

4-25-2023 Ko'olau Foundation Land Use Request Beneficiary Consultation

Virtual Beneficiary Consultation Meeting

April 25, 2023, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

[DHHL Notice](#) | [Video Recording](#)

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this beneficiary consultation is to gather beneficiary mana'o on the Ko'olau Foundation's land use request to the Department. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) received an unsolicited request for the long-term use of approximately 60-70 acres of Trust Lands in the Ko'olaupoko Moku on O'ahu. The Land Use Request was received from the Ko'olau Foundation to establish the Ha'ikū Valley Cultural Preserve. The Foundation's major goals are as follows: establish a cultural preserve, convert the OMEGA Station transmitter building into the Ko'olau Museum and Cultural Center, develop a cultural and environmental education program within the ahupua'a as a living and learning environment, and provide an accessible place to gather or learn about the use of Hawaiian medicinal plants.

Participants

- **Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)**
 - Andrew Choy, Planning Program Manager
 - Pearlyn Fukuba, O'ahu Planner
 - Shelly Carreria, Land Management Division
 - Stacelynn Eli, Office of the Chair
- **Presenters**
 - Aaron Mahi, Board Member of Ko'olau Foundation
 - Hi'ilaniwai (Hi'ilani) DeCosta, Volunteer Site Manager
 - Kainoa Azama, Volunteer Coordinator
 - Mahealani Cypher, Board Member of Ko'olau Foundation
- **Beneficiaries & Participants**
 - Oliver Jr., DHHL Waitlist
 - Ronald Lukehiwa Liftee, DHHL Waitlist
 - Lilinoe Yong, DHHL Beneficiary
 - Claire Cummings
 - Donna Akina
 - 'Ehukai Ha'anio
 - George Atta
 - Aran
 - Jill Akana
 - Meahilahila Kellig
 - Rae Leong
 - Manoa

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Synthesis

Presentation by Ko'olau Foundation for Land Use Designation

The Ko'olau Foundation's mission is to preserve Hawaiian culture by advocating for the preservation and protection of Hawaiian cultural and historic places and perpetuate Hawaiian values, practices and mo'olelo. Their vision is to ensure the preservation of Hawaiian places of antiquity for generations to come. The cultural complex of Ha'ikū Valley includes at least three known heiau and a cultural gathering place in the piko. The main goals the Ko'olau Foundation is pursuing in the Valley are establishing a cultural preserve, conversion of the OMEGA transmitter into the Ko'olau Museum and Cultural Center, turning the upper maintenance building into a cultural retreat, developing a cultural and environmental education program with the ahupua'a as a living learning environment, and establishing native medicinal plants in a native forest.

Community Member Questions & Answers by DHHL and Ko'olau Foundation

- **Q: Are there opportunities for interested community members to be involved with the Ko'olau Foundation?**
 - Please email koolaufoundation@gmail.com or Mahealani at malamapono744@aol.com to learn more about volunteer workdays, meetings, as well as Board Meetings or to provide any direct comments or questions.
- **Q: Is the Department considering using this property to build homes?**
 - The Department is not considering putting homes for three specific reasons.
 - First is that there are cultural resources located on the property including heiau and historic properties.
 - Secondly, due to the historic military use of the property where fuel was burnt on the property, it is not suitable for the Department to put homes on the property.
 - Finally, when the Department conducted its due diligence to establish whether homes could be built, the Department discovered that they would have to invest significant monies to upgrade the sewer line to connect homes to the existing County sewer lines.
- **Q: Are these lands restricted to agriculture leases?**
 - These lands will not be leased for agriculture leases. Under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, if someone is awarded an agriculture lease, the lessee has the ability to put a home on their agriculture lease.
- **Q: Has the Department explored land trades or exchanging of lands?**
 - The Department has explored trying to trade or exchange these lands with other Ali'i Trusts.
 - The Department has approached the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to see if they wanted to take the kuleana of stewarding these lands for the

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cultural purposes, similar to what the Ko'olau Foundation intends to do. OHA did not see this as an opportunity and the timing was not right for them to take on this land.

- *The Department also approached Kamehameha Schools to see if they wanted to take the property in exchange for some of the land that they might possess, that might be better suited for homesteading. The timing was not right for Kamehameha Schools to feel comfortable entering into a land exchange with the Department.*
- *The Department is still willing to explore this opportunity although they have not found a partner willing to do so.*

Community Member Concerns

- **Security and Property Concerns** -- as concerns were brought up that individuals have been negatively impacted by individuals walking onto their property that reaches near Ha'ikū Stairs and the property being requested by Ko'olau Foundation. Concerns were raised to ensure the community is secure and that people are pono in their practices.
- **Hikers and Visitors Getting Lost** -- as hikers coming from the Moanalua Valley side of the Mountain trek over and sometimes get lost and find themselves on private property, including in resident's yards. Similarly, visitors who may be unaware of the area have found themselves lost, unaware of their surroundings.
- **Overall Questions and Concerns for the Ko'olau Foundation** -- as it relates to land use concerns, including whether Ko'olau Foundation intends to deploy a traffic survey as well as a community survey to gather input from neighborhood residents in the area. Additional questions included access to the area during holidays, weekends, and what the daily capacity will be if the land use request is approved.

Suggestions and Comments from Community Members

- **Identify Potential Problems Early in the Process** -- so individuals can address and immediately discuss potential problems and resolve them prior to engaging any deeper in the process.
- **Ensure Community and Neighbors are Aware and Able to Give Feedback** -- as some neighbors may want to be involved in sharing mana'o or potential concerns regarding the land in their neighborhood.

