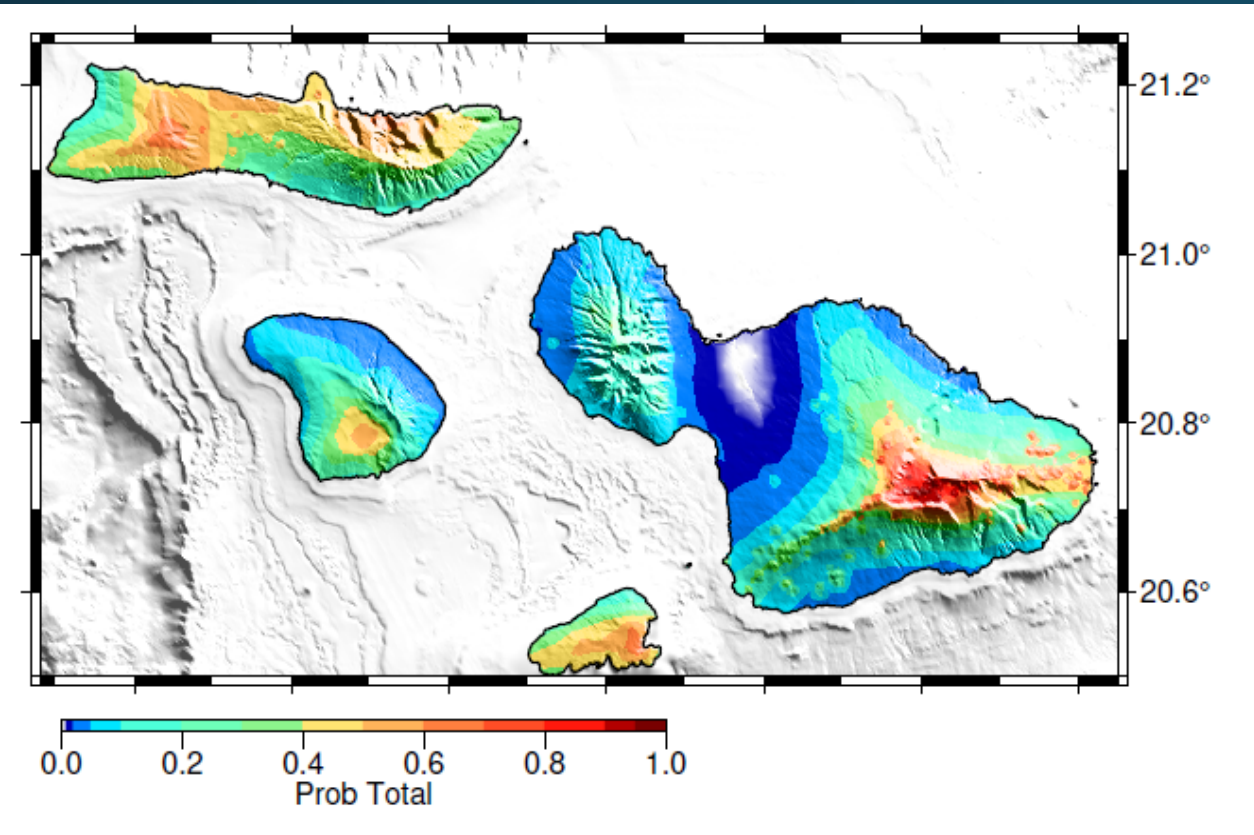
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