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MEETING NOTES

MEETING DATE: August 7, 2024

PRESENT:

Project Team:

1. Lillie Makaila, DHHL
2. Julie-Ann Cachola, DHHL
3. Ku'upumae'ole Kiyuna, DHHL
4. 'Olana Chow, DHHL
5. Catie Cullison, PBR HAWAII
6. Nathalie Razo, PBR HAWAII
7. Makena Bassett, PBR HAWAII

Beneficiaries/ Community Members:

TOTAL ATTENDEES:	17
Total Beneficiaries:	10
Applicants:	9
Lessees:	0
Both:	1
Other:	4
No response:	3

SUBJECT: Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Hawai'i Island Plan Update
Beneficiary Meeting, Round 1

ATTACHMENTS: A) PowerPoint Presentation, B) Land Use Designation Updated
Maps, C) Fact Sheets, D) Comment Cards

1. Meeting Overview and Highlights

This meeting was the first of three rounds of meetings to discuss and receive feedback from DHHL beneficiaries on updated land designations for the Hawai'i Island Plan Update. The purpose of this meeting was to educate the beneficiaries on the current Hawai'i Island Plan and receive input on proposed Land Use Designations for the Hawai'i Island Plan Update.

Tables were set up around the room with copies of initial drafts of the Proposed Land Use Designation Maps (Attachment B) and Fact Sheets (Attachment C) for each tract. As meeting attendees arrived they were asked to sign in and were given comment cards (Attachment D) for attendee review and use during the rest of the meeting. The comment cards listed each tract of DHHL land and included space for beneficiaries to leave their input about the proposed land use designations. During sign in, attendees were encouraged to

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visit the tables prior to the start of the formal presentation. Sticky notes were also provided for beneficiaries to leave comments on said documents.

Lilliane Makaila of DHHL led the presentation (Attachment A) and meeting. She began the presentation with a review of the meeting agenda, as well as the overview and approach for the Hawai'i Island Plan Update, giving background information on the original Hawai'i Island Plan and the purpose/process of the Plan Update, and introducing the timeline of the project. Lilliane followed this with an emphasis on the incorporation of beneficiary knowledge in the Plan Update, and gave a brief explanation of the updated Land Use Designations generated from the 2022 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands General Plan Update. The presentation included a brief description outlining each of the Land Use Designations and for what they are used.

Following this, she went over each DHHL tract in Ka'ū and the 'Āina Mauna Legacy Lands, and compared the 2002 Hawai'i Island Plan Land Use Designation¹ to the proposed Land Use Designations identified. While through each tract, beneficiaries were asked to participate and provide feedback. Beneficiaries could participate by raising their hands to provide oral comment and/or walk around the room to review the maps and leave comments on their comment cards, sticky notes, or discuss their input with the project team. Oral comments brought up during this period were recorded by PBR HAWAII and is summarized below. A more detailed account of beneficiary oral comments can be found in Section 5.

The meeting closed when beneficiaries had no further comments or input to share with the project team.

The following key topics were identified in oral comments:

- Concerns about existing use and wildfire safety efforts and how updated LUD would address that.
- Frustration over lack of infrastructure, particularly water systems, and the need for investment in current lands rather than acquiring new ones.
- Questions about the slow process of transitioning DLNR land to DHHL and its impact on development.
- Problems with vacant houses and integration challenges in Discovery Harbour; issues with documentation and support.
- Perceptions of being underserved and disrespected by DHHL; desire for better communication and representation in land use decisions.
- Desire for creating liaison positions for better communication and using funds more effectively to address infrastructure and land management issues.

¹ Note: The 2002 Hawai'i Island Plan is the main source for identified land use designations; however, some tracts are more recent acquisitions or were subject to planning efforts more recently than 2002, in those instances the most recent reference was utilized.

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2. Comment Card Comments

- a. We received 3 comment cards from beneficiaries with comments regarding the proposed Land Use Designations. These comments will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

3. Fact Sheet Comments

- a. We received 1 comments on the Fact Sheets with comments regarding environmental conditions. This comment will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

4. Large Map Sticky Note Comments

- a. We received comments on 2 Large Maps with questions about environmental conditions and Land Use Designation suggestions. These comments will be available for review along with the comments from the online comment form.

5. Beneficiary Question and Answer Input

a. Comment Before the Presentation:

1. Commenter managed Pastoral lands in the Kāmā'oa and Pu'u'e'o areas for 20 years, and expressed significant concerns about wildfire risks. They highlighted that the combination of ocean winds and inadequate infrastructure and water resources poses a serious threat to homes. They also noted that the local community has worked with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife to develop a wildfire safety plan and expressed worry that transitioning the land to kuleana would undermine these efforts. Additionally, they mentioned that changing the land designation would adversely affect the current pastoral use and existing lessees, emphasizing that their 25-acre plot is insufficient for their livestock needs.

b. Q&A/Group Comment Period:

1. Voiced frustration with the lack of water supply and inadequate water system services for existing lands, raising concerns about securing water for future projects. They emphasized the critical importance of water, encapsulating their concern with the statement, "no water, no life."
2. Questioned the lack of development in the Wailau area, with a response indicating that county regulations have been a significant obstacle. They suggested that instead of purchasing new land, DHHL should focus on improving infrastructure for existing lands. They also inquired whether there is a designated area for a community center in the Wailau tract, as outlined in the regional plan. The commenter criticized the kuleana land designation for leaving beneficiaries feeling unsupported and questioned jurisdiction over water resources. They proposed legal action against the county for better water management and emphasized that beneficiaries need adequate infrastructure to fully utilize their land.

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3. Raised concerns about the delay in transitioning DLNR land to DHHL and requested more information on the issue. DHHL responded that they will return to second round of beneficiary meetings with an answer.
4. Noted the presence of vacant houses in Discovery Harbour that have remained unoccupied for 19 years, questioning why these houses, already equipped with infrastructure, are not being utilized. They highlighted issues with the documentation process post-award, which led to dropouts and dissatisfaction due to its complexity and lack of support. There was also a collective sentiment of discomfort about moving into a predominantly white neighborhood and feeling unsupported by DHHL.
5. Stressed the need for infrastructure improvements and mentioned that a relative withdrew from their land award because they were required to provide their own water and septic systems. They criticized DHHL for not adequately maintaining vacant lots and suggested using expiring funds to address land upkeep or invest in infrastructure. DHHL noted that Act 279's expiring funds were allocated to address the waitlist, with no funds designated for their area-- which caused visible distress among beneficiaries. DHHL also stated that addressing the waitlist would require a substantial amount of more funding, exceeding that of the Act 279 funding.
6. Concerns were raised about DHHL's commitment to the area and the rationale behind awarding lands if perceived neglect exists. Questions were asked about the occupancy rate of awarded lands, with a promise to provide answers in a future meeting. There was a call for greater equity, respect, and improved communication from DHHL, with criticism that the updated Land Use Designation seemed like a superficial measure. Suggestions included creating liaison positions for each region to facilitate continuous communication with DHHL and requesting hard copies of land maps.

This is our understanding of the topics discussed and the conclusions reached. Please give PBR HAWAII written notification of any errors or omissions within seven calendar days. Otherwise, this report will be deemed an accurate record and directive.

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
HAWAI'I ISLAND PLAN UPDATE
BENEFICIARY MEETING, ROUND 1 – KA'Ū
AUGUST 7, 2024
ATTACHMENTS TO SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT A:
PowerPoint Presentation

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ATTACHMENT B:
Land Use Designation Updated Maps

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ATTACHMENT C:
Fact Sheets

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ATTACHMENT D:
Comment Cards