

**HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION**

Minutes of Monday, April 20, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Lanikeha Community Center, 2200 Farrington Avenue, Hoolehua, Molokai, 96729,  
and Interactive Conferencing Technology (ICT) Zoom

**PRESENT** Kali Watson, Chairperson  
Walter Kaneakua, O’ahu Commissioner (ICT)  
Michael L. Kaleikini, East Hawai‘i Commissioner  
Sanoe Marfil, O’ahu Commissioner  
Makai Freitas, West Hawai‘i Commissioner (ICT)  
Pauline N. Namu‘o, O’ahu Commissioner (ICT)  
Archie Kalepa, Maui Commissioner  
Lawrence Lasua, Moloka‘i Commissioner

**EXCUSED** Shaylyn Ornellas, Kauai Commissioner

**COUNSEL** R. 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  
Nancy McPherson, Planning Office Planner  
Kialoa Mossman, Planning Office Planner  
Cherie Kaanana, Planning Office Program Specialist  
Frank Hall, Land Management Division Administrator  
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. Five (5) members were present in person, three (3) on Zoom, and one (1) excused, establishing a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Watson announced adjustments to the meeting agenda, stating that the meeting will begin with public testimony, then Item E-7 on the Kona Low event will be presented first. Those who signed up to speak on flooding should wait until after that presentation. The Commission will recess at noon to address Contested Case hearing requests and have lunch. The DHHL community meeting will take place at this same location at 6:30 PM.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Commissioner Lasua moved, and Commissioner Marfil seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS OF MINUTES**

March 16-17, 2026, meeting minutes were called for edits or comments. Commissioner Marfil noted a small edit on page seven: correct the spelling of a last name in the public testimony section to A-I-W-O-H-I. Commissioner Lasua pointed out a likely typo on page 31 under public testimony, where both “R. Hoke” and “S. Hoke” are listed, and asked for clarification. After further review, it was found that S. Hoke was intended to refer to Steve Hoke, the person the testifier referenced in his testimony.

**MOTION/ACTION**

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

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**PT-1 Yvette Masaoka – Item D-14**

Y. Masaoka stated that despite repeated requests since the prior meeting, she received no communication from HSD staff about Item D-14, resulting in a lack of transparency and financial impact, and she opposed the proposal to withhold over \$124,000 from her \$330,000 home appraisal, noting her property had no violations or debts beyond a \$53,000 loan and that no factual basis for the withholding was provided; she explained she was relocating to an unsafe Keaukaha property requiring significant expense while her current home had sat vacant for a year, and requested 97% of her remaining equity (\$268,690) along with an itemized accounting, disputing claims that withheld funds would cover appraisal costs contrary to agreement terms; she urged Commissioners to uphold their fiduciary duty, consider her situation including long-term neighbor harassment, and approve her requested amount instead of the proposed \$205,355, after which Chair Watson responded that her case would be addressed later that day.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**LAND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**ITEM E-7 For Information Only: “From Impact to Improvement: Kona Low Event Overview, Coordinated Response, Lessons Learned, and Future Preparedness”**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

None. For Information Only. Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:

K. Fronda emphasized the significant impacts that Kona Low One, Kona Low Two, and a subsequent storm had on DHHL beneficiaries, particularly on Molokai and Maui, where heavy rains destabilized soil and caused structural damage, especially to aging infrastructure; he described the events as a major learning experience, recounting how he was alerted by Commissioner Kalepa about severe flooding concerns in Leali‘i, prompting urgent coordination with developer Everett Dowling, contractors, Goodfellow Brothers, and agencies such as the Department of Human Services and HomeAid to monitor conditions and make real-time adjustments to water flow, while maintaining communication throughout the storm, though he acknowledged that not all impacts were visible and that initial efforts revealed gaps in preparedness, communication, and coordination, including his own oversight in not fully involving his disaster recovery team, which underscored the need for a comprehensive and proactive response plan as another storm approached.

He further explained that conditions worsened on Molokai, leading him to involve Sybil Lopez, who was assisting the Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and highlighted the importance of building stronger coordination among agencies and stakeholders; he outlined steps taken to improve response efforts, including engaging district offices as key observers, conducting site visits, consulting experts, coordinating with MEMA, the Department of Transportation, and Maui County, and using emergency proclamations to expedite actions such as clearing and upgrading culverts, which he noted required larger-scale replacements due to increased water flow, while also mobilizing staff, monitoring storm impacts, and addressing additional issues such as strong winds on Hawai‘i Island that destabilized albizia trees and threatened housing, leading to further collaboration with contractors to deploy equipment in affected areas, before transitioning the presentation to S. Lopez to provide additional insights on MEMA’s response and recovery phases.

Representing Mokupuni Community Development Corporation, S. Lopez, provided a detailed account of the severe impacts of the Kona Low storm events on Moloka‘i homestead communities, explaining that Kona

Low One saturated the island and Kona Low Two caused widespread flooding, community isolation, and infrastructure failure despite advance warnings and coordination with MEMA, NOAA (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*), and USGS (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*). She described how emergency leadership was activated, real-time communications were established, and residents sheltered in place from March 20 to 23 while raging floodwaters cut off entire homestead areas such as Kapa‘akea, Kamiloloa, and Honoli‘i, with over 120 households affected, homes inundated, and residents trapped, including kupuna and vulnerable families. Emergency response efforts were organized through community food hubs established during COVID, including homestead-based hubs that distributed MREs (*Meal, Ready-to-Eat*), water, and emergency supplies, while shelters were activated across Moloka‘i due to facility limitations, and organizations such as the Red Cross, Maui Food Bank, and local associations coordinated relief, with outside volunteers and groups assisting in rescue, debris removal, and recovery efforts.

S. Lopez reported that assessments conducted through crisis tracking and self-reporting helped identify damage and support FEMA disaster declarations, while emphasizing her dual role as both a county planner and Mokupuni CDC representative. Ongoing hazards, including mold exposure, unsafe housing conditions, limited infrastructure, and cultural barriers, where multigenerational families and kūpuna were reluctant to leave damaged homes despite the unsafe conditions. Logistical challenges unique to Moloka‘i, including limited access to materials, long shipping delays, and shortages of specialized services like cesspool pumping, while noting coordinated efforts to address debris removal, temporary housing, emergency repairs, and utility failures. The discovery of extensive drainage infrastructure damage, including seven culverts along Kaunakakai to Kalama‘ula requiring multi-landowner coordination for long-term mitigation, and concluded by emphasizing the transition from emergency relief to recovery, the need for sustained FEMA-supported funding, case management systems, emergency housing and shelter planning, infrastructure repair, and strengthened collaboration between DHHL, county agencies, and nonprofit partners to improve future disaster response.

S. Lopez emphasized that Mokupuni CDC was not seeking to manage emergency response operations itself, but instead supported Hawaiian Homestead Associations taking on direct management roles for their respective areas, including Ho‘olehua, Kapa‘akea, and Kamiloloa, while urging the Commission to fully consider the urgency of on-the-ground emergency needs.

With Commissioner Kalepa’s assistance, they had reviewed key impacted sites and outlined proposed emergency infrastructure locations across Moloka‘i, including ‘Ualapu‘e, an 18-acre DHHL parcel near Kapa‘akea and Kamiloloa above the cemetery and fire station, the Kalama‘ula Mauka subdivision area outside flood and tsunami zones, and the Ho‘olehua Homestead Association site at the former DHHL Pu‘ukapele building. These sites were intended for rapid deployment within four to six weeks once funding was secured, with donated materials ready, but highlighted that the current lack of storage capacity had previously forced the refusal of incoming supplies, leaving Moloka‘i severely constrained, and concluded by expressing hope that the Commission understood the severity of Moloka‘i’s conditions and thanking them for their time and consideration.

K. Fronda explained that the Kona Low events had highlighted the need for faster mobilization, stronger coordination, and better preparedness, emphasizing lessons learned such as equipping district supervisors, establishing resiliency centers, improving internal communication, and strengthening coordination with state and county agencies and emergency operations centers.

DHHL staff and representatives, including D. Hoke at HI-EMA, had played key roles in emergency operations, and stressed that resiliency hubs and pre-positioned supplies were essential to avoid delayed response, while also highlighting efforts to improve emergency communications through broadband systems to maintain connectivity during outages. Disaster response needed to be formalized across all phases through regional planning, integrated resiliency centers, and stronger coordination with partners, contractors, and vendors who should already be prepared, while also improving procurement systems for faster deployment during emergencies.ac

Funding efforts were ongoing through state, federal, and congressional sources, including BRIC (*Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities*) grants, and acknowledged that long-term projects dating back to 2005 had been delayed by insufficient funding, stressing the importance of community testimony and documented impacts to secure resources. Continued work included assessments, environmental and cultural reviews, and diversified funding strategies such as in-kind support and MOAs to strengthen response capacity. He concluded that effective disaster preparedness and recovery required collective effort from agencies, communities, and leadership, and emphasized continued coordination with MEMA, county officials, and the mayor's office to improve both immediate response and long-term resilience.

**Public Testimony – Zachary Helm** – Described his long-term experience as a Kalama‘ula homestead lessee, explaining that he received his 2.5-acre lot in 1985, built his home in 1990, and repeatedly experienced severe flooding from 1987 through 2026, including major losses in 2002 when his home and property were inundated; he said multiple agencies, neighbors, and his family had helped with drainage improvements, including construction of a swale on adjacent property to redirect runoff from mauka DHHL lands and surrounding areas, though he stated it still needed expansion to prevent continued flooding, especially when water backed up toward highway culverts. The March 13 Kona Low storm again flooded his property with several feet of water, destroyed his crops, and killed livestock, despite emergency assistance from neighbors and contractors, and he showed video evidence of the damage while urging DHHL to address the ongoing drainage issues affecting his land. Chair Watson asked if he had filed a damage claim, he said he had not, but was advised to file through the county with assistance from staff, and was invited to join a broader planning group on flooding and wildfire response for Moloka‘i, which he accepted.

**Public Testimony – James Puaa Spencer** – Described his multigenerational ties in Kapa‘akea and Kalama‘ula and recounted repeated severe flooding in 2003, 2022, 2023, and 2026 that inundated his property with massive amounts of mud from upstream DHHL lands, forcing his family to manually remove millions of pounds of debris each time; he said requests for assistance were denied due to liability restrictions requiring residents to move debris to the roadside themselves, which he argued was unrealistic. He criticized ongoing inaction and bureaucratic delays, such as permitting and environmental reviews, stating the issue stemmed from poor land and drainage management rather than rare “100-year floods,” and noted that mitigation efforts like building stone barriers failed during the Kona Low storms, leaving years of accumulated mud. He urged the Commission to prioritize immediate action and equipment deployment over delayed planning, while acknowledging broader community needs and stating his family would continue to manage impacts on their own.

Chair Watson acknowledged J. Spencer's frustration and said the department was working toward solutions with available funding and ideas, emphasizing that government processes required coordination and that community participation was essential, while noting plans to improve rapid response with equipment and resources as disasters worsen due to climate change.

Commissioner Kalepa stated that J. Spencer's multigenerational, indigenous knowledge was highly valuable and comparable to scientific expertise, emphasizing that the department needed to recognize and incorporate such place-based knowledge into decision-making to better address and mitigate ongoing issues, and thanked him for sharing.

Commissioner Marfil suggested the American Red Cross as a potential resource, noting that, beyond providing shelters, they could offer additional support, such as assistance with debris and mud removal, and encouraged J. Spencer to explore whether such services were available on Moloka‘i.

J. Spencer stressed urgency, questioned why emergency exemptions were not being used to bypass delays, and criticized reactive planning and broader land management practices that he felt did not prioritize Hawaiian beneficiaries. He suggested that flooding was worsened by erosion from mauka areas due to loss of grasslands, overpopulation of deer and goats, and underutilized pasture lands, and proposed solutions such as expanding culverts, restoring diversion pathways near the cemetery, and addressing upstream conditions,

while acknowledging he was not an expert but speaking from lived experience and encouraging collaborative solutions.

**Public Testimony - Paul Pua‘a** – Focused on solutions rather than complaints and had compiled evidence for watershed-wide flood and erosion mitigation from Kapa‘akea to Kalama‘ula, but he expressed frustration that his communities had received insufficient support despite repeated flooding. He explained that after the 2023 flood, he became more involved, serving as president of the Kapa‘akea Homestead Association, and raised concerns that funding intended for flood mitigation may have been misused or not properly implemented, citing documents that reference millions allocated for stream work with little visible progress. He offered to collaborate with agencies but said he would withhold detailed plans due to past lack of recognition, emphasized the need for accountability and fair partnerships, and called for immediate action instead of delays. Chair Watson acknowledged his concerns, encouraged cooperation, and said staff would follow up with him to obtain his information and explore solutions.

**Public Testimony – Dickenson Stone** - Reported that severe Kona Low storm flooding created multiple new drainage channels that overwhelmed Water Tank Road and surrounding Hawaiian Homes areas, causing deep trenches, road failures, and widespread flooding that residents said was the worst they had ever experienced; he described navigating hazardous conditions with blocked roads, deep mud, and rising waters that forced vehicles to wait for larger trucks to pass, while floodwaters also carried debris down to coastal areas near Hale Pōmaika‘i and damaged infrastructure across the homestead. He explained that many residents along Water Tank Road were left without safe access to their homes and were using a private easement route through neighboring property to get in and out, while attempting temporary repairs themselves by filling erosion trenches with rocks and wood. He submitted resident accounts documenting the damage and urged DHHL or the county to provide assistance to restore and improve road access and drainage, emphasizing the need for permanent solutions rather than continued reliance on temporary fixes or private access arrangements.

Chair Watson stated that the department was open to suggestions and was working to develop solutions through ongoing planning sessions across the islands, emphasizing that implementation required funding and resources already being pursued; he explained that immediate efforts identified by staff were initial steps but that the broader goal was to “activate” DHHL lands by making them more productive, including addressing issues such as drought-affected pasture lands and underutilized inventory by transferring more land use opportunities to beneficiaries rather than retaining control within the department. He noted that DHHL was actively seeking additional land acquisitions and donations that could significantly benefit Moloka‘i, and referenced broader resource management ideas, including improved control of water systems, potential exploration of geothermal energy, and greater Native Hawaiian participation in island-wide resource management. He also discussed efforts to bring fishponds under DHHL stewardship to support beneficiary use and activation of cultural and agricultural resources, concluding that the overall strategy was to pursue larger, systemic land-use solutions rather than only temporary fixes, with the goal of increasing productivity and long-term benefits for beneficiaries.

Commissioner Lasua asked whether he could share photos documenting water and road damage for review. He acknowledged he had some documentation but had lost parts of it, while reiterating that his main intent was to help neighbors rather than focus on additional issues.

Commissioner Kalepa asked whether he had equipment available to assist with immediate mitigation efforts ahead of a possible incoming storm, specifically to create temporary water diversions to protect both lessees and surrounding homes. D. Stone clarified that he did not have heavy equipment and only had basic tools like shovels and a chainsaw, and he explained that his reference to “help” meant that DHHL and government agencies should provide assistance to affected residents. He reiterated that his role was to act as a middleman, advocating for his neighbors, as conditions were serious and residents needed organized support rather than relying solely on individual efforts.

**Public Testimony – Tricia Mersburg** - Reported that she served as a MEMA contact and had proposed obtaining the lease for the old DHHL office to create an association base and an emergency resiliency hub

with storage for disaster equipment due to severe damage from recent Kona Low storms, which had caused roof failures, mold, unsafe housing conditions, and displacement across Ho‘olehua. She explained that many residents remained in damaged homes because they had nowhere else to go, and stressed that the proposed hub would address critical gaps in emergency storage and preparedness, allowing for faster response and support for Ho‘olehua and neighboring communities, including Kalae, Kualapu‘u, and Maunaloa. As chair of Health and Wellness and Homesteading Committees, she had already organized kupuna assistance, coordinated early repair efforts, and worked with off-island groups to secure materials for roof and home repairs, and she noted that the Mokupuni Community Development Corporation had offered support to help develop the project if the lease was approved, strengthening island-wide emergency readiness.

**Public Testimony – Jojo Tanimoto** – Testified that the Kailapa subdivision in Kawaihae had remained dangerously underserved due to having only one road in and out, despite being located between two gulches and affected by a firebreak project that unintentionally blocked evacuation options without delivering a promised secondary exit over several years. She described past storm events where downed power lines, blocked intersections, and heavy outside traffic had isolated the community and prevented emergency responders from accessing the area until utilities were shut off, underscoring the life-safety risks of the current layout. She criticized the lack of clear communication and follow-through from Hawaiian Homes on evacuation planning, urged the establishment of reliable community communication and beneficiary consultation processes, and raised additional concerns about watershed degradation from goats contributing to erosion that could worsen flooding and further threaten access routes, insisting that a second evacuation route and land management action had been long overdue.

**Public Testimony – Pinky Gaspar** - A Kapa‘akea homesteader who moved from Waimānalo in 1995 after experiencing the 1992 flood, testified that she later became community president during a 2003 flood, worked with others to secure funding used mainly for river repairs, and said Hawaiian Homes had committed to maintaining the river afterward and had upheld that responsibility at the time. She explained that she repeatedly experienced severe flooding in Kapa‘akea that displaced her, including while off-island, and that she formed a nonprofit to support Hawaiian Homes youth and women while continuing community advocacy. She reported ongoing issues with illegal dumping in the ahupua‘a, which she documented and escalated to police and Hawaiian Homes, and said she would continue addressing it. She also stated that earlier flood mitigation plans were never fully implemented, flooding continued due to rain and debris, and she requested stronger action on land and lease control. She said she had raised her home on pillars to prevent repeated damage and relocation, and that, as a leader, she had prepared for flooding. However, neighbors still suffered impacts, concluding that river maintenance commitments had previously been fulfilled by Hawaiian Homes.

## II. ITEMS FOR DECISION MAKING

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### HOMESTEAD SERVICES DIVISION

- D-2 Approval of Consent to Mortgage (see exhibit)
- D-3 Ratification of Loan Approvals (see exhibit)
- D-4 Approval of Homestead Application Transfers / Cancellations (see exhibit)
- D-5 Approval to Certify Applications of Qualified Applicants for the month of March, 2026
- D-6 Commission Designation of Successors to Application Rights – Public Notice 2024
- 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 Conditional Approval of Subdivision, Transfer of a Portion of Lease and Amendment to Lease No. 2892, Lot No. 130-A-1, Keaukaha, Hawaii – SHIRLEY A. KAGAWA and MALIA K. STEFFEN
- D-11 Conditional Approval of Subdivision, Transfer of a Portion of Lease and Amendment to

Lease No. 2902, Lot No. 32, Keaukaha, Hawaii – MONIQUE M. ROSS and DANIEL K. OILI

- D-12 Commission Designation of Successor – GEORGE F. RAPOZO, Residential Lease No. 4342, Lot No. 4, Anahola, Kauai
- D-13 Designation of Successor – JOSEPH H. K. UAHINUI III, Residential Lease No.3028, Lot No. 4-A-2, Kalama‘ula, Molokai

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

Administrator Juan Garcia presented 12 Items (D2 to D13) for approval.

J. Garcia informed the Commissioners that there were 12 consent agenda items (D2–D13) for consideration and noted he had distributed additional exhibits for items D10 and D11 showing proposed subdivisions in Keaukaha, where approximately one-acre lots were requested to be divided so lessees could retain about half an acre and transfer the remaining half-acre to qualified relatives.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Kalepa seconded by Commissioner Lasua 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			
Commissioner Kalepa	X		X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua		X	X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

**ITEM D-14 Request for Partial Advancement of Net Proceeds and Amendment to Lease – YVETTE SATOMI MASAOKA, Residential Lot Lease No. 9970, Lot No. 6-A, Kurtistown, Hawaii**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

Acting Administrator Juan Garcia presented the following:  
Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission Approve the Request for Partial Advancement of Net Proceeds and Amendment to Lease – YVETTE SATOMI MASAOKA.

J. Garcia distributed an updated version of Item D-14 because the original needed correction, specifically revising item number three under the recommended motion action. Item D-14 involved approving a partial advanced payment of net proceeds in the amount of \$205,355 to Yvette Satomi Masaoka and amending the lease’s lot number and property description to reflect a relocation that had been previously approved by the Commission.

## MOTION

Moved by Commissioner Marfil and seconded by Commissioner Kaleikini to approve the motion as stated in the submittal

## DISCUSSION

J. Garcia cited administrative rule 10-365, which allowed the Commission or department to advance or pay out net proceeds based on the appraised value of a property. He explained that in this case, the property's appraised value was \$330,000 with approximately \$55,000 in existing debt attached to the lease, and that lessee Yvette Masaoka had requested 97% of the appraised value, or about \$269,000.

J. Garcia stated that under the rule, advances could only be made after a lease was canceled or surrendered and a new lessee or applicant accepted the lot, and he noted that while past Commissions had approved advances, they had been significantly lower than the 97% request. He emphasized the importance of retaining a portion of funds to cover unknown costs such as maintenance during the potentially long vacancy period before reassignment, and referenced a past case where 100% of proceeds had been advanced over a decade earlier, resulting in the department still waiting for a replacement applicant to accept the property. He concluded that while the Commission had discretion based on past practice, he believed 97% was too high and recommended instead an advance of about 90% of the value, or \$205,355.

Commissioner Lasua asked whether the property value applied only to the building, and J. Garcia confirmed that the appraised value represented the replacement value of the existing dwelling rather than the land itself. Commissioner Kalepa asked whether she was still living in the home, and J. Garcia confirmed she was occupying it and intended to remain until she relocated to a new property. Commissioner Kaleikini raised concerns that the beneficiary reported no recent communication from the department since the last meeting, and he apologized, explaining that staffing illness had delayed communication and that staff had informed her they could not support her requested amount.

The Commission then reviewed the financial breakdown, with Commissioner Kaleikini clarifying the appraisal of \$330,000 and the staff recommendation to withhold about \$124,000, which included an outstanding mortgage of \$55,000 and approximately \$69,000 for additional potential expenses such as taxes, debts, and unforeseen costs. J. Garcia explained that while exact future costs were difficult to predict due to possible maintenance needs or storm impacts, the retained amount was intended as a safeguard, though the Commission could adjust it. Commissioner Kaleikini requested clearer estimates for the withheld portion and asked about safety concerns at the beneficiary's future home; J. Garcia stated he had no information on its condition and referred that matter to another division overseeing the new construction project, adding that he was not aware of any safety issues.

Chair Watson emphasized that the department was being prudent but stressed the need to balance caution with the beneficiary's needs, noting the property appeared to be in good condition and suggesting a flexible release of funds based on a good-faith estimate of remaining costs.

MOTION TO AMEND

Commissioner Kaleikini moved to amend the motion in favor of a flexible release of funds, subject to a good-faith calculation of what remains to be done, and to payout the rest. Commissioner Marfil seconded the amendment.

ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini, seconded by Commissioner Marfil to amend the motion in favor of a flexible release of funds, subject to a good-faith calculation of what remains to be done, and to payout the rest.						
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	X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

ACTION ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

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	X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o						X
Commissioner Ornellas			X			
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

### **ITEM C-1            Authorization to apply for a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant to support exploration of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands and designating Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)**

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Russell Kaupu presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission Approve the Request for Authorization to apply for a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant to support exploration of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands and designating Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR).

R. Kaupu explained that the submittal concerned a grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy, which the department was leading and which required processing extensive documentation and formally designating an authorized representative to manage, sign, and provide necessary comments and representations. He stated that the resolution before the Commissioner sought to appoint him as the authorized organizational representative (AOR) for the application, invited any questions, and emphasized that this action was part of an ongoing effort to explore and potentially develop geothermal resources on Hawaiian homelands.

The department had been preparing for a series of informational briefings in homestead communities and had been working closely with Sybil Lopez and Kainoa MacDonald to organize the meetings and spread awareness, particularly on Moloka‘i and Maui. The first meeting had been scheduled for Moloka‘i on May 18, with two additional meetings being planned for Maui the following week, and explained that the team had been coordinating with the Planning Office to distribute notices via postcards.

S. Lopez of the Mokupuni Community Development Corporation explained that her organization had been working with the department to help bridge gaps and build trust between beneficiaries, homestead associations, and the department, emphasizing that the planned informational briefings were separate from formal beneficiary consultation and were intended to increase education and awareness about geothermal energy. This effort aimed to better prepare communities to understand the implications of geothermal development and encourage engagement, highlighting that Moloka‘i had already been active in energy planning through its Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP), first developed in 2021 and continuing to evolve through its CERAP 2.0 phase, alongside initiatives like the Moloka‘i Clean Energy efforts and a community-supported floating solar project. She added that these discussions connected with the department’s broader Maluo energy policy and reflected a desire to integrate various energy initiatives, promote energy sovereignty, and position Moloka‘i as a leader in shaping its energy future through informed community participation.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Marfil 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			
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			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**LAND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**ITEM E-1 Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Maui Department of Water Supply for the Waiohuli Wells Water Development Project**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Maui Department of Water Supply for the Waiohuli Wells Water Development Project.

K Fronda stated that the item requested approval and authorization for the Chair to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the County of Maui Department of Water Supply for the development, use, and integration of the Waiohuli Wells and related water transmission infrastructure, subject to review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General. He added that the proposal had been supported by prior discussions and analyses and that further consultations had taken place with both the Attorney General’s office and the County’s Corporation Counsel to address key issues within the agreement.

He further explained that a minor but meaningful revision had been made to agenda Item E-1, specifically clarifying on page two that the Wai’ohuli Wells project would directly support housing developments in Wai’ehu Mauka, Wailuku, and Kamalani, as well as agricultural lots in Wai’ehu Mauka focused on subsistence farming and economic self-sufficiency, with additional planned lots in Pulehunui, Wai’ohuli, and Kēōkea, benefiting an estimated 2,100 residential units overall. He noted that references to “upcountry Maui” had been refined to specifically identify Wai’ohuli and Keokea, and highlighted corresponding updates in the memorandum of agreement (MOA), including language emphasizing the need for developments in these areas and clarifying the scope and monitoring process through required reports from the County of Maui Department of Water Supply, which had agreed to provide them after discussions with corporation counsel.

He also pointed out an additional revision ensuring that upon completion and acceptance of the wells, the department or applicable homestead lessees would be reimbursed, and emphasized that the MOA would grant advanced water credits, enabling the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to move forward with critical housing and agricultural projects while coordinating with communities, the water department, and the water Commission, and complying with environmental and cultural requirements. He then concluded that the

agreement represented a transformative infrastructure partnership that would unlock essential water resources, reduce delays, and help address the Maui waitlist of over 9,000 beneficiaries by advancing the department’s mission to return Native Hawaiians to the land.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Lasua 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			
Commissioner Kalepa			X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil		X	X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM E-2 Authorization to Apply Affordable Housing Credits Toward the Acquisition of Kamehameha Schools' Hawai'i Kai Marina Lot 10A (Parcel ID 390080340000), Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu, for the Development of Residential Homesteads**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda and Project Manager Elijah Davidson presented the following: Motion the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Authorization to Apply Affordable Housing Credits Toward the Acquisition of Kamehameha Schools' Hawai'i Kai Marina Lot 10A (Parcel ID 390080340000), Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu, for the Development of Residential Homesteads

E. Davidson requested authorization for the DHHL to apply 20 affordable housing credits, in addition to a previously approved \$2.5 million, toward acquiring Kamehameha Schools’ Hawai’i Kai Marina Lot 10A. He explained that the effort had involved two years of coordination and due diligence with Kamehameha Schools, including completion of a Phase I environmental assessment, sewer inspections, a memorandum of agreement with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting to enable credit transfers, and a finalized sewer easement with American Water, with the next step being Commission approval followed by closing on the acquisition. He described the 2.88-acre parcel, located across from a United States Postal Service office in Hawai’i Kai, as intended for multifamily residential homesteads due to its size and surrounding developments, with conceptual plans showing potential for 80 to 90 units along with parking and community-oriented programming developed in collaboration with the University of Hawai’i School of Architecture. He emphasized that the acquisition would expand homestead opportunities, strengthen partnerships with Kamehameha Schools and other Ali’i trusts, and help address the department’s limited land inventory on O’ahu, where only about 4% of its holdings were located, ultimately supporting the development of residential homestead units for beneficiaries.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Marfil seconded by Commissioner Kalepa approve the motion as stated in the submittal						
Commissioner	1	2	AYE(YES)	A'OLE(NO)	KANALUA	EXCUSED
Commissioner Freitas			X			
Commissioner Kaleikini			X			
Commissioner Kalepa		X	X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua			X			
Commissioner Marfil	X		X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM E-3                    Authorization to Approve Funding and Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Maui for Shared Infrastructure on the Island of Lāna‘i.**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

Acting Administrator Kalani Fronda presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Authorization to Approve Funding and Negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Maui for Shared Infrastructure on the Island of Lāna‘i.

K. Fronda asked the Commission to authorize the County of Maui to use approximately \$8.3 million in general excise tax set-aside funds for the development of shared backbone infrastructure on Lāna‘i, and to authorize the chairperson or designee to negotiate a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, including all necessary terms and conditions to carry out the action.

The department had already awarded 52 leases to beneficiaries on the Lāna‘i waitlist and planned to complete development of the remaining lots to reach about 75 total, effectively finishing the waitlist. Phase 2B still needed infrastructure and was adjacent to a County of Maui affordable housing project, requiring coordinated shared water and wastewater connections serving both developments. The total infrastructure cost was about \$16.6 million, to be split using general excise tax set-aside funds with no financial impact to the department, and emphasized urgency to secure approval during the county’s budget session so it could be included in the upcoming fiscal year. The plan allowed immediate progress on off-site infrastructure while due diligence for Phase 2B continued, and development agreements were finalized with the county and developers.

Chair Watson said the partnership with the County of Maui had leveraged general excise tax set-aside funds—about \$80 million—for infrastructure, crediting Council member Tasha Kama for enabling the funding and describing the effort as precedent-setting and highly collaborative, including coordination with the same developer to advance both new housing and previously awarded but inactive units more efficiently. Commissioner Marfil praised the funding strategy as beneficial for strengthening intergovernmental relationships, and K. Fronda confirmed the next step had been to begin negotiations for a memorandum of agreement with the county, with a return to the Commission planned for final approval so the project could be incorporated into the budget and proceed.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Lasua seconded by Commissioner Kalepa 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			
Commissioner Kalepa		X	X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM E-4                    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 stated that agenda item E4 had requested approval for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to award a 99-year lot lease to the listed applicant for the Courtyard at Waipouli residential area, specifically to Kiana Kahanui, and to cancel her residential application upon conveyance of the lease award.

**DISCUSSION**

**Public Testimony – Kenna Stormogibson** – Testified that the lease award for Waipouli (lease award number 27 of an 82-unit complex) left 55 units unclaimed by Native Hawaiian applicants, raising concerns from current residents who had been receiving 90-day eviction notices without being offered comparable housing. Residents questioned why they were being required to leave when many units remained vacant and only 27 applicants had taken leasehold opportunities, arguing that this situation appeared inconsistent with relocation requirements, including the Uniform Relocation Act, and appeared unreasonable given available housing inventory. The property, now owned by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands since November 3 of the previous year, carried significant financial obligations, including a \$20 million private loan and a \$14 million state loan, and questioned the logic, legality, and ethics of maintaining 55 vacant units while displacing existing residents, some of whom were also Native Hawaiian. She urged the department, Mark Development, or the relocation specialist, Melissa Mann, to respond to residents’ repeated inquiries and provide a clear justification for the displacement despite unfilled units.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Kaneakua seconded by Commissioner Lasua 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			
Commissioner Kalepa			X			
Commissioner Kaneakua	X		X			
Commissioner Lasua		X	X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu'o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM E-5 Approval of Lease Award and Cancellation of Corresponding Application - Kamalani Subdivision Residential Project Lease, Kihei, 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 - Kamalani Subdivision Residential Project Lease, Kihei, Maui (see exhibit)

K. Fronda requested approval to award a 99-year lease in the Kamalani Subdivision to one applicant, George Dacuycuy (spelled D-A-C-U-Y-C-U-Y), and to cancel the applicant's residential application upon conveyance of the lease award.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Marfil seconded by Commissioner Kalepa 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			
Commissioner Kalepa		X	X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua			X			
Commissioner Marfil	X		X			
Commissioner Namu'o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						



conditions outlined in the meeting packet and indicated that land agent Ashley Tabalno was available online to provide additional information regarding the item.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission had previously established a revocable permit program for short-term land use, and the Land Management Division had applied it to pasture-designated parcels not slated for near-term homestead development due to infrastructure limits, using month-to-month permits to prevent illegal occupation and dumping. Two permit opportunities covering three parcels were posted in January 2026, receiving one application each by February 19, and that a review committee found both applicants met minimum requirements, with no scoring needed due to the limited competition.

**Public Testimony – Luana Keakealani** – Testified on behalf of the Hawai‘i Youth Rodeo ‘Ohana (HIRO) from Waimea, alongside organization leadership and volunteers, and expressed gratitude to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for considering their revocable permit application. She explained that HIRO had been formed by families across Kona, Kohala, Waimea, and Honoka‘a, including DHHL beneficiary households, to provide youth development, family engagement, and preservation of Paniolo heritage through structured, drug-free, and culturally grounded rodeo and ranching activities.

**Public Testimony – Waynette Belaski** – Testified that the organization was advancing compliance, transparency, and community stewardship while supporting cultural and agricultural sustainability. She explained that, based on her prior service on the Governor’s Advisory Council for Community-Based Economic Development, she understood the importance of sustaining both traditional food systems and modern economic pathways for Hawaiians. The organization was seeking a revocable permit for Honokā‘ia to create a “living classroom” where families across generations—from kūpuna to keiki—could share ‘ike, life experiences, and cultural knowledge while receiving hands-on training in animal husbandry and Paniolo practices. The project aimed to protect DHHL land from illegal activity through active stewardship, support youth development, and preserve ranching heritage, while also aligning with the Waimea Nui Regional Plan by ensuring the land remained a productive community resource. She concluded by requesting the Commission’s approval and expressed appreciation for their consideration.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Freitas stated strong support for the revocable permit application. The area had a history of squatting and illegal activity, and said the permit would help establish a presence on the land while also supporting the perpetuation of the Paniolo lifestyle, concluding with appreciation for the proposal.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Kaleikini seconded by Commissioner Lasua 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	X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM F-2 Annual Renewal of Revocable Permit(s), Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i Islands (see exhibit)**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

Motion that the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Annual Renewal of Revocable Permit(s), Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i Islands.

F. Hall noted a minor numbering discrepancy between agenda items and exhibits, then explained that staff recommended approval to renew all listed permits effective May 1, 2026, on a month-to-month basis for up to 12 months, with an expiration no later than April 30, 2027 or the next Hawai‘i Homes Commission meeting on Moloka‘i, whichever occurred first. He further requested authorization for the chairperson to negotiate and establish any additional necessary terms and conditions, and indicated that Shelley Carreira was available to assist and answer questions.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Lasua 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			
Commissioner Kalepa			X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil		X	X			
Commissioner Namu‘o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM F-3 Approval to Amend Right of Entry Permit No. 748, Ahonui Homestead Association,‘Ualapu‘e, Moloka‘i Island, TMKs: (2) 5-6-002:024, 025, 026, 027, 036, (2) 5-6-006:017 & (2) 5-6-002:001 (portion)**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

Motion the Hawaiian Homes Commission to the Approval to Amend Right of Entry Permit No. 748, Ahonui Homestead Association,‘Ualapu‘e, Moloka‘i Island.

