



Waimea Nui Regional Plan Update
Beneficiary Consultation #1
Kūhiō Hale, Waimea, HI
April 3, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Attendance

Participants: A total of 34 attendees signed in at the beneficiary consultation. Of the attendees, twenty-four (24) self-identified as lessees of Waimea Nui, four (4) identified as applicants on the waitlist, two (2) were both lessees and applicants, and four (4) identified as “other.”

Project Team:

- DHHL: Lillie Makaila
- Townscape: Rachel Kapule and Gabrielle Sham

Handouts Provided (attached):

1. Project Fact Sheet
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Community Values & Visioning Activity
4. Slideshow Presentation

Agenda

1. Sign-in
2. Welina, Pule, & Introductions
3. Presentation on Regional Plan Update
4. Community Values Breakout Discussion
5. Report Back
6. Closing & Next Steps

Presentation

Lillie Makaila opened the meeting by introducing herself and the consultant team. A pule was offered by an attendee to begin the meeting. After the pule, Lillie reviewed the meeting agenda, shared expectations for the evening, and gave a brief overview of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands’ (DHHL) planning system. She explained that while Island Plans guide DHHL land use across each island, Regional Plans focus on DHHL’s 23 designated regions statewide. These regional plans are beneficiary-driven and center around identifying and advancing priority projects. The last Regional Plan for Waimea Nui was completed in 2012.

Updates on 2012 Priority Projects

1. Priority Project #1: Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Community Complex – Planning
 - a. In 2015, HHC approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Association's (WHHA) Environmental Assessment (EA) and granted a 65-year lease. WHHA has completed the internal road network.
 - b. In 2022, HHC approved the Final EA for the Kīpuka o ke Ola (KOKO) Health Center. WHHA secured funding for its initial development phase and is seeking more for future phases.
 - c. In 2024, Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, with the assistance of DHHL, received federal funding for the construction of an emergency operations center to provide coordination and response for wildfire and other emergencies in the region.
2. Priority Project #2: Evaluate and Revise Agricultural/Pastoral Program in Waimea Nui
 - a. DHHL had previously awarded a \$100,000 agriculture peer-to-peer technical assistance grant to WHHA to promote more farming on Waimea homestead areas.
 - b. In 2025, DHHL planning office hired an Agricultural Program Specialist to provide technical assistance to agricultural and pastoral homesteaders.
3. Priority Project #3: Support/Plan Development of Affordable Homestead Alternatives in Waimea Nui
 - a. DHHL has been contemplating alternative affordable homestead options for its beneficiaries Statewide. This could result in alternatives applicable to Waimea Nui.
4. Priority Project #4: Assess the Implications of Eliminating Requirement to Pay Property Taxes
 - a. Not started.
5. Priority Project #5: Assess the Implications of a Non-Standard Building Code
 - a. In 2017, DHHL attended Hawai'i Building Code Council meetings to research and learn the process of building code development and approval. However, due to staffing turnover and competing priorities, progress on this initiative has stalled.
 - b. In 2024, DHHL signed its first internal building permits for the Yorktown renovation project in Kalaeloa, O'ahu.

After the presentation, the group took a short break before dividing into three breakout groups for a community values discussion. Each group was facilitated by either DHHL staff or a consultant and was guided by two questions:

1. What are the values that guide/shape this community?
2. What does that look like in your community?

Community Values Breakout Discussion

Group 1 (Facilitated by Lillie)

- Have to care about the whole
 - Have respect for one another
- Wai
- Kūpuna
 - Awareness
 - Kūpuna Council
 - Above reproach
 - Assistance for kūpuna (KOKO)
- Respect for the deceased
 - Cemetery
 - Burial/historical preservation
- Safety
 - Fire/hazards (hydrants)
 - Roads/road maintenance
 - Speed
- Text tree
 - Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu
- Keep homesteads looking presentable
- Support/Resources
 - For infrastructure
 - For homesteads (irrigation)
 - For farmers/ranchers
 - For homestead issues
- Communication
 - With/from DHHL
 - Amongst homesteaders
 - With homestead association leadership
 - Update priority projects every 6 months

Group 2 (Facilitated by Gaby)

- Family
 - Passing down knowledge & culture & practices
 - Keeping the old ways
 - Know the winds/elements, help inform practices
 - Setting up the future for keiki
 - Honoring our kupuna, preparing our keiki
 - Protocols – oli, pule, passing down knowledge and culture
- Respect for ‘āina and others
 - Community sense of living