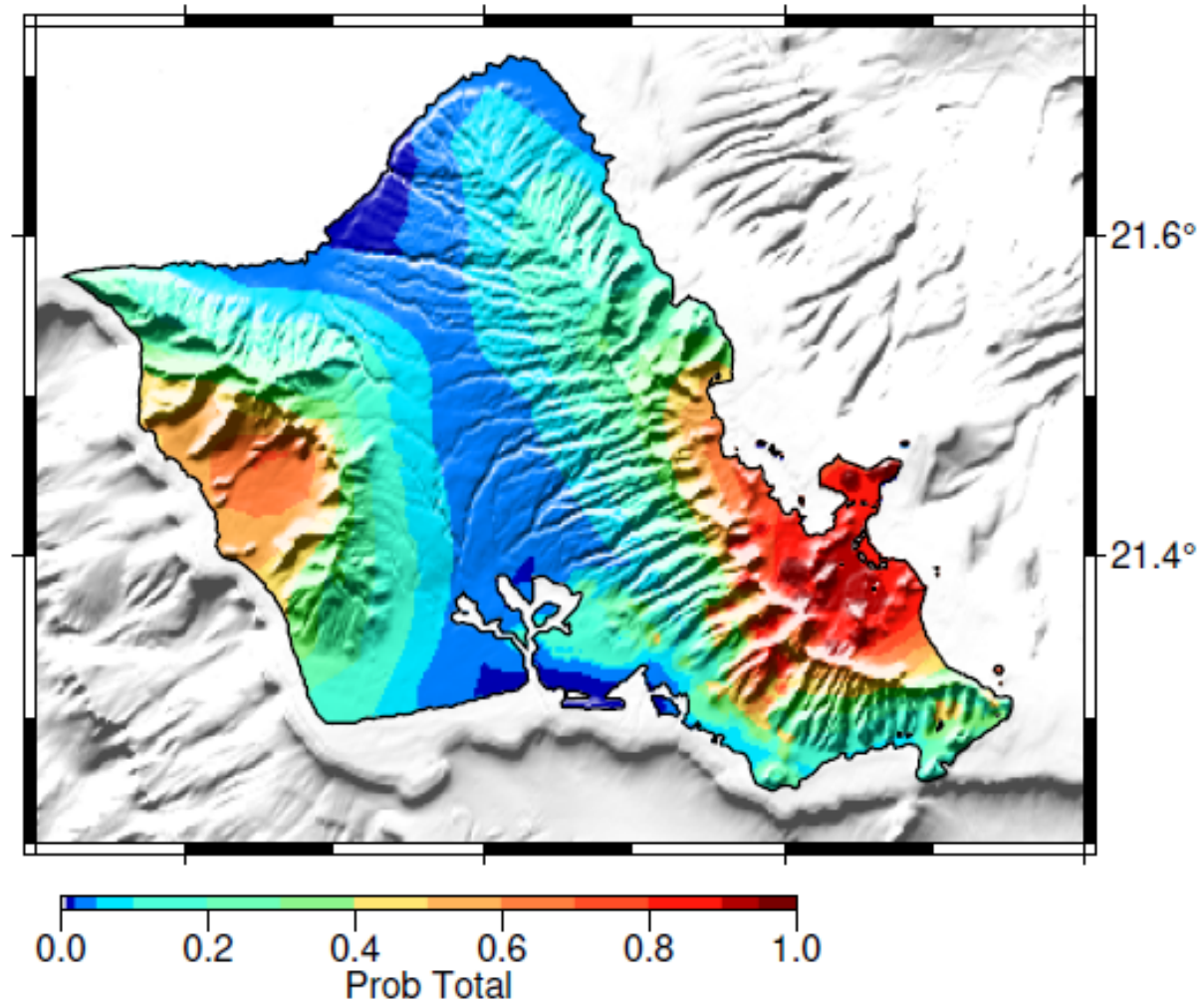
DHHL Lands



