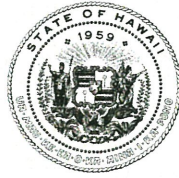


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

## Meeting Notes

‘Ualapu‘e Kuleana Homestead Project  
Community Meeting #1 (virtual)  
December 1, 2021 – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

For more information, please contact:  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
PO Box 1879, Honolulu HI 96805  
808.620.9500

Email: [dhhl.planning@hawaii.gov](mailto:dhhl.planning@hawaii.gov)

Website: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/po/molokai/ualapue-kuleana-homestead-project/>



# CONFERENCE REPORT

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<b>TO:</b>	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)		
<b>FROM:</b>	G70		
<b>DATE:</b>	December 1, 2021	<b>LOCATION:</b>	Virtual
<b>PROJECT:</b>	'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Settlement Plan	<b>PROJECT NO:</b>	221047-01
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Meeting #1	<b>NO. OF PAGES:</b>	7
<b>THOSE PRESENT:</b>	G70: Kawika McKeague, Barbara Natale, Pi'ilani Smith, Ryan Char  DHHL: Gigi Cairel, Cedric Duarte, Andrew Choy, William Aila Jr., Zachary Helm, Mona Kapaku, Juan Garcia, Shelly Carreira  SHPD: Andrew McCallister  Community Participants: 77		

## SUMMARY:

The first community meeting for the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project was held virtually via Zoom on December 1st, 2021. The zoom was opened at 5:40pm and the meeting began at approximately 6:02pm.

Cedric Duarte started the meeting. Commissioner Zach Helm started with a pule. Chairman Aila made a few announcements. If you have a disagreement with the process, please contact DHHL: by phone 808.620.9500; by letter DHHL, PO Box 1879, Honolulu HI 96805; send an email to DHHL.Planning@hawaii.gov; or attend a meeting like the meeting tonight.

Cedric announced that this is the first community meeting, and the goal is to present the project to the wider community. Agenda includes opening pule, introductions, review agenda, purpose and outcomes, the 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project, questions/discussion, next steps, and closing. He then discussed zoom housekeeping and etiquette and the legacy of Prince Jonah Kūhio Kalaniana'ole.

Andrew Choy discussed the DHHL Planning Process. It is through the island plans in which the Commission determines land use designations. Gigi discussed the Moloka'i Island Plan, and the Regional Island Plan, in which 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead was determined as a high-priority project.

Cedric introduced Kawika McKeague, who introduced the G70 team and prompted a discussion on Kuleana Homesteading. He turned it over to Gigi, who discussed the settlement sequence. This is an agricultural land use, so a residential structure is optional.

Kawika discussed the Kuelana Homestead Settlement Plan and its contents, including the role of subconsultant studies. He then explained how the information gathered will play a role in the Environmental Assessment. He discussed the work currently done and the situational context with the larger community. Expected outcomes include the Settlement Plan, the state-required Environmental Assessment, and possible land use revisions from the Moloka'i Island Plan. He then shared the planning timeline from December 2021 to February 2023.

Cedric then opened the floor for discussion, addressing first the chat questions. He then turned to those with raised hands, then to those on phone. Once questions were addressed, Cedric ended the meeting at approximately 7:48pm.

**Questions/Comments:**

**La'a Poepoe: Was the alleged incident mentioned confirmed to be an intentional hostile act?**

Cedric: Right now, it's too early to say if the incident was intentional or not, we're letting law enforcement conduct an investigation and we'll go from there.

**Mahina Poepoe: Are you able to tell us how many individuals prioritized this as "high priority" or #1?**

Andrew: As part of the Moloka'i Island Plan process in 2005, the department conducted a survey, and the survey is included in the back of the Island Plan. Behind Ho'olehua, which is mostly settled already with agricultural homestead lessees, 'Ualapu'e was the next most preferred choice for agricultural lessees to settle.

**Khirata: For clarity, please explain, how does DHHL and beneficiaries identify what is considered a "high priority" project land for development?**

Andrew: As part of the Island Plan, we do conduct a survey to see what the preferences are of our waitlist applicants for a particular island and where they would like to live and settle. That's one of the factors the Department uses to prioritize what areas to develop over the lifespan of the Island Plan. Some other factors are the cost to develop as well as suitability for siting homesteads in a particular area.