Next Steps

- **Thirty Day Comment Period** -- there will be a 30 day comment period after April 25, 2023 for beneficiaries and other individuals who were unable to attend the beneficiary consultation meeting to send their mana'o regarding the land use request. Comments can be emailed to dhhl.planning@hawaii.gov.
- **Beneficiary Consultation Report** -- in June, the Department will compile all comments regarding the land use request into a Beneficiary Consultation Report. This document

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will be presented to the Commission to accept the Report as the official record of beneficiary comment. The Department hopes to do this by the June or July Commission meeting. Staff will also present a request to the Commission, on behalf of the Ko'olau Foundation, for their land use request and initial period right of entry.

- **June 2023 Commission Meeting** -- if the report and request is not presented during the June Commission meeting, it will be presented at the July Commission meeting by DHHL staff.

Beneficiary Q&A and Mana'o on Ko'olau Foundation's Land Use Request

From 27:30 - 48:40 & 53:29 - 56:30 of Recording

Notes

- Andrew: Aloha and mahalo for that presentation, awesome information
 - At this time, now it's time for folks who have been listening in, for our beneficiaries who have been listening in to provide us with your mana'o on the requests
 - Or if you have any questions you may have for Ko'olau foundation or the Department
 - Now is an opportunity to ask your questions
 - There are two ways to indicate to us that you want to speak
 - Either you can type a question to the chat
 - Or raise your virtual hand
 - Or raise your real hand and I will call upon you
 - Lastly, I see some folks joined the meeting a little bit later
 - If you don't mind signing in to the meeting via the chat box
 - Type in your first and last name and whether or not you are a DHHL waitlist applicant, lessee, or other
 - That will help us to keep track of who attended the meeting so we can present that information to the Hawaiian Homes Commission when we provide a meeting summary to them
 - Ok, I see that Lilinoe Young would like to talk, having trouble raising your hand, thank you for letting me know in the chat
 - You can unmute yourself, the floor is yours
 - Hi'ilani if you can stop sharing so we can see each others' faces, mahalo
 - Lilinoe you can share your thoughts
- Lilinoe Yong: Aloha mai kākou
 - O wau o Kauka Lilinoe Yong
 - Ahia au e noho nei ma Loli'i
 - I luna loa malao pono i'o Ha'ikū
 - As a beneficiary of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands
 - And as a representative of some of the neighbors that we share boundaries

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- We have a kuleana to each other
- I have some concerns about
- First of all I'd like to volunteer to join your planning committee
 - So that I could be involved and give feedback to the community who are not beneficiaries to DHHL
 - However we will be sharing this 'āina
- Some concerns would be like what we do to mitigate our concerns, for example
 - Has there been a traffic study
 - Will you conduct a survey with the people who will be involved
 - What will your daily capacity entail
 - How will you address holidays
 - I'm former State, Hawaiian Immersion Teacher, I know we're closed on certain holidays
 - However, there are people, enthusiasts, of all ethnic backgrounds that would like to use this facility that will be non homesteaders
 - So they may or not may come from all over the world, including from the other side of the island, which is Moanalua Valley
 - Where they have a right to hike the mountain
 - And oftentimes they come down Ha'ikū Stairs and find themselves wandering around in all the neighborhoods, including the cultural park
 - So those are some of the concerns
- We too have suffered property damaged
 - I have been assaulted twice on my own property
 - I've had to go to court
 - We had petitions given to the Board of Water Supply
 - Those were some of the reasons why, this is not immediately connected to the cultural park
 - Because the fact the hikers will come all hours of the day, even when you close the park, even when it's Christmas, even when it's New Years Eve
 - They want to see the sunrise, ke alaula
 - They want to see the moon setting, nā po'o p'oo o ka lā
 - It is just taxing on the community
 - So when I come home, I want to have peace
 - But everyday there are dogs barking because there are trespassers
 - I've had people going through my yard
 - I also live at the area where all of the suicides get removed from below the stairway
 - Or where all the people who get lost up on the mountains coming from Moanalua and trying to come down, including the land you're speaking about

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- They get lost and the helicopter has to go and rescue them in those areas
- So there is some concern about
 - They tried having security guards, but security guards can't do anything
 - Then they had a police task force, and the lieutenant was assaulted while he was on duty with team
 - They've arrested people who have done abetting
- I would like to be on the committee that will be planning
 - So I can give feedback back to the community
 - About how the cultural park will mitigate many of our 30 year struggle
 - Being that we all have a kuleana to this community
 - Myself as a homeowner and DHHL as the luna of the 'āina
 - We have to be pono to each other and have consideration for the preservation of this 'āina, of what is pono
 - And what happens in nature about people coming over from the Moanalua side, getting lost, getting lost on your property, getting lost on your property
 - Or just not lost but just don't care
- I hope that I can be part of your planning community
 - Your little organization
 - And if you would like, I would join the Ko'olaupoko Civic Club
 - I would do whatever I need to take to be pono with my 'āina and also help the members of my community
 - Many who are Hawaiian as well
 - Since it will be used for non-homesteading, how we will control who will go in and out and what hours do they go in and out
- Thank you, mahalo
- Aaron: Mahalo
- Andrew: Mahalo Lilinoe for expressing your mana'o in such an eloquent and clear manner
 - I hear your concerns about the trespassing caused by other activities in the neighborhood
 - And also your willingness to be part of the solution
 - So I guess Ko'olau Foundation if someone wants to be part of the planning
 - And making sure that the activities you folks are proposing can help not only to accomplish the goal of mālama 'āina up there but also mitigate any unintentional consequences
 - How can someone who is interested in participating get involved
 - I know you had the contact information on a slide
 - Oh you are on mute
- Mahealani: We are going to type the contact information in that
- Andrew: Ok, great