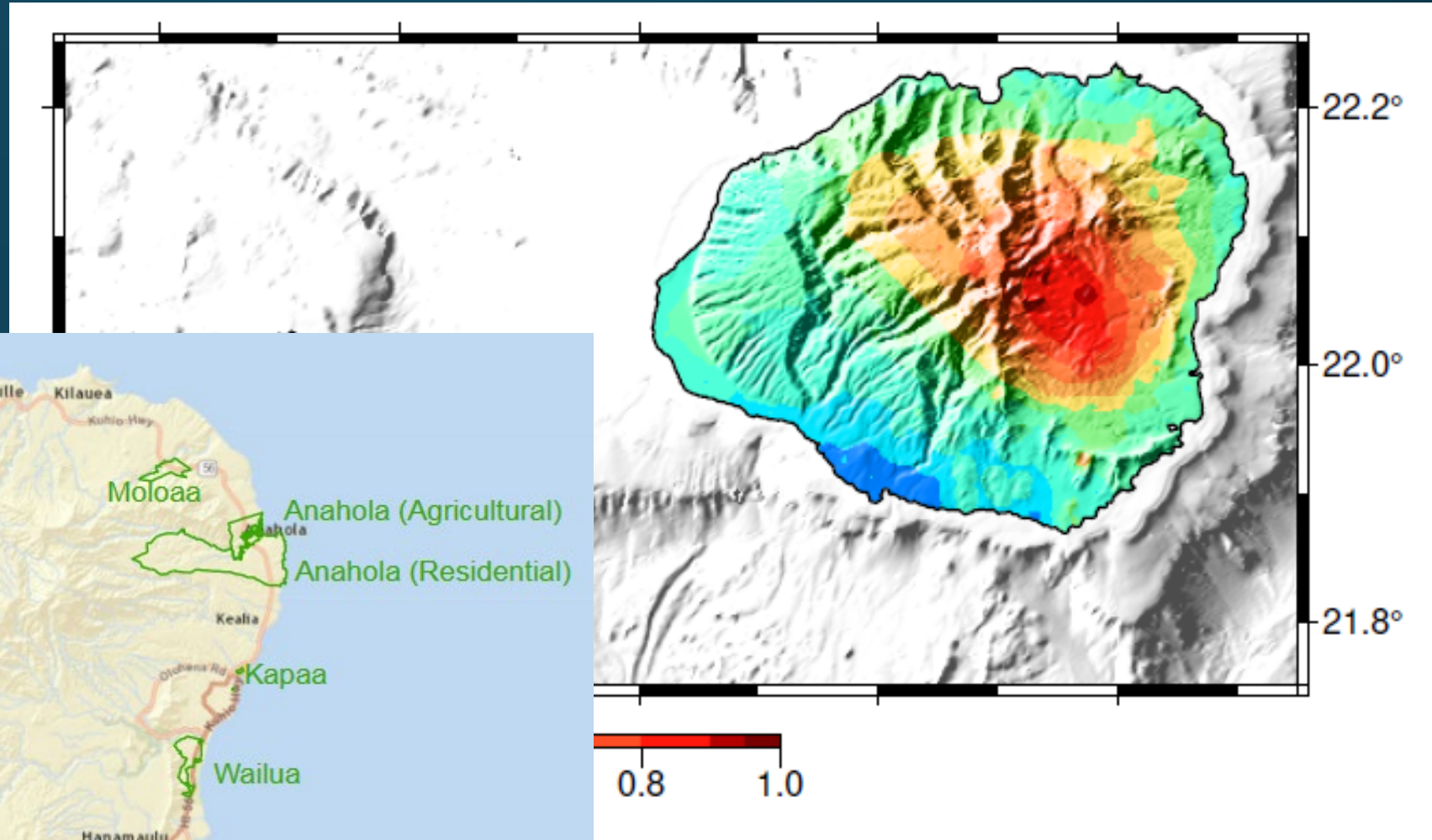
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Hawaii's Groundwater and Geothermal Resources:



what we know?

Not a lot

what we don't know

A lot more

Nicole Lautze & Donald Thomas

Hawai'i Groundwater and Geothermal Resources Center (HGGRC)



lautze@hawaii.edu

<http://www.higp.hawaii.edu/hggrc/>



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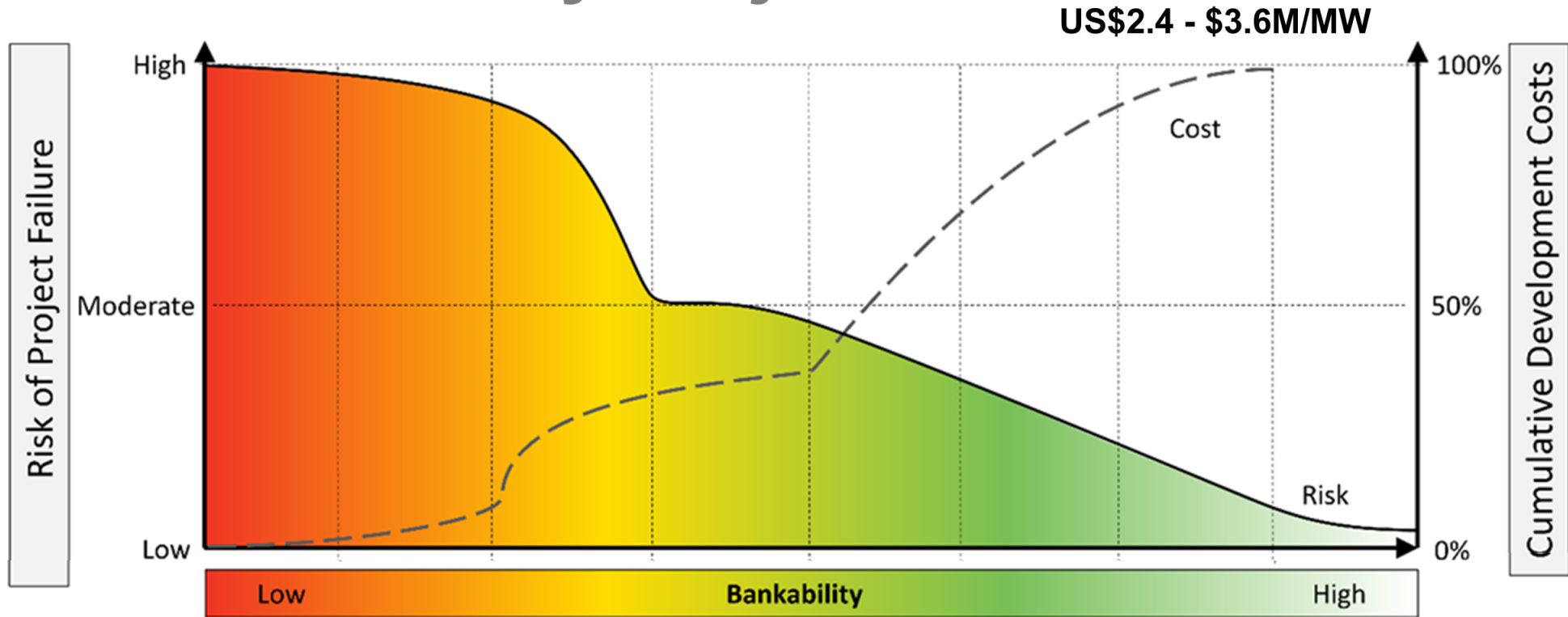
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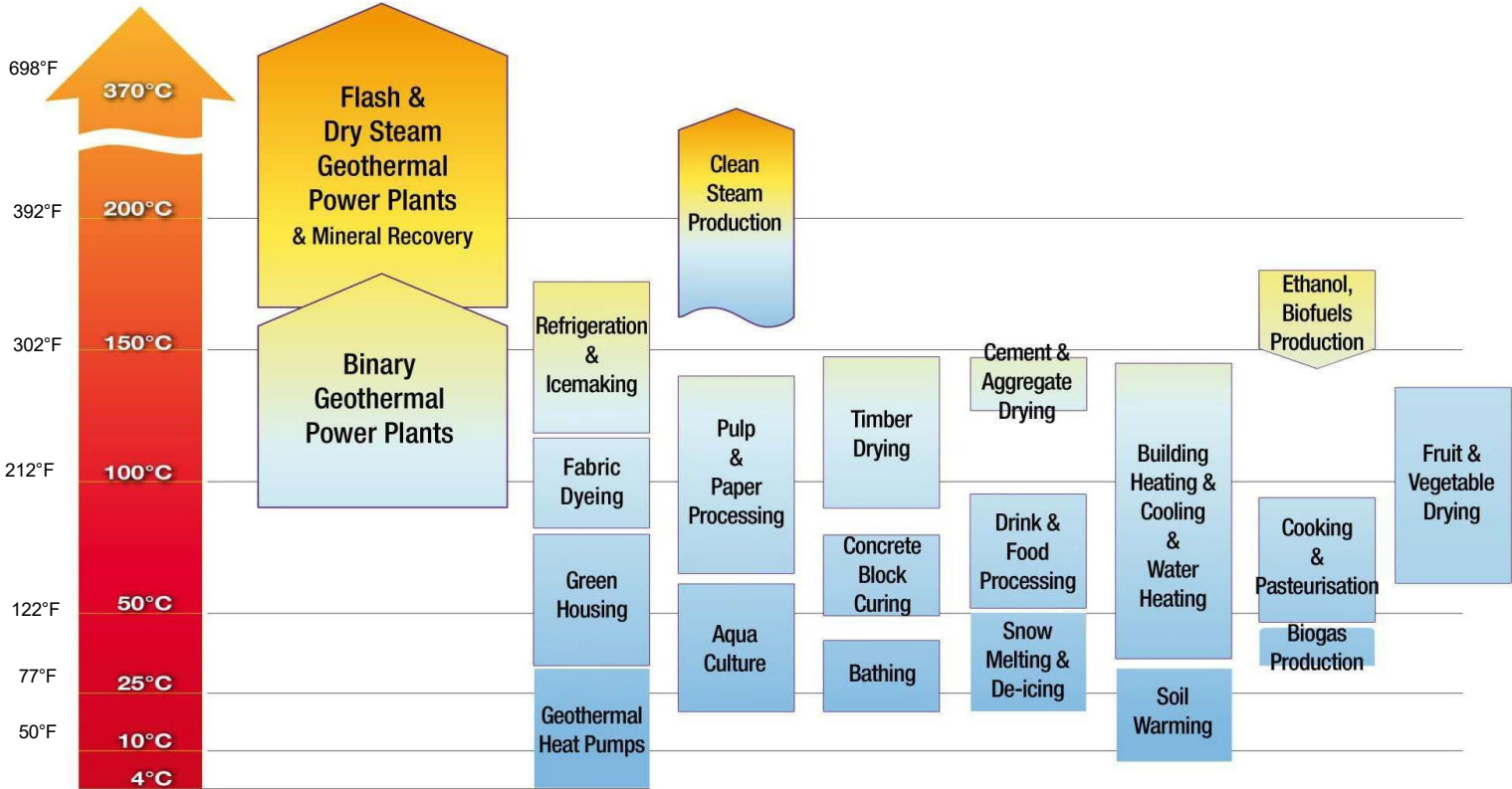


