

# Waimea Nui Stewardship of the Maunakea Access Road Lands

A short presentation supporting WHHA / WNCDC  
for beneficiary-led stewardship, education, and long-term care

Sacred stewardship

Waimea kuleana

Sustainable management

**Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association**

Mauna Kea land disposition presentation

# Why a land disposition for stewardship?

The gateway to the mauna should be managed through kuleana, protection, and accountability.

- Maunakea is a sacred landscape containing trails, shrines, burials, ahu, gathering areas, and ceremonial sites.
- The stewardship plan calls for a community-led, bottom-to-top system beginning at the lower access points and extending upward.
- The access road is the practical gateway for respectful access, monitoring, and cultural education.
- A land disposition creates the structure to protect resources while funding mālama, signage, youth programs, and environmental safeguards.



## Stewardship purpose

Protect the access corridor, build a responsible management structure, and restore beneficiary leadership at the base of the mountain.

**Bottom-to-top cultural monitoring**

# Why WHHA / WNCDC?

A beneficiary-controlled model matches both the legal framework and the rehabilitation mission.

## Beneficiary-led authority

The outline cites the federal definition of a Homestead Association under 43 CFR §47.10 and HHCA 201.6 support for democratically elected Hawaiian homestead self-governance organizations that can receive delegated authority when they demonstrate capacity.

## Rehabilitation in two pillars

The presentation frames rehabilitation as both physical and social: housing, agriculture, ranching, and infrastructure on one hand, and governance, leadership, resilience, education, and self-governance on the other.

## Why this matters

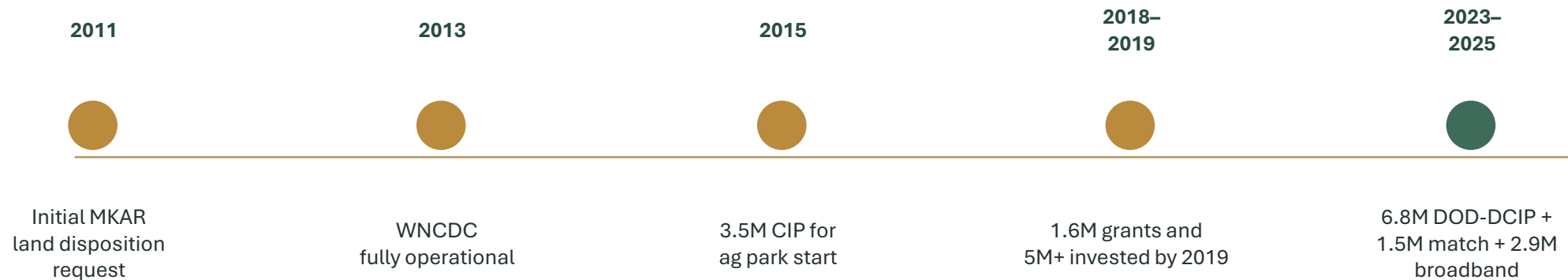
The goal is not only project delivery. It is to leave future beneficiary leaders with structure rather than uncertainty: socially grounded, culturally free, economically self-sufficient, and politically capable.

**Future beneficiary leaders should inherit structure, not uncertainty.**

# Capacity already demonstrated

The application argues that Waimea Nui has the development and financial track record to carry this work.

The application states that WNCDC has secured over \$16 million to date for infrastructure and community development, while also supporting health, culture, agriculture, safety, and beneficiary-led planning in Waimea Nui.



**Track record: roads, water, utilities, building, clinic support, and ongoing community projects**



“Today I am presenting why the Maunakea Access Road lands should be placed into beneficiary-led stewardship through Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association and Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation. This is not simply about a road. It is about the gateway to a sacred mountain, the protection of cultural resources, and the restoration of Native Hawaiian kuleana in a place where Waimea families have maintained ancestral ties, practices, and responsibility for generations. Our proposal brings together stewardship, education, monitoring, and long-term sustainability, backed by a community organization that has already demonstrated capacity in planning, infrastructure, and beneficiary-driven development.”

# Waimea's ancestral connection to Maunakea

This proposal stands on a continuing relationship, not a new claim.