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- Oh and then also just wanted to remind everyone that the meeting is recorded
 - So the contact information that was on the slide will also be on the meeting video if you ever need to go back to it
 - But it also going to be provided in the chat
- So thank you for that
- Other mana'o or questions, that was an excellent mana'o
- Other mana'o that folks want to share with us or ask questions at this time
- Oh come on, don't be shy
 - This is a facilitator's worst nightmare when no one wants to jump in, and I get crickets
- Mahealani: They can also say positive this too, if they think that anything is good
- Andrew: Yes, yes
 - Anyone want to talk
 - Or like Mahealani suggested, any positive feedback, what you like
 - Doesn't always have to be concerns
 - It can also be positive feedback
 - I didn't mean to make it like you had to have a concern
 - Also feel free to type in that chat too
 - That's another way to share your mana'o with us
 - George, looks like you have your hand up
- George Atta: We don't want to take a position on Ha'ikū stairs
 - Let's just remember there are three or four government agencies that are involved
 - So it's not just our job
 - It's everybody's job and we work together to solve the problem
 - Yeah, the Board of Water Supply and DHHL and Homelands, they are all part of it has to come together and find a solution for everybody
 - And then everybody will find a way to a good solution
- Andrew: Mahalo, George for that mana'o
 - I also see in the chat from BeHappy, just to summarize the comment
 - Thank you for the excellent presentation from the Ko'olau Foundation
 - You folks reside on Luluku Road
 - My husband is on the DHHL waitlist
 - Thank you for providing us, thank you for that comment
- Mahealani: Ronald looks like he had his hand up, don't know if it was
- Andrew: Oh I did not see that, thank you
 - Ronald, go ahead
 - You can unmute yourself
- Mahealani: He needs to unmute, I think he's muted
- Andrew: Can you unmute yourself, sorry we can't hear you but we can see your mouth moving
- Ronald Lukehiwa Liftee: Howzit everybody
- Andrew: Aloha

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- Ronald: Good upside about it is we have peaceful land, beautiful Ko'olau
 - That's the upside of it for us
 - I mean versus the last one was in Ewa Beach it wasn't so good, as much as it's good here
 - That's all we got to say
 - It's a good piece of land we think that's not being used
 - Why not put some homes there
- Andrew: Oh so is that a question why isn't the Department considering putting homes on this property?
 - Is that your question
- Ronald: Oh yeah
- Andrew: Oh okay
 - Ok there are three reasons why the Department isn't considering putting homes in the property
 - One is the cultural resources that are located on the property
 - There are a couple of heiau
 - Other historic properties on the site
 - Second reason is, and the Ko'olau Foundation kind of covered it in their presentation
 - There is history of military use in which they burnt fuel on the property, so there is some contamination on the property that probably wouldn't be suitable to put a house and have someone there 24 / 7
 - The third one, which the Department, when it did some due diligence to see whether or not we could put homes on it
 - We would have to invest a significant monies to upgrade the sewer line in order to connect any homes up there to the existing County sewer lines
- Ronald: So strictly farmlands
- Andrew: Yeah
 - But under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act
 - If we did give out an agriculture lease, a Homestead agriculture lease
 - The lessee does have the ability to put a home on their agriculture lease
 - Even if it's agriculture
 - At least they have the right to put a house on there
 - Yeah
- Ronald: Ok, because my dad he signed up for the ag land, farming
- Andrew: Oh ok, we hope to have future meetings when we start ag homesteading development in Waimānalo
 - Hopefully that will be the next couple of years
 - But we will be opening land in Waimānalo for ag homestead and also residential homestead in Waimānalo
- Ronald: Oh right on, right on
- Andrew: So yeah, so good you got our postcard
 - So we can keep touch with you

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- And when those meetings come we'll send out similar postcards to those
- Ronald: Ok, right on, mahalo
- Andrew: Mahalo
 - Lilinoe you have your hand up again
- Lilinoe: Mahalo
 - So to piggyback on these thoughts about 60, 70 acres of ag land, that is not being used for homesteaders
 - This is just a possibility, but like just like there are these land trades
 - Why can't they do land trades like Waiāhole and Waikāne
 - They have all of these lease lands and they're forcing some of the Hawaiian poi growers, taro growers
 - They are losing their lease or whatnot
 - If you did a land trade, just an outsider looking at it
 - Then you could put homes on 60 to 70 acres
 - As opposed to letting all these non-homesteaders from all over the world come with their different
 - What is pono to them might be not pono to us
 - And in the way the world is changing
 - While we do want to open up unity and aloha and aloha is free in Hawai'i , in Hawai'i it's free
 - Maybe there can be some sort of land trade where the State can take over the kuleana and we get 60 to 70 acres in Waiāhole
 - And we get to build homes for the Hawaiin people
 - Just a thought
 - I live here, I know it's valuable land
 - I feel like, I want to see my Hawaiian people have the land use for building homes, mahalo
 - Andrew: Mahalo Lilinoe for that mana'o
 - And actually, that's a good mana'o
 - The Department has explored trying to trade or exchange these lands with other Ali'i Trusts
 - The Department has approached the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to see if OHA wanted to take on the kuleana of stewarding these lands for the cultural purposes that Ko'olau Foundation wanted to do
 - Unfortunately OHA just did not see an opportunity
 - The timing wasn't right to take on the land
 - We also approached Kamehameha Schools
 - To see if they wanted to take the property in exchange for some of the land that they might possess, that might be better suited for homesteading
 - Because these were once Kamehameha School's lands, they owned the entire ahupua'a of He'eia