Geothermal Electricity Project

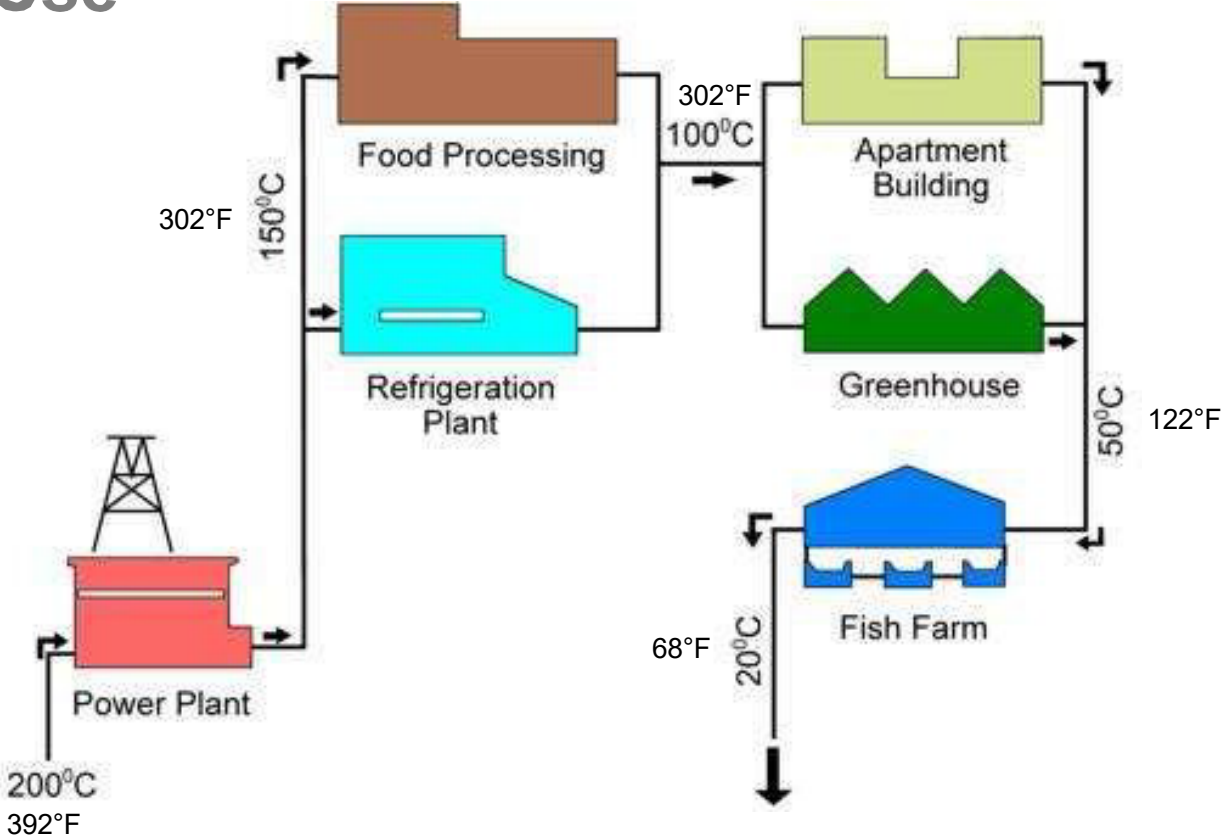


Initial Reconnaissance \$600-\$1.75M	Exploration Drilling \$11.5-\$17.5M	Production Drilling \$11.5-\$70M	Power Plant Construction \$11.5-\$120M+	Operation & Maintenance
Year 1-2	Year 2-3	Year 4-6	Year 6-8	Years 9-30+