F. Hall requested approval to amend right-of-entry permit number 748 for the Ahonui Homestead Association on Moloka‘i Island, covering approximately 397.4 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands. He explained that the amendment supported stewardship, caretaking, project planning, and community engagement activities on the land, and stated that the approval would be subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the meeting packet, with S. Carreira available to provide additional information if needed.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Lasua 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			
Commissioner Kalepa			X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM F-4 Approval to Issue a Revocable Permit, Ho‘olehua Homesteaders Association, Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i Island, TMK: (2) 5-2-002:053**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

Motion the Hawaiian Homes Commission for the Approval to Issue a Revocable Permit, Ho‘olehua Homesteaders Association, Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i Island.

F. Hall requested approval from the Hawaiian Homes Commission to issue a revocable permit to the Hoolehua Homestead Association on Moloka‘i for approximately 72.3 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands designated for pastoral use. He stated that the permit issuance would be subject to the conditions outlined in the meeting packet and required Commission authorization, and noted that S. Carrieria was available to provide additional comments or answer questions if needed.

**DISCUSSION**

**Public Testimony – LuAnn Lankford** – Testified in support of the proposed project explaining that it was a startup ranching program intended to provide additional acreage for homestead ranchers on Moloka‘i. She noted that while she was presenting on behalf of the association, technical details regarding infrastructure, such as waterlines, fencing, cattle management, and operational timelines, would be addressed by the association’s chairperson, J.R. Dudoit, as her role was primarily to represent the organization and submit the request.

**Public Testimony – J.R Dudoit** – Testified that Hawaiian ranchers on Moloka‘i had been severely impacted by declining viability in the beef industry, explaining that he had been forced to reduce his herd to only two cattle over the past decade due to unfavorable market conditions. He described a large price disparity between what local slaughterhouses paid for cattle on the hoof (\$0.67–\$1.67 per pound) versus continental U.S. rates (\$2.48–\$6.16 per pound), while noting that local hamburger prices were extremely high at about \$8.14 per pound, making it economically impossible for ranchers to recover value from livestock sales. Selling a 1,200-pound cow locally did not allow ranchers to repurchase equivalent meat, resulting in significant financial losses, and added that many Hawai‘i ranchers had previously relied on exporting cattle to Canada for better prices, but recent tariffs had eliminated that option and left them unable to cover costs. These conditions had forced ranchers toward liquidation and meat imports, and emphasized that the Hoolehua Homestead Association was seeking assistance through access to pastoral land owned by DHHL, along with future

funding support, to rebuild a sustainable local beef industry. Land access was the essential first step for implementing infrastructure such as fencing and water systems, enabling ranchers to demonstrate productive use of small parcels and work toward greater self-sufficiency, while acknowledging that although plans existed, they needed to be translated into action with immediate land availability.

Chair Watson had expressed concern that the proposal lacked a developed plan and explained that the department had moved away from simply issuing land through revocable permits toward a more coordinated, partnership-based approach to support pastoral beneficiaries. He described ongoing collaborations with major Big Island landholders such as Parker Ranch and Kamehameha Schools to integrate fragmented operations, improve grazing and water management, expand training (including internships), and strengthen cattle, timber, housing, and market systems, noting that most DHHL land was on Hawai‘i Island and that expertise from these partnerships was intended to be expanded statewide, including to Moloka‘i. He cautioned that 72 acres was too small for viable ranching without broader infrastructure and market systems, and advised delaying investment until a stronger coordinated strategy was in place, emphasizing that revocable permits alone would not support financing or infrastructure development like fencing.

J. Dudoit clarified that his earlier comment about not having a “plan” had referred only to his personal financial limitations, not the absence of a ranching strategy, and he emphasized that he came from a three-generation Paniolo background, was mentored by experienced cattlemen, and understood Moloka‘i ranching conditions differed from off-island models. The main barrier was land access, not expertise, since several families were ready to invest, pay monthly, and manage cattle but lacked acreage to begin, and he reiterated that even with infrastructure knowledge and nearby water access, 72 acres would support only a small herd of about four to five cattle. Fencing, funding, and development all depended on first securing land, describing the urgent need to rebuild ranching and food production on Moloka‘i, where few operations remained, and concluded that restoring agriculture required land as the essential first step, since basic water infrastructure was already available and easily connected.

Chair Watson explained that he was trying to support J. Dudoit and did not want him to fail, but encouraged him to consider participating in a larger, coordinated ranching effort rather than operating independently, suggesting that a larger-scale partnership—potentially involving thousands of acres and multiple homesteaders—would improve viability, increase cattle volume, and make financing more accessible.

He highlighted challenges on Moloka‘i, such as water scarcity, overgrazing, limited slaughterhouse capacity, and other systemic issues, and pointed to partnerships with experienced entities like Parker Ranch as a model for improving scale and market access. Revocable permits alone limited access to financing and suggested that a longer-term lease or license structure would better support investment and development, while still allowing J. Dudoit and others to use the land productively and reduce issues like fire risk.

J. Dudoit responded that the 72-acre proposal was intended as a starting point despite the availability of over 4,000 acres in Ho‘olehua, stating that they aimed to begin small, prove success, and potentially request additional land in the future, while Chair Watson reiterated that a longer lease and participation in a broader coordinated system would improve funding opportunities and long-term success.

Commissioner Lasua described how, during drought periods, ranchers had to significantly reduce cattle numbers and send animals to slaughter as grass availability declined, highlighting the operational challenges of sustaining livestock on limited acreage. Despite these constraints, he suggested that a small-scale operation on 72 acres could still be viable if paired with partnerships, such as the Homestead Livestock Association.

Commissioner Kalepa stated that Moloka‘i’s ranching culture was unique and that traditional cowboy livelihoods were declining, while acknowledging that even a small-scale livestock project could be a good starting point and that the applicant had valuable knowledge to contribute through teaching and mentorship. He then asked what percentage of locally slaughtered cattle actually supplied food to Moloka‘i residents.

L. Lankford responded that the amount was effectively zero, aside from a very small 4-H program where livestock was occasionally bought back and sold locally at Friendly Market, amounting to fewer than five head of cattle annually. J. Dudoit added that while some meat was brought in by the slaughterhouse, local supply was still near zero in practical terms, estimating that only about one in 100 slaughtered cattle reached Moloka‘i shelves, and noted that high prices made local distribution economically unviable, shifting the issue from profit to basic food access.

Commissioner Lasua said Moloka‘i needed a sustainable ranching model that could make the island self-sufficient while serving as a learning example for future generations, stressing environmental awareness and support for local farmers and cowboys. J. Dudoit responded that he accepted responsibility as a third-generation Paniolo for past overgrazing and mismanagement that harmed the beef industry, explaining that ranchers had since shifted toward “grass farming” focused on land health. He emphasized that even small parcels, like 72 acres, could help restart sustainable practices, but that real progress depended on access to land, experienced, hands-on mentorship, and collaboration with knowledgeable ranchers, noting that many had left the industry and that valuable expertise had been lost. He concluded that rebuilding Moloka‘i ranching required land, trust, and partnership, and he expressed willingness to work with others to restore local food production and share knowledge.

Chair Watson asked whether the applicants were on the Moloka‘i pastoral waitlist, and J. Dudoit responded that they were not, specifically noting they were part of the Hoolehua Homestead Association. Chair Watson then explained that the department was expanding its land program statewide, including issuing over a thousand pastoral lease awards on Hawai‘i Island, and developing subsistence agricultural and pastoral lots designed for self-sufficiency, where beneficiaries could both live and farm or raise cattle primarily for personal and community consumption rather than commercial scale. He said the department planned to move toward smaller pastoral allocations of roughly 20 to 30 acres to allow families to raise limited cattle and potentially build housing, aligning this approach with Prince Kūhiō’s vision of returning Native Hawaiians to the land for self-sustenance, while also acknowledging a future goal of supporting more commercial-scale production. L. Lankford clarified that the Moloka‘i proposal involved about 10 to 15 head of cattle shared among three or four families to support homesteaders and local markets.

**MOTION/ACTION**

Moved by Commissioner Lasua seconded by Commissioner Kalepa 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			
Commissioner Kalepa			X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: [ X ] UNANIMOUS [ ] PASSED [ ] DEFERRED [ ] FAILED						
Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM F-5 Approval to Amend Right of Entry Permit No. 501, Harry K. Purdy, III & Marlene K. Purdy, Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i Island, TMKS: (2) 5-2-007:079 and 088**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

Motion the Hawaiian Homes Commission for the Approval to Amend Right of Entry Permit No. 501, Harry K. Purdy, III & Marlene K. Purdy, Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i Island.

F. Hall proposed amending right-of-entry permit number 501 previously issued to Harry K. Purdy III and Marlene K. Purdy in Ho‘olehua, Moloka‘i. He stated that staff recommended that the Hawaiian Homes Commission approve the amendment to their existing permit covering approximately 35 acres of Hawaiian homelands, which was designated for agricultural use, thereby continuing and updating their authorized access and use of the land under the revised permit terms.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Lasua seconded by Commissioner Kalepa 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			
Commissioner Kalepa		X	X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu‘o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

**ITEM F-6 Approval to Issue a License for Access and Utility Easement, Hana Retreat, dba Ala Kukui, Hana, Island of Maui, TMK (2) 1-3-004:012 (por.)**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

Administrator Frank Hall presented the following:

Motion the Hawaiian Homes Commission for the Approval to Issue a License for Access and Utility Easement, Hana Retreat, dba Ala Kukui, Hana, Island of Maui, TMK (2) 1-3-004:012 (por.)

F. Hall requested approval for issuing a license and non-exclusive utility and access easement to Hana Retreat (Ala Kukui) on Maui. The proposal would grant approximately 2.416 acres and an additional 0.09 acres of Hawaiian homelands for ingress and egress roadways as well as utility access. He also noted that the final lease or payment amount could change depending on a pending appraisal that had not yet been completed.

**Public Testimony – Kauai Kanakaole** – Testified that the nonprofit stewarded land adjacent to the DHHL Wākiu complex in Hana, Maui, and operated year-round cultural programs, workshops, and community events for both local residents and visitors. The organization funded its cultural and educational activities through visitor retreats hosted on-site, which also supported community engagement and programs such as food-gathering practices, wahine-focused experiences, and leadership and peer-support initiatives. The property consisted of a 12-acre site that had been gifted to the organization along with retreat facilities,

cabins, and a retreat home, making the nonprofit both owner and steward of the land. Ala Kukui had hosted various community planning meetings and workshops, including DHHL-related activities, and aligned its mission with Hawaiian self-determination and cultural preservation. However, she noted that the property was landlocked and required formal access and utility easements to continue operations, and therefore she respectfully requested approval of the license for access and utility easement to ensure continued stewardship and service to the Hana community.

**Public Testimony – Alohalani Smith** – Testified in support of granting a license for access and utility easement to Ala Kukui, stating that she was a DHHL waitlister, beneficiary, and founder of the Wākiu Community Development Corporation. She explained that Ala Kukui had been a key community partner, assisting DHHL, G70, and the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation with workshops and the production of a master plan, and hosting successful financial workshops and East Maui community meetings in Hana. The organization’s support had been essential, affordable, and “pono,” and described it as an asset to the community and future project development. She contrasted this with the high cost of renting external venues from the County of Maui, which she said made community organizing difficult, reinforcing the need for local, accessible space. She concluded by expressing strong gratitude for Ala Kukui’s contributions and support for the Hana community and the Wākiu project.

DISUCSSION

Commissioner Kalepa stated that he had previously attended an event hosted by Ala Kukui and was impressed by the organization’s activities across multiple programs and community efforts. He said he had observed firsthand that Ala Kukui had served as a strong steward of both the land and the local community, with many people benefiting from its work and initiatives. Based on this experience, he expressed his support for the organization and thanked Kauai for her leadership and contributions.

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Lasua seconded by Commissioner Kalepa 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			
Commissioner Kalepa		X	X			
Commissioner Kaneakua			X			
Commissioner Lasua	X		X			
Commissioner Marfil			X			
Commissioner Namu’o			X			
Commissioner Ornellas						X
Chairman Watson			X			
TOTAL VOTE COUNT			8			1
MOTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED Motion passed unanimously, Eight (8) Yes votes, One (1) Excused						

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

**ITEM C-2            Status Report of DHHL Enforcement Unit Efforts and Statistics (March 9, 2026 – April 12, 2026)**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

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

D. Hoke provided the monthly enforcement update covering March 9 to April 12, during which his division received nine new investigation requests, bringing the annual total to 36, and completed and submitted 35 enforcement reports, bringing the yearly total to 95. He also reported issuing two official notices regarding lease violations. In addition to routine enforcement work, he described significant emergency management responsibilities due to three weather systems during the period, which required ongoing coordination, data collection on damages, and reporting to HIEMA to support potential beneficiary reimbursements. The office also worked on two contested case hearings and participated in a Papakōlea Homestead Safety Watch workshop aimed at developing a neighborhood security program, which he supported as beneficial for community safety. He added that enforcement efforts were being refocused on addressing long-vacant homes and that multiple contested case matters were actively being worked on, concluding that the division continued to move forward with its enforcement and community support responsibilities.

### 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 status report for the Housing Services Division, covering application counts, lease totals, and delinquency trends. He reported that there were 47,041 total applications statewide, including 19,899 agricultural, 3,177 pastoral, and 23,965 residential applications. For Moloka‘i specifically, there were 2,137 total applications, broken down into 1,113 agricultural, 203 pastoral, and 821 residential applications. He also reported 11,496 total leases statewide. Regarding delinquencies, he stated that overall amounts had decreased by about 1% from the previous month, with reductions seen on O‘ahu, West Hawai‘i, and Maui, although increases in Moloka‘i, Kaua‘i, and parts of East Hawai‘i partially offset those gains. He noted ongoing efforts by the Loan Services Branch under Kui Meyer to aggressively address delinquent accounts and indicated plans to bring additional contested case hearings before a hearings officer for further review and recommendation.

## PLANNING OFFICE

**ITEM G-1 For Information Only – Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (AFONSI) for Kanuikapono Public Charter School (PCS) Preschool, Anahola, Kaua‘i TMK (4) 4-8-022:089 (por.).**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Planner Kialoa Mossman presented the following:

K. Mossman presented a draft environmental assessment for the Kanuikapono Public Charter School preschool project on Kaua‘i. He explained that the item was for information only and involved a draft environmental assessment along with an anticipated finding of no significant impact for the Kanuikapono Public Charter School preschool. He noted that the presentation was part of the Planning Office’s work and introduced a colleague, Malachi Krishok, who was available online to provide additional details about the proposed project.

Bowers & Kubota’s representative Malachi Krishok presented on behalf of the Kanuikapono Public Charter School and the Hawaii School Facilities Authority regarding the school’s campus master plan expansion and associated draft environmental assessment for a new pre-K facility in Anahola, Kaua‘i. The school, established in 2001 and located on DHHL lands since 2002, had expanded over time, including an additional 7.5 acres licensed in 2023, and a conceptual master plan completed in 2024 guided the current expansion. In 2025, state education authorities selected the site for a new pre-K facility funded and constructed by the Hawaii School Facilities Authority as part of the state’s Ready Keiki initiative. The overall project involved expanding the campus with new educational, cultural, and community facilities, while also constructing a pre-K building with four classrooms for about 80 students, outdoor learning and gathering spaces, and infrastructure upgrades such as parking, road access, utilities, and wastewater improvements. The project aligned with DHHL’s general plan, Anahola regional planning priorities, and broader state and county land use plans, and incorporated green infrastructure, native landscaping, and low-impact design principles. The draft environmental assessment, published April 8, had found no significant impacts to cultural, historic, biological, or environmental resources, though it anticipated short-term construction impacts like noise and traffic that would be mitigated through best practices. The project was expected to deliver long-term educational and cultural benefits by expanding access to early childhood education. Finally, he outlined the next steps, noting that the project was in a 30-day public comment period ending May 7, after which the final environmental assessment would be submitted for Commission approval, with construction anticipated to begin in winter 2027 and completion expected in fall 2028, at which point the facility would be transferred to the school for operation and maintenance.

**ITEM G-2 For Information Only – Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (AFONSI) for the Papakōlea Community Development Corporation (PCDC) Native Hawaiian Education and Community Center (NHECC) at Pūowaina, Papakōlea, O‘ahu TMK: (1) 2-2-005: 035 (por.).**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Planner Kialoa Mossman presented the following:

K. Mossman presented a draft environmental assessment and anticipated finding of no significant impact for the Papakōlea Community Development Corporation’s Native Hawaiian Education and Community Center.

Staff Planner at G-70 Dalton Keanu-Bopre explained that the initiative originated from a 2009 DHHL regional planning process and was intended to support Native Hawaiian education, cultural practices, and intergenerational learning. The project site was located on about 14 acres of DHHL land on the slopes of Pūowaina (Punchbowl), with about 7 acres under a short-term right-of-entry, and had been shaped through extensive community engagement since 2021, including workshops, consultations, and EA review

discussions. The concept had evolved into an indigenous campus featuring a multipurpose hall, classrooms, preschool space, a digital media studio, and outdoor learning areas such as an amphitheater and cultural gathering spaces. The EA process included agency consultation, technical studies (biological, archaeological, cultural, traffic, noise, geotechnical, and engineering), and analysis of environmental conditions such as steep slopes, drainage, wildfire risk, and urban biodiversity. Findings indicated no known significant cultural or archaeological resources on site, limited ecological impacts with standard mitigation measures for birds and lighting, and manageable drainage and traffic concerns, with construction impacts expected to be temporary. The project was found consistent with DHHL, state, and county plans and was designed to remain low-profile to protect Punchbowl view planes while providing long-term educational and cultural benefits. The presenters stated that a finding of no significant impact was anticipated, with a draft EA to be published for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 23, after which revisions would be made before returning to the Commission in the summer for final approval and continued project development.

**Public Testimony - Lilia Kapuniai** – Testified that the proposed project had originated as a long-standing community vision that predated her leadership and that it had been a significant effort to bring it to this stage. She thanked the Commission for approving a 2025 community grant that had funded phase one of the project after more than five years of fundraising challenges, and noted that although additional funding had not been received in January, it would be needed in the next grant cycle to support phase two, which included detailed design, construction documents, and project capitalization. More than 140 community members had participated in co-design meetings and educational workshops that informed the conceptual plans, emphasizing that the project had been shaped directly by community input to reflect local needs and avoid outside imposition. The project was an expansion of an existing community center at Pu‘uhonua on Tantalus, which was already overcrowded, lacked sufficient parking, and no longer met community needs after more than 30 years of use, making replacement and expansion necessary. She added that Group 70 had done strong work on the draft environmental assessment and thanked staff for guiding the process, noted she would be away at a national rodeo competition with her daughter during a future meeting but would attend online if needed, and concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to present and for continued support of the project.

**ITEM G-3 For Information Only – Status Update on Plan Implementation, Island of Moloka‘i --Moloka‘i Island Plan and Moloka‘i Regional Plan**

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION

None. For Information Only. Planner Nancy McPherson presented the following:

N. McPherson reported that she provided an update on DHHL planning efforts for Moloka‘i, noting that the current general plan had been updated in 2022 and now served as the guiding framework for all subsidiary plans. The Moloka‘i Island Plan, last updated in 2005, was significantly overdue for revision and was scheduled to begin an update process in late summer or early fall. She described multiple island plan amendments that had occurred over time, including the designation of Mo‘omomi–Anahaki as a special district after a wind energy proposal, land exchanges that shifted community-use land to DOE while providing future homestead land on O‘ahu, and the designation of Mālama Park as a special district requiring a special area plan and beneficiary consultation. She reviewed Moloka‘i’s land use distribution, highlighting large areas of special district, subsistence agriculture, and pastoral lands, and noted that the “general agriculture” category would need reclassification to align with the 2022 general plan changes.

She outlined homestead development priorities, including the long-delayed ‘Ualapu‘e residential project, which faced water infrastructure limitations, and alternative concepts such as kuleana homesteading and other priority developments like Kapa‘ākea–Kamiloloa–Makakupa‘ia, which were impacted by flooding and infrastructure challenges but could be reconsidered with future relocation and infrastructure planning. She also discussed ongoing or legacy projects such as Nā‘iwa homestead leases, mauka agricultural lots that could help reduce erosion and flooding if funding were restored, and the development of 12 subsistence agricultural lots for applicants on the ag waitlist. Future island plan updates would standardize land use designations statewide, align with updated policies, and include clearer criteria for land use and infrastructure planning.

She further reported on regional planning efforts, including projects such as Ho‘olehua Hale (repurposing an old preschool site), water rate and legal analyses, shared farm equipment programs, and road improvements, particularly in Ho‘olehua and Kalama‘ula. She noted ongoing coordination issues with infrastructure, especially roads and water systems, and described continued work on the Mālama Park special area plan and its management by Hui Ho‘okahua o Moloka‘i. She provided updates on Kalaupapa coordination with the National Park Service and other agencies, emphasizing ongoing interagency discussions, legislative interest, and the need for clearer jurisdictional coordination and community engagement with beneficiaries.

The Moloka‘i Coastal Homesteads Community Resilience Plan, completed over five years with NOAA funding, which identified hazard risks such as flooding, erosion, and wildfire, and incorporated traditional ecological knowledge and beneficiary input. The plan established resilience goals, strategies, and project categories, including evacuation sites, firebreaks, drainage improvements, and infrastructure adaptation, and highlighted urgent priorities such as emergency preparedness, mauka and makai restoration, and water and flood management. Implementation would require coordination among homestead associations, DHHL, and emergency management agencies, along with funding identification and possible legislative support for coastal zone management authority. She concluded that next steps included updating the island plan, advancing resilience projects, strengthening agency coordination, and addressing critical issues such as cesspool conversion and wastewater improvements to reduce environmental and public health risks.

**ITEM G-4 For Information Only – Water Policy Plan Update for Projects and Issues on Moloka‘i Island.**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION**

None. For Information Only. Program Specialist Cherie Kaanana and DHHL’s Water Consultant Dr. Jonathan Scheuer presented the following:

C. Kaanana explained that the 2014 Water Policy Plan required regular communication with beneficiaries about water decisions, rights, and system performance. She summarized four main topics, beginning with the proposed acquisition of the Moloka‘i Irrigation System (MIS), which had been identified as a long-term goal in the Water Policy Plan and resurfaced in 2023 after a Department of Agriculture rate increase proposal, leading to discussions about transferring MIS to DHHL; she noted that feasibility studies were underway through procurement led by the Land Development Division. She then reported on the Ho‘olehua DHHL water system, where the permitted water allocation had been increased in 2021, and based on recent data the system could support 118 new water meters, although 261 meters would be needed for full buildout of planned projects; she explained that residential homestead units had been designated as the highest priority for water meter allocation, and that two residential meters had been issued in 2025, while agricultural water rate requests required separate meters for billing and health compliance and remained a lower-priority issue for future resolution.

C. Kaanana described beneficiary capacity-building efforts through the DHHL water law leadership training program (Imana Ikawai Kūkulu Kahūwai), which originated from beneficiary advocacy following an unsuccessful proposal for a DHHL seat on the Hawai‘i County Council, and which had since been developed in partnership with the University of Hawai‘i law school; she stated that six cohorts had been trained statewide and that participants were increasingly engaged in advocacy and public testimony, highlighting that program graduate Juanita Ryer-Colon had been nominated and confirmed to the State Water Commission, becoming the first person from Moloka‘i and only the 16th woman to serve on the Commission since 1987. Finally, she updated the Commission on pending water reservation requests, explaining that water reservations functioned as protected allocations of water for DHHL use in all Moloka‘i water management areas, and that current requests involved Kamiloloa, Kawela, and Pala‘au, while the ‘Ualapu‘e reservation had been deferred and coordination with the Water Commission was ongoing.

**DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Kaleikini sought clarification on the Ho‘olehua water system, confirming it supplied water to both Ho‘olehua and Kalama‘ula. He asked about the 2021 increase in the water use permit and the statement that the system was operating at maximum pump capacity while still allowing 118 new meters, and whether those meters had already been allocated.

Dr. J. Scheuer explained that the 118 meters had not been used and still represented available capacity, based on current pump output and the aquifer's sustainable yield. They clarified that this figure accounted for existing entitled lots and proposed projects, while a larger total demand of 261 additional meters would be needed for full build-out, including scattered lots and future developments, though it did not represent all possible future demand.

Commissioner Kaleikini further asked whether meeting the 261-meter need would require expanding water supply, and staff confirmed that additional development would be necessary over the long term, including drilling new wells. They noted that prior Commission actions had secured a significant water reservation in the aquifer, but accessing it would require new well construction, likely located further north and east based on U.S. Geological Survey-supported studies conducted with Maui County.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS**

Chair Watson thanked everyone for their patience and participation, and stated that the committee meeting would be held that evening at 6:30 p.m. at the same location, with dinner provided at 5:00 p.m. by the Ho‘olehua Farmers Alliance. He also informed participants that the next day's agenda would begin at 9:30 a.m. with public testimony, followed by the J agenda, and that the schedule would then be reset.

**RECESS**

**3:20 PM**

## HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

Minutes of Monday, April 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Lanikeha Community Center, 2200 Farrington Avenue, Hoolehua, Molokai, 96729,  
and Interactive Conferencing Technology (ICT) Zoom

**PRESENT** Kali Watson, Chairperson  
Walter Kaneakua, O‘ahu Commissioner (ICT)  
Micahel Kaleikini, East Hawai‘i Commissioner  
Sanoë Marfil, O‘ahu Commissioner  
Makai Freitas, West Hawai‘i Commissioner (ICT)  
Lawrence Lasua, Moloka‘i Commissioner  
Pauline N. Namu‘o, O‘ahu Commissioner (ICT)  
Archie Kalepa, Maui Commissioner

**EXCUSED** Shaylyn Ornellas, Kauai Commissioner

**COUNSEL** R. 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

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Chair Watson. Five (5) members were present in person, three (3) on Zoom, and one (1) excused, establishing a quorum.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Chair Watson had opened the session by noting the presence of a visiting group of opio and asked Kumu Lehua Kauka to introduce them. Kumu Kauka, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Moloka‘i Middle School, introduced herself along with fellow educators Kumu Sherry and Kumu J. Aiana, and explained that they had brought both eighth-grade social studies and seventh-grade Hawaiian history students to observe the meeting. The visit was intended to expose students to potential future roles and provide a real-life understanding of government processes, as they had been studying the branches of government and the responsibilities within each. Attending the DHHL meeting would allow students to witness firsthand how testimonies and meetings are conducted.

Chair Watson had explained to the students that the Hawaiian Homes Commission, a nine-member decision-making body, oversees a program established over 100 years ago through the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which was created by the federal government at the urging of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole to address the severe decline of the Native Hawaiian population—from over 680,000 at Western contact to fewer than 24,000 by 1921—by returning Hawaiians to the land through homesteading. He noted that about 200,000 acres were set aside, though much of it was marginal and difficult to develop, contributing to slow progress even after the State of Hawai‘i assumed responsibility in 1959 as part of statehood requirements. He highlighted that underfunding had long limited success, but Act 279 in 2022 provided \$600 million and flexibility, accelerating efforts with about 2,500 leases awarded recently and 28 projects underway, despite ongoing challenges like over 29,000 applicants on the waitlist and underutilized lands, including fishponds managed by another agency. He told students they would observe beneficiary testimony during the meeting, encouraged them to learn and consider future involvement, and emphasized that homesteading was both a privilege and a responsibility tied to sustaining families, land stewardship, and the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture.

Chair Watson had announced that the meeting would begin with public testimony followed by the J Agenda, and stated that the Commission would recess for lunch at 12:00 p.m., with plans to reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to complete any remaining J Agenda items.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

### **PT-1 Ohana United Party - Pikachu Shelby Billionaire – NAHASDA Program/funds**

P. Billionaire expressed appreciation for involving students and emphasizing the importance of educating future generations about opportunities through DHHL and the NAHASDA program. He referenced prior collaboration supporting the Kānehili Homestead Association with an \$800,000 wall and a future community center, and encouraged communities, including Moloka‘i, to access NAHASDA funds through associations. He presented a proposal for the Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery, noting delays due to the land still being under DHHL rather than the community association, and explained that he submitted a new proposal that morning, with requests for support letters from OHA and the mayor to meet funding deadlines, stressing the importance of timely submissions. He outlined plans to honor kūpuna without expanding burials due to regulatory constraints, including QR-coded graves for digital memorials, a columbarium wall for urns, aquaponics for sustainability, solar lighting, and a maintenance budget. He also noted DHHL’s limited capacity to manage its lands, encouraged future generations to assume stewardship responsibilities, and confirmed the submission of the proposal, expressing gratitude.

## **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

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

### **J-1 Lehua Kauka, Nani Kahinu, Mike Kahinu, & Kalani Johnston – Kalama‘ula Homesteaders Association**

L. Kauka presented an overview of severe flooding damages caused by the Kona Low storm affecting not only Kalama‘ula but also Kapa‘akea and Kamiloloa, and stated that their purpose was to document the extent of the damage, explain contributing causes, and request both immediate and long-term solutions. She emphasized that the presentation focused on urgent homestead needs, ongoing infrastructure deficiencies, and environmental neglect, and they called for improved flood-prevention measures and a comprehensive recovery plan. She also had expressed willingness to work collaboratively with DHHL to address the issues and improve conditions for affected homestead communities.

N. Kahinu had testified that her family’s first major flooding experience occurred in 2002 after the development of Kūlana ‘Ōiwi adjacent to their homestead, which she believed had altered the natural topography by elevating the land by about three feet and contributing to water being blocked and redirected toward their area. She explained that Kalama‘ula Mauka had also been cleared behind their property, worsening drainage conditions, and stated that flooding problems persisted into 2026, supported by photos from both 2002 and later events. She reported that culverts had not been maintained for years, that surrounding vegetation and drainage systems had become overgrown or obstructed, and that their homestead was impacted by at least 7 culverts blocked by upstream overflow from a river system in town. While acknowledging that residents had taken proactive steps such as elevating belongings and preparing for storms, she emphasized that these efforts were insufficient without proper infrastructure maintenance and requested a formal DHHL assessment of how surrounding developments had affected their property, reiterating that the issue had been ongoing and previously raised without adequate resolution.

M. Kahinu had reported that flooding impacts on families had included displacement from homes, health risks such as mold and contamination, financial burdens from property repairs, and significant emotional and

cultural distress. He had explained that the submitted photos were intended to document longstanding drainage problems for the record, highlighting systemic issues such as inadequate drainage infrastructure, blocked and poorly maintained culverts, neglected drainage ditches, insufficient stormwater management systems, and chronic lack of maintenance leading to limited culvert capacity. He had also noted that debris and sediment buildup, including material from deer-damaged mauka areas, had contributed to blockages at culverts during rainfall events. In response, he had reiterated the need for improved drainage systems, regular maintenance and clearing of waterways and ditches, and immediate infrastructure actions such as clearing, repairing, or replacing culverts, restoring drainage channels, improving water flow across the affected ahupua‘a areas, and establishing a routine maintenance schedule to prevent future flooding problems.

K. Johnston had experienced repeated severe flooding caused by poorly maintained makai-side culverts and disrupted mauka-to-makai water flow, which had led to overflow conditions that repeatedly inundated his property and surrounding areas. He had described significant property damage, including destroyed household appliances and flooding deep enough to affect vehicles and yards, and explained that runoff from multiple directions and blocked drainage paths had worsened conditions, sometimes isolating homes during heavy rain events. He had emphasized that despite past maintenance practices, culverts had remained inadequately cleared, and that temporary personal mitigation efforts such as elevating belongings and using excavation equipment had not resolved the underlying issues. He had also noted the cultural and subsistence importance of the land for his family and community, referenced its generational history under the Hawaiian Homestead program, and ultimately had called for stronger infrastructure support, including improved drainage maintenance and possible gravel backfill, to address ongoing flooding impacts.

L. Kauka had requested urgent assistance for homesteaders affected by repeated flooding across Kalama‘ula, Kapa‘akea, and Kamiloloa, emphasizing collaboration with DHHL to repair damaged homes and roads and to ensure communities remained safe and livable. She had described frequent flooding impacts on properties, noted community cooperation in responding to events, and called for a comprehensive flood prevention plan, funding for repairs, infrastructure upgrades, environmental restoration, and designated evacuation sites. She also had referenced the already approved February 2026 Moloka‘i Coastal Homesteads Community Resilience Plan, developed through a year-long collaborative process and prepared by G70, and had urged its implementation as it contained key strategies for addressing mauka-to-makai restoration and long-standing drainage and flooding issues affecting homestead communities.

#### **J-4 Lori Buchanan – Various Concerns**

L. Buchanan had reported that Moloka‘i had confirmed its first detections of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle at Mālama Park, the Mahana area, and the Moloka‘i Airport, all on or near DHHL lands, and had explained that an emergency response had been activated involving state, federal, and local partners, including long-term trapping and surveillance efforts that had begun after earlier detections in Hawai‘i, with no breeding sites found and only a few beetles confirmed so far. She had warned that the pest posed a serious threat to Moloka‘i’s biodiversity and culturally important plants and had urged action to prevent further spread, including opposing a proposal to import large amounts of gravel to Kalaupapa due to biosecurity risks to DHHL lands and ecosystems. She had also referenced broader community initiatives, such as a floating solar project proposal, and shared historical context about the restoration of Kupeke Fishpond and adjacent lands through family and community efforts. Finally, she had requested support for infrastructure improvements to enable a proposed crematory project on DHHL land in West O‘ahu, noting that lack of water and electricity was currently preventing development and asking for assistance to advance community-serving facilities.

#### **J-6 Yama Kaholoa‘a – Lease Transfer Concern**

Y. Kaholoa‘a requested assistance with transferring his Hawaiian Homes lease to his qualified grandchildren but said the process was blocked because he was told he must first pay an unclear “property tax” without being told who it was owed to or how to pay it. He reported that he had already discussed the issue in a Zoom meeting with DHHL staff, including Mr. Garcia, David Bush, and Alicia Teves, but had not received

an answer. He explained that his original homestead included a one-acre residential lot and a 15-acre agricultural parcel, which he had voluntarily relinquished so another family could use the land, and that he had built his home decades earlier with guidance suggesting Hawaiian homestead construction might be exempt from county permits. He argued that newer departmental resolutions should not override the conditions and approvals under which he had lived in his home for about 42 years, emphasized that he did not owe any debts, and reiterated his concern that the unclear tax requirement was preventing timely transfer of the lease to his grandchildren.

J. Garcia had explained the department could accept the transfer request, there was a significant outstanding real property tax delinquency associated with the lease that needed to be resolved before the Commission could approve the transfer. He said Y. Kaholoa‘a had argued that neither the department nor the county had authority to assess such taxes, but J. Garcia explained that under the lease terms and governing act, the lessee remained responsible for real property taxes after an initial seven-year exemption period.

Chair Watson had asked Y. Kaholoa‘a whether he had formally designated his grandchildren as successors to his Hawaiian Homes lease, since this was important for lease transfer and continuity. After some confusion and clarification, Kaholoa‘a confirmed that his grandchildren had been named as successors and that they were qualified for the lease, which was also acknowledged by J. Garcia. Chair Watson then redirected the discussion to the immediate issue of the outstanding property tax delinquency, explaining that leaseholders were generally subject to real property taxes after an initial seven-year exemption period and that this applied broadly, not as a special case against him.

Y. Kaholoa‘a strongly objected, arguing he would not pay because he believed the land was Hawaiian land granted through Native Hawaiian rights and not subject to county or other taxation, and he described the requirement as unfair and contradictory to his understanding of the lease. Chair Watson responded that the lease agreement itself required compliance with tax obligations and noted that Y. Kaholoa‘a’s wife was the official lessee, emphasizing that the terms were part of the signed lease contract. The discussion highlighted a disagreement between Y. Kaholoa‘a’s interpretation of land rights and tax responsibility and the Commission’s explanation of lease obligations under the Hawaiian Homes program.