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- Unfortunately again, the timing wasn't right for them to feel comfortable entering into a land exchange with the Department
 - So we have explored trying to exchange these lands for lands better suited for homesteading
 - But it's an opportunity that we can still explore, but we haven't found a partner in order to do that
 - Mahealani, you had your hand up
- Mahealani: Yes
 - I know that one, several of the past Chairs of the Hawaiian Homes Commission have tried to exchange land
 - That can be developed for homesteads for land in Ha'ikū
 - Land in Ha'ikū is conservation and preservation land
 - And if you have land that can be developed for housing, why would you exchange it for land that can't be
 - Basically, conservation and preservation that's very hard to develop because there's many state regulations that control developments in that area
 - So probably that's one reason why they haven't found anybody who wants to exchange land with Ha'ikū because it's hard to develop land on conservation and preservation land
 - If you have land that's valuable that you can build houses on
 - You're not going to give it up for land you can't do anything
 - That's what we learned
- Andrew: Thank you
 - Other questions, comments, good conservation so far everyone
 - Lilinoe is your hand up again or you just forgot to take it down
 - Ok you took it down
 - Other folks

At 53:29 of Recording

- Lilinoe: So do I keep in touch with Shelly regarding my volunteer service to be involved with your planning
 - So that I can let the other people and the neighbors know
 - These neighbors might not be at this meeting
 - They may not be a DHHL beneficiary
 - But I would like to give them a voice
 - I would like to have a voice as well in your planning since I live here
 - I live at the very top of the mountain
 - So do I just keep in touch with Shelly
 - And how will I know if I am able to be involved, thank you
- Andrew: Thank you for that question
 - Ko'olau Foundation
- Mahealani: We did leave our contact info
 - koolaufoundation@gmail.com
 - And that's how you can find out when our volunteer workdays are

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- And when we ever have volunteer meeting sessions
- We don't have meetings every month
 - But we do have regular meetings of the Board
- So you can talk story with us
- You know, deal with the issues that you brought up, and maybe a subcommittee of the Board can help you with that
- Hi'ilani: Just for the purpose of this meeting I had put in the chat a different email that is Mahealani's direct email for the purpose email
 - That is inside of the chat as well
 - And I will also put the other one that she had put in as well
 - The one she had just said as well
- Mahealani: koolaufoundation@gmail.com
- Andrew: Do you have that information Lilinoe, it's in the chat
 - That's how you can stay involved with the project and the land use request
 - Thank you Hi'ilani for putting in the email address again
 - Just wanted to make sure you have that Lilinoe
 - While Shelly is always happy to provide a point of contact at the Department
 - The real planning work, the more detailed planning work is going to be with the Ko'olau Foundation
 - If you want to be involved, they put their contact information in the chat
 - Ok, hope that answered your question
- Hi'ilani: malamapono744@aol.com is Mahealani's direct email
 - If you had any direct comments or questions for her too

Slide Presentation by the Ko'olau Foundation

From 6:52 - 27:29 of Recording

Notes

- Andrew: I think you are on mute
- Hi'ilani DeCosta: Mahalo, Andrew
 - Can everyone see that
- Andrew: I can see the screen, we are good to go
- Aaron Mahi: Aloha mai kākou
 - I send to all of you our aloha
 - And special mahalo to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands for naming our Ko'olau foundation to present to you our background, history, and hopes for establishing a culture reserve here in Ko'olau upoko at Ha'ikū in the uplands of He'eia ahupua'a
 - Our organization was actually formed in the 1990s
 - But we were not registered as a community nonprofit until 2005
 - We are now a recognized 501c3 tax-exempt organization

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- Our mission is to preserve Hawaiian culture by advocating for the preservation and protection of Hawaiian cultural and historic places and perpetuate Hawaiian values, practices and mo'olelo
- Our vision is to ensure the preservation of Hawaiian places of antiquity for generations to come
- Most of our members are of Native Hawaiian ancestry
- But our board is diverse and comprised of talented practitioners and professionals from all walks of life
- Here you see our officers and board members and some of our key volunteers
 - We have 12 board members
 - Beside myself, Aaron Mahi, we have
 - Theresa Bright
 - Leialoha Kaluhiwa
 - Mahealani Cypher
 - Leilani Jones-Tollefsen
 - Alice Hewett
 - Shandry Lopez
 - George Atta
 - Ardis Eschenberg
 - Donna Akina
 - Jill Akana
 - Francine Gora
 - Our key volunteers are
 - Site manager, Hi'ilani DeCosta
 - And volunteer coordinator, Kainoa Azama
 - And kupuna mentor, uncle Sol Nalau'ai
- I would like to introduce you to one of them, Hi'ilani
 - To share with you some of our pre-contact history of Ha'ikū Valley
- Also presenting will be Mahealani and Kainoa
- Hi'ilani, take it away
- Hi'ilani: Aloha kākou
 - My name is Hi'ilaniwai DeCosta
 - I am currently the site manager up in Ha'ikū Valley with Ko'olau Foundation
 - I am also Mahealani Cypher's mo'opuna as well too
 - I am here to share with you a brief, pre-contact history of Ha'ikū Valley
 - The 'ili of Ha'ikū
 - Was inhabited by Hawaiian families for generations
 - During the Bishop Museum's archeological research at Luluku, in the neighboring ahupua'a in Kāne'ohe
 - They discovered evidence of carbon samples, dating back to the 5th century
 - We might assume that our kanaka maoli kahiko also settled in the uplands of He'eia around the same time