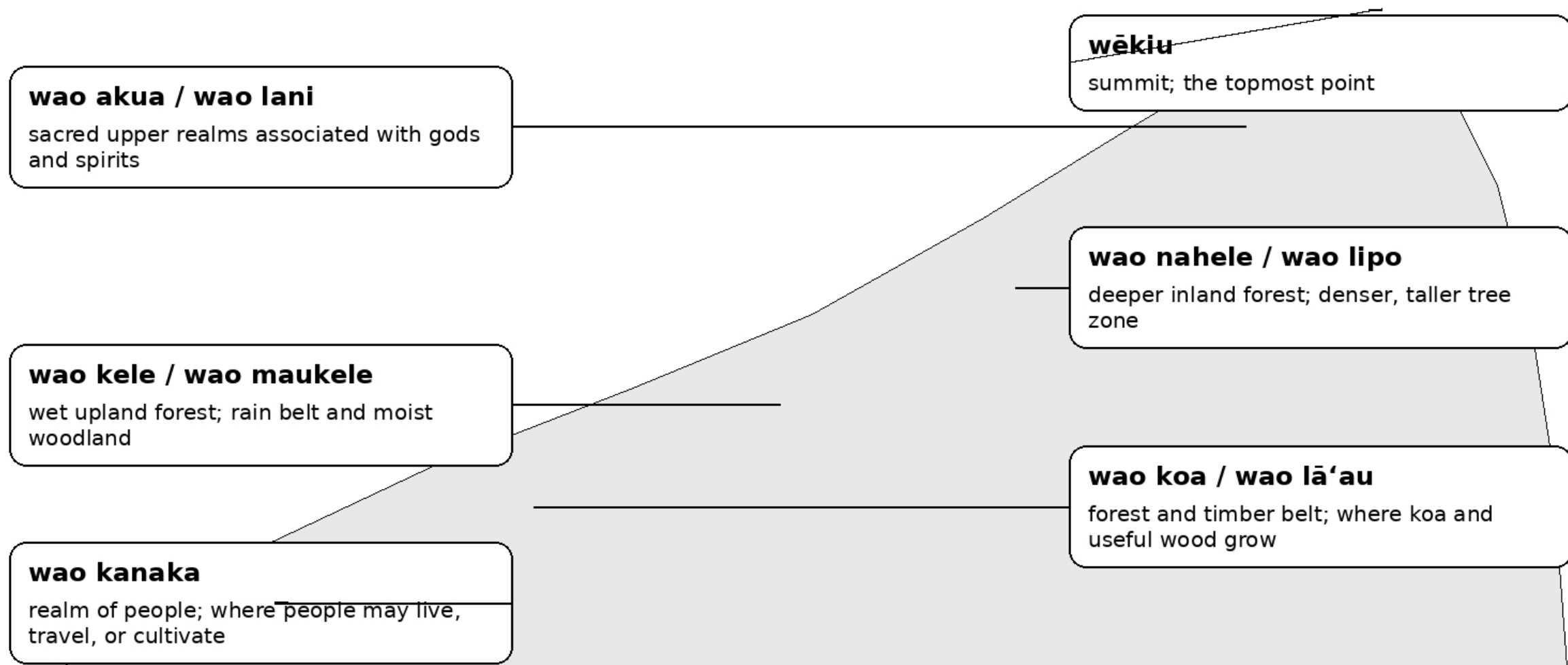


**Waimea and the mauna are linked through genealogy, practice, and pathway.**

Families from Waimea are described as descendants, stewards, and carriers of this sacred relationship.

- Waimea families descend from generations of kia'i who stewarded forests, watersheds, sacred sites, and weather knowledge on Maunakea.
- Waimea historically served as the mauka base, meeting place, and traditional route of ascent to the summit.
- Lake Waiau remains a sacred realm tied to piko, ho'okupu, pule, genealogy, and protection.
- That relationship continues today through ceremonial practice, environmental stewardship, and cultural education.

# Traditional Wao Zones of the Mountain



# How stewardship would work

A zone-based model pairs cultural protocol with practical monitoring, reporting, and education.

## Zone 1

### Access Road / Hale Pōhaku

Entry monitoring, visitor orientation, safer access, and lower-corridor stewardship.

## Zone 2

### Mid-level sites

Trail systems, cinder cone edges, site observation, and condition tracking.

## Zone 3

### High elevation cultural areas

Protection of sensitive cultural areas with ongoing reporting and protocol guidance.

## Zone 4

### Summit / Wēkiu / Pu‘u

Focused care for summit features, culturally sensitive access, and impact response.

## Core stewardship actions

- Build a cultural center
- Train cultural site stewards in monitoring, recording, and reporting.
- Create and apply protocol guides for respectful behavior and cultural practice access.
- Address human impact, erosion, invasive species, climate exposure, and habitat risk.
- Hold Mālama Mauna days, workshops, and partnerships with halau, schools, groups



Monthly logs, photos, threat tracking, actions taken, and annual evaluation.

# Sustainable community benefit

The proposal ties stewardship to education, revenue, jobs, and islandwide homestead benefit.

## Stewardship funding

The outline and application both propose an access-fee model so the road itself helps fund cultural monitoring, signage, staffing, youth development, and environmental protections.

## Education and visitor experience

The materials envision a cultural, education, and resource center for visitors, culturally grounded programming at cultural center, and restoration of Humu'ula Sheep Station as a historic center/ museum and learning space.

## Homestead benefit

This proposal returns stewardship to the hands of Waimea homesteaders—the rightful caretakers of these lands—and creates real opportunities for our people to rise into the kuleana of our kūpuna. Through jobs, training, cultural stewardship, and community-led management, it builds both economic opportunity and ancestral responsibility.

Long-term vision: the first Native Hawaiian park system — a Hawaiian “National” Park model.



## Our request

# Empower Waimea beneficiaries to protect the gateway to our Aina Mauna

- Grant WHHA / WNCDC a beneficiary-led role over the Maunakea Access Road lands.
- Allow phase one access management and stewardship infrastructure to move forward.
- Re-establish partnership around protocol, education, protection, and long-term care.
- Let stewardship be shaped by the people whose relationship to this mauna has never ended.

**Mahalo**