#### **J-8 Jimmy Kincaid – Waiohuli Makai Homesteads Advocacy Group**

J. Kincaid advocated for individuals on the Maui pastoral waitlist, including himself, explaining that he applied in 1980 for both residential and pastoral homestead lots and was later awarded a residential lot in 1991, where he built his own home. As of 2026, he remained on the pastoral waitlist for 46 years and was currently ranked around seventh or eighth, with several applicants ahead of him, and he urged the department to advance awards so movement could occur along the list. At 76 years old, he expressed a strong desire to obtain a pastoral lot to support his family and questioned whether any pastoral lands were available for distribution, noting a lack of visible progress in that category. He acknowledged that he had previously been offered a Kahikinui pastoral lot in the late 1990s but declined it at the time due to work commitments as a contractor, choosing to let someone else take the opportunity. He also advocated for the potential development of the Waiohuli Makai property, a roughly 4,700-acre parcel on Maui’s south side that had recently been reclaimed and was not yet part of formal planning, and he concluded by requesting feedback or assistance from the Commission regarding efforts to increase availability and movement of pastoral homestead lands on Maui.

#### **J-9 Kanela Kamahalohanuilai – Oluolu Street Drainage**

K. Kamahalohanuilai raised urgent concerns about drainage impacts and construction near Oluolu Street in Waimanalo tied to a DHHL-approved development, emphasizing that they did not oppose housing but demanded lawful, properly permitted, and responsible development that would not harm existing beneficiaries. She reported that residents were experiencing altered drainage, increased runoff, flooding risks, erosion, and land instability, which they attributed to construction activities, and stressed that emergency

proclamations did not override legal obligations under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, environmental laws, and fiduciary duties, citing supporting case law. She highlighted environmental damage, including removal of vegetation like papaya and avocado trees that previously aided drainage and soil stability, and concerns about imported fill material. She requested an immediate halt to development until full compliance with permitting and HRS Chapter 343 reviews was verified, along with remediation, removal of a retaining wall, land restoration, and reconsideration of site design, including a raised roadway impacting nearby homes. She also called for coordination between DHHL and BLNR, criticized lack of community transparency, and urged continued agenda inclusion, accountability, and community engagement to ensure development proceeded without harming beneficiaries.

**Public Testimony – Mialisa Otis** – Raised concerns about flooding on Oluolu Street caused by what she described as illegal dumping and unpermitted construction tied to a development at TMK 41008008, and she emphasized the cultural significance of nearby Pu‘u O Moloka‘i through a mo‘olelo. She stated that residents had contacted multiple agencies about the project and described an incident during a Kona Low storm where pump trucks allegedly removed floodwater from the site and dumped it into a nearby stream, raising concerns about contamination from untested soil, septic waste, chemicals, and buried trash, and she noted a water pipe was reportedly broken during this activity. She argued that permits had expired and that emergency proclamations did not justify the work, while also alleging encroachment onto agricultural land, expansion of the project, and removal of vegetation including papaya, avocado, and ulu trees. She further explained that a four-foot wall built for a roadway, with limited drainage openings, had altered natural water flow and contributed to ongoing flooding in nearby residential areas that historically drained toward Pu‘u O Moloka‘i. In closing, M. Otis stated that the project had proceeded without required environmental impact, archaeological, or geotechnical studies, arguing these should have been completed beforehand and criticizing what she described as a “forgiveness over permission” approach. She warned that the elevation and construction changes could worsen drainage and erosion toward Pu‘u O Moloka‘i, potentially causing additional environmental harm, and called for the project to be halted and restored to its original grade to ensure natural water flow. She urged DHHL to prioritize protecting existing residents and beneficiaries by addressing these impacts before allowing further development.

**Public Testimony – Louisa Kawela** - She testified in support of concerns regarding the Pu‘u Oluolu property located off Hill Street. She stated her understanding that the site was designated for agricultural use, a charter school, and other non-residential purposes, but was also classified as a flood zone and therefore unsuitable for human habitation. She questioned whether proper investigation and evidence had been used in determining and enforcing the zoning designation and asked if such classifications should be strictly upheld for safety reasons. She emphasized that decision-making should consider the surrounding community, including residents in the flood zone area, iwi kūpuna, animals, trees, and plants, and concluded her testimony by urging careful attention to environmental and cultural impacts while maintaining safety and proper land-use enforcement.

**Public Testimony – Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai** – Questioned whether beneficiaries were required to pay property taxes under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, and argued that Hawaiian Home Lands, established through Prince Kūhiō, should be treated as exempt like federal, state, and county lands. She suggested that non-beneficiaries leasing these lands should instead be fully taxed to offset costs, and raised concerns about inequities in land use and tax responsibility, urging the Commission to prioritize a review of the issue. She also criticized limited accessibility to DHHL meeting materials, citing difficulties with large agenda packets and lack of closed captions or transcripts, and requested improved transparency and usability of digital resources. Additionally, she addressed unmanaged lands and waitlist issues, supporting broader equitable access for the thousands of applicants still waiting and expressing concern about narrow pilot programs. She concluded by acknowledging differing views, reaffirming her positions respectfully, and thanking the Commission for their work.

**J-11 Jeff Gilbreath – Hawai‘i Community Lending**

J. Gilbreath testified that he had built on a prior DHHL partnership to expand affordable homeownership for beneficiaries through the Ho‘okele Home Program, which helped lessees navigate leasing and construction while accessing financing and grants. Pilot results showed that low-income families saved about \$450 monthly on housing, gained roughly \$63,000 in equity at closing, and accessed homes up to \$160,000 cheaper than turnkey options, and he proposed scaling this model to project leases, vacant DHHL homes, and disaster-impacted properties. He requested raising DHHL’s loan guarantee cap from about \$100 million to \$500 million to attract more private capital for low-interest, zero-down mortgages, noting \$35 million had already been leveraged, and also proposed transferring DHHL’s delinquent loan servicing to HCL to enable modifications, reduce defaults, preserve leases, and free DHHL staff. He further urged reducing permitting timelines to about 30 days using third-party services, expanding investment from Native Hawaiian trusts, and formalizing the partnership through MOUs, arguing these changes could reduce housing costs by up to \$250,000 and create an additional affordable housing pathway beyond existing DHHL programs.

**J-12 Kalaniakea Wilson, Kepa Ka‘eo, John McBride – Koa Kia‘i**

K. Wilson testified in support of a waitlist-led initiative aimed at addressing the approximately 30,000-person Hawaiian Homes waitlist, which he described as a humanitarian crisis requiring urgent action and greater support from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and its Commission. He referenced prior leadership and ongoing efforts, including guidance from Sonny Kaniho and support from various officials and homestead associations, and outlined a timeline of related advocacy work, including submitted business plans for Mauna Kea and Humu‘ula access projects, partial approvals, and continued requests for implementation and collaboration across administrations. He concluded by urging the Commission to formally support the waitlist-led program and continue advancing solutions to reduce the waitlist and address beneficiary needs statewide.

K. Ka‘eo had reported that over the past several weeks, he and his group had assisted more than 50 visitors who had come through the area needing help with directions, fuel, and basic needs such as food, and they had helped direct them to appropriate nearby resources and districts. He also stated that they had been monitoring activity on Hawaiian Home Lands and had observed ongoing trespassing by non-beneficiaries, including possible unauthorized use of resources and suspected theft of livestock, though details were unclear. He further described frequent tourists wandering off designated roads and noted general misuse of the land, including improper roadside use of the area. He concluded by continuing his monitoring update and referencing the need to check on a specific item mentioned as “number 12.”

K. Wilson argued that beneficiary consultations had unfairly positioned waitlisters against established homestead associations, which already had land and resources, and he criticized the lack of posted consultation recordings and the competitive process for land access. He stated that while non-beneficiaries and other groups had reportedly received leases or stewardship opportunities on lands such as Mauna Kea, waitlisters were instead required to submit detailed business plans and compete for limited opportunities, despite representing a large unmet need. He said his group had provided comprehensive financial and global investment partnerships to support DHHL in addressing the waitlist, which he described as a humanitarian crisis affecting about 30,000 people, and he warned that delays and funding uncertainty, including possible federal cuts, made immediate action necessary. He concluded by urging DHHL and the Commission to support a waitlist-led revenue and housing initiative to accelerate land access and reduce the waitlist.

K. Ka‘eo concluded his testimony by urging the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Commissioners to act boldly and without hesitation in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities mandated by Congress, emphasizing the need for stronger leadership and direct engagement with both waitlisters and beneficiaries. He encouraged collaboration and accountability in addressing land access and trust obligations, while acknowledging ongoing efforts in land acquisition and distribution by leadership. He expressed that

mutual encouragement between leadership and the community was necessary to ensure proper execution of duties and respect for beneficiaries' needs.

#### **J-14 James Maioho – Pilot Proposal of Unmanaged Lands**

J. Maioho had followed up on a previously presented pilot program to use DHHL unmanaged land for immediate transitional and housing solutions by coordinating with homelessness service providers and organizations such as OHA, Partners in Care, and Alternative Structures International, which he said had shown strong interest and begun informal coordination. He explained that the main barrier identified was not a lack of partners or systems, but the slow activation of available DHHL land to meet urgent housing needs. He proposed aligning the existing land inventory with established providers to deliver temporary housing without disrupting long-term development plans. He had requested guidance on how to advance the proposal to the next stage for review or authorization. The Chair had responded that the proposal needed to be formally submitted for departmental review before potential presentation to the Commission, after which follow-up and due diligence would determine viability, and the speaker agreed to resubmit and continue the process.

#### **J-15 De Mont Manaole – Various Concerns**

D. Manaole had strongly supported the Mokupuni Community Development Corporation in Moloka'i and its new nonprofit status, as well as Jeff Gilbreath and Hawaii Community Lending, describing both as effective partners for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and encouraging continued Commission collaboration with them. He had clarified that he fully supported DHHL and the Hawaiian Homes Commission despite prior public disagreements he had raised on issues like Mauna Kea, emphasizing that his concerns were issue-specific and not opposition to the department's leadership or mission of expanding homestead opportunities. He had also reported ongoing subsistence agricultural success on his land, including productive cultivation of banana, sugarcane, kalo, papaya, and other crops, and stated that land management responsibilities such as preventing dumping and trespass were being met with no current violations. He noted preparations to secure the area ahead of heavy rains and described generally positive community relations while also expressing concern for a neighbor's health.

#### **J-16 Kekoa Enomoto & Sybill Lopez – Pa'upena Community Development Corporation**

S. Lopez had yielded her time to the Kapa'akea Homestead Association. Sumu Asano reported that the community had continued to face recurring severe flooding, including recent Kona Low storms and earlier 2022–2023 events, with conditions that residents said had persisted for decades. He described emergency response efforts during the storms, including sandbagging homes, coordinating with county and state support, and establishing a temporary neighborhood hub at a flooded residence to distribute water, food, and MREs to stranded families and kūpuna. Many residents had been isolated by blocked roads, high floodwaters, and mud, requiring community-led distribution of supplies, which were then stored by residents afterward due to increasingly frequent storms. Kapa'akea lacked a formal evacuation site, shelter, or comprehensive emergency plan despite risks from flooding, fire, and tsunami hazards, and noted that evacuation routes often became impassable without four-wheel-drive access.

Kahekili Pa-Kala shared concerns and questions regarding access to official documentation related to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which he said he had received from his family. When his lease had been transferred to him, he had not been provided with a physical copy of such governing documents and asked whether hard copies were still available for lessees today, noting that he was aware the materials could be accessed online but questioning whether updated printed versions could be provided due to ongoing amendments. The Chair responded that the document was available and could be printed upon request, and indicated that lease-specific information should be contained within individual lease agreements. K. Pa-Kala added that he was also trying to understand issues raised by another testifier regarding lease obligations and

property tax responsibilities, suggesting that relevant answers should be found in the lease itself. He concluded his remarks, and the next speaker proceeded with thanks to the Commission.

S. Lopez described a partnership with MCDC focused on building capacity for homestead associations to manage operations independently, including emergency planning, mapping coordination, and faster rights-of-entry for land division. She had said that, through work with county partners and beneficiary groups like SCHHA Maui Mokupuni, they had examined Maui County property tax rules and identified recurring issues affecting Hawaiian Home Lands lessees, including individuals like “Uncle Yama.” She cited sections of the Maui County Code (including 3.48, 3.48.555, and related provisions) and argued that leases under sections 207 and 208 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act were meant to be exempt from real property taxes, with limited exceptions such as minimum tax assessments. She had pointed to historical ordinances dating back to 1992 supporting non-taxable treatment of these lands, noting that some properties were already assessed at zero, but she claimed inconsistent application of exemption rules and “triple effect” provisions required correction. She also warned that Bill 114 could unintentionally harm beneficiaries and requested review by legal counsel and the Attorney General’s office, stressing that these issues had been raised for several years and required coordinated resolution to protect affected lessees.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Watson thanked attendees for their patience, testimony, and participation, noting that the session had been both challenging and informative, with valuable input from beneficiaries. The next meeting would be held on May 18–19 in Kailua-Kona at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Resort and directed attendees to the department website for the 2026 schedule, awards, project updates, and other information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**12:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted:



Kali Watson, Chairman  
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Prepared by:



Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Commission Secretary  
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Approved May 18, 2026, at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Resort.

Attachments:

- 1) Public Testimony - Shelby Billionaire – Nanakuli Cemetery
- 2) Public Testimony – Waynette Belaski Item F-1
- 3) Public Testimony – Yvette Masuoka Item D-13
- 4) Public Testimony – Puna Ho’oipo – FY 2027 Budget Request
- 5) Public Testimony – Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito – Molokai Emergency Shelter
- 6) Public Testimony – H. Pa Kala Molokai South Shore Resilience Plan
- 7) Public Testimony – Zachary Helm Kona Low Flood Impact
- 8) Slide Presentation – Item E-7 Kona Low
- 9) Slide Presentation – Item G-1
- 10) Slide Presentation – Item G-2
- 11) Slide Presentation – Item G-3

**From:** [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#)  
**To:** [dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov); [BuildTeam50@gmail.com](mailto:BuildTeam50@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Nuesca, Ruby Lyn D](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Receipt - Public Testimony (April 2026)  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2026 11:19:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Aloha,

Mahalo for submitting your written testimony for the upcoming Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting.

Your testimony has been received and will be incorporated into the official meeting packet provided to the Commissioners. It will also be attached to the official meeting minutes as part of the public record.

We appreciate your time and participation in the Commission process.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Me ka mahalo,



Leah Burrows-Nuuanu  
Hawaiian Homes Commission  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
91-5420 Kapolei Parkway  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
Phone: 808 730 0158  
Email: [Leatrice.W.Burrows-Nuuanu@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leatrice.W.Burrows-Nuuanu@hawaii.gov)

---

**From:** dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov <dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 12:25 AM  
**To:** Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W <leatrice.w.burrows-nuuanu@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** New submission from Submit Public Testimony (April 2026)

**Name**

Shelby Billionaire

**Email**

[Buildteam50@gmail.com](mailto:Buildteam50@gmail.com)

**Message**

Subject: ADVANCE NOTICE — Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery Wahi Pana | \$1,625,000 NAHASDA Title VIII Proposal | NHHA Pending Board Approval | Attn: Director Kali Watson

Aloha Director Watson and the DHHL NAHASDA Program Team,

My name is Shelby Billionaire, HRM, serving as Community Advocate and Project Consultant for Build Team 50, LLC, working in direct partnership with the Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead Association (NHHA). I

am writing today on behalf of NHHA to respectfully provide this advance notice of a forthcoming NAHASDA Title VIII proposal submission — so that your team has the earliest possible opportunity to review, prepare, and calendar accordingly.

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## THE PROPOSAL AT A GLANCE

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Project: Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery — Wahi Pana  
(Sacred Place of Our Ancestors)  
Applicant: Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead Association (NHHA)  
Consultant: Build Team 50, LLC | Shelby Billionaire, HRM  
Funding: 100% NAHASDA Title VIII — Native Hawaiian Housing  
Block Grant (NHHBG) | HUD ONAP  
Request: \$1,625,000 — No matching funds required  
Site: 89-700 Halekala Avenue, Nānākuli, O'ahu, HI 96792

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## WHY THIS PROPOSAL — AND WHY NOW

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Director Watson, Hawai'i carries the highest cremation rate in the United States — over 73% — not because our people choose it by culture, but because the cost of dignified burial has become impossible for working Native Hawaiian families. At the Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery on Halekala Avenue, established in 1937, kūpuna are being kept in cardboard boxes because their 'ohana cannot afford a niche. There is no plan. And the grief of having no plan outlasts the grief of the loss itself.

This proposal changes that story — permanently and sustainably.

The Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery — Wahi Pana project will deliver:

- A Family Columbarium Urn Wall with multi-urn cubbyholes — multiple generations of 'ohana resting together, like Punchbowl but designed for families, with pull-out tray systems, lei hooks, bronze seals, and QR digital legacy plates
- A Phase 0 Drone Survey & Archaeological Assessment — high-accuracy orthomosaic and 3D terrain model to map surface features, guide SHPD-approved archaeological ground verification, protect all iwi kūpuna, and produce a SHPD-certified burial map and Burial Treatment Plan before any construction begins
- Solar Independence — 10kW array and 30kWh battery powering the entire site day and night, with HECO net metering generating \$4,800–\$7,200/year in operational credits
- An Aquaponics Food Forest — tilapia, kalo, and leafy greens grown on the same 'āina where kūpuna rest, fully self-sustaining by Year 2 and generating \$18,000–\$28,000 annually in harvest revenue
- A Kūpuna Pre-Planning Registry — so our elders can designate their final resting place while still with us, giving their 'ohana the greatest gift possible: clarity, dignity, and freedom from financial crisis at the moment of loss

By Year 3, this project generates \$76,800–\$116,000 in annual self-sustaining revenue. It places zero long-term burden on the State general fund. It was shaped directly by the NHHA board and community at a breakfast meeting in April 2026 — this is the community's vision, documented and funded.

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## ADVANCE NOTICE — STATUS & TIMELINE

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We recognize that the Hawaiian Homes Commission will be meeting in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i on April 20–21, 2026, and that the standard 2-week advance testimony deadline has passed for that session. We are not requesting agenda placement for the Moloka'i meeting at this time.

This email serves as a formal advance notice of intent so that Director Watson and the NAHASDA Program team are aware of what is coming and can guide us on the appropriate submission pathway and timeline.

Current status:

- ✓ Final proposal (v12) is complete and technically accurate
- ✓ Letters of support have been requested from Governor Josh Green and Lieutenant Governor Luke Cunningham
- ✓ The proposal has been reviewed by drone survey and archaeological professionals to ensure SHPD-compliant technical accuracy
- ✓ NHHA has received the proposal and is completing its formal board review and approval
- Upon NHHA board approval, the complete submission package will be formally submitted through the DHHL beneficiary portal and delivered directly to the NAHASDA Program office

We are actively assembling the full submission package, which will include:

- The complete Final Proposal (attached to this email as a preview)
- NHHA Board Resolution of Approval
- Letters of support from the Governor's Office and Lt. Governor
- Any additional documentation requested by your team

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#### A NOTE ON LEGISLATIVE URGENCY

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We are mindful that the State Legislature session is closing and that budget appropriation windows are narrowing. While this proposal requires no State appropriation — it is 100% federally funded — we are aware that DHHL's NAHASDA annual plan and any project-level approval actions benefit from early Commissioner awareness before those windows close.

We respectfully ask only this: that the NAHASDA Program team note the incoming submission and advise us of any submission requirements, formatting preferences, or scheduling windows we should meet to ensure this proposal receives full consideration in the current program year.

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#### OUR COMMITMENT

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Director Watson, we have been building this proposal the right way — with the community, with technical professionals, with cultural integrity, and with full respect for DHHL's processes. We are not asking to bypass the system. We are asking to be heard within it — before the door closes.

"A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia" — no task is too great when done together.

Nānākuli's kūpuna deserve a sacred resting place on the land that was promised to them. Their 'ohana deserve to grieve without financial crisis. And the Nānākuli Homestead Cemetery — established in 1937, nearly 90 years ago — deserves to be what it was always meant to be: a wahi pana, a place of honor, a living testament to aloha 'āina and mālama i nā iwi kūpuna.

He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. The land is the chief; we are its servants. We are ready to serve.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time. I welcome the opportunity to present this proposal to you, your team, or the Commission at the earliest available opportunity.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Shelby Billionaire, HRM  
Community Advocate & Project Consultant  
Build Team 50, LLC  
Phone: 808-747-7336  
Email: [buildteam50@gmail.com](mailto:buildteam50@gmail.com)

On behalf of:  
Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead Association (NHHA)  
Pending NHHA Board Approval

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SEND TO:  
[dhl.nahasda.info@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhl.nahasda.info@hawaii.gov)  
ATTN: Director Kali Watson & NAHASDA Program Team  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
91-5420 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, HI 96707

ATTACHMENT: [Nanakuli\\_NAHASDA\\_FinalDraft\\_v12\\_FINAL\\_SUBMISSION.pdf](#)

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**File**

- [Nanakuli-Cemetery NAHASDA FinalDraft v12 FINAL SUBMISSION.pdf](#)

**Subject:** F-1 Approval for the Issuance of Two (2) New General Revocable Permits, Nienie and Honokaia, Island of Hawaii, TMK Nos. (3) 8-6-012:007, (3) 4-6-011:004 & :005

To the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Hawaiian Homes Commission,

It is an honor to submit this testimony in strong support of the **Hawaii Youth Rodeo 'Ohana (HYRO)** and its application for a Revocable Permit at Honokaia, Hawaii Island. HYRO is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit uniquely positioned to serve as a high-capacity steward of these lands while delivering transformative benefits to DHHL beneficiaries.

HYRO's mission to perpetuate Hawaii's paniolo heritage through youth development and 'ohana engagement aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. We believe our proposed "living classroom" at Honokaia is the ideal vehicle to realize the community's vision.

## **I. Proven Financial Stability and Governance**

HYRO operates with a high degree of transparency and fiscal responsibility. As of **April 20, 2026**, the organization maintains a robust financial position with total assets of **\$56,458.00**, representing a significant growth from the previous year's \$24,291.74. This financial health ensures HYRO has the resources necessary to manage the 363.1 and/or 93.4-acre parcels effectively.

Our governance structure, as outlined in our Bylaws (last ratified **April 9, 2026**), ensures dual oversight for all financial transactions and strict adherence to nonprofit best practices.

## **II. Active Land Stewardship and Security**

HYRO is prepared to serve as an active on-site steward, reducing DHHL's management costs by:

- **Presence:** Providing a consistent presence to deter trespassing, illegal dumping, and unauthorized activities.
- **Wildfire Mitigation:** Implementing strategic grazing to manage fuel loads.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Maintaining fencing and securing the land in alignment with DHHL's safety and security goals.

## **III. Direct Benefits to Beneficiaries: The "Living Classroom"**

The Paniolo Academy at Honokaia will offer a "ranch-to-table" educational experience that directly addresses the needs expressed in the **2025 Waimea Nui Regional Plan**. Beneficiaries will gain:

- **Economic & Subsistence Literacy:** Practical skills in livestock management and sustainable ranching, serving as an incubator for future homesteaders.
- **Cultural Perpetuation:** Hands-on workshops in animal husbandry and land cultivation, ensuring that *He meheuheu mai nā kupuna mai* (habits acquired from the ancestors) are passed to the next generation.
- **Intergenerational Healing:** A safe, drug-free environment where 'ohana can gather to build community and share ancestral knowledge.

#### **IV. Alignment with Community Vision**

Our application is not a solitary proposal; it is a direct manifestation of the priority projects voted upon by beneficiaries in the Regional Plan. As a team consisting of paniolo families and DHHL beneficiaries from the surrounding area, HYRO is the "focal point" for youth development mentioned in the Regional Plan.

HYRO is ready and uniquely qualified to malama this 'āina. We respectfully urge the department to approve this application to allow us to foster a deeper relationship between our keiki, the environment, and our shared heritage.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette Belaski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Waynette Belaski,

Executive Director

**The Hawaii Youth Rodeo 'Ohana**

PO Box 857

Honokaa, HI 96727-0857

(808) 559-0571

waynette@hyrodeo.org

**From:** [dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhhl.icro1@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [Burrows-Nuuuanu, Leatrice W](#)  
**Subject:** HCC Contact:  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2026 7:29:47 AM

---

**First Name**

yvette

**Last Name**

masaoka

**Email**

[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)

**Email**

[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)

**Subject**

To Commission Chair Watson

**Message**

Good morning Commissioner,

I am writing to respectfully express my concern regarding the level of professionalism and lack of transparent communication I have experienced throughout this relocation process, which began in August.

There have been extended periods of minimal communication, unclear guidance, and a lack of timely updates from department staff. This has made it difficult to track progress and has contributed to unnecessary delays and uncertainty.

As my case is being presented again at the upcoming Commission meeting, I believe it is important that the full context of the process—including these communication challenges—is clearly understood.

I remain committed to moving forward and would greatly appreciate improved transparency, timely updates, and more consistent communication from the department. I have attached my attempts to communicate with the departments staff and the clear disregard of my multiple attempts to obtain information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

**File**

- [SHLNAPR0126041307260.pdf](#)

## Yvette Masaoka

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**From:** Yvette Masaoka  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 7:25 AM  
**To:** 'Kalua, Amber W'  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA'; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com'; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV'; 'Freitas, Moana K'; 'Meyer, Kui'; 'Park, Emily H'; 'Stephens, Kaii'; 'dttl.housing@hawaii.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up on March 16 Dttl Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Good morning, Amber,

I am following up on my prior requests to meet and review the item that will be presented to the Commission next week on my behalf. Given the time-sensitive nature of this matter, I would appreciate your prompt response regarding availability.

Additionally, I want to be very clear about what I am requesting be included in the Department's presentation to the Commission for the upcoming April 20, 2026 meeting.

I respectfully request that the Department place the following items on the agenda and recommend approval on my behalf:

1. Approval to advance 100% of the appraised proceeds, less the amount required for the full satisfaction of my existing mortgage obligation; and
2. Approval to disburse said advancement contemporaneously with the Department's receipt of the \$324,000 payment associated with the Keaukaha property.

It is important to me that these requests are accurately reflected and clearly presented to the Commission without omission.

Please confirm receipt of this request and advise on next steps.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Yvette Masaoka  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:51 AM  
**To:** 'Kalua, Amber W' <amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <tomimasaoka@gmail.com>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV>; 'Freitas, Moana K' <Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov>; 'Meyer, Kui' <felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov>; 'Park, Emily H' <emily.h.park@hawaii.gov>; 'Stephens, Kaii' <Kaii.Stephens@hawaii.gov>; 'Hoke, David' <david.l.hoke@hawaii.gov>; 'dttl.housing@hawaii.gov' <dttl.housing@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up on March 16 Dttl Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Hi Amber,

I am writing to follow up again regarding my previous emails, as I have not yet received a response. The continued lack of communication is becoming increasingly concerning given the timing and importance of the upcoming April DHHL Commission meeting.

I would like to reiterate my request to review the motion that will be presented, to ensure it accurately reflects what I am asking for. Please let me know when a draft will be available, or provide a time as soon as possible when we can meet to go over my line item prior to its submission to the Commission.

Additionally, I would appreciate a clear update on the current status of this matter, including where things stand in the process and whether anything further is needed from me.

If you are unavailable, please direct me to the appropriate point of contact so I can move this forward without further delay.

Thank you for your prompt attention. I look forward to your response.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*

Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Yvette Masaoka

**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2026 6:38 AM

**To:** 'Kalua, Amber W' <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>

**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>;

'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>; 'Freitas, Moana K'

<[Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov)>; 'Meyer, Kui' <[felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov)>; 'Park, Emily H' <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>;

'Stephens, Kaii' <[Kaii.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kaii.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>; Hoke, David <[david.l.hoke@hawaii.gov](mailto:david.l.hoke@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

**Importance:** High

Hi Amber,

I wanted to follow up on my previous email regarding the motion for the upcoming April commission meeting, as I have not yet received a response.

Given the timing and importance of the meeting, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to review the motion prior to its submission to ensure it clearly relays what I am requesting. Please let me know when a draft will be available, or if we can schedule a time to meet as soon as possible to go over it together.

Additionally, I would appreciate an update on where things currently stand in the overall process, and whether there is anything further needed from me to help keep things moving forward.

If you are unavailable, please feel free to direct me to the appropriate person to coordinate with.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Yvette Masaoka  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 7:40 AM  
**To:** Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>; Freitas, Moana K <[Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov)>; Meyer, Kui <[felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov)>; Park, Emily H <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>; 'Stephens, Kauai' <[Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Hi Amber,

I wanted to follow up regarding the motion for the April commission meeting. Could you please advise when we can either meet to review the motion or when a draft can be provided to me prior to submission to the commission?

Additionally, could you please provide an update on where we are in the overall process and let me know if there is anything further required from me to help keep things moving forward?

Please let me know your availability, or if there is someone else I should coordinate with to schedule a time.

Thank you, and I look forward to your guidance on next steps.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Stephens, Kauai <[Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2026 8:43 AM  
**To:** Yvette Masaoka <[ymasaka@hhsc.org](mailto:ymasaka@hhsc.org)>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>; Freitas, Moana K <[Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov)>; Meyer, Kui <[felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov)>; Park, Emily H <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>; Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Caution: This email came from outside of HHSC.

Hi Yevette,

Please see my response to your questions:

I wanted to follow up to confirm whether you have received the COE from the VA. Furthermore, could you please confirm that you have all the necessary documentation required to proceed with the home purchase? As Kui confirmed, your COE from the VA has been received by our loans branch. I do not oversee the loan process. However, our loans branch will work directly with your lender during this process. Please contact Ms. Kelting/VA and ask her to keep you updated.

I would appreciate an update on the next steps in the process, as I would like to avoid any further delays. On my end, your loan approval is the next step. The approval process typically takes some time, and at the moment, I'm not aware of any delays.

I would also like to review the motion for the April commission meeting. If a meeting is needed to go over any details or move things forward, please feel free to schedule one at your earliest convenience. I will defer to Amber to assist with this request. The relocation process is handled by our Homestead Service Division.

Mahalo,  
Kui

---

**From:** Yvette Masaoka <[ymasaoka@hhsc.org](mailto:ymasaoka@hhsc.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2026 7:21 AM  
**To:** Stephens, Kui <[Kui.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kui.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>; Freitas, Moana K <[Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov)>; Meyer, Kui <[felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov)>; Park, Emily H <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>; Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Hi Kui,

I wanted to follow up to confirm whether you have received the COE from the VA. Furthermore, could you please confirm that you have all the necessary documentation required to proceed with the home purchase?

I would appreciate an update on the next steps in the process, as I would like to avoid any further delays.

I would also like to review the motion for the April commission meeting. If a meeting is needed to go over any details or move things forward, please feel free to schedule one at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to your update.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Stephens, Kui <[Kui.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kui.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 9:03 AM  
**To:** Yvette Masaoka <[ymasaoka@hhsc.org](mailto:ymasaoka@hhsc.org)>

**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <tomimasaoka@gmail.com>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV>; Freitas, Moana K <Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov>; Meyer, Kui <felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov>; Park, Emily H <emily.h.park@hawaii.gov>; Kalua, Amber W <amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Caution: This email came from outside of HHSC.

Hi Yvette,

Please have Ms. Kelting refer to the sales contract. The awarding of the Keaukaha home is contingent on the completed surrender of your current lot.

Mahalo,  
Kauai

---

**From:** Yvette Masaoka <ymasaoka@hhsc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 8:17 AM  
**To:** Stephens, Kauai <Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <tomimasaoka@gmail.com>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV>; Freitas, Moana K <Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov>; Meyer, Kui <felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov>; Park, Emily H <emily.h.park@hawaii.gov>; Kalua, Amber W <amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Hi Kauai,

Spoke with Ms. Kelting at the VA. She requires the signed lease transfer for the Keaukaha home in order for the VA to release the funding.

Is it possible to get that today?

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Yvette Masaoka  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 3:57 PM  
**To:** 'Stephens, Kauai' <Kauai.Stephens@hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <tomimasaoka@gmail.com>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com>; 'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV>; Freitas, Moana K <Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov>; Meyer, Kui <felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov>; Park, Emily H <emily.h.park@hawaii.gov>;

Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Hi Kai,

Yes, I did email the VA loan specialist yesterday.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*

Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)

Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

**From:** Stephens, Kai <[Kai.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kai.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:01 PM

**To:** Yvette Masaoka <[ymasaoka@hhsc.org](mailto:ymasaoka@hhsc.org)>

**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>;

'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>; Freitas, Moana K

<[Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:Moana.K.Freitas@hawaii.gov)>; Meyer, Kui <[felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.meyer@hawaii.gov)>; Park, Emily H <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>;

Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Caution: This email came from outside of HHSC.

Aloha Yevette,

Have you notified the VA to proceed with your loan?

\*I removed Felicity Freitas as a recipient from this email. I have added Moana Freitas and Felicity "Kui" Meyer.

Kai Stephens

---

**From:** Yvette Masaoka <[ymasaoka@hhsc.org](mailto:ymasaoka@hhsc.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:43 AM

**To:** Park, Emily H <[emily.h.park@hawaii.gov](mailto:emily.h.park@hawaii.gov)>; Stephens, Kai <[Kai.Stephens@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kai.Stephens@hawaii.gov)>;

'felicity.k.freitas@hawaii.gov' <[felicity.k.freitas@hawaii.gov](mailto:felicity.k.freitas@hawaii.gov)>; Kalua, Amber W <[amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov](mailto:amber.w.kalua@hawaii.gov)>

**Cc:** 'YVETTE MASAOKA' <[tomimasaoka@gmail.com](mailto:tomimasaoka@gmail.com)>; 'josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com' <[josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com](mailto:josh.kh.byrd@gmail.com)>;

'JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV' <[JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV](mailto:JUANITO.P.GARGIA@HAWAII.GOV)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Follow-Up on March 16 DHHL Commission Meeting and Request for April Agenda Action

Good morning,

I am writing to follow up on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Commission meeting held on March 16 regarding Agenda Item D-14.

As reflected in the official record, the Commission voted in favor of all motions under Agenda Item D-14, specifically:

1. Approval of the surrender of Lot No. 6-A;
2. Approval of the \$330,000 appraised value and the advancement of up to 100% of the proceeds;
3. Approval authorizing the Department to rearward Lot No. 6-A; and
4. Approval allowing my family to temporarily occupy Lot No. 6-A during the transition period.

During the meeting, both Mr. Kaleikini and Mr. Kalepa raised key questions on my behalf, specifically: (1) the timing of the advancement of funds I have requested, and (2) whether the Commission could take action on that matter at that time. The response provided indicated that this issue would need to be deferred to the April Commission agenda. Given that the Commission has already demonstrated its support by approving all related actions, I respectfully note that further delay in addressing the advancement of funds imposes unnecessary hardship and prolongs resolution of this matter.

In the interim, I have initiated contact with my VA loan officer and will be proceeding accordingly to ensure I remain in good financial standing.

For the upcoming April Commission meeting, I respectfully request that the Department place the following items on the agenda and recommend approval on my behalf:

1. Approval to advance 100% of the appraised proceeds, less the amount required for the full satisfaction of my existing mortgage obligation; and
2. Approval to disburse said advancement contemporaneously with the Department's receipt of the \$324,000 payment associated with the Keaukaha property.

These actions are necessary to ensure a timely and equitable resolution consistent with the Commission's prior approvals and intent.

I will be present at the April meeting and intend to provide testimony in support of these requests. If you would like to meet to discuss these agenda items I will make myself available.