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- Our kupa 'āina families tell us that Ha'ikū was once believed to function as a hospital
 - Or a source of medicine
 - The late Aunty Caroline Bright informed us that kahuna lā'au lapa'au traveled to Ha'ikū to gather plants
 - They would mix these plants with others gathered from the ocean to make medicine
- Historian Samuel Kamakau also taught us that during the time of Chief Ma'īlikūikahi, chiefs and priests lived in the uplands, in the back valleys of O'ahu
- The cultural complex of Ha'ikū Valley includes at least 3 known heiau and a cultural gathering place in the piko
 - Such as Kanehekili and Kane A Me Kanaloa heiau
 - Which were directly touched by H-3 freeway
 - There was another heiau on the Kahuku side of the valley
 - And a possible fourth piko
- Mahealani Cypher: I am going to share a little of the modern history of Ha'ikū Valley in the 1900s
 - Many Hawaiian families lived in Ha'ikū Valley up until the 1930s, when they were relocated to other lands outside of the Valley
 - The US Navy had determined that the valley offered perfect conditions to build a top secret radio communication station that could send signals to aircrafts, ships at sea, and submarines to establish their coordinates
 - It was connected to 6 other OMEGA stations around the world
 - In the 1960s, the Navy transferred the station to the Coast Guard
 - Operated the facility till 1997, until it was decommissioned
 - From 1995 to 1997, Ko'olau Foundation held community meetings to invite and comment on how the Valley could be used after the station closed
 - Much of this mana'o was included in our conceptual plan, which we'll be sharing later in the presentation
 - In 1998, Ha'ikū was conveyed to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands
 - During that year, we met with Chair Kali Watson and discussed the possibilities of a culture preserve in the Valley, which we felt was part of the Department's kuleana
- Kainoa Azama: Yes, tying into that layer of kuleana is the dual purpose of the Hawaiian Homelands Act
 - Which, embedded in the clause of the Hawaiian Homelands Act is
 - Direct reference to our co-Chair
 - The Congress of the United States and the State of Hawai'i declare that the policy of this Act is to enable Native Hawaiians to return to their lands in order to fully support self-sufficiency for Native Hawaiians and the self-determination of Native Hawaiians in the administration of this Act, and the preservation of the values, traditions and culture of Native Hawaiians

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- Mahealani: Over the 25 years since that first meeting with Kali Watson
 - Ko'olau Foundation met with several succeeding Hawaiian Homes Chairs
 - In the past 8 years, under Chair Aila
 - We met at Ha'ikū with him several times
 - And were encouraged that he felt Ko'olau Foundation could apply for a lease or license to establish a cultural preserve
 - We learned that an environmental study had been conducted in the Valley to identify possible contamination from jet fuel and PCBs that were used during the time of military occupation
 - For this reason, according to the staff, development of the Valley for homesteads was considered not feasible
 - In 2021, we submitted our formal application to Hawaiian Homelands to use all or part of the Valley for the cultural preserve
 - In March 2023, we met with interim Chair Ikaika Anderson
 - Who arranged for Hawaiian Homelands staff to meet with us to prepare for the beneficiary consultation process which is required before an application can be presented to the Commission
 - Over the years, we have had on again and off again discussions with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs regarding Ha'ikū Valley
 - From 2000 to 2017, Ko'olau Foundation participated on the Hālawā Luluku Interpretive Development Plan working group
 - Convened to address mitigation measures for adverse impacts of H-3 to Ha'ikū Valley
 - To this day, that consultation has not been completed
 - During time, OHA helped us by funding the development of a conceptual plan for Ha'ikū
 - Which we will share with you later
 - In 2017, the OHA staff produced an Ethno-Historical Study of Ha'ikū Valley
 - Documenting its history and mana'o of Hawaiian families who were kupa 'āina to the valley
 - Ko'olau Foundation has worked for years to establish a cultural preserve in Ha'ikū
 - Addressing the community's needs that came up during our meetings in the late 1990s
 - Here are some of our legislative efforts
 - In 2007 there was a concurrent resolution that was passed by the legislature to establish a cultural preserve in Ha'ikū Valley
 - And at the time, also Hālawā Valley
 - This idea won the support of the O'ahu Council and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
 - In 2008, OHA included also in their legislative package a Bill to establish the Ha'ikū Valley cultural preserve and transfer the land from Hawaiian Homelands to OHA

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- At the last minute however, the Bill was amended in conference committee to transfer Ha'ikū to Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Governor Lingle vetoed the Bill contending that DLNR did not have the funding to manage the property
- In 2012, State Representative Ken Ito for Ha'ikū, introduced another Bill, again calling for the establishment of the cultural preserve
 - The Bill cleared all hearings except for the final session before the House Finance Committee
 - Which did not allow it to move forward, because that was the year a fiscal crisis hit the State and only Bills that were urgent for health or safety would be passed
- In 2023, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, the current Ha'ikū area Representative introduced another Bill to establish the preserve in Ha'ikū
 - It passed the Water and Land Committee, but could not move forward because OHA had not made a commitment to accept the land transfer
- Kainoa: So our Ko'olau Foundation has witnessed, and has been really working with volunteers to mālama the sites for many years, and during that time, we have witnessed a number of problems and challenges
 - As well as experience and this includes trespassers, vandals, vagrants, and others
 - Hikers trying to hike the Ha'ikū stairs
 - Introduction of invasive species
 - Which have overtaken the Valley, such as the albizia
 - The continual damage of the Loop Road
 - Which is the main access to the various heiau sites
 - Severe vandalism in the main transmitter building and the maintenance building up mauka
 - As you can see the transmitter buildings on the bottom left
 - Which is very different compared to slide that Hi'ilani shared
 - No longer that beautiful, nice in tact facility, now looking like that
 - Internal challenges that the Ko'olau Foundation has been facing
 - We've had several funders over the years who have offered financial support for establishing the cultural preserve
 - We currently lack the DHHL license or lease that have prevented our kōkua to such
 - Mahalo nui
- Hi'ilani: Cultural preserve goals
 - The main goals that the Ko'olau Foundation is pursuing in the Valley are
 - Establishing a cultural preserve
 - Conversion of the OMEGA transmitter into the Ko'olau museum and cultural center