**Mahina Poepoe: What does that mean about determining "what waitlist" can you choose only waitlisters who are currently already living on Molokai or are originally from Molokai?**

Gigi: DHHL has 3 waitlists—residential, agriculture, pastoral. It is up to the beneficiary which waitlist(s) to apply for. Per Rules, only the Hawaiian Homes Commission, can approve which waitlist(s) to use for a Kuleana Homestead Project. Where the beneficiary is originally from for where they currently reside has no bearing. DHHL is required to go by date of application.

**Mahina Poepoe: G70 visited the site in November, I'm curious what their initial feedback is regarding the proposed development and considering the grade of slope and the road conditions?**

Ryan Char: Site is very steep. Hard to walk trails, some in switchback that can be managed a little better. Erosion has become a problem here. Will need to see how erosion and access will be managed, drainage infrastructure to keep water away from roadways. Would help with road maintenance. Many BMPs and mitigation that will need to go along with siting the lots.

**Mahina Poepoe: If residential structures not required for ag, are encampments allowed? Ezup, tents, pallet structures, etc.?**

Gigi: Health and safety codes apply, and any rules the homestead association has will apply as well. Generally, any structure needs to be filed with the DHHL office as a lot improvement.

**Malia Akutagawa: Will the chat be made part of official public testimony?**

Cedric: It is. It's part of this meeting.

**Malia Akutagawa: I am from 'Ualapu'e where my grandmother's land is located across from Kilohana School. This is our ahupua'a and my family and I exercised our hunting, gathering, and fishing rights here. I am concerned with the sheer number of lots proposed. We are already impacted with subdivision development here. Our limu and fishing grounds have been impacted. This area also has a lot of archaeological site and quite honestly can be spooky with**

many spirits up in the mountain. Some people have become pupule from collecting artifacts and pohaku improperly. This is not an ideal place to build homes because of the spiritual nature of this place. Additionally I am not sure where you are going to get water. We have been seeing over the last several decades prolonged drought. The springs and stream have dried up, affecting our limu beds, crab grounds, fishponds, and ability to gather things like pepeiao. This project would likely worsen conditions. The impacts are such that an Environmental Impact Statement is warranted due to significant impacts, rather than doing an Environmental Assessment with anticipation of a FONSI. While your DHHL strategic planning took 15 months, people from 'Ualapu'e were not consulted. It is not enough that applicants eligible for Hawaiian Homestead to be part of the planning process, but also the people of 'Ualapu'e before vetting these lands for Hawaiian Homestead.

-These heiau are spooky and comprise an entire kino. There is a heiau in the ocean. Once a month we would hear drums.

-What are the impacts to those of that ahupua'a, rights, resources etc? (Ka Pa'akai Analysis)

-The people from 'Ualapu'e are not maha'oe. I'm concerned with the grading.

-It's best to do an EIS. Especially if DHHL is the accepting authority, it's like a self rubber stamp.

**iPhone:** Why does the name of this project include "Kuleana Land Project"? It almost is almost insinuating you folks are using "Kuleana Lands" as a subject in a Hawaiian Homes project. It sounds like a play on words which can be very confusing.

Cedric: Specifically, the project is 'Ualapu'e Kuleana Homestead Project. That is the title of what we're looking at. As Kawika had mentioned earlier, when it comes to Hawaiian Home Lands and Kuleana Homesteads, it's codified in the administrative rules that oversee the program. It's a very specific thing that's separate from Kuleana Lands.

**Liko Wallace:** Don't recall if you mentioned how many residential, agricultural, and pastoral lots are included in this area?

Cedric: We are early in the process and determination of lots hasn't been determined yet.

**Earn Dunnam:** I am from Kalua'aha and I agree with Malia.

**iPhone:** I am from Kalua'aha and also agree with Malia!

**Shaeralee:** I am concerned with how minimal the help would be from DHHL.

**iPhone:** Any disruption in Mana'e will affect the entire Mana'e Community.

**Tammy:** I agree with Malia.

**Kamaile MacLoves:** I agree with Malia.

**KHirata:** The consensus from Mana'e families is that an Environmental Impact Statement be done. I agree with Malia! Mahalo piha Malia! Keo

**Mahina Poepoe:** So legislative action is needed to change the name from Kuleana to something else?

Cedric: This is codified in the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), so it would be a rule amendment process. This would require governor's approval to initiate. It would be an 18-24 month process to change the administrative rules. Usually to change administrative rules, other

agencies just conduct public hearings. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, conducts beneficiary consultations in addition to public hearings. So to change administrative rules, at least on the DHHL side, takes a little longer, but it is possible.