I look forward to your confirmation that these items will be included on the April agenda and to be provided with the agenda item on my behalf prior to submission.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very Respectfully,

*Yvette Masaoka MSN-Ed, MHA, RN, CNML*  
Assistant Administrator (Critical Care Services)  
Office (808) 932-5612; Wifi (808) 932-6310

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Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**From:** [Badajos, Diamond](#)  
**To:** [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#); [Nuesca, Ruby Lyn D](#)  
**Cc:** [DHHL ICRO](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the FY2027 Budget Request  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2026 6:28:16 AM

---

Forwarding.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Puna Ho'oipo <kumupanakea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2026 10:01:54 PM  
**To:** DHHL ICRO <dhdl.icro@hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** EA Ho'oipo PA NAKEA <kumupanakea@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the FY2027 Budget Request

### OFFICIAL WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**To:** The Hawaiian Homes Commission ([dhhl.icro@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhhl.icro@hawaii.gov))

**Attn:** Chair Kali Watson

**From:** Elizabeth Ho'oipo Pa Nakea, Esq.

**Date:** April 20, 2026

**Subject:** Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the FY2027 Budget Request

**Aloha Chair Watson and Members of the Commission,**

I submit this testimony as a DHHL beneficiary and as the attorney of record in [Ka'ai'ai v. Drake](#). I am writing to strongly urge the Commission to demand full compliance with the state's fiduciary duty to provide "**sufficient sums**" for the Department.

**1. The Federal Threat to our Political Status** We are currently facing a critical moment. The Trump administration's decision to place **Solicitor's Opinion M-37083** under "Suspension Review" is a calculated attempt to reclassify our people as a racial group rather than a political nation. We must stand firm: our status is **political**, anchored in the [1993 Apology Resolution](#) and over 150 federal statutes. We are a Nation, and our Trust is a sovereign covenant.

**2. Funding is a Mandatory Debt** As litigated in *Ka'ai'ai*, funding for this Trust is not a discretionary "handout"—it is a **mandatory fiduciary debt** established by the 1959 Admission Act. The [\\$328 million settlement in Kalima v. State](#) is the ultimate proof of the price the State pays when it breaches this trust. It is more fiscally responsible to fund infrastructure today than to pay for damages tomorrow.

**Personal Note to Chair Watson:** Chair Watson, I want to commend the incredible progress you have made in accelerating housing construction. This momentum is vital. However, because our "political shield" is under federal review, I urge the Commission to lead an aggressive legal defense of our status. I welcome further outreach to discuss the specific legal strategies necessary to protect our assets from this federal overreach.

**Mahalo,**

**Elizabeth Ho'oipo Pa Nakea, Esq. Phone: (808) 308-2654**

**Email: [kumupanakea@gmail.com](mailto:kumupanakea@gmail.com)**

**From:** [dhl.icro1@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhl.icro1@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Submit Public Testimony (April 2026)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:12:29 PM

---

**Name**

LU ANN LANKFORD-FAVORITO

**Email**

[KALUHIOKALANIK@AOL.COM](mailto:KALUHIOKALANIK@AOL.COM)

**Message**

APRIL 20TH MEETING:  
AGENDA ITEM:  
Land Development Division  
E-7 For Information Only: "From Impact to Improvement: Kona Low Event Overview, Coordinated Response, Lessons Learned, and Future Preparedness"  
Molokai needs a emergency shelter asap. Asking DHHL to allow lands for this purpose throughout our island, managed by Homestead associations. (Ho'olehua, Kapaakea, Ualapue, Kalamaula)

**Post Title**

Molokai Emergency Shelter

**From:** [dhl.icro1@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhl.icro1@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [Burrows-Nuuanu, Leatrice W](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Submit Public Testimony (April 2026)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 5:09:07 PM

---

**Name**

Davidette Pa-Kala

**Email**

[halapakala@yahoo.com](mailto:halapakala@yahoo.com)

**Message**

Would like commissioners to take action on Molokai South Shore Resilience Plan. Clean up and Malama Molokai.

# Flood Impact – 1153 Likelike Ave.

Zachary Helm  
Kona Storms 2  
DHHL



Floodwaters entering homestead

# Swale Diversion (On Property)

Constructed swale to divert runoff  
Successfully redirected water flow  
Reduced direct flooding to residence and farm



Man-made swale diverting floodwaters

# Farm Parcel Damage

Crop loss  
Egg layer impact



Flooded farm parcel

# Infrastructure Damage

Storage affected  
Equipment loss



Flooded shed/container

# Access Issues

Road flooding  
Limited access



Flooded roadway

# Widespread Flooding

Multiple flow paths  
Property-wide impact



Water across homestead

# Sediment & Erosion

Heavy red dirt  
Soil displacement



Sediment deposition

# Drainage Failure

Uncontrolled runoff  
Overflow patterns



# Aerial Overview

Shows layout  
Flow direction



Aerial of homestead

# Additional Swale View

Swale effectiveness during storm  
Demonstrates proactive mitigation



Swale helping manage flow

# Remaining Impacts

Flooding still occurred from volume  
Upstream flow exceeds property controls



Residual flooding impact

## **Slide 1 – Flood Impact**

- “During Kona Storms 2, my homestead at 1153 Likelike Ave. experienced severe flooding that directly impacted my home and farm.”
- 

## **Slide 2 – Swale Diversion (On Property)**

- “This swale I built helped divert floodwaters, but it could not handle the overwhelming volume coming from mauka.”
- 

## **Slide 3 – Farm Parcel Damage**

- “Floodwaters inundated my farm parcel, destroying crops and disrupting my egg layer operation.”
- 

## **Slide 4 – Infrastructure Damage**

- “Flooding reached my storage and equipment areas, causing damage and loss of essential farm resources.”
- 

## **Slide 5 – Access Issues**

- “Flooding made access roads unsafe and in some areas impassable, limiting movement and emergency access.”
- 

## **Slide 6 – Widespread Flooding**

- “The flooding was not isolated—it spread across my entire property through multiple uncontrolled flow paths.”
-

## **Slide 7 – Sediment & Erosion**

“The heavy red sediment shows the mud and volume of floodwaters coming from mauka.”

---

## **Slide 8 – Drainage Failure**

- “Existing drainage systems failed to contain or direct floodwaters away from homestead properties.”
- 

## **Slide 9 – Aerial Overview**

- “From this aerial view, you can see how floodwaters travel from mauka directly into my property.”
- 

## **Slide 10 – Additional Swale View**

- “Even with the swale helping to divert water, the volume of flooding still exceeded what one property can manage.”
- 

## **Slide 11 – Remaining Impacts**

- “This flooding caused preventable damage, showing that upstream and infrastructure issues must be addressed.”

Presented By:  
Land Development Division

Item E-7  
April 20, 2026



# LDD UPDATES

From Impact to Improvement:

- Kona Low Event Overview
- Coordinated Response
- MEMA's Findings & Phases
- Lessons Learned
- Future Preparedness
- Projects & Construction

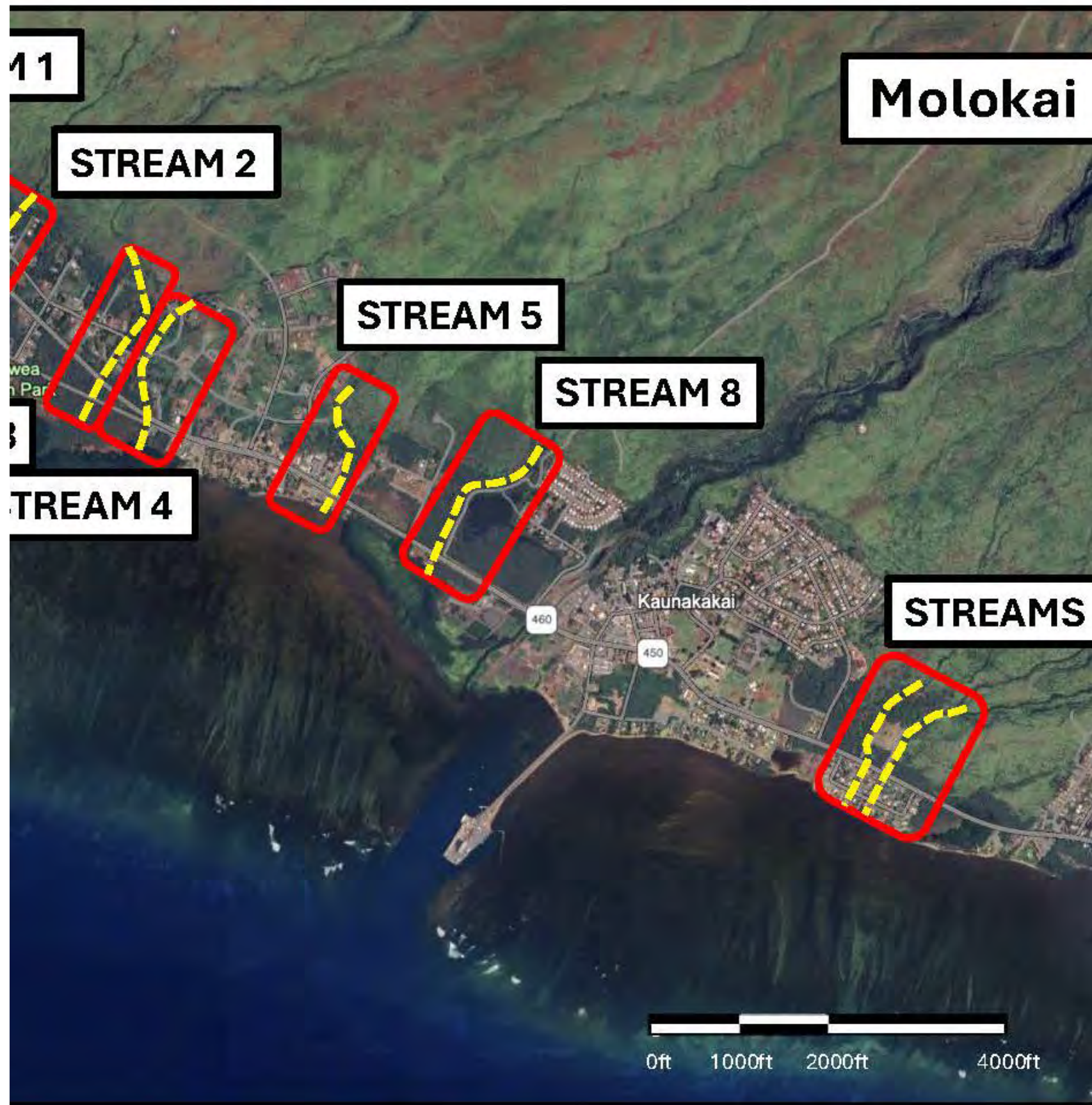


HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Kona Low Event Overview







HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Coordinated Response

# PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

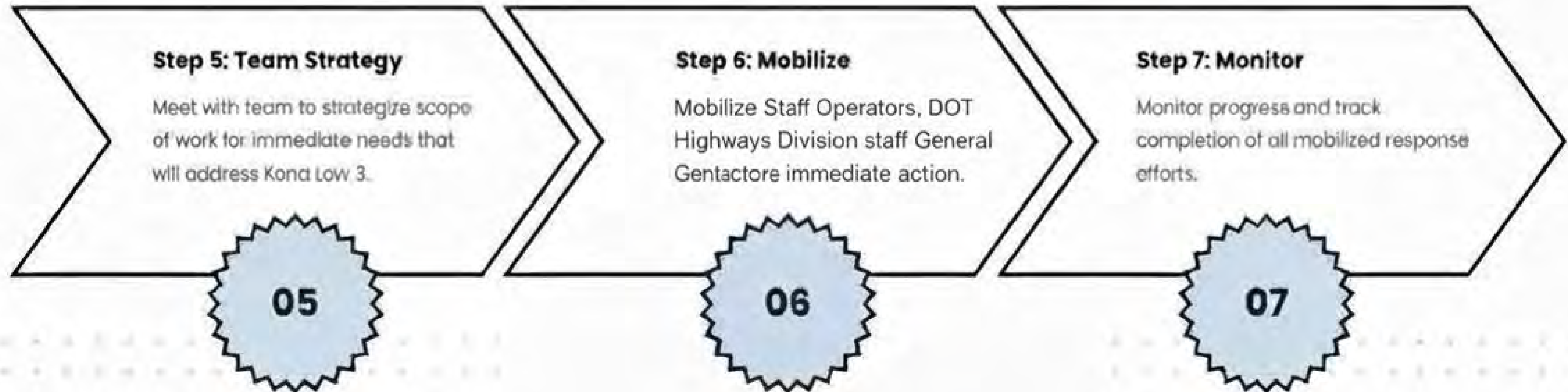




# Action Steps



## Kona Low 3 Response Plan











HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Maui Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) Phases

# KONA LOW STORM IMPACT

## Molokai Homestead Communities: 1 month

Real Damage.  
Real Families.  
Real Urgency.



**MCDC**

Mokuapuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahauwale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana iā ha'i*

It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

*April 2026*

# MARCH 19: STORM

# IDENTIFICATION COMMUNITY ACTIVATED

## STEP 1: PREPARATION

- SCHHA leadership activated
- Cross -community communication established
- MEMA updates monitored in real -time
- Prepared to shelter in place



MCDC

Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Aluwale ka pō'kela i kōu hana iā hu'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# MARCH 20-23: DEVASTATION COMMUNITIES CUT OFF

## STEP 2: IMMEDIATE IMPACT

- Kapa'akea → One Ali'i severely impacted
- Homes cut off by water, debris, and boulders

Evacuation attempts at peak flooding

- Residents trapped and isolated
- Access routes blocked



**MCDC**  
Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahivale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana iā ha'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED WIDESPREAD DAMAGE

## STEP 3: IMPACT SCALE

- Ho'olehua → heavy rain + aging homes
- Kapa'akea → severe flooding
- Kamiloloa / One Ali'i → expanding impact
- **120+ DHHL BENEFICIARIES IMPACTED**



**MCDC**

Mokuupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahauwale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana iā hā'i*

*It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.*

pc:

Naikeskine

# MARCH 23-ONGOING: LOCAL NETWORKS ACTIVATED COMMUNITY- LED SUPPORT

## STEP 4: COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- SCHHA coordinated response efforts
- Food distribution networks activated
  - Emergency hubs established
- Residents supporting one another

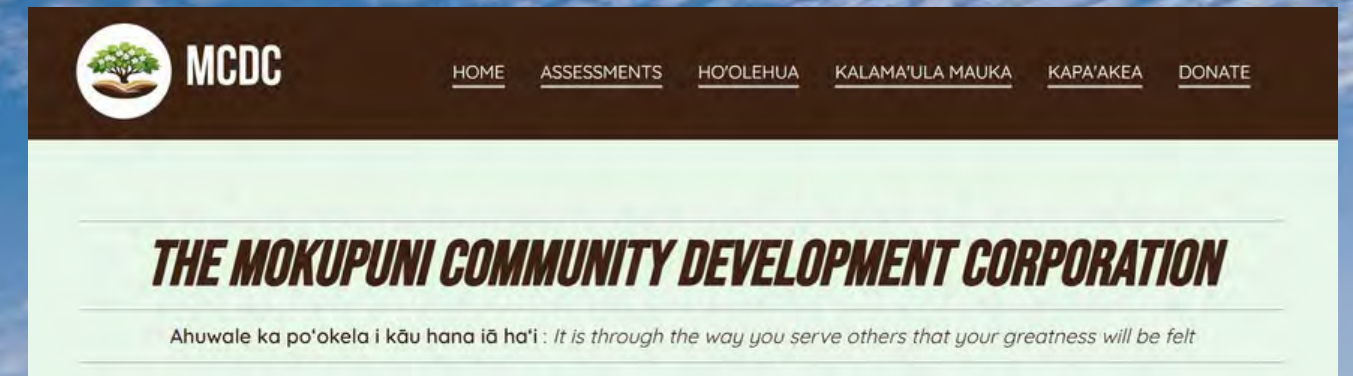
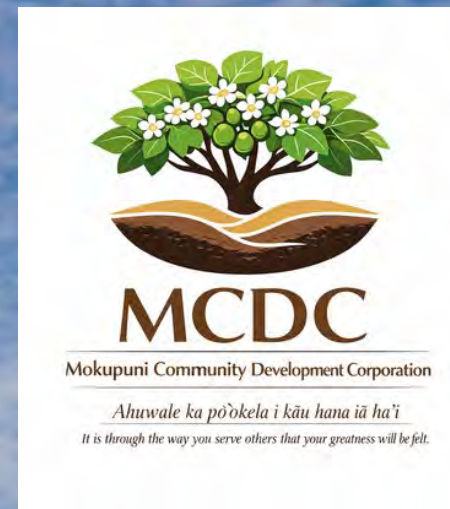


Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahūwale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana iā hū'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# STEP 5: organizational support

Homestead  
Associations



Homestead  
Associations



Native Hawaiian Resource  
Providers



**CALL TO ACTION:  
MOLOKA'I COMMUNITY**  
Were You Impacted by the Kona Storm?  
Your participation in this survey is critical

This will help identify resources for:

- \*debris removal/clean-up
- \*mold remediation
- \*home repair
- \*home rebuild
- \*appliance replacement

Scan QR Code

Help Us Understand Community Needs  
Mokupuni Community Development Corporation (MCDC) is working directly with homestead communities to assess the impacts of the 2026 Kona Storms. Your input will help:

- Identify urgent needs for 'ohana
- Guide relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts
- Advocate for resources and support for Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries
- Strengthen long-term resilience efforts across our homestead communities

Contact Email: [projects@mokupunicdc.org](mailto:projects@mokupunicdc.org)

- Anchored with Homestead Associations
- Active collaboration with Native Hawaiian -led community -based organizations
- Deployment of Community Engagement Assessment Tool

# PARTNERS RESPONDED RESOURCES MOBILIZED

## step 6: SUPPORT Coordination



KALAMAULA  
HOMESTEADERS  
ASSOCIATION



# PEOPLE AFFECTED LIVING IN COMPROMISED CONDITIONS

## STEP 7: beneficiary IMPACT

Residents remaining in damaged homes

Limited access to safe shelter

Exposure to mold and unsafe air quality

Multi-Generational families navigating daily  
instability

Cultural & emotional impact on our Kupuna



MCDC

Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahūwale ka pōhela i kōu hana ā ha'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# UNSAFE LIVING CONDITIONS HEALTH RISKS EMERGING

## STEP 8 ASSESSMENT: HOUSING & structural IMPACT

- Mold and mildew spreading rapidly
- Roof failures and active leaks
- Interior structural damage
- Cesspool cave -ins and overflow risks



MCDC

Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahūwale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana ā ha'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# ACTIVE WORK COMPLETED ON-THE-GROUND IMPACT

## step 9: RESPONSE ACTIONS

Home assessments

Debris removal and clean up

Tree trimming

Mold remediation efforts

Emergency roof repairs

Temporary housing support

Sandbag distribution

Cesspool/Septic pumping



MCDC

Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Ahūwale ka pō'ōkela i kōu hana ā ha'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.

# FUNDING REQUIRED RESPONSE MUST SCALE

## step 10: IMMEDIATE NEED

1. Resource Center: on -island coordination and staffing
  - a. Case Management
  - b. Emergency repair funding
  - c. Mold remediation support
  - d. Roofing and structural repair
2. Secure Site Control in 4 locations
3. DHHL Liaison Support



**MCDC**

Mokupuni Community Development Corporation

*Aluwale ka pōkela i kōu hana iā ha'i*  
It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.



[Emergency Site](#)

[Locations](#)

# BUILDING RESILIENCE PREPARING FOR FUTURE EVENTS

## step 11: LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Full build out of emergency shelters, storage facilities

Establish tribal mitigation plan with FEMA, evacuation  
and stream maintenance plan

Harden critical infrastructure

Improve drainage systems

Strengthen community response infrastructure



we are not WAITing  
FOR THE NEXT  
STORM.

our time is

now!

Mahalo nui to all for the continued kōkua



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Lessons Learned

# Lessons Learned



Resources ready for  
district supervisors



Resiliency centers  
established & equipped



Internal communications  
refined



Coordinated planning with  
state & county  
agencies



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Future Preparedness

**Goal:** To Protect & Repair DHHL Assets Before, During, & After an emergency.

**Integration Responsibilities.** Coordinate with:

- County/State Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)
- Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)
- Additional Emergency Response entities (e.g., FEMA, Local/State Public Safety, Red Cross, Team Rubicon)

**Emergency Communications**

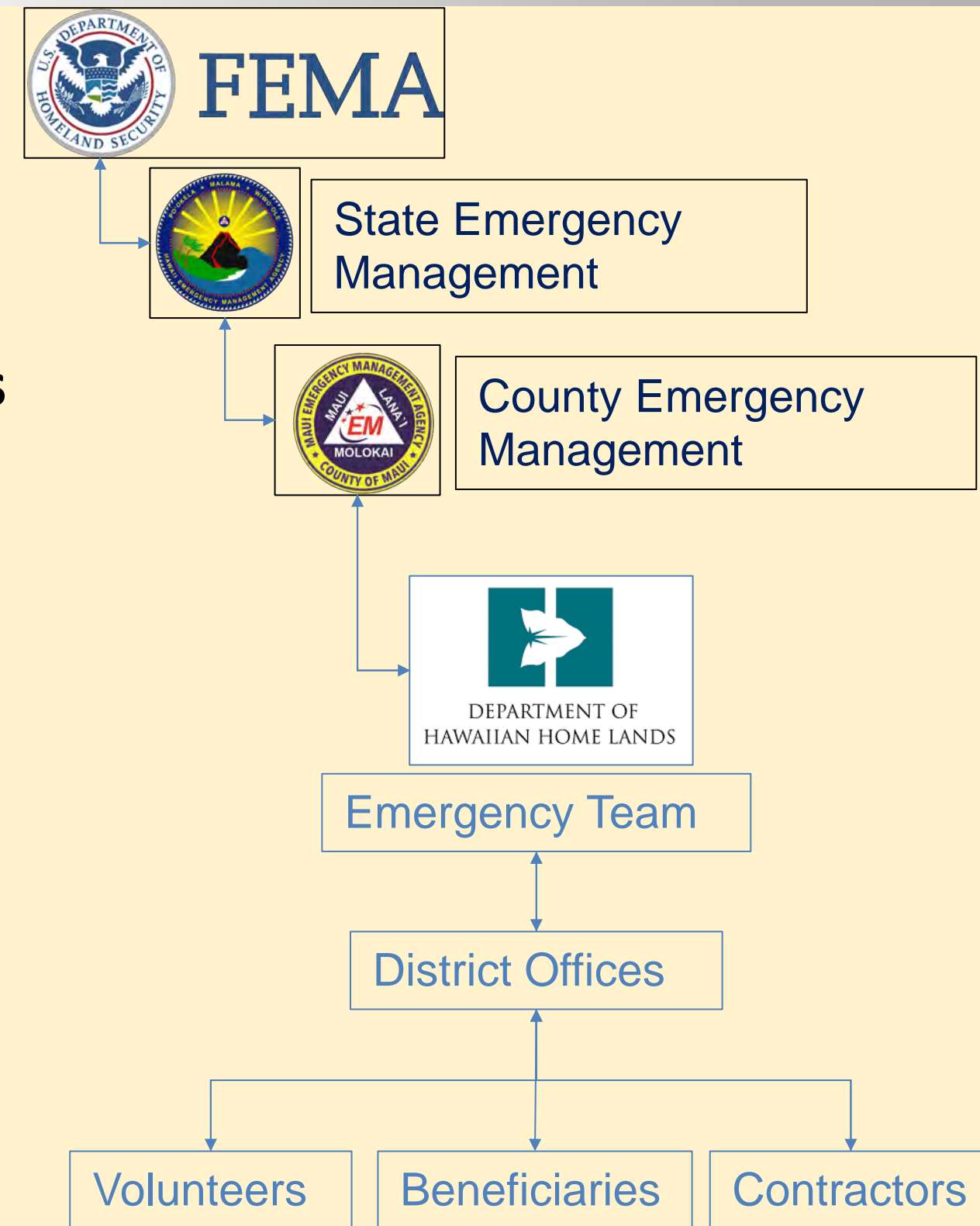
- With Emergency Response Entities
- With DHHL Staff
- With DHHL Beneficiaries

**Coordination of DHHLs assets and needs**

- Receive / Distribute resources from EOCs / HI-EMA
- Offer / Manager / Oversee utilization of DHHL resources (contractors, etc.)



- **Formalize activities/roles before, during, and after disasters**
  - With HI-EMA, Counties, Associations
  - Document in Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- **Ensure strong connections with community partners and volunteers**
  - District Offices & Associations can be the hubs for their communities
  - Leverage local aid for DHHL and State/County
- **Deploy DHHL's contractors and vendors**
  - Modify existing contracts to perform response and repairs
  - Enable for emergency use by DHHL, HI-EMA, etc.



## **State Funding Opportunities.** Examples/Potential Strategies include:

- Emergency Supplemental Appropriations
- MOU / MOA with HI-EMA for Disaster Reimbursement
- Governor's Contingency Fund Allocations

## **Federal Funding Opportunities.** Examples/Potential Strategies include:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- US DoT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION • DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

# Projects & Construction



# MOLOKAI DRY STREAMS PROJECT OVERVIEW



Assessments, Funding, Consultation & Construction for stream restoration near Kiowea Beach Park and Kaunakakai.

# Completed Assessments



- Hydrological and environmental evaluations finalized
- Baseline data collected for all stream sites
- Restoration design informed by findings

# Seek Funding & Other Resources



## Grants & Government Funding

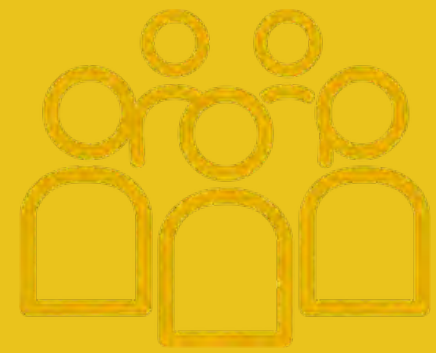
Active pursuit of federal, state, and local grants to support Molokai Dry Streams restoration efforts.



## Donor & Partnership Engagement

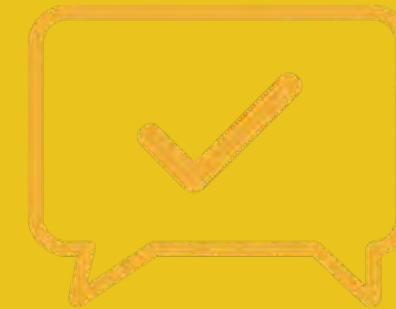
Building relationships with potential donors and community partners to secure resources and collaborative support.

# Beneficiary Consultation



## Community Meetings

Ongoing engagement with local communities, landowners, and stakeholders.



## Stakeholder (Beneficiary) Feedback

Incorporating culturally and environmentally sensitive approaches.



# Construct Improvements

Erosion Control &  
Habitat Restoration



**01**

Planning construction phases for erosion control  
Designing habitat restoration interventions  
Prioritizing streams based on assessment data

Contractor  
Coordination



**02**

Coordinating with contractors for implementation  
Focusing on priority streams near Kaunakakai

Presented By:  
Land Development Division

Item E-7  
April 20, 2026



**MAHALO**  
N u n u i



# HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION · DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

## Item G-1

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY- DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
ANTICIPATED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (AFONSI) FOR  
KANUIKAPONO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL (PCS) PRESCHOOL**

**KAUA'I**

April 20, 2026



# Purpose

1. Project background
2. Project overview
3. Summary Highlights from the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
4. Criteria for Finding of No Significant Impact, HRS Chapter 343
5. Project Schedule & Next Steps

# Kanuikapono PCS - History



- **August 2001:** State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission (HPCSC) granted charter to operate school
- **June 2002:** DHHL licenses 3-acre campus area
- **May 2006:** Kanuikapono (KPCS)/DHHL complete EA for initial campus
- **July 2010:** School transitions to DHHL land
- **May 2022:** KPCS receives WASC six-year accreditation
- **February 2023:** DHHL licenses additional 7.5 acres to expand campus to approx. 10.5 acres
- **June 2023:** KPCS is granted Public Charter School Contract 4.0 through June 2028
- **August 2023:** KPCS receives preK start-up grant from Kamehameha Schools
- **August 2024:** KPCS completes **Conceptual Master Plan**
- **January 2025:** HPCSC and the Hawai'i School Facilities Authority selects KPCS for **PreK Program**



# Proposed Action

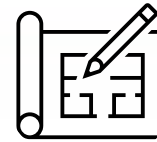
Kanuikapono PCS seeks to expand the school campus and services to be a community-based school and services center.

The Hawai'i School Facilities Authority is funding design and construction of the pre-K facility.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands must accept the Environmental Assessment to expand KPCS use of the licensed lands.



# Project Tasks



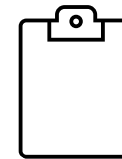
## Conceptual Master Plan

- Draft completed by KPCS in 2024



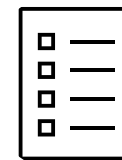
## Pre-School Facility Design

- HISFA and consultants Bowers + Kubota are designing the pre-school facility with KPCS, HPCSC, and DHHL input.



## Technical Studies

- Technical and field studies to inform the design and permitting processes.



## HRS 343 Environmental Assessment

- Bowers + Kubota are completing an Environmental Assessment in accordance with HRS Chapter 343.

# Hawai'i School Facilities Authority Pre-K Project



## Concept Master Plan

JUNE 2024



# Hawai'i School Facilities Authority Pre-K Project





# Consistency with DHHL Plans

## DHHL General Plan

- **Goal HC-2:** Establish livable, sustainable, resilient, and healthy communities on Hawaiian home lands that provide space for or access to the amenities that serve the daily needs of its residents.
  - **H2-2A:** Partner with homestead communities, non-profits, government agencies, and ali'i trusts to provide needed services to communities.
  - **H2-2C:** Incorporate community planning principles to design homestead communities that are welcoming, safe, and foster a sense of place and community.
  - **H2-2E:** Incorporate green infrastructure and low impact development principles in future homestead communities to manage stormwater in a way that promotes green, open spaces within homestead communities to the extent possible.
  - **H2-2F:** Incorporate complete streets, Safe Routes to School, and other features to increase the safety and attractiveness of walking, biking, and transit in future homestead communities when possible.

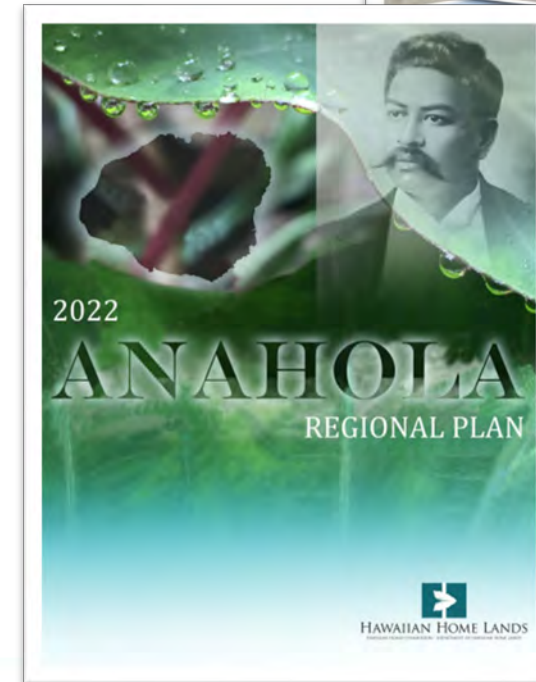
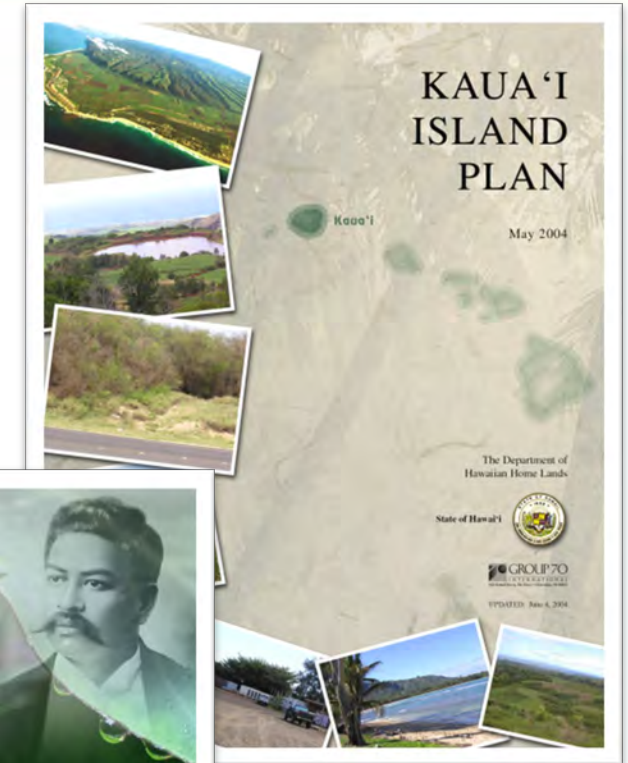
# Consistency with DHHL Plans

## Kaua'i Island Plan

- The project is consistent with the DHHL Kaua'i Island Plan's Community Use designation. The locations of the Community Use areas in Anahola will be reevaluated in the Kaua'i island Plan update.

## Anahola Regional Plan

- The Proposed Action supports the Anahola Regional Plan's Priority Project of establishing an Anahola Place-Based Education Network.





# HRS Ch. 343 Draft Environmental Assessment

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) has been prepared to study the affected environment, assess potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, and propose measures to mitigate potential impacts.

## Affected Environment

- Land Use
- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Hydrologic Resources
- Biological Resources
- Archaeological and Historic Properties
- Cultural Resources and Practices
- Scenic and Aesthetic Resources
- Air Quality
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Acoustic Environment
- Transportation and Traffic
- Natural Hazards (Flooding, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Tsunami, Hurricanes and Tropical Storms, Climate Change)
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure



# HEPA Significance Criteria

1. Irrevocably commit a natural, cultural, or historic resource.
2. Curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.
3. Conflict with the State's environmental policies or long-term environmental goals established by law.
4. Have a substantial adverse effect on the economic welfare, social welfare, or cultural practices of the community and State.
5. Have a substantial adverse effect on public health.
6. Involve adverse secondary impacts, such as population changes or effect on public facilities.
7. Involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.
8. Be individually limited but cumulatively have substantial adverse effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.



# HEPA Significance Criteria

9. Have a substantial adverse effect on a rare, threatened, or endangered species, or its habitat.
10. Have a substantial adverse effect on air or water quality or ambient noise levels.
11. Have a substantial adverse effect on or be likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, sea level rise exposure area, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.
12. Have a substantial adverse effect on scenic vistas and viewplanes, day or night, identified in county or state plans or studies.
13. Require substantial energy consumption or emit substantial greenhouse gasses.



# Draft EA Summary

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - Proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the surrounding environment.

No historic or sensitive natural resources were identified; BMPs and mitigation measures will be implemented as needed.

The project is consistent with the DHHL General, Anahola Regional Plan, and other applicable State County plans and regulations.

Temporary construction-related impacts (air, noise, traffic) will be mitigated through regulatory compliance and BMPs.

The project provides long-term social, cultural, and educational benefits, including support for Hawaiian language immersion and early childhood education.



# Next Steps

DEA publication in the *The Environmental Notice* on April 8, 2026.

30-Day public comment period on DEA from April 8 to May 7, 2026.

Incorporate and revise DEA based on public comments received.