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- Turn the upper maintenance building into a cultural retreat
- Development of a cultural and environmental education program with the ahupua'a as a living learning environment
- And establish native medicinal plants in a native forest
- We are planning for a conversion of this Valley in three phases
 - One
 - Two heiau, mauka of Loop Road, makai of H-3
 - From Kane A Me Kanaloa heiau to the Board of Water Supply boundary on the Kahuku side of the Valley
 - Two
 - Section center enclosed by Valley Loop Road
 - Three
 - Kahuku side of the Valley as well
- This is lovely kind of sketch of everything
- Mahealani: Components of the conceptual plan that was funded by OHA in 2012 includes some of these components
 - In the first increment we are requesting now, the lands mauka of the Loop Road include two heiau, Kanehekili and Kane A Me Kanaloa heiau
 - And could involve the following activities
 - Replacing the maintenance building at Kanehekili heiau with a polynesian designed cultural retreat using the same footprint
 - Clearing alien vegetation and replace with native plants and trees
 - Construction of a security building near the Board of Water Supply gate
 - Construction of two outdoor teaching halau shelters
 - Locations not yet identified
 - Clearing an area to establish halau hula planting sites adjacent to the security building
 - Clearing an area for 'iwi kūpuna dry burials between the two heiau
 - Rehabilitation and restoration of the Loop Road for access to sites
 - Identifying utility options for the first increment
 - And establishing a 24/7 security program
 - In the second increment if we get through the first one
 - The lands within the Loop Road, which is the center area
 - Include the large transmitter building which can be seen from the freeway H-3
 - And the amphitheater located in the piko of the Valley
 - And could include the following activities
 - Rehabilitation and conversion of the large transmitter building into a museum and cultural center
 - Clearing invasives throughout the area and planting native plants and trees
 - Expanding the parking area with grass treat

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- Planting grass makai of the large building and around the amphitheater
- Constructing a hula mound makai of the large building for cultural activities
- Possibly constructing a meeting hall, somewhere in this area, where feasible
- Clearing and establishing a playing field for Makahiki games
- Identifying and establishing utility options for the second increment
- In the third increment, the lands on the Kahuku side of the Valley are mostly filled with invasive species and a few vacant military buildings
 - In this area, we would hope to convert it to a Hawaiian forest again
 - Some activity would include
 - Replacing the invasive vegetation with native forests, focusing on rare Hawaiian trees and plants
 - Identifying alternative uses for the vacant buildings
- Kainoa: Going back into the first increment
 - In this first increment, if the lease or license is approved, we hope to achieve the following activities
 - One, replacing invasive species with native plants and trees
 - Two, replacing the maintenance building with a cultural retreat structure
 - Three, constructing a security building
 - And four, rehabilitating the Loop Road for safer access
 - For those not familiar with the maintenance building, it's this guy in my background here
 - Mahalo
- Hi'ilani: Projecting funding resources
 - It is our intention that the cultural preserve will become completely self sustaining once the major initiatives are completed
 - As we move towards that objective, we will pursue a variety of funding sources to support the preserve's development, included but not limited to
 - Grants
 - Tours and cultural workshops
 - Cultural retreats
 - Government support
 - Corporate support
 - Donations
 - And other support as well
 - We should also note that Ko‘olau Foundation recently signed a memorandum of agreement with a local company who will donate 3,000 native plants and trees to establish a Hawaiian forest in Ha'ikū Valley and at other wahi pana throughout Ko'olaupoko
- Kainoa: Mahalo, and some of our other anticipated cost factors for the initial phase as well as later stages include, but are not limited to the following

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- One, landscape architect to design first and eventually later stages for reforestation with native plants and trees
- Building restoration or construction
 - This includes the cultural retreat which is the current maintenance building, pictured here
- Security building
- Halau learning structures
- Museum, which is the rehabilitation of the large transmitter building
 - As well as the hula mound
- Last being infrastructure
 - Which includes the Loop Road rehabilitation to help access the various sites
 - Water and wastewater restoration and off grid power
- Mahalo
- Hi‘ilani: How will this cultural preserve help the beneficiaries and our community
 - By having an active cultural and education program in the Valley can help in the following ways
 - First, developing the cultural preserve and having regular activities in the Valley help protect this area from squatters, trespassers, and others engaged in vandalism and other illegal activity
 - Second, acknowledging and preserving the cultural and historic complex helps DHHL regain compliance with the Historic Preservation Covenant required by the U.S. government upon the transfer of the property
 - Three, preserving cultural sites directly benefits any waitlist or active Hawaiian Homelands lessees as well as future generations of Native Hawaiian children who may not be able to live of Hawaiian Homelands but who can visit the Valley and learn Hawaiian history, cultural practices, and values
 - The area is easily accessible for teaching, stewardship, and will promote the workforce development, particularly for kanaka maoli
 - Many of the practitioners we have worked with are kupa ‘āina to this ‘āina as well
 - This cultural preserve strengthens the mana of Ha‘ikū valley
 - Iwi Kūpuna, halau hula, Kahuna lā‘au lapa‘a
 - All these areas perpetuating cultural practices of Native Hawaiians
 - Last but not least preserving the mo‘olelo and mana of Ha‘ikū valley is so important for our people and for our community
- Kainoa: Over the years, we’ve been blessed by the support and kōkua of a variety of community, public, and private organizations
 - These include but are not limited to the following
 - Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, which many of our kupa ‘āina residents of our moku as well as from Kāne‘ohe and He‘eia sit on