**iPhone: This settlement plan is detrimental.**

**Mahina Poepoe:** I don’t support this project and don’t see any way I will support it in the future. I am from Mana’e. I wanted to talk about water. Scarcity is expected to increase. The wellhead protection area is on the mountain, which exposes the water to pollutants. The well is a skimming well, so there isn’t a lot of water. Condensation drippings cant sustain a household. Water delivery by truck is unsustainable. Agriculture can’t happen without a supply of water. What happens to the deer when you force them out of the mountain? I’m concerned about illegal obtaining of water (i.e from school, hydrants, etc.). There is better, more hospitable land on Molokai that you can provide infrastructure.

Cedric: Thank you Mahina. I think that is the purpose of tonight's conversation, to allow community to have voice in this conversation. I think all of us would like to have better lands within the Hawaiian Home Lands inventory for native Hawaiians to homestead on. While we do have other lands, many of the lands in Na’iwa Homestead and Kalama’ula, they’ve been spoken for and they are a part of future development plans as well. So this isn’t the only project DHHL is working on, we are working on other improvements on the island in order to address the waiting list; the commission and department have a difficult task to utilize the lands within our inventory to address the needs of the native Hawaiian community, as well as balance that with the needs of many of you who are participating in this conversation.

**Kekoa Wong: Will there be any disruptions to the Kaluaaha lands?**

Kawika: It is still too early to say. We’ll put it on our radar.

**Peter Pale: I oppose this project. Will email my mana’o.**

**Kelly Kawaa:** I support making land available for Molokai Kanaka but 200 is absurd. If this settlement does happen it needs to be less than 10 and be available to Molokai Kanaka first. There is great concern regarding erosion and access to the area.

Cedric: We’re still early in the planning phase to determine number of lots and sizes. We have to allow the consultants and engineers to complete the work mentioned before.

**Malia Akutagawa:** I am also helping with the Molokai Climate Change Action Plan. Our community just went through district meetings with a review of sea level rise maps. Essentially much of Mana’e will be under water, including our coastal road. Access to these lots are going to be problematic especially if it means cutting a new road more Mauka through a lot of cultural sites.

**Karen J Cohen:** Is there a possibility that after the info gathering, etc, that this homestead settlement could be tabled?

Cedric: [See Below]

**iPhone: Will our voice have any say? Or is this just a formality?**

Cedric: This is not a formality. We are having conversations with the beneficiaries and the community. We are going to gather the information and compile for HHC.

**Shayna Kawamura:** My family owns land in 'Ualapu'e, what will happen to my families land with this project.

Cedric: As we move forward, there will be maps of where development may (or may not) occur. The lands will only be looked at if they're in DHHL inventory.

**Shaeralee:** DHHL is going to have to give more help to awardees if they want the development to work without causing huge problems.

Cedric: So noted.

**Shaeralee:** Kalamaula ag hasnt even gotten any help for years.

Cedric: For next year's legislative session, DHHL has submitted a request for funding to do planning for the Kalama'ula Ag Lots. Much of the work that we do is dependent on whether or not the State of Hawai'i provides adequate funding for the program to do planning meetings and conversations like this ahead development, then ultimately getting construction funds to put in infrastructure in areas where appropriate. With regard to Kalama'ula Ag Lots, we definitely would call any beneficiaries on the waiting list to support DHHL getting funding to do planning for Kalama'ula Ag Lots.

**Peter Pale:** Is it still in the planning to move Kapaakea ohana more mauka?

Andrew: there is a planning process for south shore erosion planning for Molokai. It began in 2018. Had to rethink outreach approach due to COVID. We are examining mitigation measures but it is not ready yet. Maybe by 2022.

**iPhone:** How long was this planning going on? Seems like years already and you ready to open up one new homestead?

**Peter Pale:** With that being said thinking Kapaakea more logical for awardees?

**Mahina Poepoe:** There are people who want to participate but do not have the technological capacity. How can they participate?

Gigi: every community meeting there is a phone option for people to call in. Phone-in option is posted on the meeting announcement.

Cedric: We try to be as open as we can. There's an email address; if email is too challenging, you can call use through our contact center. I can put the phone number in the chat as well if people want to call. We want to hear from the community, we can take old-fashioned letters as well. People can call, email, or write us a letter. Contact DHHL at 808.620.9500; Mailing address DHHL, PO Box 1879, Honolulu HI 96805; Email DHHL.Planning@hawaii.gov.