HHC approvals for the Final Environmental Assessment (June 2026)

SFA award construction contract for Pre-K construction (June 2026)

Pre-K project breaks ground (Winter 2027)

Finish Pre-k construction and turnover of facility from SFA to KPCS (Fall 2028)

A white rectangular paper is centered on a dark teal background. A white paperclip is attached to the top-left corner of the paper. The text "Mahalo/Questions/Discussion" is printed in the center of the paper.

Mahalo/Questions/Discussion

# Hawaiian Homes Commission Informational Presentation

Agenda Item G-2

April 20, 2026

Papakōlea Community Development Center  
Native Hawaiian Education and Culture Community Center



G70

# Presentation Agenda

Share where the project is today

Reflect on what we have heard from the community

Show how community input shaped the project

Provide an update on the Environmental Assessment and what we have learned so far

Talk about what comes next



# How We Got Here

*Understanding the place, listening to the community, and shaping the project together*



# Piko of Pūowaina

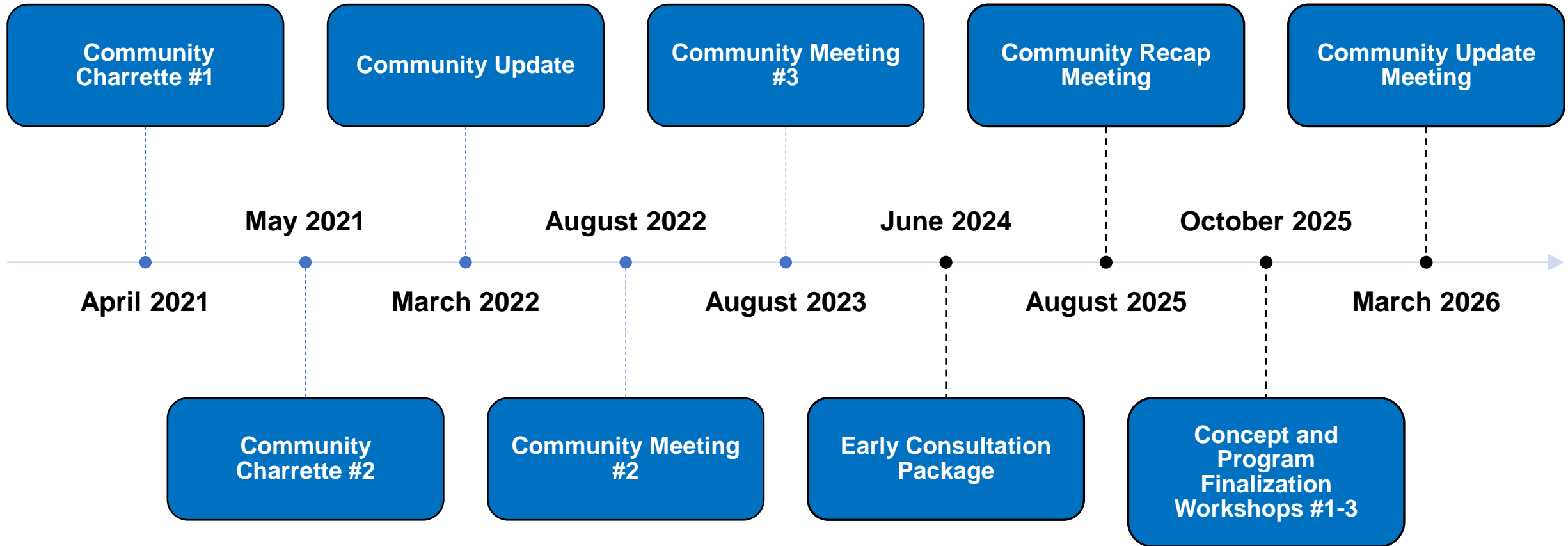
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- Support the Native Hawaiian community through cultural learning, education, and practice
- Honor the traditions and values of Papakōlea's founding members
- Create a place of growth and learning for current and future generations

PAKŌLEA  
REGIONAL PLAN

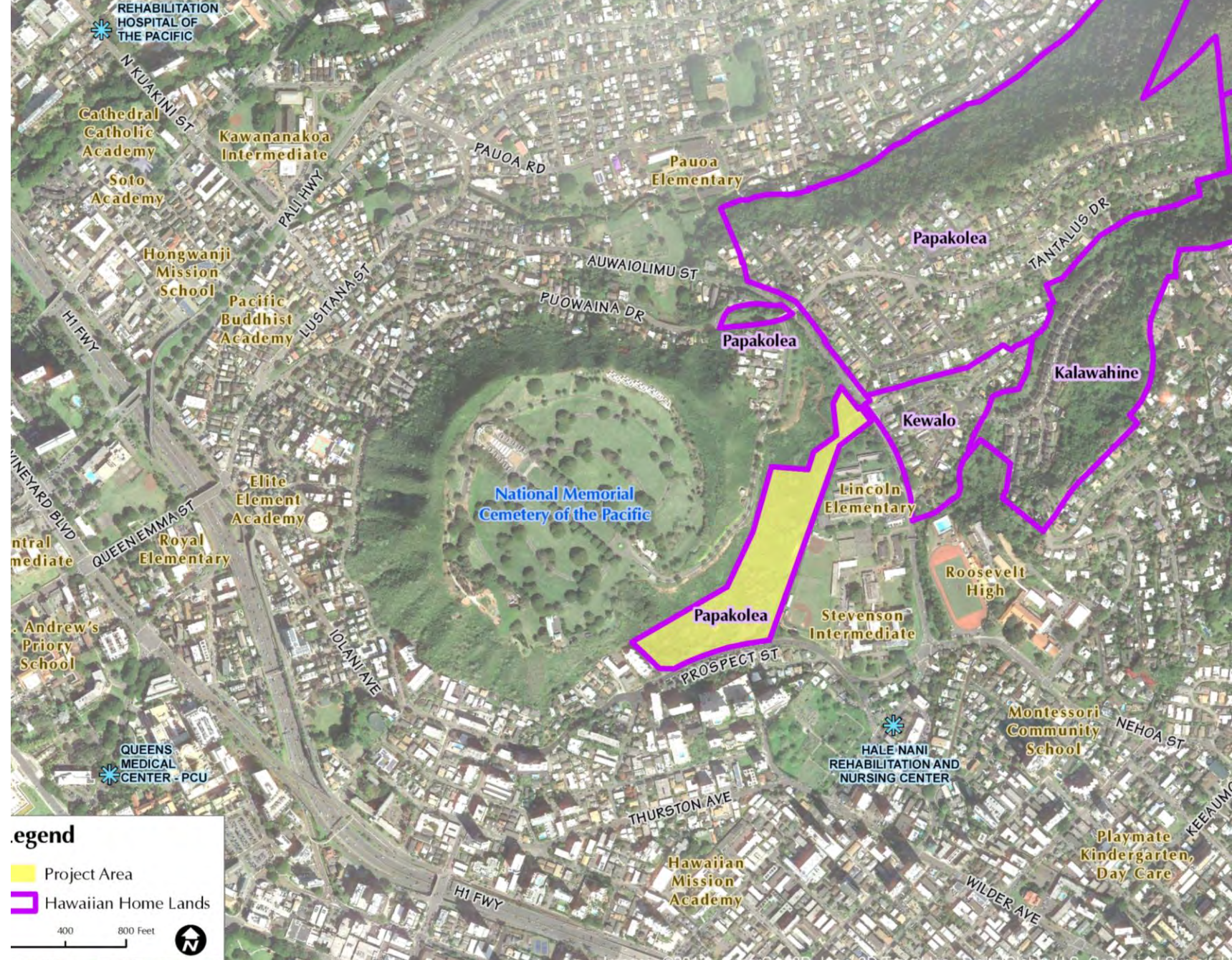


# Community Engagement Over Time



# Project Area

- Slopes of Pūowaina
- DHHL Lands serving Papakōlea community
- 14 acres
- Between Prospect & Auwaiolimu Streets
- TMK (1) 2-2-005:035



# Understanding Path Forward



## Regulatory Overview

- State Land Use Urban District
- DHHL's Special District
- Honolulu's Punchbowl Special District
- Outside of Honolulu's Special Management Area (SMA)
- Flood Zone X (Area considered to be a minimal flood hazard)



10'-wide water line easement

PŪOWAINA DR

TANTALUS DR

POTENTIAL PROJECT SITE (~21% SLOPE)

220 (E)

220 (E)

210 (E)

210 (E)

220 (E)

ʻĀUWAIʻĀLMU ST

POTENTIAL PROJECT SITE (~9% SLOPE)

0.35 ac

0.09 ac

POTENTIAL PROJECT SITE (~21% SLOPE)

0.19 ac

210 (E)

200 (E)

200 (E)

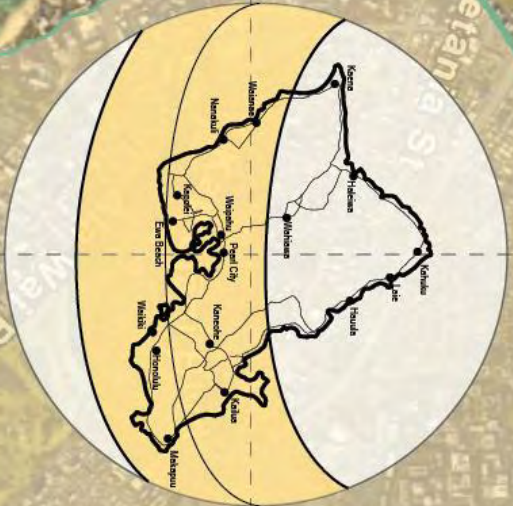
186 (E)

180 (E)

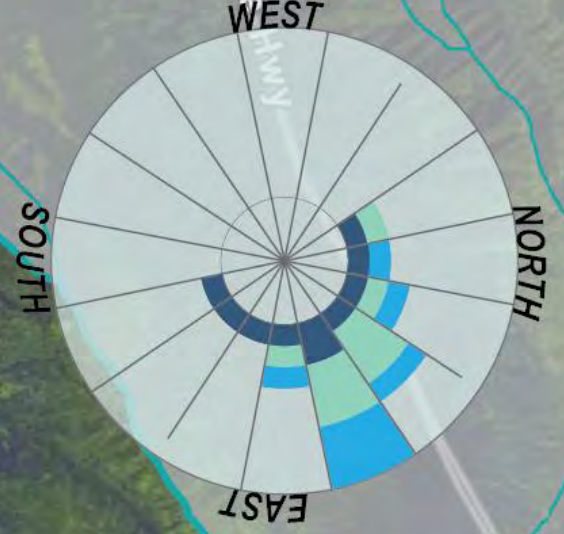
TMK: 2-2-005:035

Owner: Hawaiian Home Lands  
14.53 ac.





SOLAR PATH



WIND DIRECTION



Pu'u 'Ōhi'a

Pu'u Kākea

Pu'u 'Ualaka'a

Leahi

# Understanding Place



# 2021 Workshops

# ALOHA 'ĀINA 'OHANA KU'U HOME



ALOHA  
HAU'OLI  
PRIDE

## COMMUNITY VALUES

### ONE HĀNAU

*What traditions or memories should continue here?*



PONO  
KŌKUA  
LAULIMA



# Native Hawaiian Education & Culture Community Center

“Indigenous Campus”

Hawaiian Language, Culture, and ‘Āina-based programming

“Womb to Tomb” Services

Flexible, multi-purpose hālau area, and open space

Kauhale Concept

Garden, Agriculture, Walking path

Train those in the community to serve the community

Kōkua aku, Kōkua mai





# 2025 Workshops

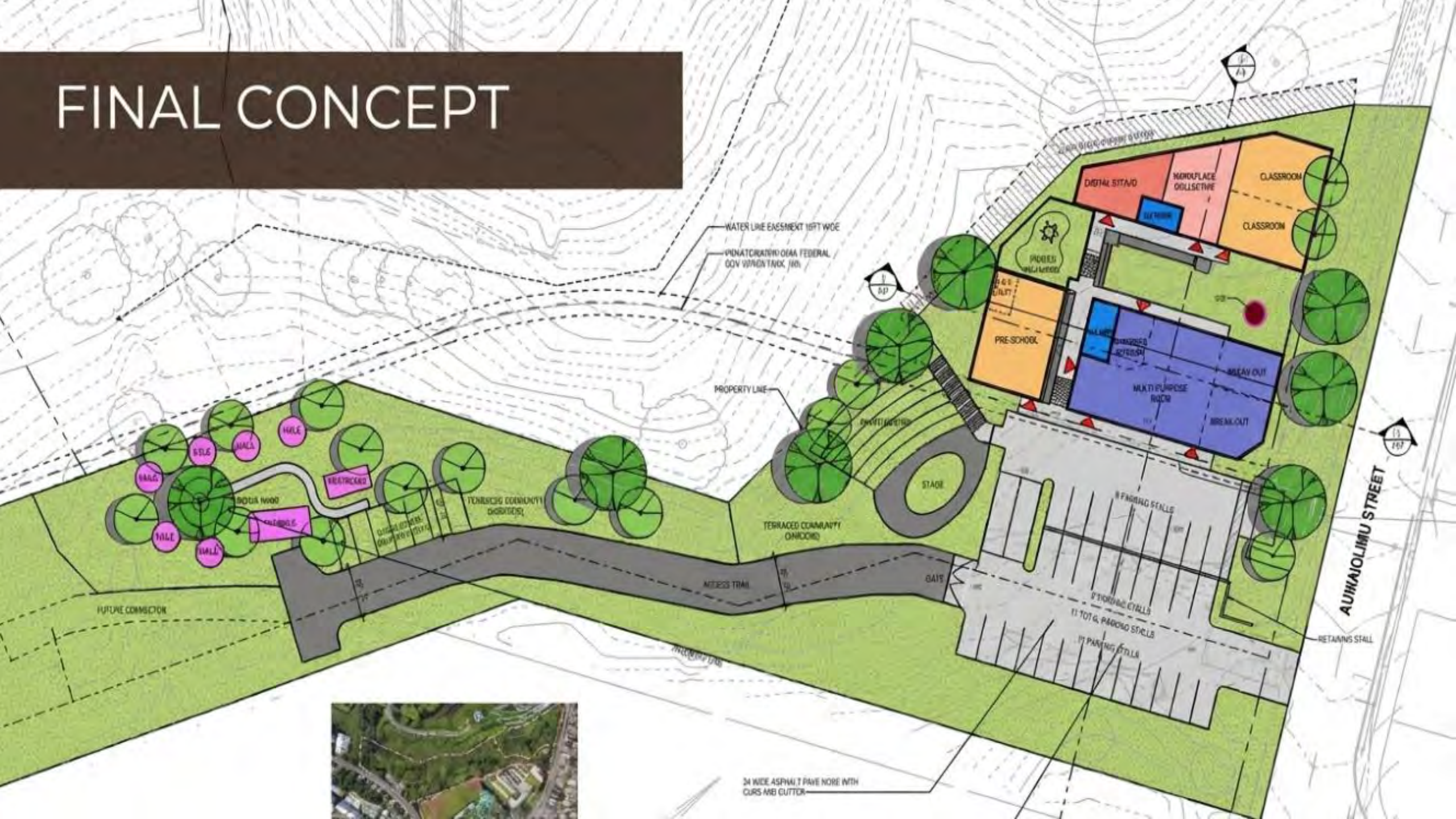


# Community-Driven Design Refinements

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- Confirmed a kauhale-centered, culturally grounded layout
- Refined spaces for education, cultural practice, and daily use
- Expanded outdoor and 'āina-based learning areas
- The plan was shaped to be flexible
- Design decisions reflect a balance of culture, access, safety, and long-term operations

# FINAL CONCEPT





# Environmental Assessment

# Summary of Early Consultation Package Comments

## Ten Comments Received

- State Department of Education
- State Department of Health, Clean Air Branch
- Board of Water Supply
- Honolulu Department of Transportation Services
- Honolulu Fire Department
- Honolulu Police Department
- Honolulu Department of Environmental Services
- Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance
- Hawaiian Electric Company
- Stevenson Middle School



## What Was Evaluated:



Geology,  
Topography,  
and Soils



Natural Hazards  
(hurricanes,  
wildfires,  
landslides, etc.)



Biological  
resources  
(plants & animals)



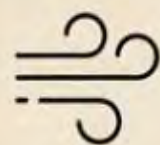
Hydrology and  
drainage



Cultural &  
archaeological  
resources



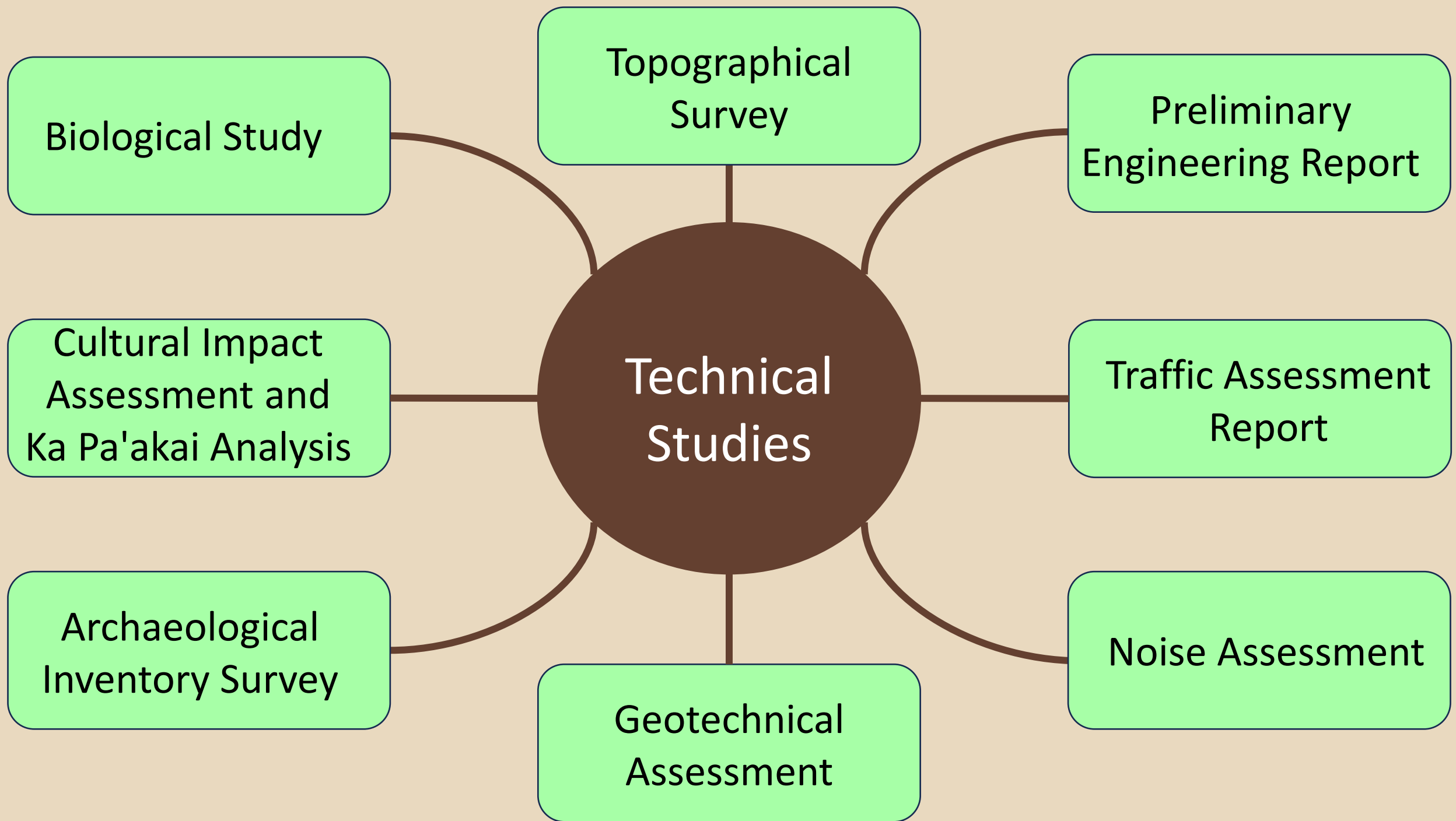
Traffic, utilities,  
and public  
services



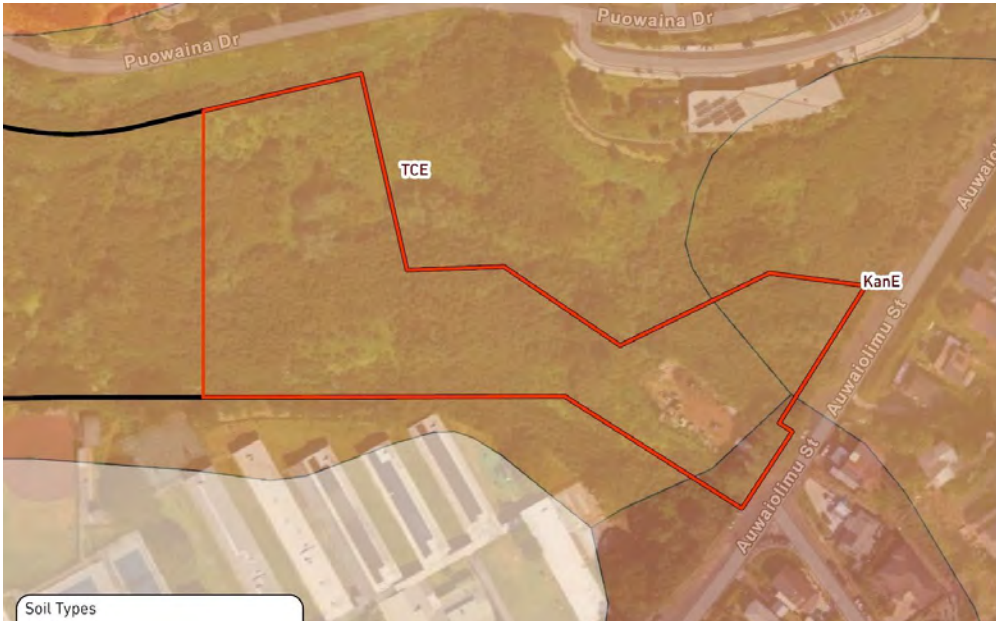
Noise and air  
quality



Visual impacts  
and scenic views



# Geology, Topography, and Soils

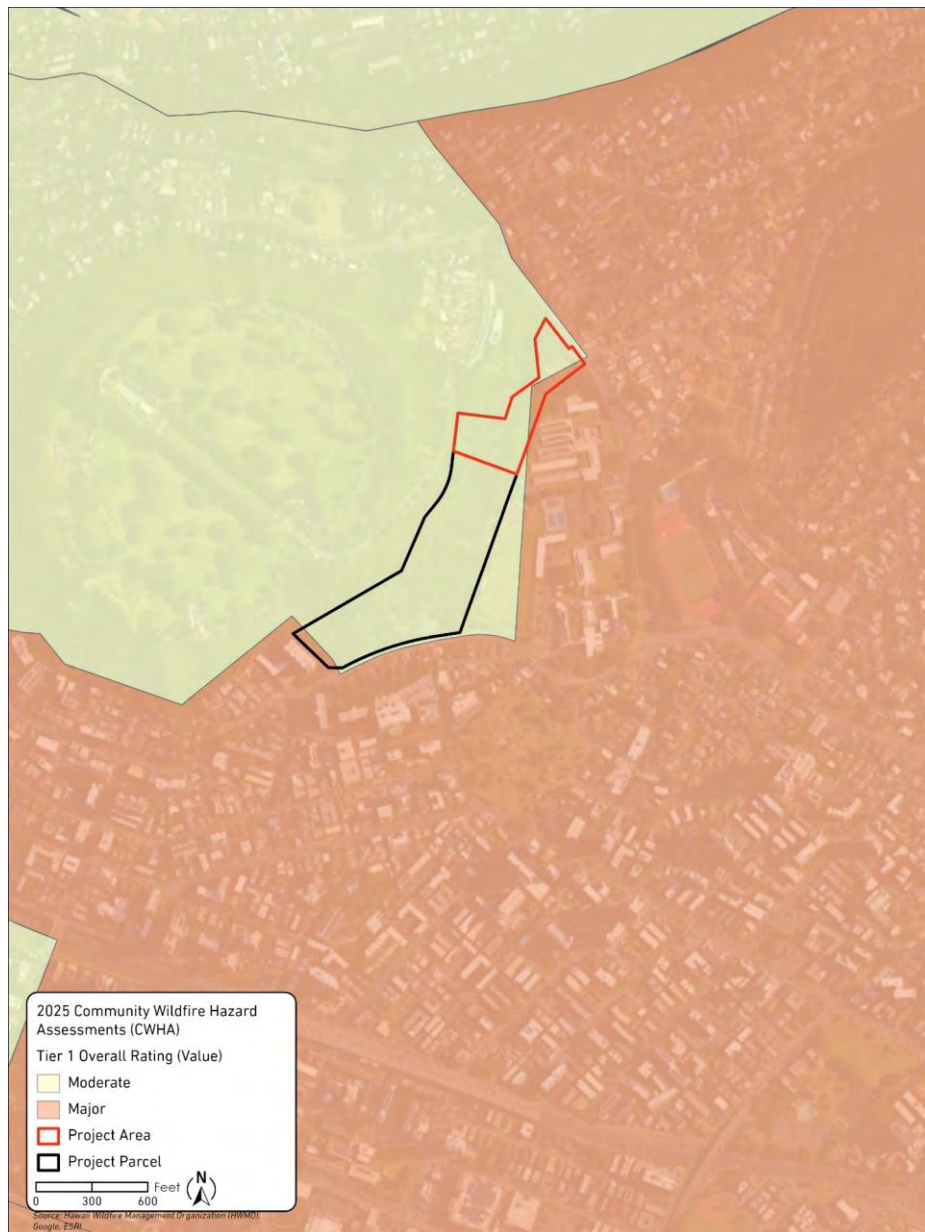


- Elevations ranging from 180-220 feet with 15 to 30% slopes
- Soils consist of:
  - Tantalus Silty Clay Loam
  - Kaena Very Stony Clay
- Implement soil and erosion control measures during construction and slope stabilization features for the facility

# Natural Hazards

---

- Outside Sea Level Rise Exposure Area
- Flood Zone X – minimal flood risk area (outside 500-year flood plain)
- Within Tsunami Safe Zone
- Area of Moderate Wildfire Risk
  - Removal of invasives and planting of native plants
  - Active management
  - Fire buffers
- Coordination with agencies and organizations that specialize in wildfire prevention





# Biological Resources



- Vegetation
  - 42 plant species documented
  - No threatened or endangered species identified
  - Majority (~95%) are introduced or naturalized
  - Common native species include 'uhaloa and 'ilie'e
- Wildlife
  - Only a domestic cat observed
  - Native Hoary Bat and birds may utilize and transit the area

# Hydrology and Drainage



- No bodies of water within Project Area
  - Nearby streams include Kanahā (~0.25 miles east) and Pauoa (~0.5 miles west)
- Runoff flows towards Lincoln Elementary
  - Steep slopes can result in rapid runoff and limited infiltration
  - Existing drainage ditch helps capture runoff between the site and school
  - Project will include a detention basin to manage and reduce runoff

# Cultural & Archaeological Resources



- The project area is part of the larger Pūowaina cultural and historical landscape, including Kalāwahine, Pauoa, Kewalo, and 'Auwaiolimu
- The area has a history of agricultural use, ceremonial activity, and military occupation
- The site is not currently used for active cultural practices, but is part of a living cultural community
  - The Project has an ability to continue the mo'okū'auhau of this Native Hawaiian community
- Prior studies identified cultural sites in the surrounding area, but no confirmed resources within the project area to date
- An Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) is underway to evaluate potential subsurface resources and ensure compliance with HRS Chapter 6E

# Traffic, Utilities, and Public Services



## Traffic and Multi-Modal Facilities

~Approximately 294 daily trips, with 62–65 trips during peak hours

Coordinated scheduling to avoid school traffic conflicts

No major roadway changes needed

Pedestrian crossing

improvements recommended

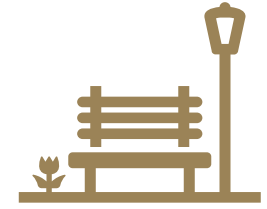
Design should not conflict with future city bike lane project



## Utilities

New connections required for water, wastewater, and power

Existing systems (water, sewer, electrical) are adequate to serve the project



## Public Services

Nearby schools, parks, police, and medical facilities

Will not significantly increase demand on public services

Project adds an Educational, Community, and Recreational Resource

# Noise and Air Quality

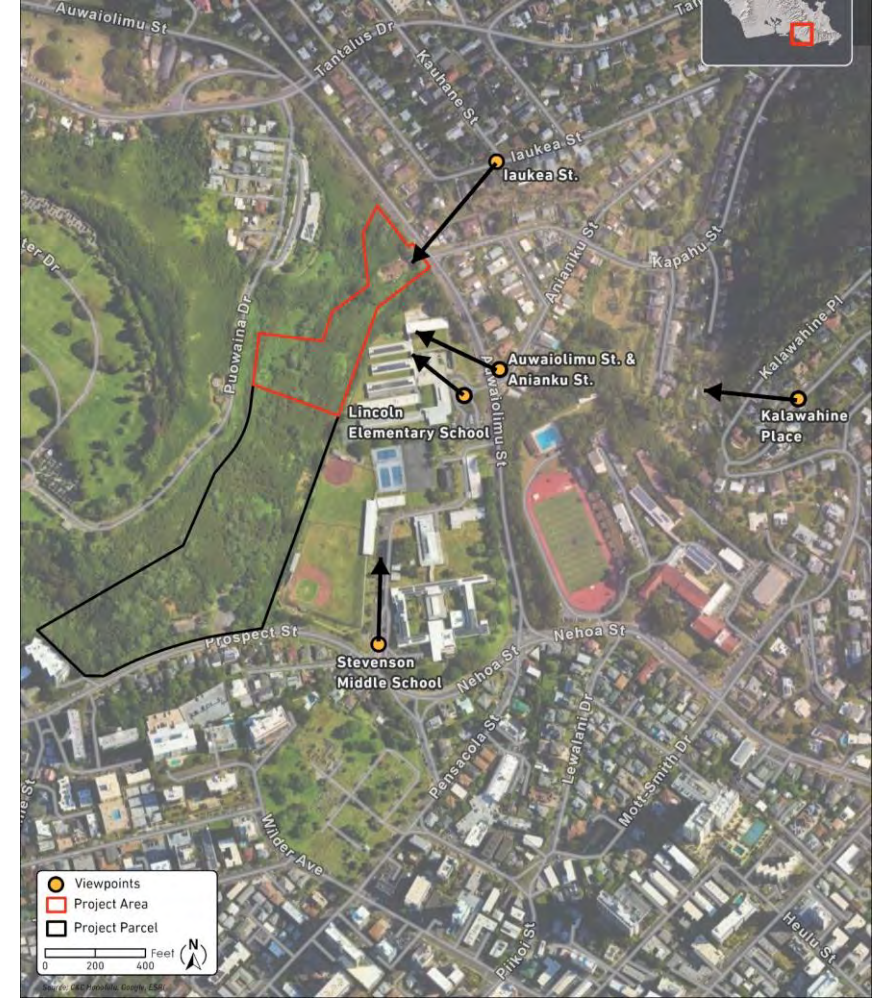
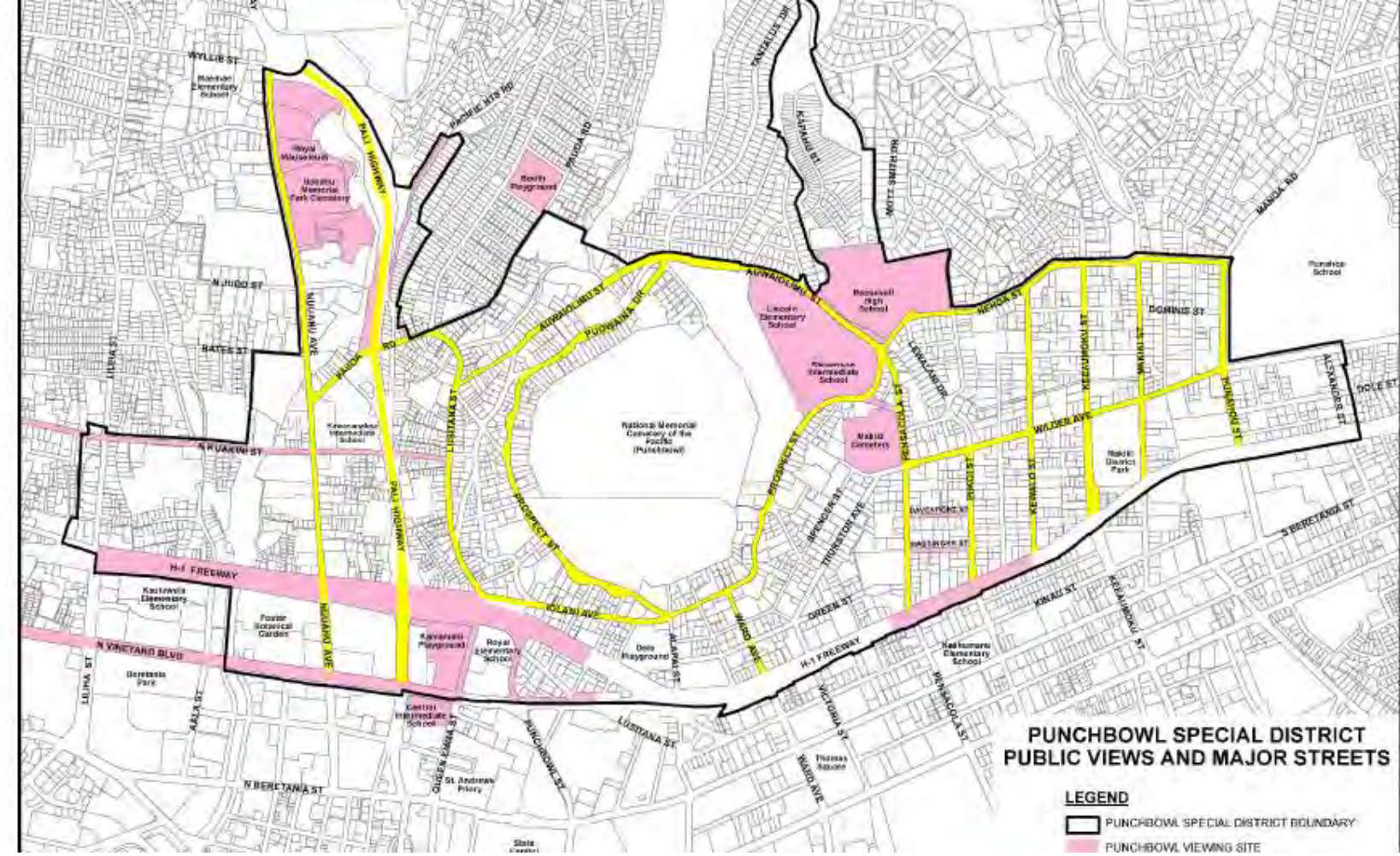
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- Noise

- Existing noise levels are typical of a residential area, with traffic as the primary source
- Temporary construction noise will occur and follow State regulations and daytime work hours
- Project will not result in a noticeable increase in noise (0.3 DNL)
- Event noise will be intermittent and scheduled
- Amphitheater and sound systems will be designed to direct sound away from nearby homes

- Air Quality

- Temporary dust and emissions during construction
  - Managed through watering and dust control as well as limiting vehicle idling
- Long-term air quality remains largely unchanged