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- Windward Community College, which Ardis Eschenberg, the current Chancellor is on our board
- All of our elected officials
 - Councilmember Kia'aina
 - Councilmember Matt Weyer
- As well as our Representatives and Senators
- The Royal Order of Kamehameha
- The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
- Paepae 'o He'eia
- Our He'eia NERRs
 - Who are all of our makai partners that help with 'aina restoration here in He'eia
 - So we would be the most mauka organization, so we're very fortunate to have their support as we restore our ahupua'a
- Historic Hawai'i Foundation
- The William Claude and Ma'ema'e Jones 'Ohana
- As well as the Habilitat
 - Which is amazing to always work with them as this is very appropriate as all of our sites in Ha'ikū Valley as Hi'ilani shared, have to deal with healing
- And last but not least, the Hawaiian Memorial Park as well
- Mahalo
- Mahealani: As part of our work to build our capacity and prepare ourselves for management of a cultural preserve
 - We formally adopted a number of policies and procedures, these include but are not limited to
 - Administration
 - Cultural and community access protocols
 - Security
 - And emergency procedures
- Aaron: Mahalo Mahealani
 - You have now heard something about our background, history, policies, and work towards establishing a culture preserve in Ha'ikū Valley
 - We would deeply appreciate your favorable consideration of our request for a long term license from DHHL beneficiaries here in Ko'olaupoko as well as on the Hawaiian Homes Commission
 - We are hopeful that our request will be placed on the Commission's agenda soon for their consideration and approval
 - We hope that you will also add your voice of support for this important grassroots community initiative
 - If approved, we will proceed with the cultural preserve plans and hope those of you in this moku will join us in the work that embraces our kupuna kahiko and our wahi kapu

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- While we also pursue ways to connect our people with the mana of Ha'ikū
- Mahalo nui

Introduction

From 0:00 - 6:53 of Recording

Notes

- Andrew: Aloha everyone, I am Andrew Choy, Planning Program Manager at the Department of Hawaiian Homelands
 - Thank you for joining us this evening for the beneficiary consultation for the land use request from the Ko'olau Foundation to utilize about 60-70 acres of Hawaiian Homelands in Ha'ikū Valley, an ahupua'a of He'eia on the island of O'ahu
 - With me tonight from the Department I have
 - Pearlyn Fukuba, O'ahu Planner for the Department
 - Shelly Carreira from our Land Management Division
 - And Stacelynn Eli from our Office of the Chair
 - Mahalo everyone for joining us this evening
 - Let me really quickly go through some introductory, housekeeping items
 - Purpose of tonight's meeting
 - To gather beneficiary mana'o on Ko'olau Foundation's Land Use Request for the long-term use of approximately 60-70 acres of Hawaiian Homelands Trust Lands in the Ko'olau Moku on the Island of O'ahu
 - General housekeeping items
 - When you are not speaking, please remember to keep yourself on mute
 - This will help to eliminate background noise
 - Like neighbor mowing the lawn
 - Or a dog barking
 - It will help everyone to hear the speaker a lot more clearly
 - Type your questions in the chat or raise your virtual hand
 - The facilitator will call on you then
 - Tonight I will be facilitating the meeting
 - I either will look for your virtual raised or raised hand on the screen
 - Pearlyn will help to monitor the chat for me to make sure I don't miss anyone's comments in the chat
 - This meeting is being recording
 - Will post the meeting recording on the Department's website
 - The same page that you used to access the Zoom meeting tonight is where we'll be posting the recording of this meeting
 - While this is a virtual meeting
 - We do like to keep track of attendance and who participated in the consultation meeting

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- I am going to ask all participants in the meeting to sign into the chat
 - With first and last name
 - Where you live
 - Applicant, whether you are a DHHL applicant, DHHL lessee, or other
 - If you have multiple people on your computer at the same time you can just type in both names and let us know if you are a waitlist applicant, lessee, or other
- While this is a virtual meeting, we do have meeting kuleana we have at all our beneficiary consultation meetings
 - To make sure everyone has a positive experience from the meeting
 - Just to remind each other about our kuleana this evening
 - Please be respectful of the person talking
 - Please do not interrupt the person that is talking
 - Everyone will have an opportunity to talk
 - We will try to make sure you have a good opportunity to say what you mana‘o is or ask questions you might have
 - Please wait for the facilitator, me, to call on you before you ask your question
 - Or again, if you are like me, little bit shy, you can type your questions in the chat and we will go over all of the questions and comments in the chat
 - When addressing other participants, whether verbally or in the chat box
 - Please be respectful
 - Please show aloha and treat others how you’d like to be treated
 - This is a beneficiary consultation meeting, please remember
 - We all are here, we might have different ideas or different views on things
 - Please remember it is ok to agree to disagree
 - Others might have different perspectives or opinions than what you have
 - Lets have an open mind
 - Have the mindset that we will be taking home new ideas or information tonight
 - This goes for all participants, including the Department staff
- Department is required to hold beneficiary consultation meetings, like the one we are having tonight, on four matters:
 - Statewide policy issues
 - Amendments to the Department’s land use designations
 - Development of DHHL Plans, Island Plans or Regional Plans
 - Long term use of Hawaiian Homelands for a non-homesteading use

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- The Ko'olau Foundation's land use request, is a proposed long term use of Hawaiian homelands for non-homesteading uses
- Tonight's agenda, almost done with welcomes and introductions
 - After that, will turn it over to the Ko'olau Foundation for a quick presentation and overview of their land use request
 - And why they are requesting Hawaiian homelands in this particular area
 - Next part of meeting, part of the meeting we'll spend the most time on
 - Opportunity for beneficiaries joining us this evening to share their mana'o on the land use request
 - Lastly, before the night ends
 - Will wrap up and let everyone know what the next steps are in this process
- This is the approximate project location
 - DHHL has a tract of land in He'eia, Ha'ikū
 - Highlighted in yellow
 - The Ko'olau Foundation is requesting a portion of that tract
 - Not the entire area within the yellow, but a portion
 - They will go over in more detail what area that they are requesting from the Department in their presentation
- At this time, I will turn it over to the Ko'olau Foundation to give an overview of their land use request