**Cora Schnackenberg:** I wanted to mahalo DHHL and the expertise in handling the studies. I know you will do transparent research to address our community concerns. Change is difficult, but I support this project. Our kupuna have died on the waitlist and our people live in over-crowded housing with families. Easy to catch COVID. We're also the highest unemployment community within the state. Our resources will be depleted, if our Hawaiian people on the waitlist have the ability to live on the land, then so be it. I do support this and all your concerns will be answered.

**Kelly Kawa'a:** What does DHHL's timeline look like regarding any development? Is DHHL open to a different kind of sustainable development?

Cedric: This is a subsistence agricultural project, so a dwelling isn't necessary, it could just be for consultation. Just within the planning process it can take around 2 years.

**Pūlama Lima:** Just to clarify, the waitlist isn't just specifically for Moloka'i residents, correct? Will this be open to the general DHHL waiting list?

Cedric: The waitlist that will be used is for applicants who are interested in homesteading on Moloka'i. There may be applicants who are on the waitlist for Moloka'i who wish to return home but are residing elsewhere.

**Pūlama Lima** said Mana'e is the fabric of the area. While I want to support putting native Hawaiians on the land, it will affect the entire Mana'e district. How can we get on the list for talk story? Yes, there is a CIA requirement but we are also trying to understand more about the wahi. Need to field verify sites in order to understand the impact on cultural practices. I understand Keala Pono is doing talk-story sessions, specifically Maka. I am wondering how some of the 'Ualapu'e residents can get on that consultation list, and also, if the talk-story is part of the CIA and EA process, or is it just precautionary steps you folks are taking as a planning firm?

Kawika: It's both. We always try to utilize 'ike kūpuna. There is a CIA requirement as part of an eventual EA, but instead of waiting for a refined or defined project, we want to understand this wahi. There was a process by which we circulated and asked for names to come forward, but I have to circle back with Maka. For those that want to participate or say something specific, probably through the means Cedric provided. We'd be happy to take that information and give that to Maka, and have him make the appropriate contact.

**Andrew McCallister:** Please have your archaeological firm follow up with my office regarding their survey strategy.

**Judy Caparide:** I feel so bad for our own people. It makes me cry, you cannot take nothing with you. Gotta leave the best for the people left. This is for the generation to come. This is not to destroy or steal. It takes hard work to put everything together. How can it be? Gotta love somebody because God loves us and gave it for free.

**iPhone:** How sustainable can this project be if it you just think about it individually?

**Earl's S21 Ultra:** When is the next meeting? Seems like nobody knows when the meetings are, needs to be made more public.

Gigi: there was a slide in the presentation with the next few meetings. Meeting dates will also be posted on DHHL website. For now, we are planning January 2022 (date TBD), for next meeting

**Shaeralee:** I live right next to this planned project, and I see the effects of what comes down from the mountain first hand. The erosion is VERY bad.

**KHirata:** Besides, Andrew McCallister, is there anyone else from the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Division, on this meeting?

**Malia Akutagawa:** I would like to say that as a state agency, it is not about being a popularity contest. The Hawai'i State Constitution and judicial decisions demonstrate how to weigh the concerns of different stakeholders. As I said earlier, Ka Pa'akai standard is applicable here

**Mahina Poepoe:** So you would impose this even if the broader mana'e community was against it? Depending on the waitlist/beneficiary feedback as well. I see that as setting up for a really bad situation for social conflict.

**Lori Buchanan:** Can the department give Molokai beneficiaries an update on ALL Projects "in the que" for Molokai on a next call or separate call just for Molokai Island Updates. Department please a meeting for Molokai updates..."Hoolehua Scattered Lots", Kalamaula, Kalaupapa, Naiwa, Water developments, Hoolehua graveyard and others?

**Gigi:** FYI -- at every April Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting, an overall update on DHHL development projects is provided at the evening community meeting. The recording is available on the DHHL website, HHC page. In the past, it was an in-person community meeting held on Molokai. For April 2020 and 2021, it was done virtual and recording available on DHHL website

**Karen J Cohen:** Are you also taking into account the possible negative consequences to the Aina that's makai to this proposed settlement?

**Shari L. / Molokai:** Mahalo everyone for speaking out so boldly. Ka Hale Pomaika'i has been at "ground zero" for the past 18 years and are continuing to bless our Mana'e community with our organic produce, all free to our community here. The picture you see is our farmed aina that not only feeds us but helps our 'ohana and friends who struggle with staying sober find health and purpose. We will definitely miss being here. Mahalo for the many fruitful life-saving years we have been blessed to serve Moloka'i. All are cherished.

**iPhone:** We thinking about our future generations. It's a different time anake. We gotta protect what we get left.