



## West Kaua‘i Regional Plan Update

### BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION MEETING #2

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Waimea Theatre

## Meeting Summary

**Attendance:** 46 signed-in

Sign-in	Total #
Applicant	17
Lessee	12
Both	4
Potential Successor	7
Other	6
TOTAL	35

**DHHL:** Lillie Makaila (Acting Planning Manager)  
Kialoa Mossman (Planner and Project Manager)  
Lauren Esaki-Kua (Planner)  
Malachi Krishok (Bowers + Kubota, Consultant Project Manager)  
Noah Tabar (Bowers + Kubota, Consultant)

**Handouts:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Community Values Worksheet v2
- Community Visioning Worksheet

The handouts are appended in Attachment 1.

**Presentation:**

Lillie Makaila opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of the DHHL staff and consultants. Tia Koerte provided ‘ōlelo Ni‘ihau interpretation for the meeting. After introductions, Lillie shared a presentation reviewing the purpose of the Regional Plan Update, noting the role DHHL’s West Kaua‘i beneficiaries in providing input to inform community values, a vision statement, and identify priority projects. It was noted that the last West Kaua‘i Regional Plan was completed in 2011 and the updated planning process will place greater emphasis on community-defined values and vision statements to better inform decision-making by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and reflect

beneficiary priorities over time. Lastly, Lillie shared a brief overview of the draft community values that were synthesized based on input provided in the first Beneficiary Consultation meeting on May 12. At the end of this presentation DHHL facilitated a group discussion on the draft community values before breaking out into three smaller groups to discuss and revise the community values. The group discussions is summarized under the “General Discussion” section below. The presentation slides are included as Attachment 2. Notes from the breakout groups and report back are summarized under the “Community Values and Visioning Discussion” section below.

### **General Discussion:**

- How can we address blood quantum?
  - Since 2011, these meetings have gotten smaller & smaller
  - How can we address blood quantum dwindling & people leaving b/c they cannot afford to stay here
- DHHL is not putting Hawaiians on 'aina at a fast enough rate
- Can my kids qualify for a homestead if they are not 50%?
  - DHHL staff clarified that you must be 50% to be an applicant and 25% to succeed and take over an existing lease
  - DHHL shared the history of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, noting that the original proposal by Prince Kūhiō was for applicants to be 1/32 Hawaiian and 999 year lease terms
    - In order to pass the HHCA, they compromised to raise blood quantum requirements to 50% and lower lease term to 99 years
- DHHL example from Waimanalo Regional Plan – a Priority Project in the plans is to explore lease term "in perpetuity" as a strategy to address concerns about blood quantum and succession
- Values are important, but there are many challenging issues today
  - Hawaiians are minority in their own homeland
  - How can we put our shared mana'ō together to solve these urgent challenges?
  - DHHL staff noted that the Regional Plan updates can lead to advocacy at the Hawaiian Homes Commission
- A meeting participant asked if future meetings can hybrid with a zoom option

### **Community Values and Visioning Discussion:**

Meeting attendees broke out into three smaller groups to review the draft community values and begin discussions on the community vision. Below is a summary of the report back. The group notes are included as Attachment 3.

#### Group 1:

- Ola I ka Wai
  - Appropriate/unrestricted water flows to the home lands
  - No re-routing of water

- Water is not a commodity - it is the blood of the land
- Access to wai
- Ag water for agriculture and drinking water for homes
- Clean waterways and good maintenance of water systems
- Testing & good water quality for Hawaiian home lands
- Mālama ‘Āina
  - Making ‘āina ready (testing brownfields, etc.)
  - Protecting and caring for the land
  - Preserving the agricultural and rural character of the westside
  - Recognizing ‘āina is essential to our identity
- Self-sustainability
  - Use the land for self-sufficiency
  - Don't sell land to developers
    - No tourism
    - Prioritize homesteading (houses/residential)
  - Increased access to ‘āina for beneficiaries and native Hawaiians
- Kōkua: aku, kōkua mai
  - Helping neighbors
  - Creating safe spaces
  - Sharing: resources, knowledge
  - Ha‘aha‘a – watch over each other’s homes & keikis
  - Instill guidance in younger generations
  - Circular economics
- Kūpuna
  - Services for healthcare
  - Help to fix our houses & ADA accessible
- Mākua
  - Services for homebuilding especially for those not served by NAHASDA and other programs
- Hō ‘ihi & Aloha
  - Caring for one another
  - Supporting neighbors
  - Extending aloha or respect to ‘āina
  - Respect, integrity, compassion, honesty
  - Love your neighbor, respect your neighbor
  - Respect, even when you disagree
  - Mutual respect & aloha
  - Respect each other’s beliefs
- Lōkahi
  - United as one community with shared identity
  - Collective decision making and shared responsibility