# Visual Impacts and Scenic Views

Stevenson Middle School



Lincoln Elementary School



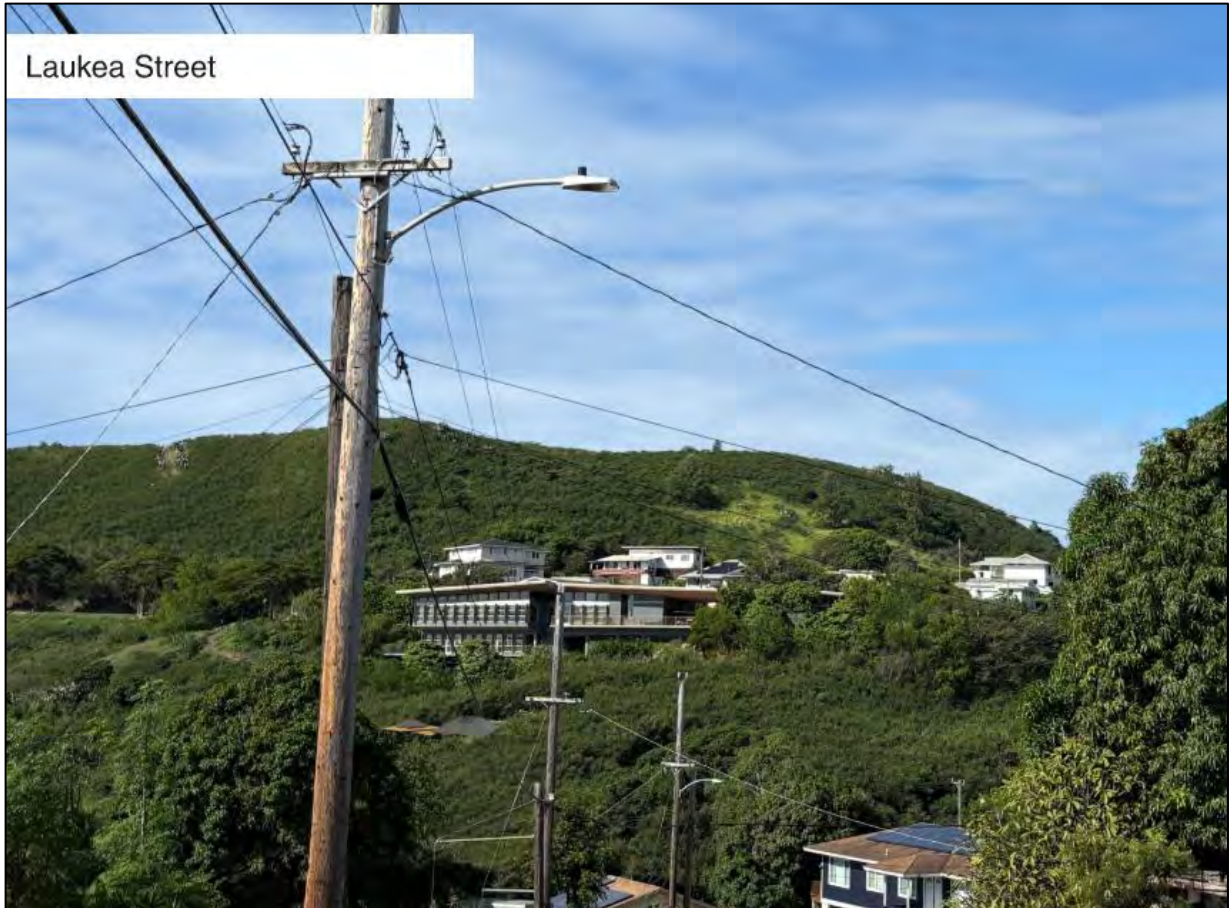
# Views from Schools

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Kalawahine Street



Laukea Street



# Views from Mauka

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# Consistent with State, County, and Community Plans & Policies



## State of Hawai'i Plans

- State Plan
- 2050 Sustainability Plan
- HRS Chapter 205
- State Functional Plans
- State Coastal Zone Management Act

## DHHL Plans

- General Plan
- O'ahu Island Plan
- Papakōlea Regional Plan

## City and County of Honolulu Plans

- General Plan
- Primary Urban Center Development Plan
- Punchbowl Special District
- ROH Chapter 21 (Land-Use Ordinance)

# Summary of Findings

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- Potential Impacts Identified
  - Temporary impacts from construction (noise, dust, and traffic)
  - Small increases in traffic from operation of facility that can be managed through appropriate scheduling
  - Project Area is part of a larger cultural landscape
    - No resources known to exist within Project Area but AIS is being conducted to understand potential for subsurface resources
- Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact
  - Impacts are temporary, minimal, or controlled
  - No substantial degradation of environmental quality
  - No conflict with State policies or community plans
  - Project supports community-identified needs
  - Does not trigger secondary growth or cumulative impacts



**Next Steps**



# Anticipated Project Timeline



ANTICIPATED DATES	MEETING / ACTIVITY	TOPIC
April 23, 2026	Draft EA Publication	Notice of Availability to Comment on Draft EA
April 23-May 24, 2026	Draft EA Public Comment Period 30-Day Comment Period	Review and Provide Comments
Q3 2026	HHC Meeting	HHC Approval of Master Plan and FEA-FONSI
Q3 2026	Final EA Publication	FEA-FONSI Publication
Q4 2026 / Q1 2027	Detailed Design	Commence Next Steps of Design Process



# Questions and Comments



*Mahalo!*

papakolea\_nhecc@g70.design

(808) 523-5866



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION · DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

## Item G-3

# Status Update on Plan Implementation on Moloka‘i

April 20-21, 2026

# DHHL Planning System

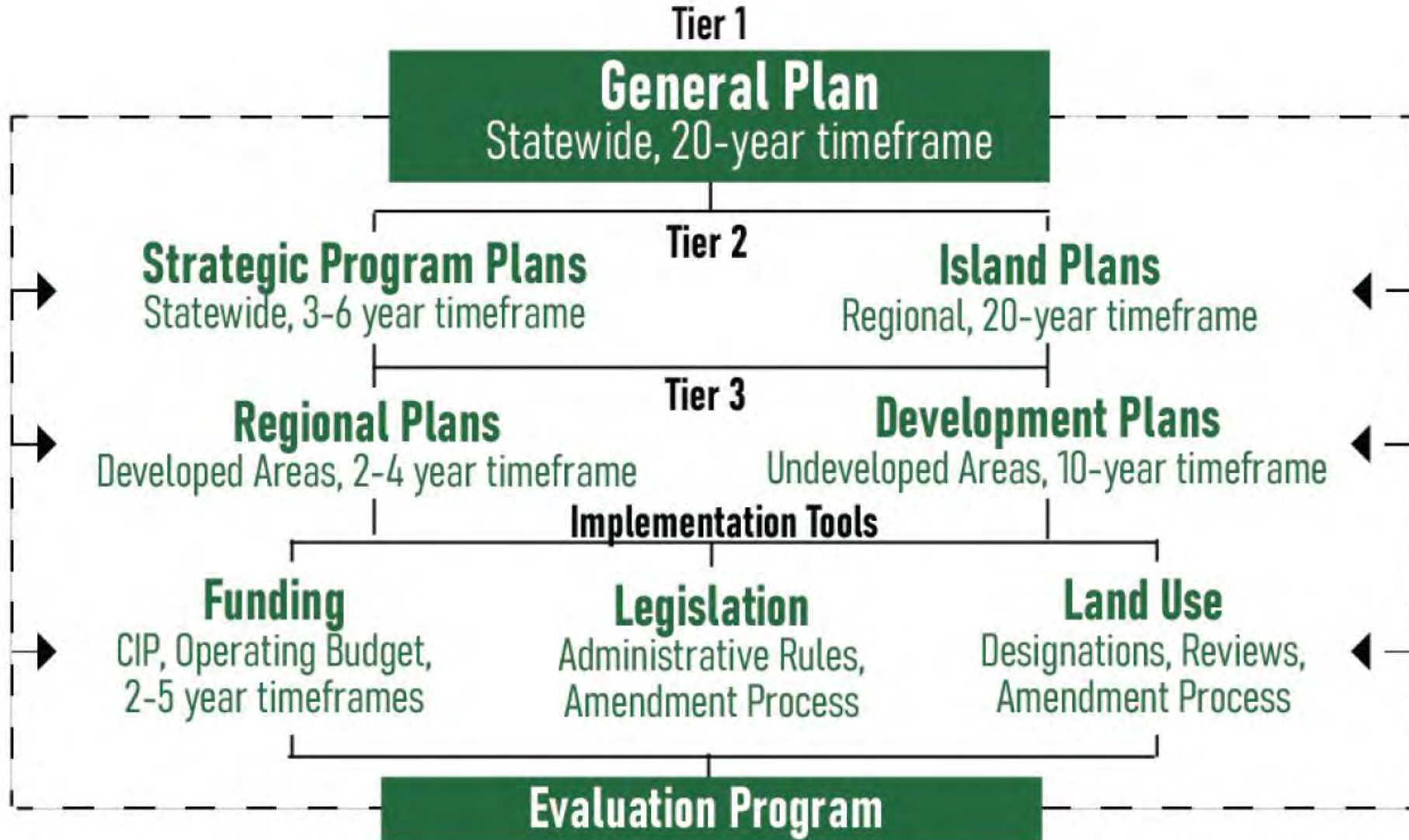


FIGURE 1: DHHL PLANNING SYSTEM

# DHHL General Plan 2022

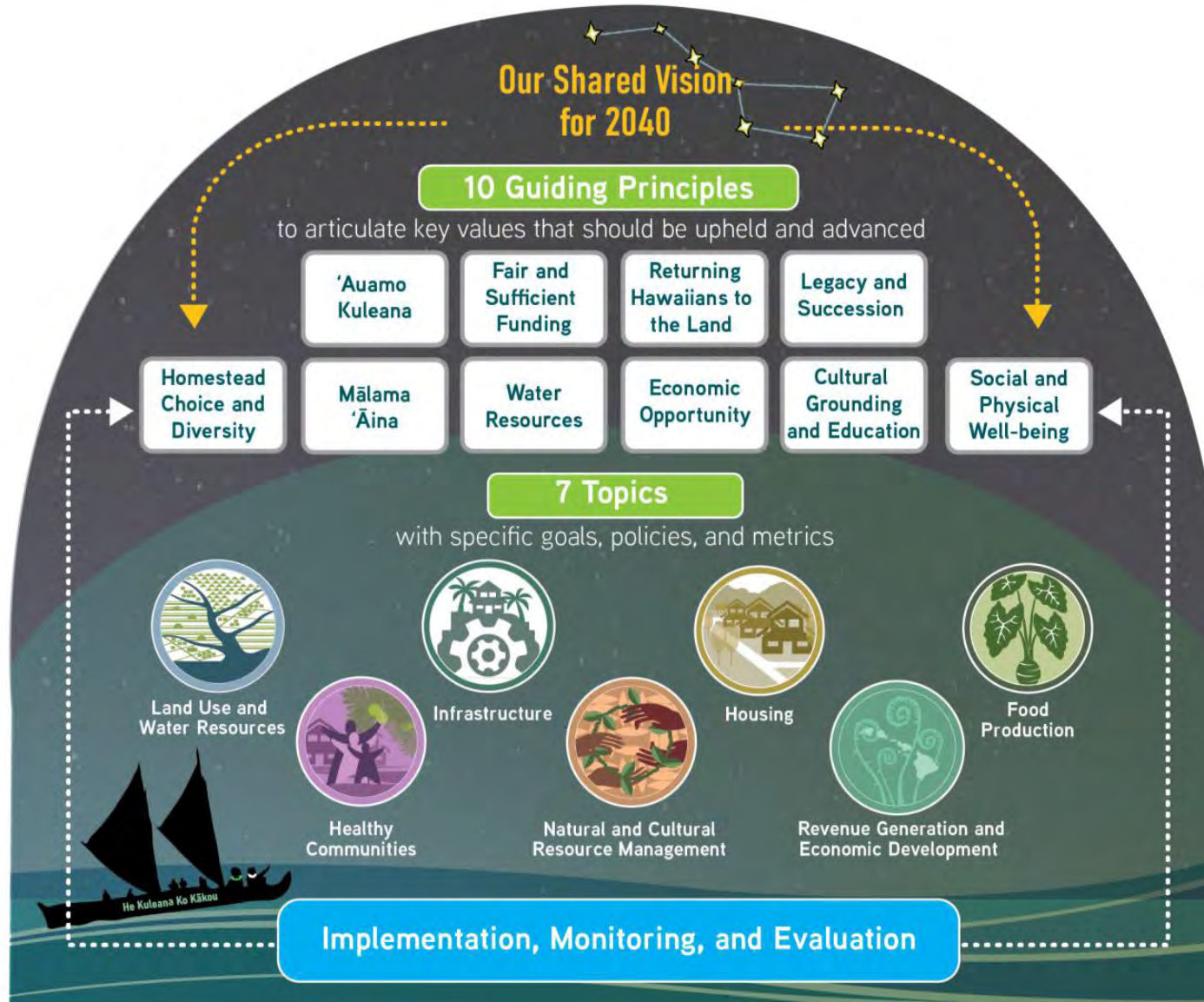


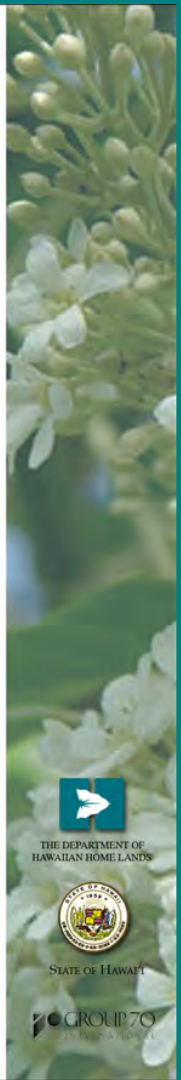
FIGURE 5: GENERAL PLAN POLICY FRAMEWORK

# DHHL Moloka'i Island Plan (2005)

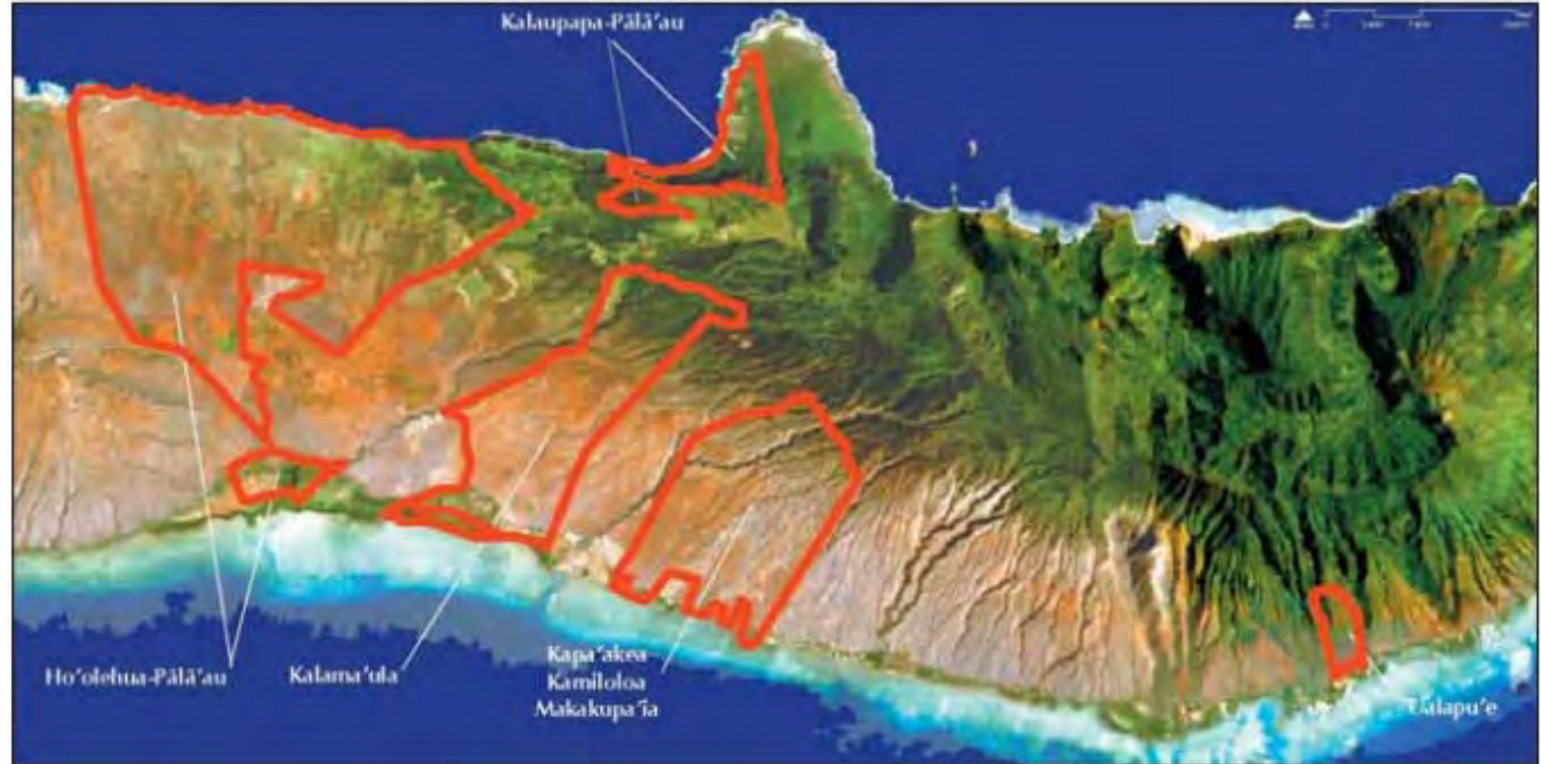
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
MOLOKA'I ISLAND PLAN



June 2005

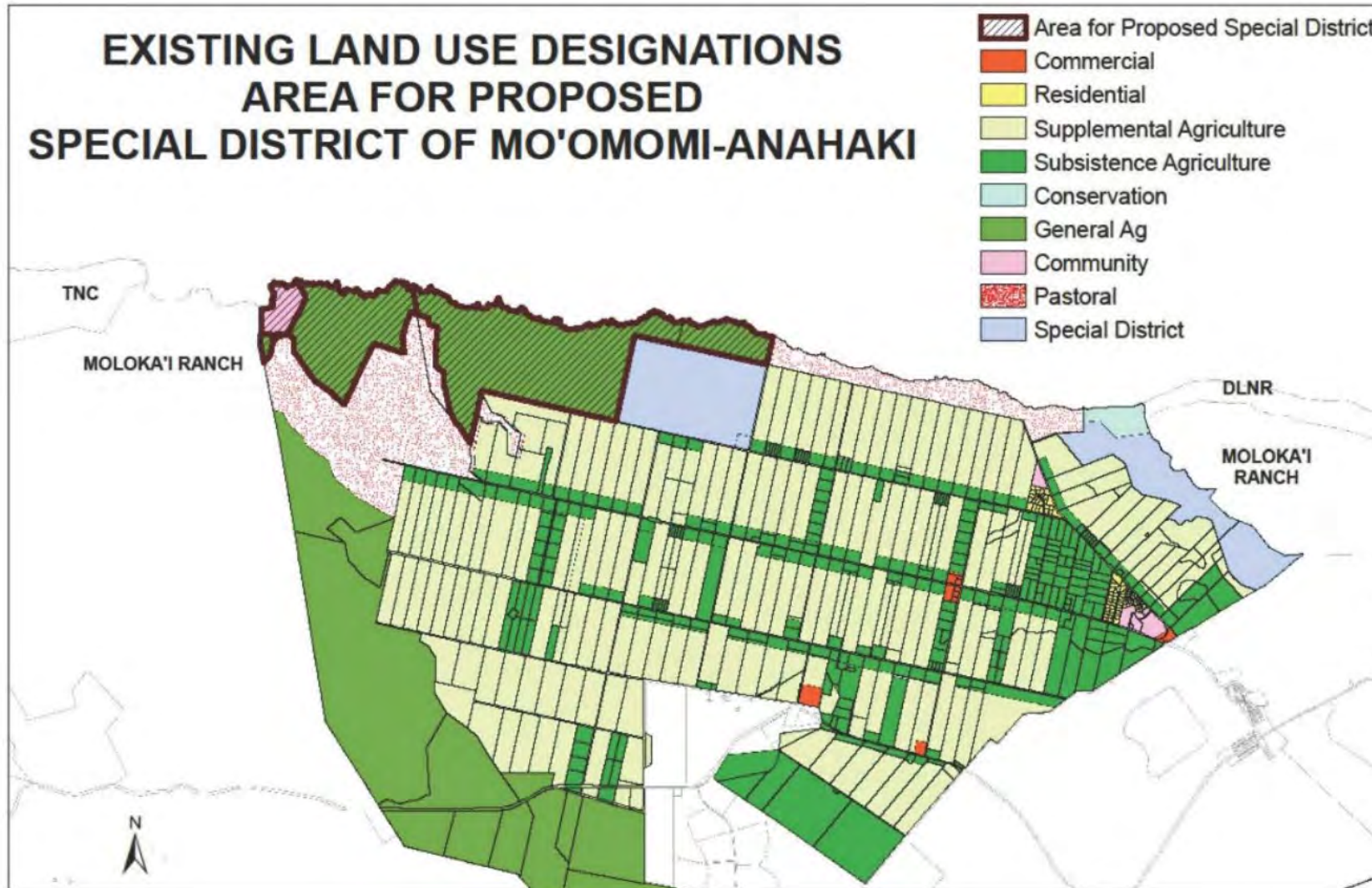


## Update starting Summer/Fall 2026



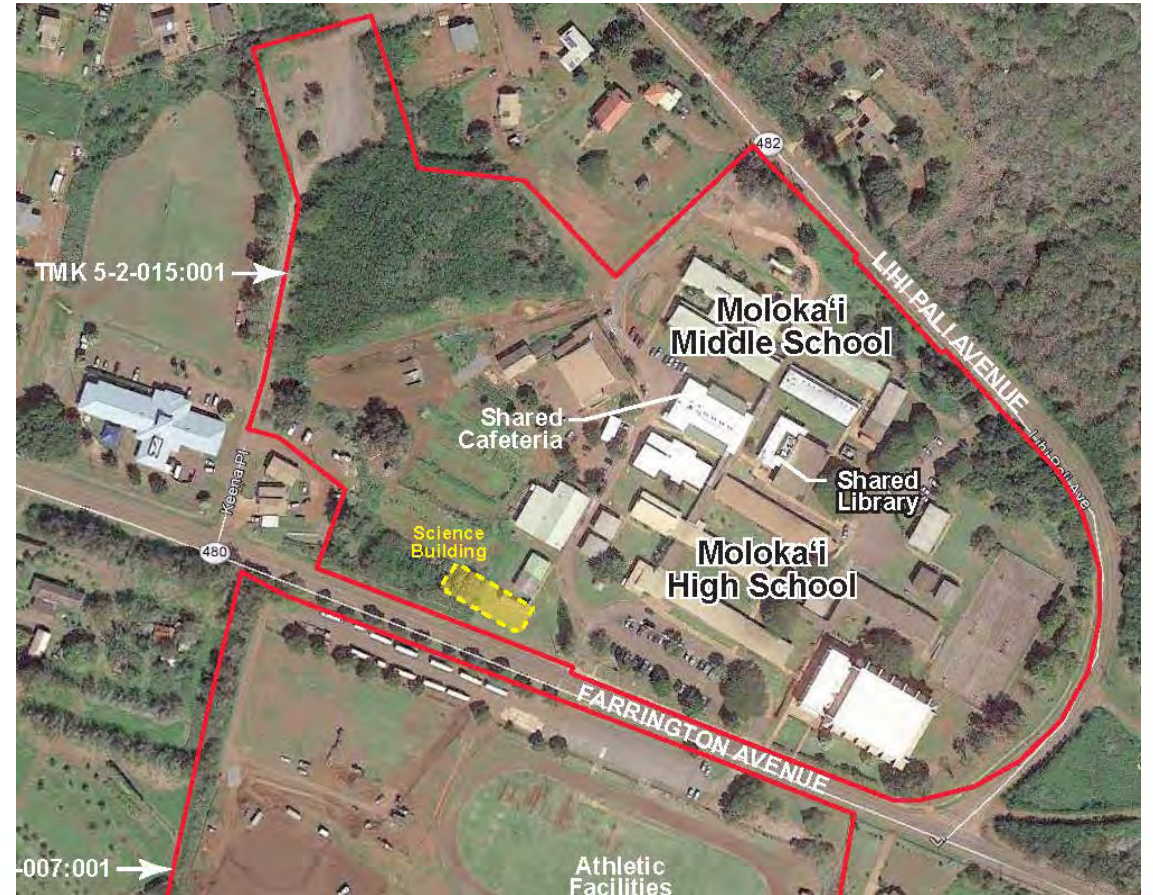
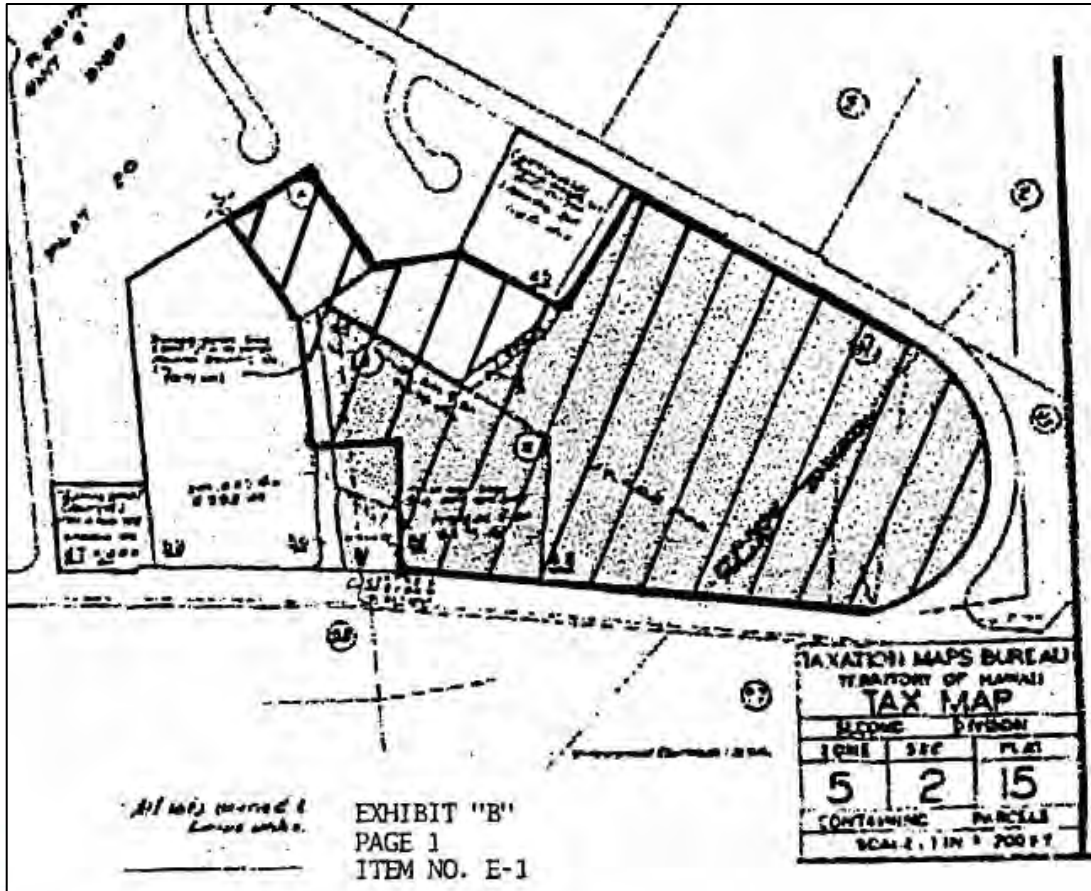
# Moloka'i Island Plan – LU Amendments

DECEMBER 2010: Mo'omomi-Anahaki designated as **Special District**



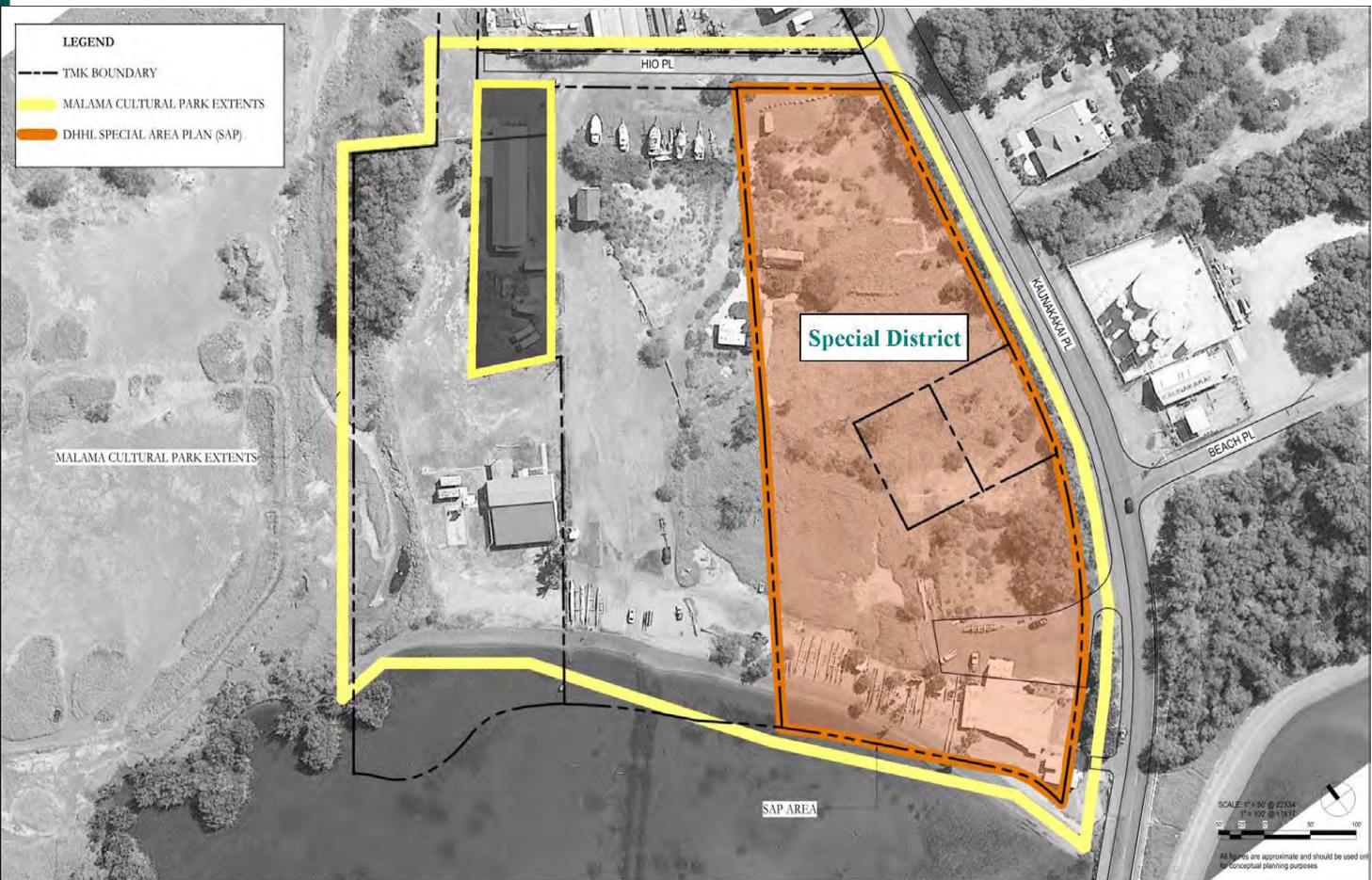
# Moloka`i Island Plan – LU Amendments

2010: Department of Education Land Exchange: 34 Subsistence Ag & Community Use acres in Ho`olehua, Molokai to acquire 89 acres for homesteading in Mā`ili, O`ahu



# Moloka`i Island Plan – LU Amendments

January 2018: Malama Park designated as **Special District**



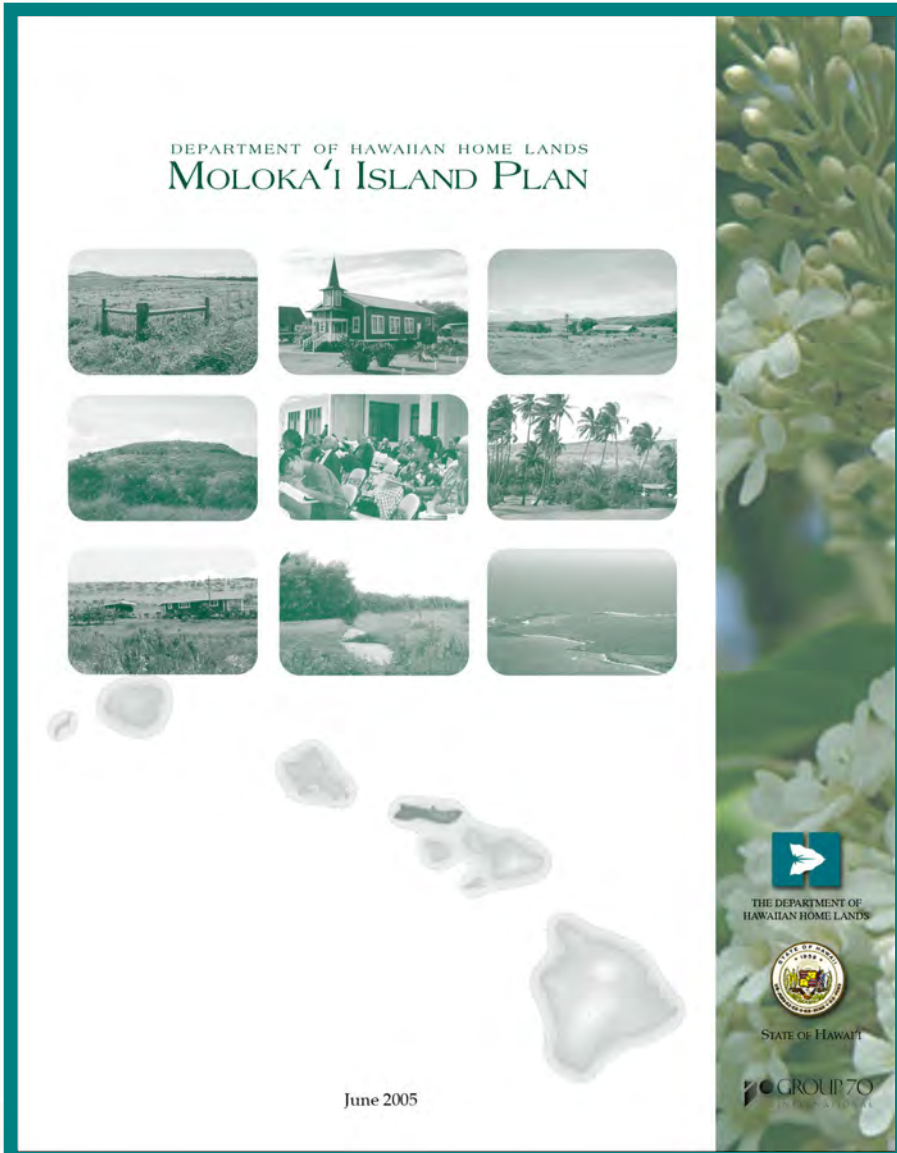
**MALAMA CULTURAL PARK**  
SPECIAL AREA PLAN

FINAL: July 2022

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Detailed description: This is the cover of a report titled 'MALAMA CULTURAL PARK SPECIAL AREA PLAN'. The top half features an aerial photograph of the park area, showing buildings, parking lots, and a waterfront. The title is printed in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, the text 'SPECIAL AREA PLAN' is in smaller white letters. At the bottom left, it says 'FINAL: July 2022'. At the bottom right is the logo of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, which consists of a stylized white leaf or arrow shape inside a dark teal square, with the department's name below it.