Next Steps & Closing

From 48:41 - 53:28 & 56:30 - End of Recording

Notes

- Andrew: Ok, I am not going to beat a dead horse
 - So if you folks
 - This is your opportunity to share your mana'o
 - If you're like me, naturally shy, you don't have to share right now
 - Think it's a good segway to next steps
 - Think everyone can see my screen
 - So the next steps
 - In the Department's beneficiary consultation process, this is our standard process
 - When we do our consultation
 - We understand that not everyone can make it to a meeting on a particular day at a particular time because they have other work, obligations, or family obligations
 - So we do provide an extra period of time for people to share their mana'o on these subjects being consulted upon
 - So in this instance

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- We do have a 30 day comment period from April 25th, which is tonight to May 25th
- If you think of other comments, ideas, questions that you might have
 - You still have an additional opportunity to share that mana'o
 - You can share those comments to dhhl.planning@hawaii.gov
- Also if you know of other beneficiaries who wanted to attend tonight's meeting but had conflicts tonight
 - You can let them know that they still have an opportunity to provide us with their written comments via email by submitting to the address on the screen
- Even though you might now have anything else to say this evening, you do have an additional opportunity to share your comments with us
- After the 30 day comment period, after May 25th
 - The Department will present the Commission with the Beneficiary Consultation Report
 - Which is just a report that summarizes all of the comments that we received during this consultation process on the subject matter
 - We will present a summary of that to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, along with the meeting notes
 - And along with a link to tonight's meeting video so that the Commissioners can have all of that information and beneficiary comments
 - That will be presented to the Commission at the June Commission meeting
 - Either at the June Commission meeting or the July Commission meeting is when DHHL staff will present a request to the Commission, on behalf of the Ko'olau Foundation on their land use request for an initial period right of entry
 - And then after that once they complete their due diligence for a long term lease or license
- The staff will present the Beneficiary Consultation Report to the Commission in June
 - Either at the same June Commission meeting or at the July Commission meeting
 - Staff will also present a request to the Commission seeking approval on the Ko'olau Foundation's land use request
- Pearlyn Fukuba: Andrew, you may add, the project is on the DHHL website
- Andrew: Oh yes
- Pearlyn: So I put the website address into the chat

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- Andrew: Thank you so much Pearlyn, I forgot about that
 - The land use request from the Ko'olau Foundation is on the Department's website
 - It's the same website that you folks utilized to access tonight's meeting
 - We'll put the meeting notes and the meeting video on the same website
 - Thank you Pearlyn for putting the website address in the chat
 - Last call
 - Any last thoughts from anyone
 - Ok
- Mahealani: Thank you for facilitating tonight, and we're grateful to everyone who came and offered their mana'o
 - It's really important to know early in the process what the problems are
 - We gotta resolve it before it goes too far
- Andrew: Ok, Lilinoe you had your hand up

At 56:30 of Recording

- Andrew: Ok
 - If there is nothing else from anyone, last call
 - Okay
 - If there's nothing else from anyone
 - Mahalo nui everyone for taking the time tonight join us this evening
 - We really appreciate your mana'o and sharing this space with us
 - Again, hope everyone has a good night
 - All the information for this meeting will be on the Departments website, where you access the meeting on Zoom
 - Ok
 - Aloha everyone

Chat

- 18:07:24 From iPhone to Everyone: Ronald Lukehiwa Liftee, Kaneohe HI 96744
- 18:07:48 From Pearlyn Fukuba to Everyone: Aloha all -- welcome. Please type in to the chat: your name, contact info, where you live, and if you are a lessee, on the wait list or other. Mahalo nui!
- 18:08:24 From Claire Cummings, legal advisor Ko'olau Fdtn to Everyone: Aloha, Claire Cummings, legal advisor to Ko'olau Foundation, formerly attorney for Halawa Coalition during H3 historic preservation litigation - I'm in Sonoma County, unceded Wappo and Pomo land
- 18:30:51 From Lilinoe Yong to Everyone: Aloha Kākou. 'O Wau 'o Dr Lilinoe Yong Aia au e noho nei ma Ha'ikū E 'olu'olu e kōkua
- 18:31:20 From Lilinoe Yong to Everyone: I would like to speak but I am on my phone having difficulty finding hand
- 18:39:33 From Hi'ilaniwai DeCosta to Everyone: Please contact us @ malamapono744@aol.com

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- 18:41:12 From BeHappy to Everyone: Aloha mai Kakou! Mahalo for your well organized and understanding presentation, DeCosta 'Ohana & Kainoa Azama! My husband and I, Oliver Jr & 'Ehukai Ha'anio join you tonight. We reside on Luluku Rd and my husband is on the DHHL waitlist. Mahalo for the invite. Great facilitating Andrew!
- 18:42:29 From Ronald Lukehiwa Liftee to Everyone: Beautiful koolau,s
- 18:54:03 From Pearlyn Fukuba to Everyone: The project webpage is on the DHHL website at: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/>
- 18:58:00 From Hi'ilaniwai DeCosta to Everyone: koolaufoundation@gmail.com
- 18:58:41 From Lilinoe Yong to Everyone: malamapono744@aol.com who is this?
- 18:59:49 From Ronald Lukehiwa Liftee to Everyone: Aloha