- Resilience
- Be humble – ha‘aha‘a
- Remember the mo‘olelo our ancestors taught us; sometimes we forget that
- Kuleana
  - We just up, not just waha
  - Don't be a standby
  - Everyone does their part
  - Actually do the work & follow through
  - Accept your kuleana
  - Take care of what you get; especially your homestead
  - No niele into others' business

Group 2:

- Aloha
  - Action of aloha
- Blood quantum verbiage in values
- Kuleana for DHHL
- Kahua – add as a value/vision statement
- Kōke‘e Road
  - Fire access
  - Cleaning land
- Blood quantum study as a priority project
- Projects can be done while the land is cleaned
- Different project can be done to fulfill a vision
- DHHL's kuleana to clean ‘āina
- Hawaiian homestead associations
- Vision statement
  - Integrity of our people
  - Legacy in regard to blood quantum; for next generation
  - Stewardship of the land

Group 3:

- Safety/Community
  - Safety; don't have to worry
  - Community centers
  - Ball parks
  - Self-discipline to maintain
  - Mālama your land
  - Coming together to rebuild after disaster; resilience
  - Provide funding to afford building a house; DHHL help to subsidize

- Housing/Affordability
  - Self-help housing
  - Affordability; keeping West Side affordable
  - Sweat equity; shared kuleana
  - Main concern: when is the building going to start?
  - Intergenerational living; keeping homes in 'ohana; tired of waiting on list
  - Keeping beneficiaries on Kaua'i & supporting our keiki
- Values/Kuleana
  - Ho'ihi should go under kuleana (respect & integrity)
  - Kōkua should be under kuleana
  - Kuleana as 1st or 2nd value
  - Everything fits under the umbrella of kuleana
- Community Life/Vision
  - Family traditions (most proud of)
  - Community support / coming together
- What is life like for them?
  - Peaceful
  - Stabilized: a balanced life (job, finances)
  - Affordable
  - Hopeful; able to maintain the culture
  - Safe parks / community centers for kids to stay busy and safe
  - Preschools, daycares
  - General store
  - Sports activities
- Land Use/Infrastructure
  - No hotels
  - West Side list wants lots on West Side
  - Sidewalks
  - Safe space to exercise
  - Safe space for kids

**Updated List of Community Values:**

Kuleana

- We show up, not just waha
- Everyone needs to do their part
- Actually doing the work and following through
- Personal and collective responsibility
- Accountability and willingness to address issues directly within the community
- Taking care of what you get; especially your homestead
- DHHL has responsibility to beneficiaries

#### Hō'ihi and Aloha

- Caring for one another
- Supporting neighbors
- Extending aloha or respect to 'āina
- Respect, integrity, compassion, honesty
- Love your neighbor, respect your neighbor
- Respect, even when you disagree
- Mutual respect & aloha
- Respect each other's beliefs

#### 'Ohana

- Kauhale - multi-generational living, including kūpuna, parents, and keiki living together
- Legacy for future generations to remain in the community and not be displaced due to blood quantum or affordability
- Families support one another and know one another
- Healthcare and support for our kūpuna

#### Lōkahi

- United as one community with shared identity
- Collective decision making and shared responsibility
- Resilience
- Be humble – ha'aha'a
- Remember the mo'olelo our ancestors taught us

#### Kōkua

- Helping neighbors - community watches over each other's homes and keiki
- Creating a safe space
- Sharing resources and knowledge
- Instill guidance in younger generations
- Circular economics

#### Mālama 'Āina

- Protecting and caring for the land
- Access to land for beneficiaries and Native Hawaiians
- Making 'āina ready
- Use the land for self-sufficiency
- Preserving the agricultural and rural character of the westside
- Recognizing that 'āina is essential to our identity

#### Ola i ka wai

- Access to wai - appropriate/unrestricted water flows to the home lands
- Water is not a commodity – it is the blood of the land

- Clean waterways and good maintenance of water systems
- Ag water for agriculture and drinking water for homes
- Long-term resource management, not just immediate needs

**Running List of Project Ideas:**

During the first two meetings, a number of project ideas were shared, which are shared below and will be revisited as the beneficiary meetings continue. These ideas include (*italics indicate new ideas from BC #2*):

- Re-prioritizing getting beneficiaries onto the Pu‘u ‘Ōpae lands
- DHHL working with KAA to deliver water to Pu‘u ‘Ōpae
- Supporting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on existing lots to support intergenerational living
- Cesspool to septic conversion support
- *Kōke‘e Road fire access*
- *Blood quantum study*
- *Self-help housing*
- *Services to support homebuilding and maintenance/renovations (e.g., ADA accessibility)*
- *Services for healthcare*
- *Water quality testing and monitoring*

**Closing Discussion:**

Following the report back, Lillie closed the meeting with some announcements and summary of the process moving forward.

- Lillie shared that the next meeting will recap the revised list of community values and move into community visioning and then shift to discuss and generate a list of project ideas for beneficiaries to vote on.
- As requested, DHHL will look into having a zoom option available for the next meeting and send out the worksheets and info in advance of the meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday June 18, 2026  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Waimea Theatre