# DHHL Moloka`i Island Plan



Moloka'i Land Use Designations	Acres	% of Total
Residential Homestead	742	2.87
Subsistence Agriculture	2,338	9.04
Supplemental Agriculture	5,862	22.66
Pastoral	1,927	7.45
General Agriculture	6,415	24.80
Special District	7,758	29.99
Community Use	93	0.36
Conservation	655	2.53
Commercial	58	0.22
Industrial	16	0.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Moloka`i Island Plan – Development Priorities

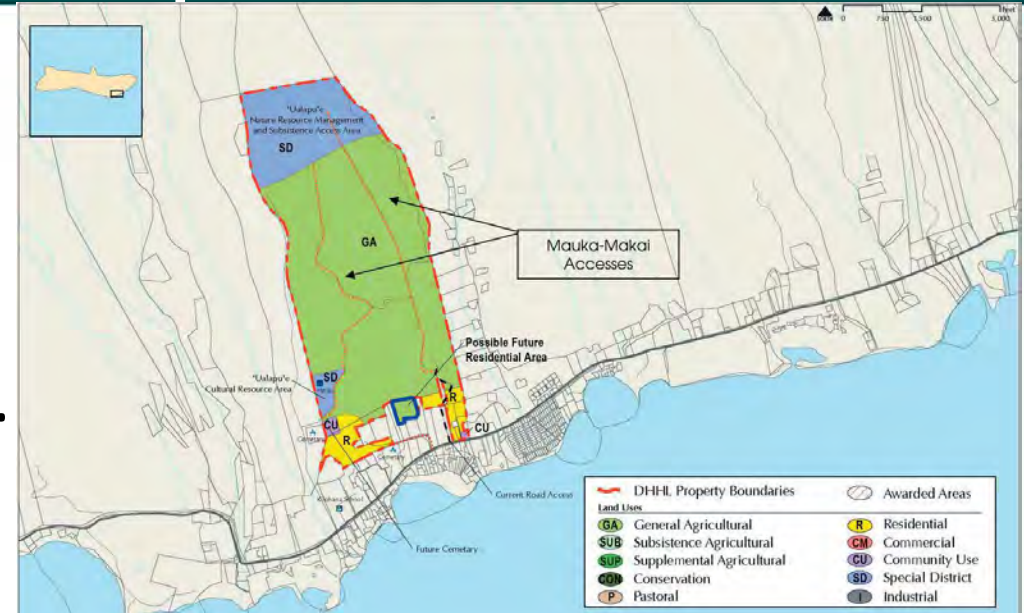
## Residential Priority #1: ‘Ualapu’e Residential Homestead

27 Residential lots of 10,000 sq. ft. on 9 acres; on hold due to insufficient potable water supply.

*\*Kuleana Homestead proposal to be looked at again during Island Plan Update*

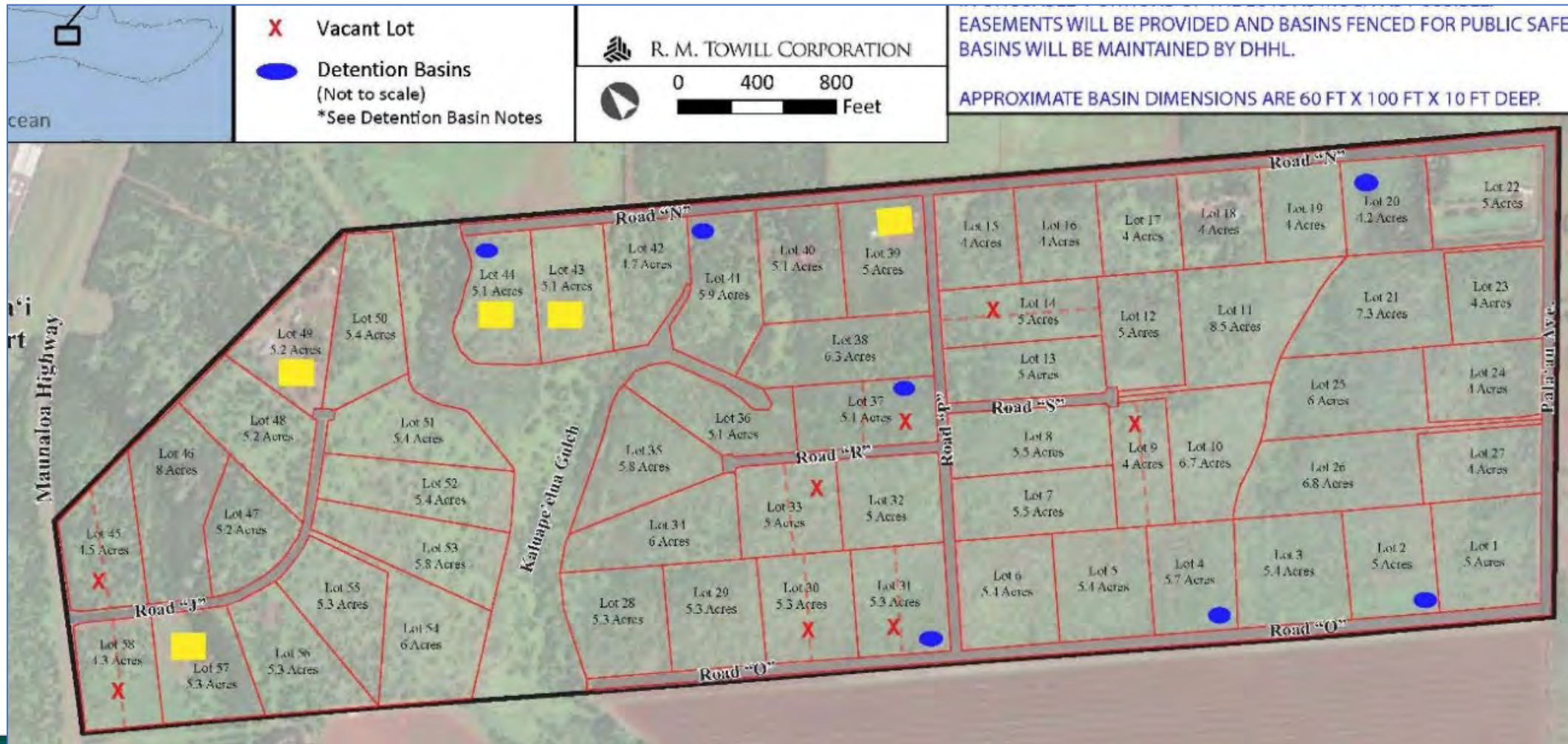
## Residential Priority #2: Kapa‘akea-Kamiloloa-Makakupa‘ia Residential Homestead

On hold due to lack of infrastructure (potable water & wastewater)



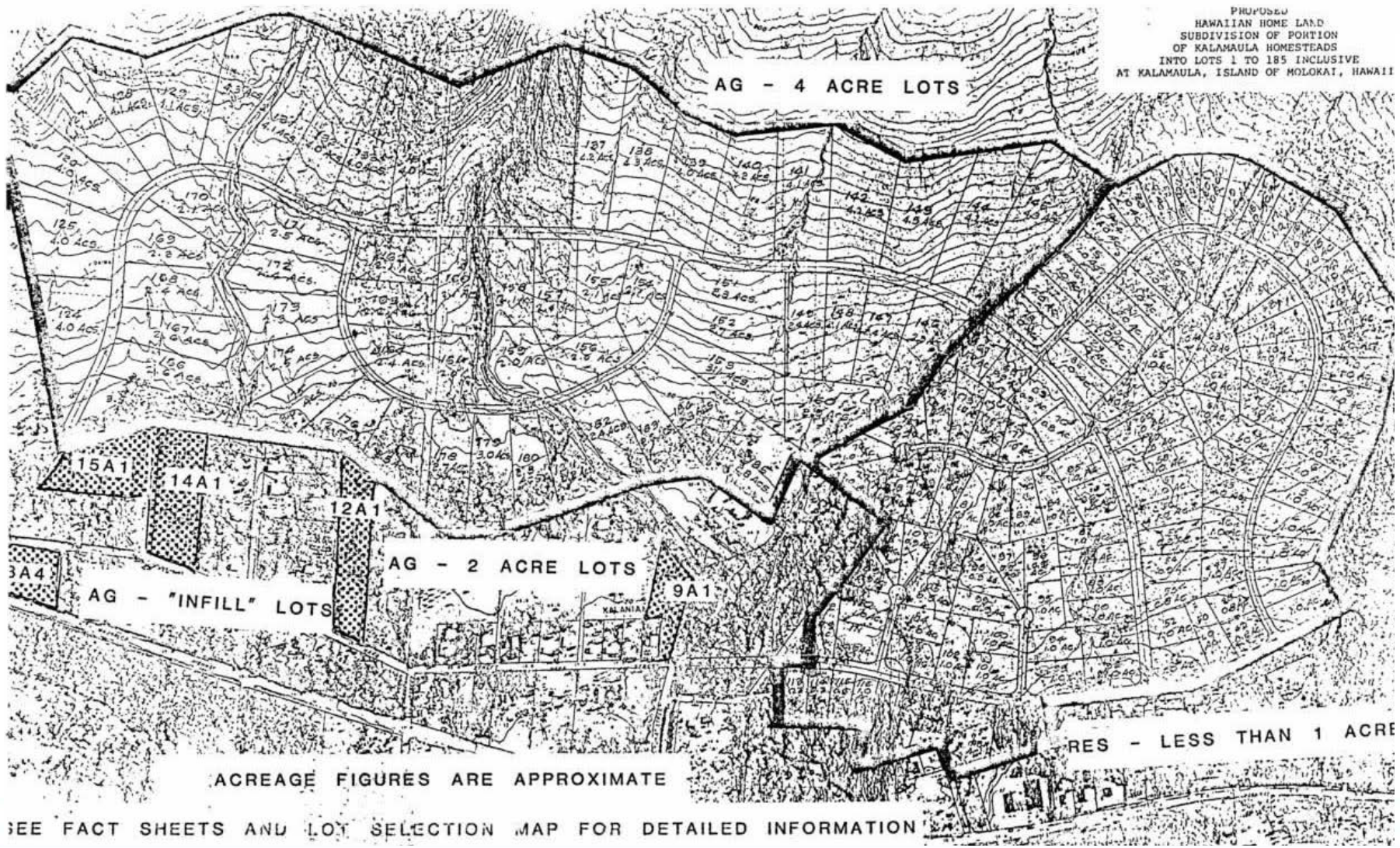
# Moloka'i Island Plan – Development Priorities

## 1985-86 Acceleration - Nā'iwa Agricultural Homestead (In Progress – See Land Development Division Community Meeting Update)



# Moloka'i Island Plan – Development Priorities

## 1985-86 Acceleration - Kalamaula Mauka Ag Lots\*



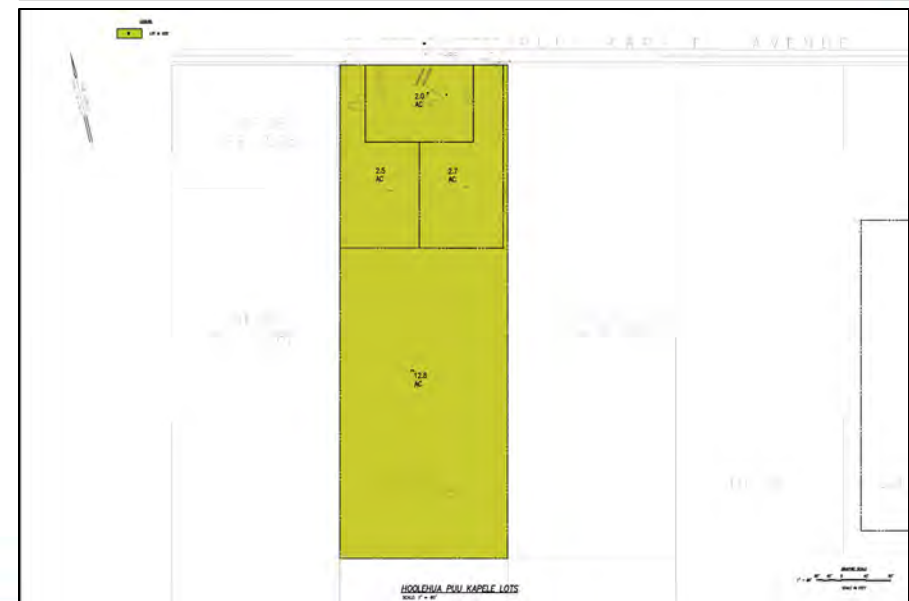
\*(currently on hold)



# Moloka`i Island Plan – Infill Development

## Ho`olehua Scattered Lots Subdivision

- ✓ *Final EA/FONSI approved by HHC in March and published in TEN April 8*
- ✓ *Five vacant Agriculture lots in Ho`olehua are in the process of being subdivided into twelve (12) Subsistence Ag Lots*





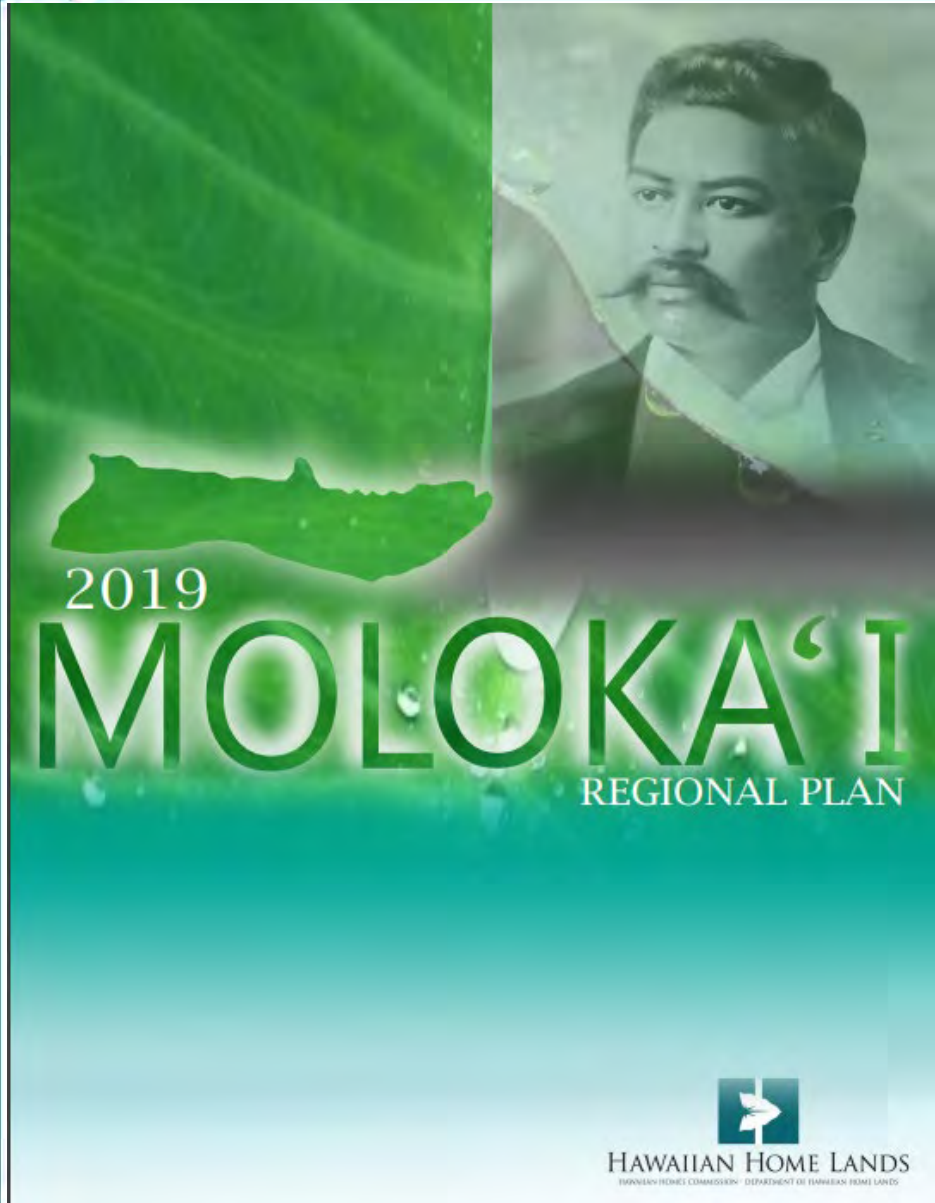
DHHL Moloka'i  
Island Plan  
Update  
2026-2027

***~ FINALIZING SCOPE OF WORK & UPDATE SCHEDULE NOW***

***~ WHAT'S NEW: General Plan 2022 Requirements***

- Use updated land use framework with standardized land use designations***
- Be consistent with allowable land uses and land dispositions for each designation***
- Apply clear criteria for land use designations and provide appropriate levels of infrastructure***

# DHHL Moloka'i Regional Plan Priority Projects



1. 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project and Cultural Resources Management Plan (on hold) (Ahonui HA Status: Interim Stewardship ROE)
2. Ho'olehua Hale Improvements (Ahupua'a o Molokai Status: Restarting)
3. Water Rate Assessment and Legal Analysis of Beneficiary Rights Regarding Potable Water Rate Disparities (DHHL Status: In Procurement)
4. Shared Farm Equipment for Agricultural Lessees (Ho'opili FA Status: Revamping)
5. Road Improvements (Kalama'ula HA Status: Kalama'ula assessment pau; need to work w/LDD on Ho'olehua)

# 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead & Cultural Mgmt Plan

## Current Status

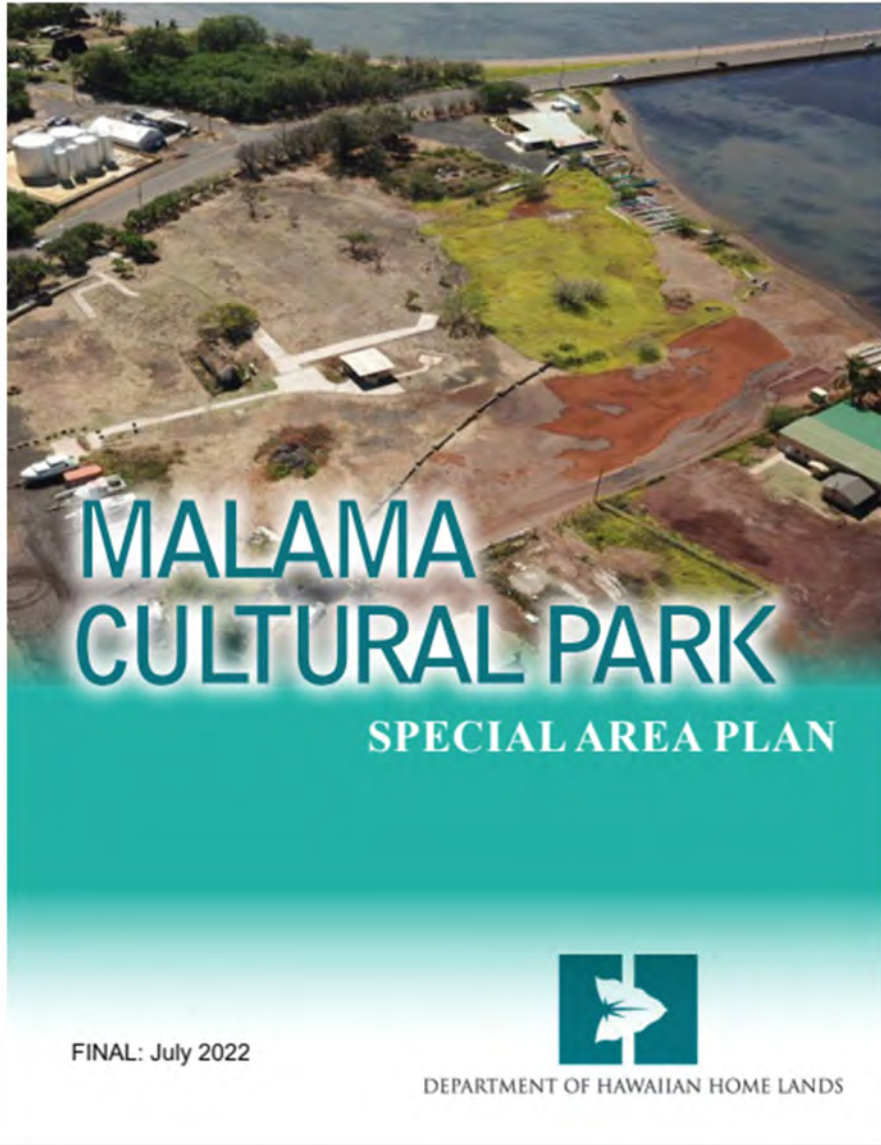
- Extend term of ROE for AHA mālama 'āina activities in 'Ualapu'e (originally approved by HHC Jan. 2025)
- Conduct mālama 'āina/community engagement work
- Awaiting Administrative Rule Change for Pilina-based Preference
- Settlement Plan and Environmental Assessment on hold until completion of Moloka'i Island Plan Update



# Malama Park Special Area Plan



# Malama Park Special Area Plan



## Plan Implementation Status:

- Malama Cultural Park Special Area Plan approved by HHC at its July 2022 meeting.
- Hui Ho‘okahua O Molokai is a 501(c)3 organization that is comprised of six Molokai DHHL Homestead Associations: Ho‘olehua, Kapa‘akea, Kamiloloa-One Ali‘i, Kalamaula Mauka, Nā‘iwa, and the wait listers of Ahonui Homestead Association.
- The HHC approved an ROE for due diligence to Hui Ho‘okahua O Molokai in May 2024, which is being extended.
- DHHL will continue to work with the Hui and other stakeholders to develop a park management structure that meets the needs of all beneficiaries and the greater Molokai community.



# Kalaupapa Update -- Engagement

- **Hawaiian Homes Commissioners and beneficiaries have expressed a desire for more transparency by government agencies, greater input into the management of Kalaupapa, and regular updates to the HHC on planning efforts underway for Kalaupapa.**
- **The Kalaupapa Beneficiary Working Group (KBWG) engagement process has included four virtual meetings held from September 2021 to January 2022, facilitated by HACBED and the DHHL PLO.**
- **DHHL staff met with beneficiaries who live and work in Kalaupapa in Dec. 2022 and Aug. 2023 in order to offer them more opportunities for consultation. Another trip to Kalaupapa with KBWG members is being planned for May 2026.**
- **The HHC was last updated on Kalaupapa at its 2025 meeting on Molokai.**

# Existing Plans

## DHHL Molokai Island Plan (2005)

- Planning Area of 1,468 acres includes Pālā'au (Apana 3), currently under license to DLNR as a State Park
- Land Use Designations (LUD's) are Special District, Community Use, Conservation and Commercial (in Pālā'au). *To be reevaluated during Molokai Island Plan Update.*

Molokai Regional Plan (2010 & updated in 2019): no Priority Projects were identified.

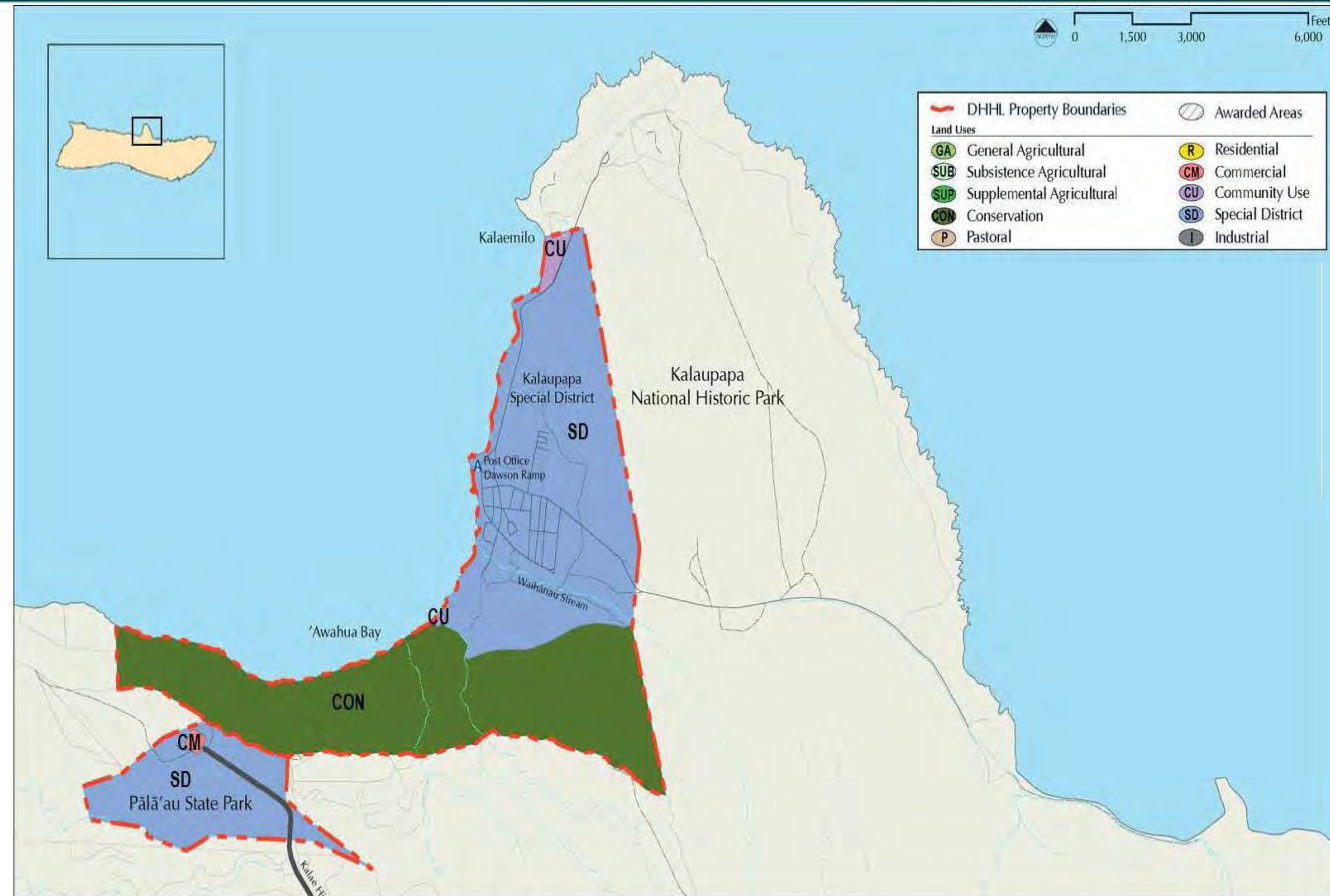


Figure 6.2- Kalaupapa-Pālā'au Preferred Land Use Plan

**NPS General Management Plan was started in 2008 and finalized in 2020**

# Agencies with Kuleana in Kalaupapa

Agency	Kalaupapa Kuleana
DHHL	Manage long-term General Lease No. 231 (LMD); update & implement Molokai Island Plan for Kalaupapa-Pālā'au (PO); participate in interagency coordination & transition planning (LMD, LDD, PO, OCH); coordinate beneficiary outreach & consultation on NPS GMP (PO)
DOH	Manage buildings, programs such as visitors and tours, & resources under DOH control; provide healthcare, meals, interior home repair, yardwork & other supportive services to patient-residents, administration & recordkeeping; administer applicable laws in Kalawao County
NPS	Maintain & operate water & fuel distribution, electrical & waste management systems; maintain roads; preserve & restore historic structures, cemeteries & cultural sites; maintain public grounds & landscaping; maintain interpretive signage at Pālā'au Lookout; assist DOH in enforcement of regulations; fire suppression; first aid and rescue operations for visitors; major/exterior repairs to patient-resident homes.
DOT	Manage airport operations; maintain & enhance buildings, runway, lighting & fuel systems; provide safety & fire protection services at airport.
DLNR	Manage conservation & Forest Reserve areas; control invasive species & animals in coordination w/NPS; environmental & natural resource management in Pu'u Ali'i Natural Area Reserve.
Maui County	Provide Emergency Response via a Mutual Aid Agreement – tsunami, wildfire, hurricane etc.



# Interagency Coordination for Transition

- **Purpose of interagency coordination is to**
  - **Encourage government agencies to work together and communicate better prior to DOH transitioning out of administrator role**
  - **Leverage resources and coordinate efforts among agencies**
  - **Determine how to best communicate issues being discussed with agency administrators, stakeholders and the broader public**
- **DHHL is advocating for a community outreach strategy that will meet the needs of DHHL beneficiaries as key stakeholders.**
- **Future administration post-DOH, future of Kalawao County is a political question, which the Legislature is grappling with now. DHHL has committed to working with DOH and DLNR on a transition plan.**
- **Moloka'i Island Plan update will provide beneficiary consultation and address some aspects of this question, but not all, as DHHL only has jurisdiction over a portion -- 1,474 acres.**



# Kalaupapa Consultation – Next Steps

- Continue to engage with beneficiaries living and working in Kalaupapa as well as those living Topside Molokai, with the goal of bringing a small group of beneficiary stakeholders to Kalaupapa in May to engage in productive dialogue with Kalaupapa beneficiaries about the reality of life in the Settlement and visioning for the future of Hawaiian Home Lands in Kalaupapa.
- Prepare for the Moloka‘i Island Plan Update beneficiary consultations, to tentatively start in Fall 2025. Kalaupapa will be a major focal point of the update.
- Continue to participate in transition planning with the other responsible agencies and help develop a community outreach strategy that will meet the needs of DHHL beneficiaries as key stakeholders.



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION · DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Molokai Coastal Homesteads  
Community Resiliency Plan (MCH-CRP)  
Implementation

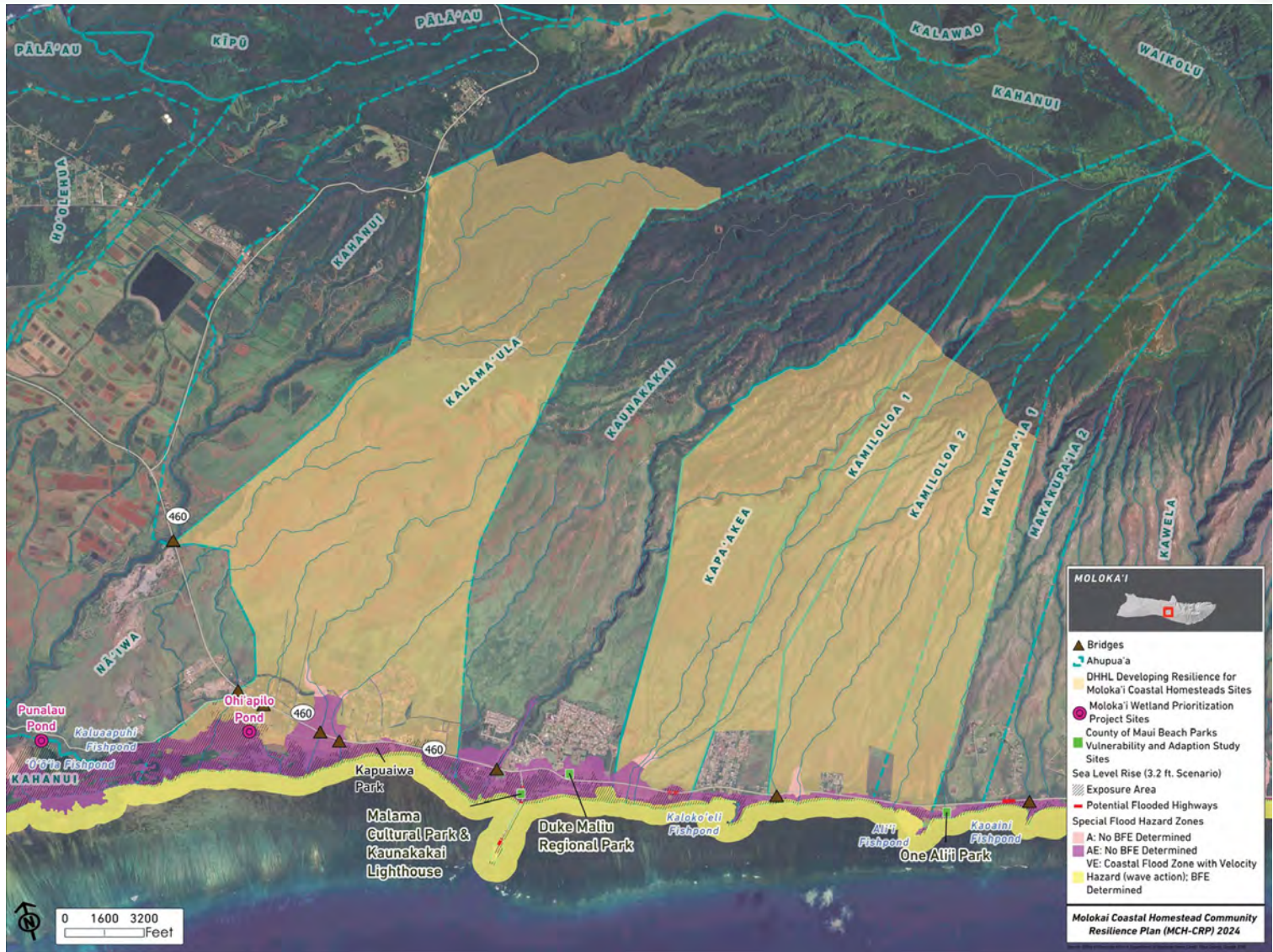
# Community Resiliency Plan

- ❖ This project was funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF).
- ❖ This phase funds a Resiliency Plan with nature-based solutions that provide Community Resilience and Fish and Wildlife benefits.
- ❖ Final Draft was approved by HHC in Feb. Now that the MCH-CRP has been completed, DHHL and Homestead Associations could apply for more funding for future phases



# Planning Process

- ❖ Lessees requested assistance in dealing with coastal erosion & flooding
- ❖ Building on prior efforts like 2022 South Moloka‘i Shoreline Erosion Management Plan & 2015 Coastal Resilience for DHHL Communities Practicum Report
- ❖ Technical analysis of homestead assets, hazards, & vulnerabilities
- ❖ Multiple meetings & workshops held with beneficiaries to discuss issues & explore mitigation options
- ❖ Consultation with technical & cultural experts
- ❖ Huaka‘i with beneficiaries
- ❖ Five Resilience Goals identified to build resilience (26 HHA and 10 DHHL strategies)