Direct Use



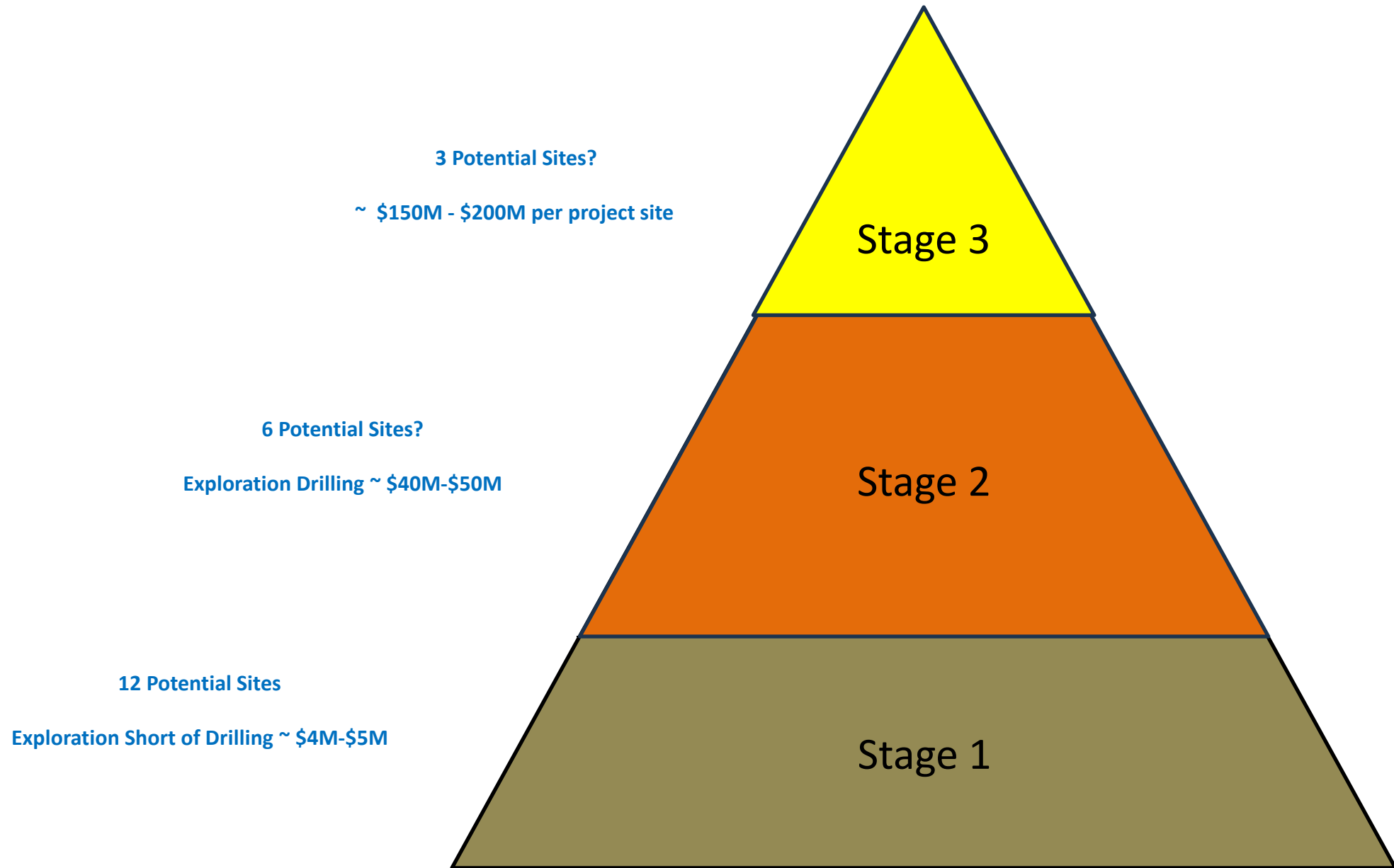
Cascade Use



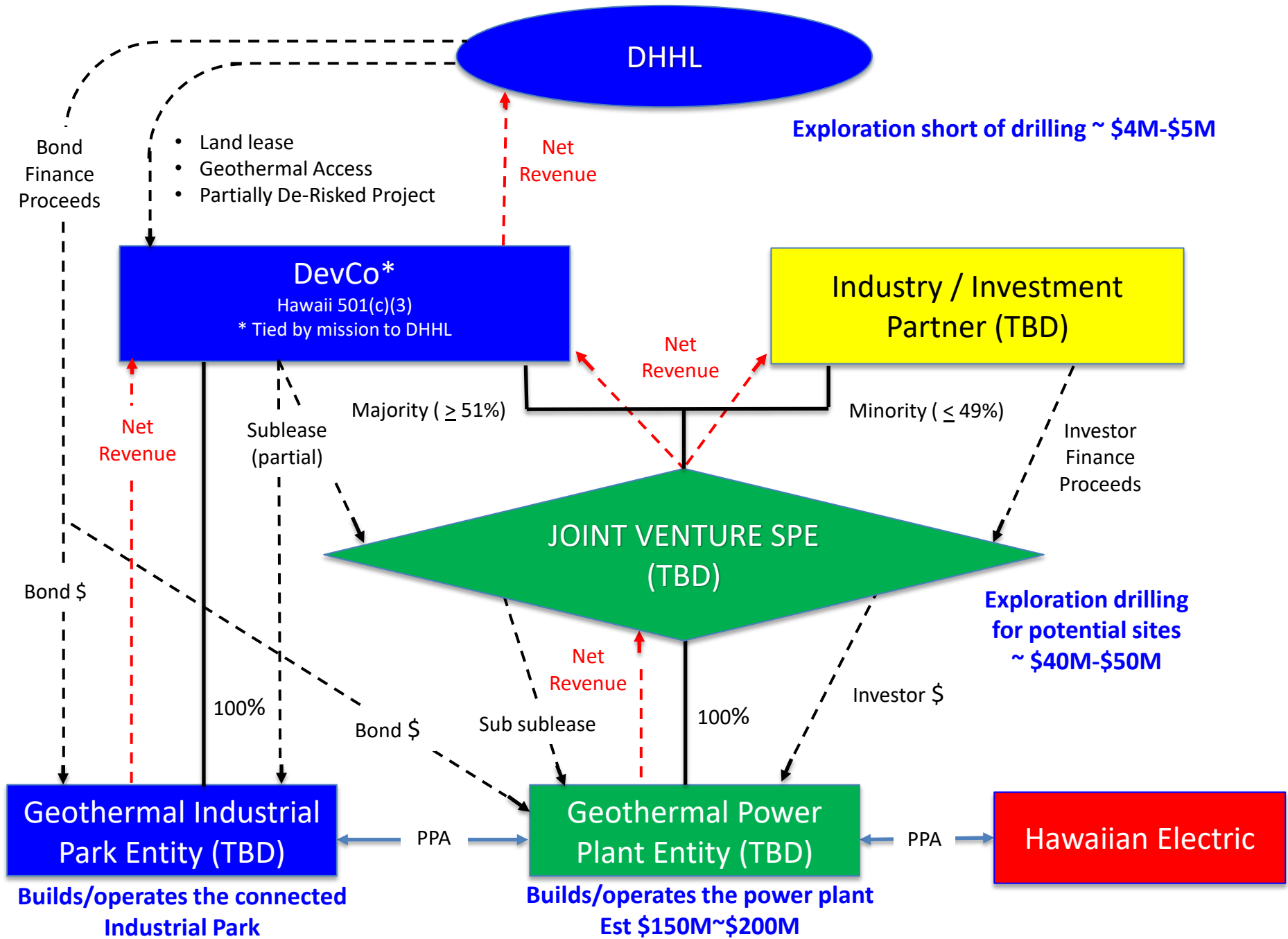
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HAWAIIAN HOMES TRUST LANDS OF INTEREST:

- › Hawai'i: Humu'ula/Upper Pi'ihonua, Pu'ukapu, Kawaihae and Kamā'oa/Pu'u'eo (South Point)
- › Maui: Kahikinui and Wākiu/Hāna
- › Moloka'i: Ho'olehua/Nā'iwa
- › O'ahu: Lualualei/Wai'anae Valley, Waimānalo, Ha'ikū Valley and Waiāhole
- › Kaua'i: Upper Wailua



DHHL GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE/FLOW CHART



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So ... Why DHHL?

- Kuleana for an Indigenous Resource
- Head Start on a Perfect Storm
- Ability to be both the Crown and the Governed
- Benefits and Opportunities for our Beneficiaries
- Ability to Talk Story

Mahalo!