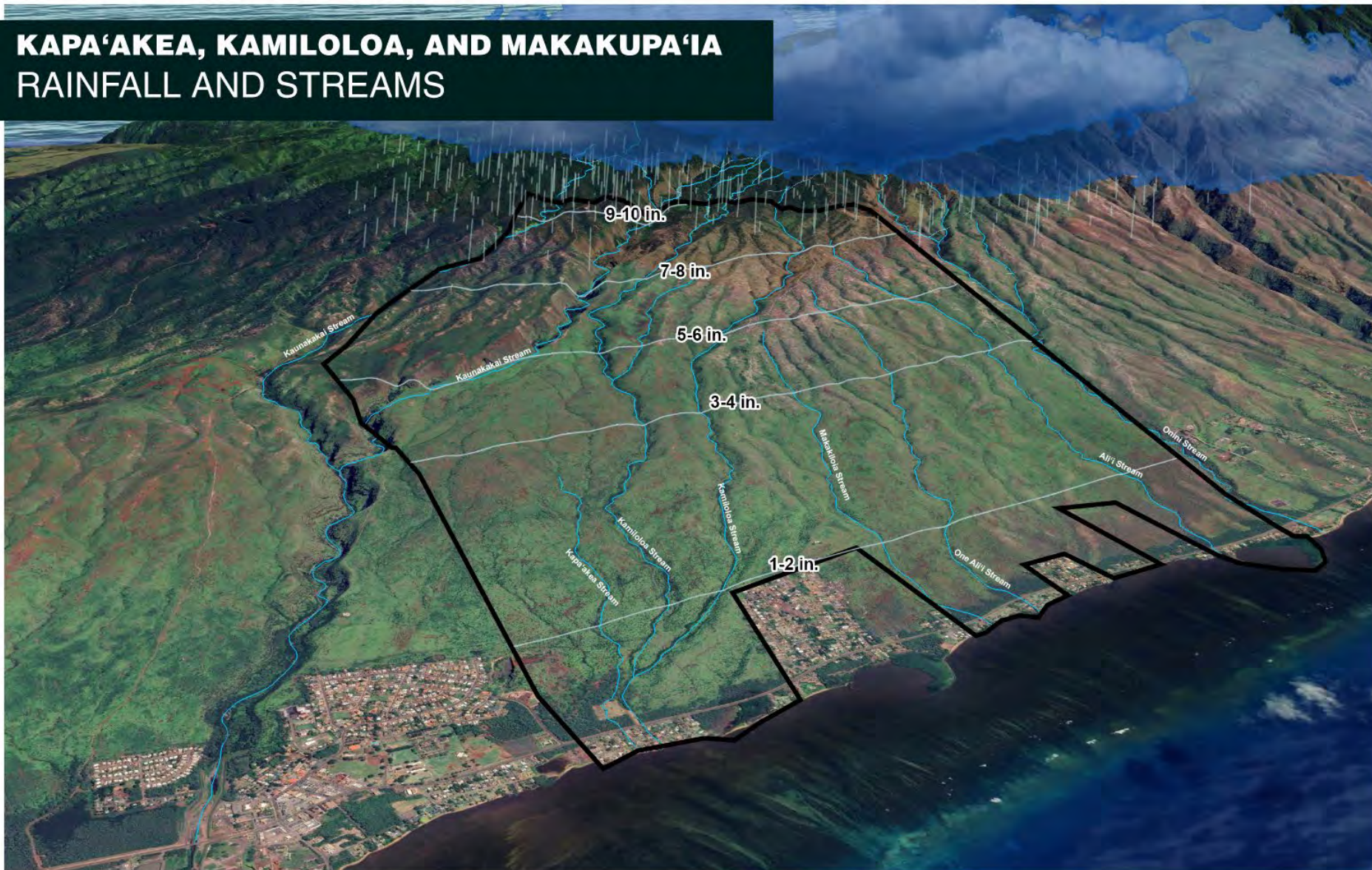
# Technical Analysis

## KALAMAULA RAINFALL AND STREAMS



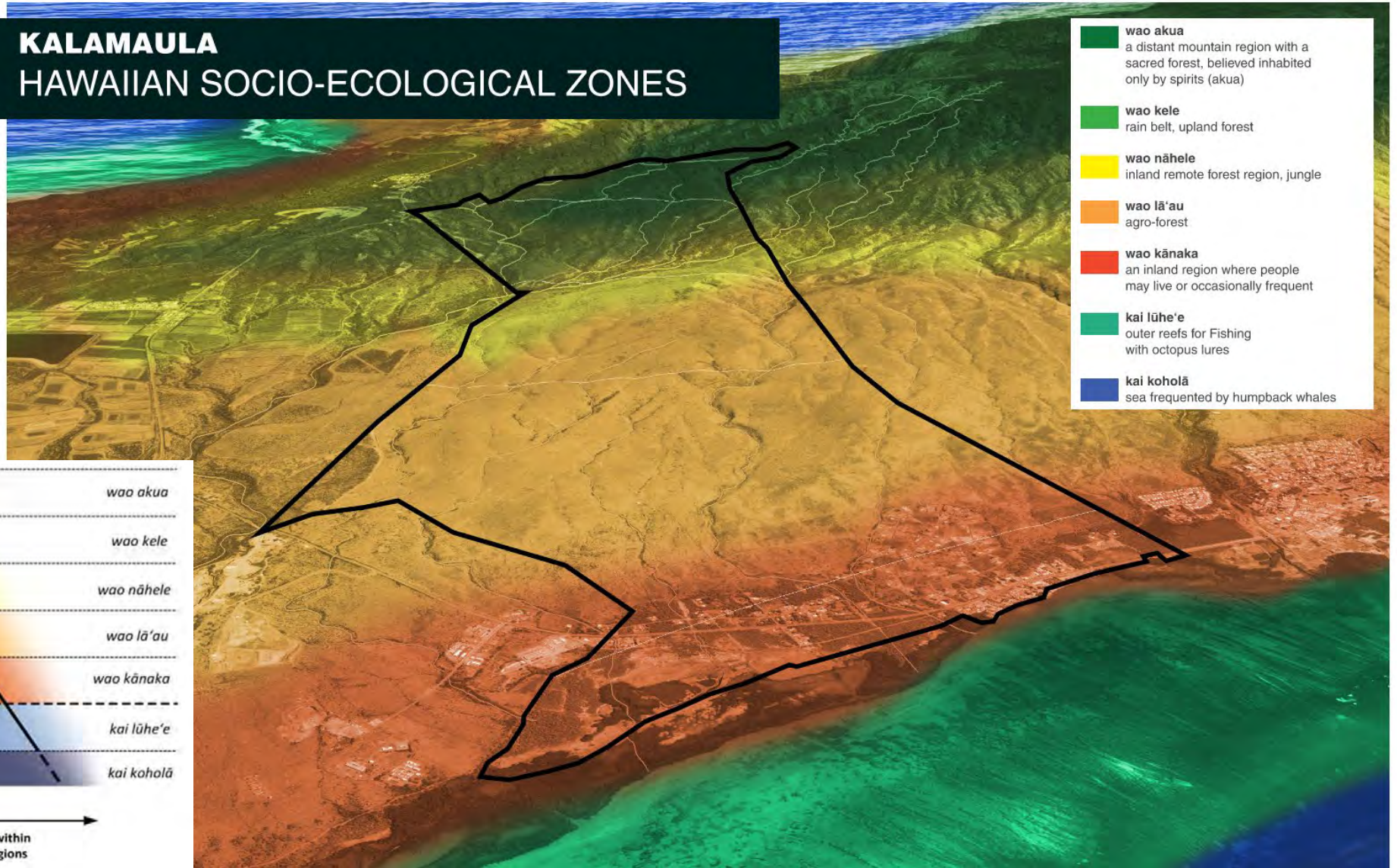
# Technical Analysis

## KAPA'AKEA, KAMILOLOA, AND MAKAKUPA'IA RAINFALL AND STREAMS



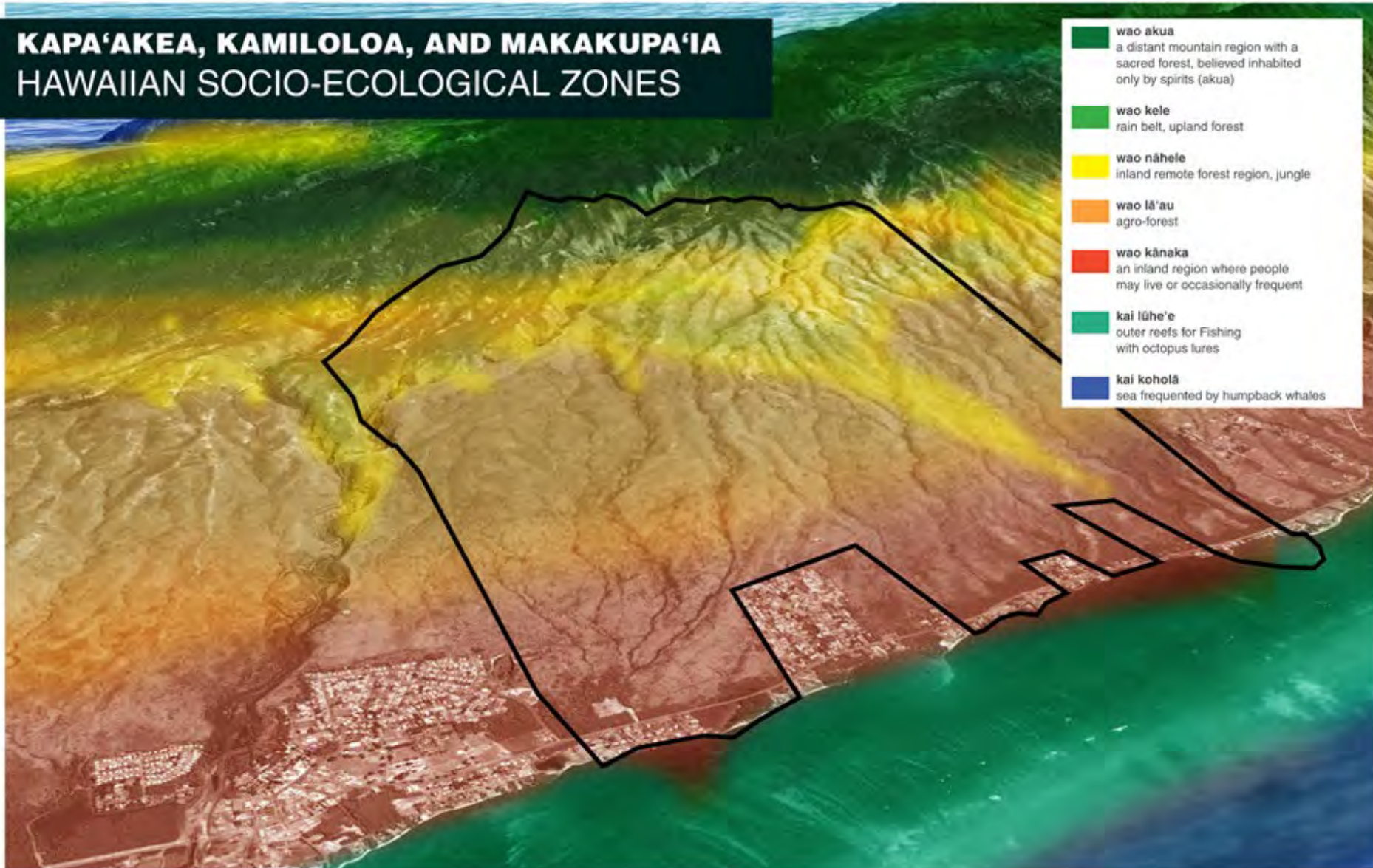
# Incorporating TEK

## KALAMAULA HAWAIIAN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES



# Incorporating TEK

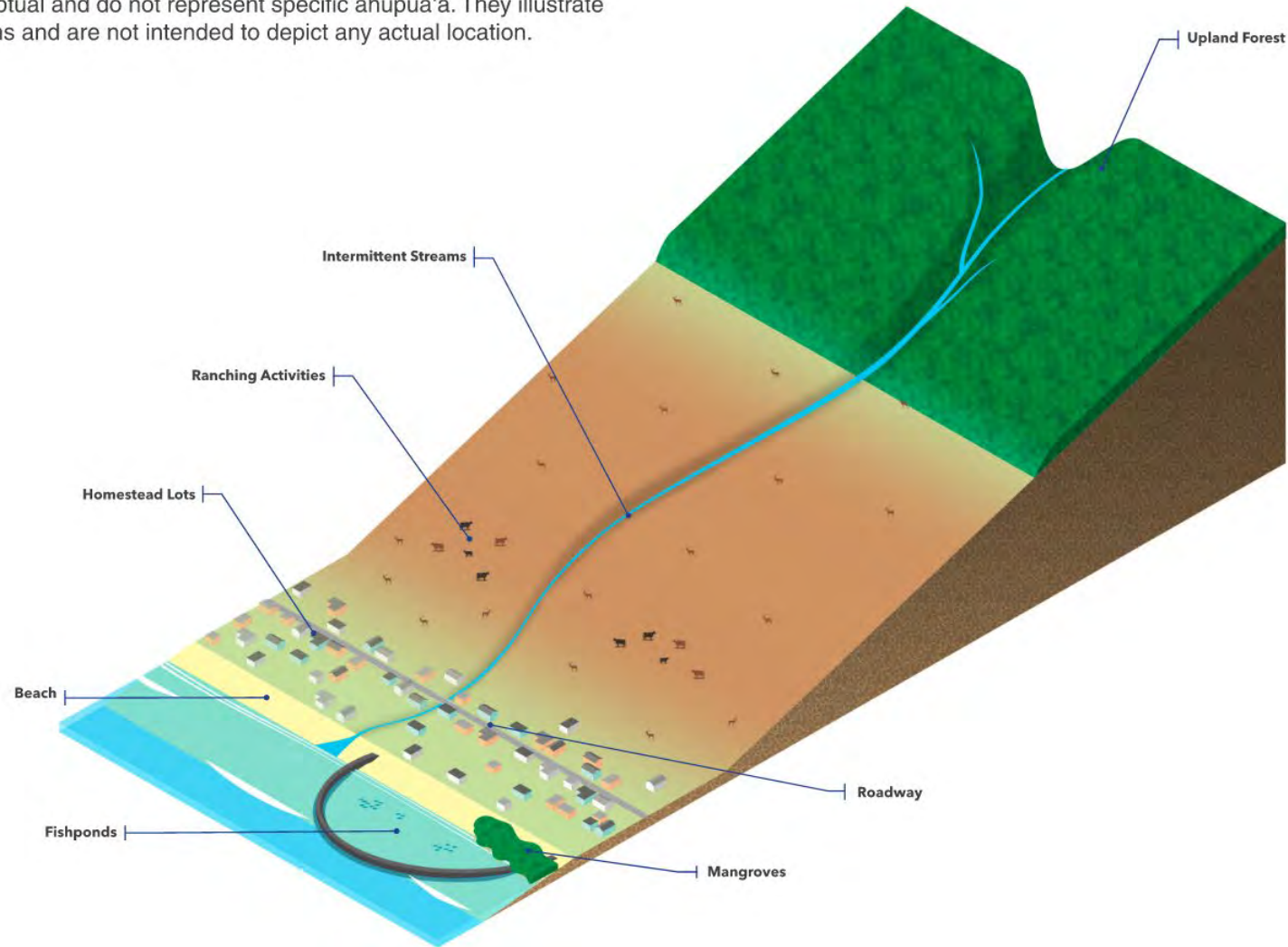
## KAPA'AKEA, KAMILOLOA, AND MAKAKUPA'IA HAWAIIAN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES



# Conceptual Renderings

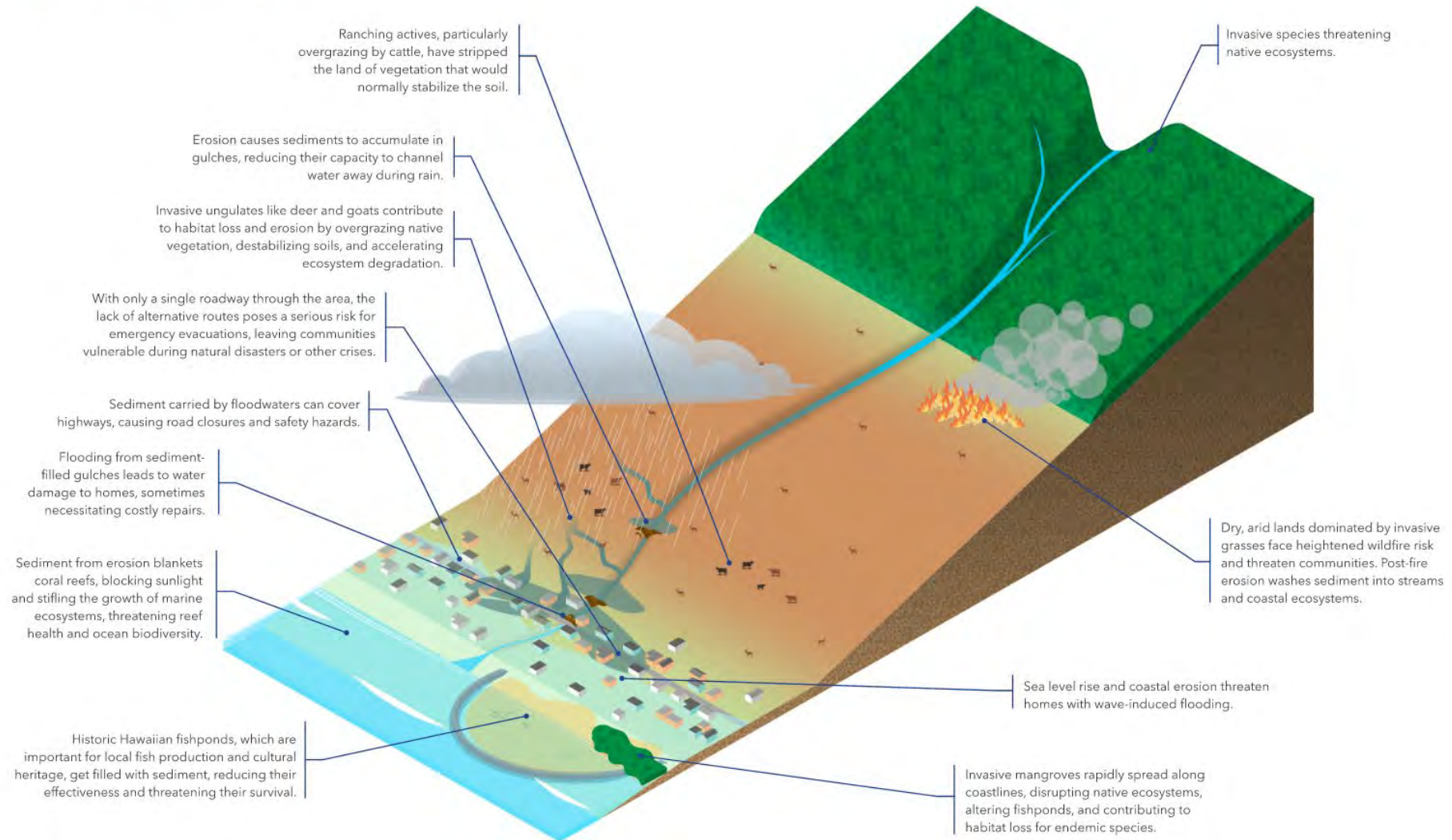
## EXISTING CONDITIONS

All figures are conceptual and do not represent specific ahupua'a. They illustrate generalized conditions and are not intended to depict any actual location.



# Conceptual Renderings

## CHALLENGES



# Risk Identification

## 1 Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, and Coastal Flooding

### HAZARDS

- Rising sea levels
- Coastal erosion and land loss
- Storm surge, wave overtopping, and king tide flooding



### VULNERABILITIES

- Homes and infrastructure (including coastal highways) built in flood and erosion zones
- Sea level rise reduces drainage capacity in systems designed for lower sea levels
- Limited coastal protection and failing seawalls
- Loss of natural buffers (dunes, wetlands, and vegetation)
- Cesspools and septic systems near shoreline
- Lack of alternate evacuation routes inland



### RISKS

- Permanent inundation and displacement of homesteads
- Damage or loss of property, utilities, and roads
- Contamination of nearshore waters from flooded cesspools
- Threats to public safety and isolation during floods
- Cultural site loss (e.g., fishponds, Kapuāiwa Coconut Grove, springs)

## 2 Heavy Rainfall, Ravine Flooding, and Drainage Overflows

### HAZARDS

- Intense rainfall events and flash flooding
- Blocked or undersized drainage infrastructure
- Sediment buildup in streams and culverts



### VULNERABILITIES

- Poorly maintained drainage canals and culverts
- Ravines and drainageways filled with sediment and vegetation
- Sea level rise causes coastal inundation by limiting where stormwater can drain
- Homes and roads constructed within floodplains
- Filled wetlands reducing flood storage capacity



### RISKS

- Flood damage to homes, roads, and property
- Isolation of communities due to impassable roads
- Erosion and debris flows damaging nearshore ecosystems
- Increased maintenance and repair costs for DHHL and residents

## 3 Drought, Wildfire, and Mauka Degradation

### HAZARDS

- Extended drought periods
- Wildfire ignition and spread
- Overgrazing and browsing by invasive deer leading to native vegetation and soil exposure



### VULNERABILITIES

- Deforested mauka lands caused by decades of overgrazing from cattle and invasive deer populations
- Invasive grasses and shrubs increasing fire fuel loads
- Lack of active land management or fire breaks
- Reduced watershed recharge capacity



### RISKS

- Wildfire threats to mauka homes and critical infrastructure
- Post-fire erosion and sediment runoff into coastal waters
- Long-term decline in native forest regeneration
- Increased flooding and sedimentation risk downslope

## 4 Sedimentation, Pollution, and Marine Ecosystem Decline

### HAZARDS

- Erosion and sediment runoff from mauka areas
- Contamination from cesspools and stormwater
- Invasive mangrove encroachment



### VULNERABILITIES

- Degraded mauka slopes and unmaintained ravines
- Filled wetlands and fishponds losing filtering capacity
- Outdated wastewater systems
- Limited environmental monitoring or enforcement



### RISKS

- Decline in coral reef health and fish populations
- Sediment filling historic fishponds (loko i'a)
- Poor water quality affecting gathering and fishing practices
- Loss of traditional food sources and cultural identity

## 5 Severe Storms, Hurricanes, and Tsunami

### HAZARDS

- High winds and wave surge from tropical storms
- Tsunami and large swell events



### VULNERABILITIES

- Aging Housing Stock
- Coastal homes not designed to modern wind/flood standards
- Critical infrastructure (roads, utilities) located in low-lying areas
- Lack of formal emergency evacuation routes and shelters
- Limited communication and coordination during emergencies



### RISKS

- Damage to homes and community facilities
- Injury or loss of life during major storm events
- Extended loss of utilities and access to essential services
- Economic and emotional stress for residents

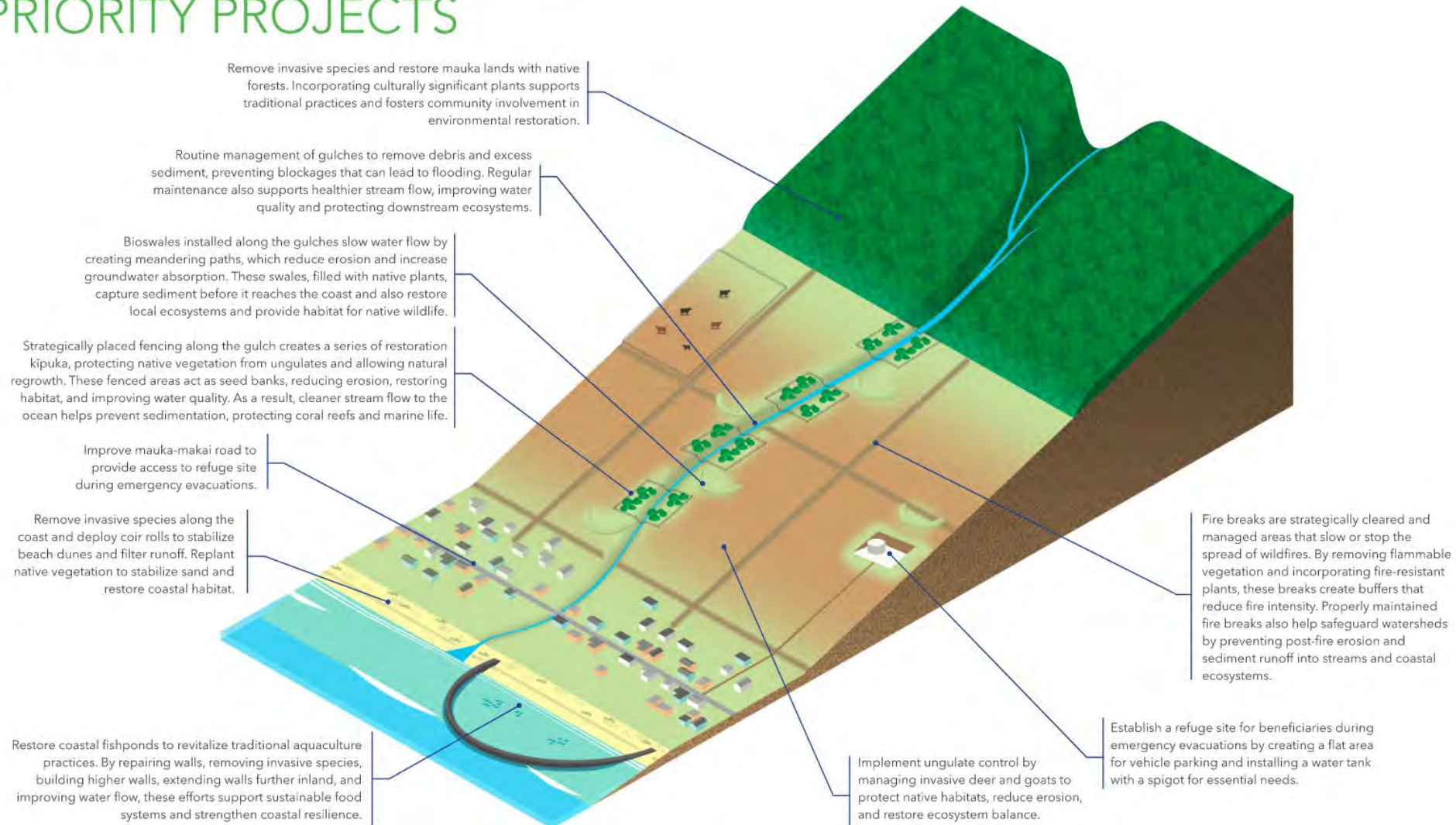
# Vulnerability Assessment

Vulnerability Level	Description	Color Code
Very High	Directly exposed and highly sensitive with limited capacity to respond or adapt	Red
High	Exposed to hazard with some protective measures but still significant sensitivity	Orange
Moderate	Some exposure and sensitivity with partial ability to mitigate or recover	Yellow
Low	Limited exposure with effective protection or adaptive capacity	Green
Very Low	Minimal exposure with strong adaptive capacity	Blue

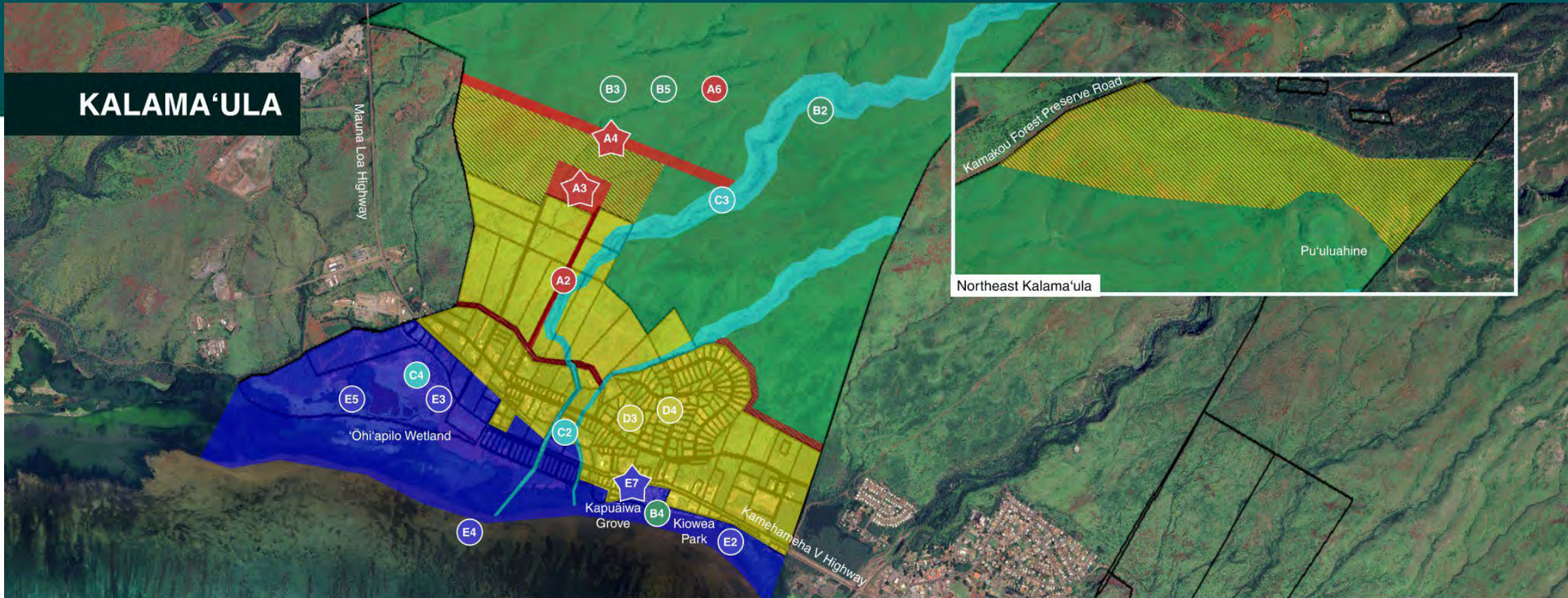
Hazard / Asset	Rising sea levels	Coastal erosion and land loss	Storm surge, wave overtopping, and king tide flooding	Intense rainfall events and flash flooding	Blocked or undersized drainage infra-structure	Sediment buildup in streams and culverts	Extended drought periods	Wildfire ignition and spread	Overgrazing and browsing by ungulates	Erosion and sediment runoff from mauka areas	Contamination from cesspools and stormwater	Invasive mangrove encroachment	High winds from tropical storms or hurricane	Tsunami and large swell events
Makai Homesteads	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red
Mauka Homesteads	Green	Blue	Blue	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Yellow
Kamehameha V Hwy	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Red	Yellow	Blue	Green	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Red	Red
Reef / Marine Life	Blue	Green	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Red	Red	Orange	Green	Green
Gulches	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Wetlands	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
Fishponds	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Orange	Red	Yellow	Orange
Beach	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Red
Agricultural / Pastoral Land	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Green	Green
Native Forests	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Orange	Red	Red	Orange	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Drainage Infrastructure	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue	Orange	Blue	Orange	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Parks	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Community Centers	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Blue	Orange	Orange
Mauka Roads	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Orange	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow
Neighborhood Roads	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Orange	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow
Cemetery	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Green	Green

# Conceptual - Priority Projects

## EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL PRIORITY PROJECTS



# KALAMA'ULA



**A Emergency Evacuation and Public Safety**

- A1** Create a Pre-Disaster Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan\*
- A2** Develop and Maintain Emergency Evacuation Routes
- A3** Develop Resilience Hubs or Evacuation Sites
- A4** Fire Break Construction and Maintenance
- A5** Event Reporting and Documentation System\*
- A6** Install Wildfire Detection Cameras

**B Mauka Restoration**

- B1** Develop Mauka Restoration and Maintenance Plan\*
- B2** Implement Kipuka Waihona Concept
- B3** Reduce Fuel Loads
- B4** Expand Plant and Food Nursery
- B5** Feral Animal Management Program

**C Water Flow Maintenance and Flood Prevention**

- C1** Develop a Drainage Master Plan\*
- C2** Green-Grey Drainage Improvements and Maintenance Program
- C3** Watershed Participatory Mapping Workshops
- C4** Restore Springs

**D Residential Hale Retrofits and Relocation**

- D1** Create an Ahupua'a Residential Hale Restoration and Relocation Study\*
- D2** Conduct Vulnerability Assessments Survey\*
- D3** Adapt Structures and Systems to Better Withstand Coastal Hazards
- D4** Maintain Home Ignition Zones

**E Makai Restoration**

- E1** Develop a Makai Restoration and Management Plan\*
- E2** Implement Nature-Based Coastal Protection Projects
- E3** Invasive Species Removal and Management
- E4** Marine Ecosystem Restoration
- E5** Restore 'Ohi'apilo Wetland
- E7** Maintain Kapuāiwa Coconut Grove and Kiowea Park

\* A1, B1, plans, etc. are not located on the map because they are full ahupua'a focused plans

\* Strategies are non-spatial in nature and represent actions that apply broadly across the entire ahupua'a or community.

# KAMILOLOA - MAKAKUPA'IA



**A Emergency Evacuation and Public Safety**

- A1** Create a Pre-Disaster Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan\*
- A2** Develop and Maintain Emergency Evacuation Routes
- A3** Develop Resilience Hubs or Evacuation Sites
- A4** Fire Break Construction and Maintenance
- A5** Event Reporting and Documentation System\*
- A6** Install Wildfire Detection Cameras

**B Mauka Restoration**

- B1** Develop Mauka Restoration and Maintenance Plan\*
- B2** Implement Kipuka Waihona Concept
- B3** Reduce Fuel Loads
- B4** Expand Plant and Food Nursery
- B5** Feral Animal Management Program

**C Water Flow Maintenance and Flood Prevention**

- C1** Develop a Drainage Master Plan\*
- C2** Green-Grey Drainage Improvements and Maintenance Program
- C3** Watershed Participatory Mapping Workshops
- C4** Restore Springs

**D Residential Hale Retrofits and Relocation**

- D1** Create an Ahupua'a Residential Hale Restoration and Relocation Study\*
- D2** Conduct Vulnerability Assessments Survey\*
- D3** Adapt Structures and Systems to Better Withstand Coastal Hazards
- D4** Maintain Home Ignition Zones

**E Makai Restoration**

- E1** Develop a Makai Restoration and Management Plan\*
- E2** Implement Nature-Based Coastal Protection Projects
- E3** Invasive Species Removal and Management
- E4** Marine Ecosystem Restoration
- E5** Restore Ohi'apilo Wetland
- E1** Maintain Kapuāiwa Coconut Grove and Kiowa Park

\* A1, B1, plans, etc. are not located on the map because they are full ahupua'a focused plans

\* Strategies are non-spatial in nature and represent actions that apply broadly across the entire ahupua'a or community.

# Priority Projects

Priority Project	Kalama'ula	Kapa'akea	Kamiloloa
1	D1: Create an Ahupua'a Residential Hale Restoration and Relocation Study*	A1: Create a Pre-Disaster Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan	A1: Create a Pre-Disaster Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan
2	A3: Develop Resilience Hubs or Evacuation Sites	A2: Develop and Maintain Emergency Evacuation Routes	B1: Develop Mauka Restoration & Maintenance Plan
3	B1: Develop Mauka Restoration & Maintenance Plan	B1: Develop Mauka Restoration & Maintenance Plan	C1: Develop a Drainage Master Plan
4	A4: Fire Break Construction & Maintenance	C1: Develop a Drainage Master Plan	C2: Green-Grey Drainage Improvements & Maintenance Program
5	E7: Maintain Kupuāiwa Coconut Grove and Kiowea Park	D3: Adapt Structures and Systems to Better Withstand Coastal Hazards	E1: Develop Makai Restoration & Maintenance Plan



# Next Steps – Community Resilience

- **Begin implementation of Priority Strategies and Projects in the Molokai Coastal Homesteads Community Resilience Plan project (MCH-CRP).**
- **Move forward with NOAA Project of Special Merit (PSM) recommendations for direct DHHL administration of coastal zone management (CZM) for Hawaiian Home Lands lessees living along coastlines.**
- **Update Molokai Island Plan and prepare Statewide Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan (2026-2027)**
- **Continue to engage with Molokai beneficiary organizations & nonprofits to increase community resilience & implement nature-based solutions such as shoreline, wetland & fishpond restoration & enhancement.**
- **Continue to seek technical assistance & funding from county, state & federal agencies to address acute coastal hazards & mitigate impacts from flooding, sea level rise & other climate change-related hazards along Molokai's southern coast & prioritize assistance to convert cesspools to more effective wastewater treatment methods.**

# Mahalo