- Doing the right thing
- Obeying the laws of the land
- Knowing your neighbors
 - More community meetings
 - More opportunities to gather
 - Community center-for homesteaders
- Community space for people to come together for homesteaders (i.e., fire)
- Ability to ask for help → phone tree
- Safety and security
 - So spread out
 - Security gates
 - Signage that this is homelands
 - Neighborhood watch → truck rotate to help “police”
 - Telephone tree
- Gathering space for homesteaders
 - Kuhio Hall doesn’t feel like our space
 - Cost, access, homesteaders first
 - More gatherings to meet & talk story

Group 3 (Facilitated by Rachel)

- Connection to culture
- Be good stewards of the land
- Safety (fire, roads, water, neighborhood watch, etc)
- Self-sufficiency, hard working
- Fire prevention
- ‘Ike kūpuna
- Legacy – passing on to children
- Evaluating district managers/staff
- Creating pilina within and between homesteads
- Self-governance (i.e., during emergencies)
- The association being an advocate for the community
- Building/expands on Hui Aloha Pu‘ukapu’s existing programs, hosting community events
- Working with DHHL and other agencies for funding
- Finding needs in the community and helping one another
- Do the job right the first time!
 - Put in infrastructure correctly
- Attend commission meetings
 - Give testimony
 - Hold DHHL accountable
- Have DHHL presence at association meetings
- Have better leadership so that kids don’t have to deal with what we had to deal with
- Keiki

- Know all the names of the area
- More opportunities for them to see and learn about Waimea

Report Back & Next Steps

After breakout groups concluded, everyone reconvened. Lillie, Rachel, and Gaby compiled notes into a word document, which Lillie reviewed with the group. She asked if anything was missing, and attendees confirmed the summary captured their values accurately.

Lillie closed the meeting by outlining the next steps. She and the consultants will use the values shared to draft a vision statement, which will be presented at the next beneficiary consultation on Thursday, April 17, 2025. This meeting will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Kūhiō Hale.

Questions

Additional questions/comments were posed during the presentation by meeting attendees. These are noted below:

- Is there still a contract with CTAHR?
 - Yes.
- The CTAHR person should focus on working with the farmers and the new DHHL ag specialist should focus on the ranchers. Please bring the new ag person out here to meet us.
- Has DHHL designated which areas they are doing Undivided Interest (UI) leases?
 - It is project specific. La'i 'Ōpua and Kawaihae will give out UI leases.
- Just to clarify, are the priority projects in your presentation the ones from 2012?
 - Yes.
- When we come up with new priority projects, are we able to combine similar projects?
 - Yes, you can combine them. Kawaihae combined multiple water-related projects into "Water – Wai Ola," which helped them convey to the Department that water was their main priority. In contrast, Moloka'i did not combine their two deer-related projects, which split the vote and neither made it to one of the top five priority projects. However, if the projects were combined, they would have received the highest total votes of all the projects.



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Waimea Nui Regional Plan Update

Regional Plans are a part of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' tiered Planning system, and focus at the homestead community and regional level. Regional Plans are prepared through extensive beneficiary engagement and are approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Across the islands, there are a total of 23 Regional Plans; the last Waimea Nui Regional Plan was adopted in 2012. This update to the Waimea Nui Regional Plan will include four (4) beneficiary consultations where a vision, community values, and priority projects will be identified. The Regional Planning process is meant to help build capacity and a sense of community, stimulate partnerships that aid the homestead community in reaching their goals, and give beneficiaries an opportunity to work together with DHHL in planning for their future.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Nov 2024 - Mar 2025

*Project Start
Background Research
Homestead Leadership Mtg*

Apr 17, 2025

*Beneficiary Meeting #2:
Final Vision and Values,
Issues and Needs*

Jul 2025

*Draft RP Update
Beneficiary Meeting #4:
Review Draft Plan*

*Beneficiary Meeting #1:
Draft Vision and Values*

Apr 3, 2025

*Beneficiary Meeting #3:
Priority Projects and
Project Polling*

May 8, 2025

*Final RPU
Project Complete*

Aug 2025

For more information please contact:



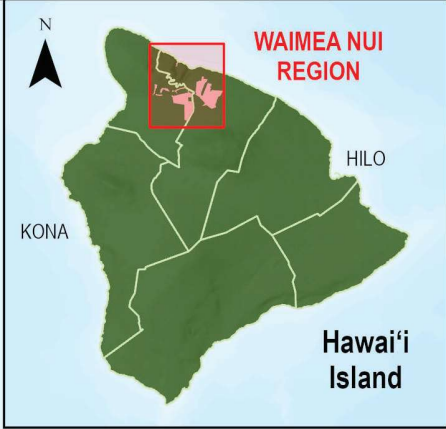
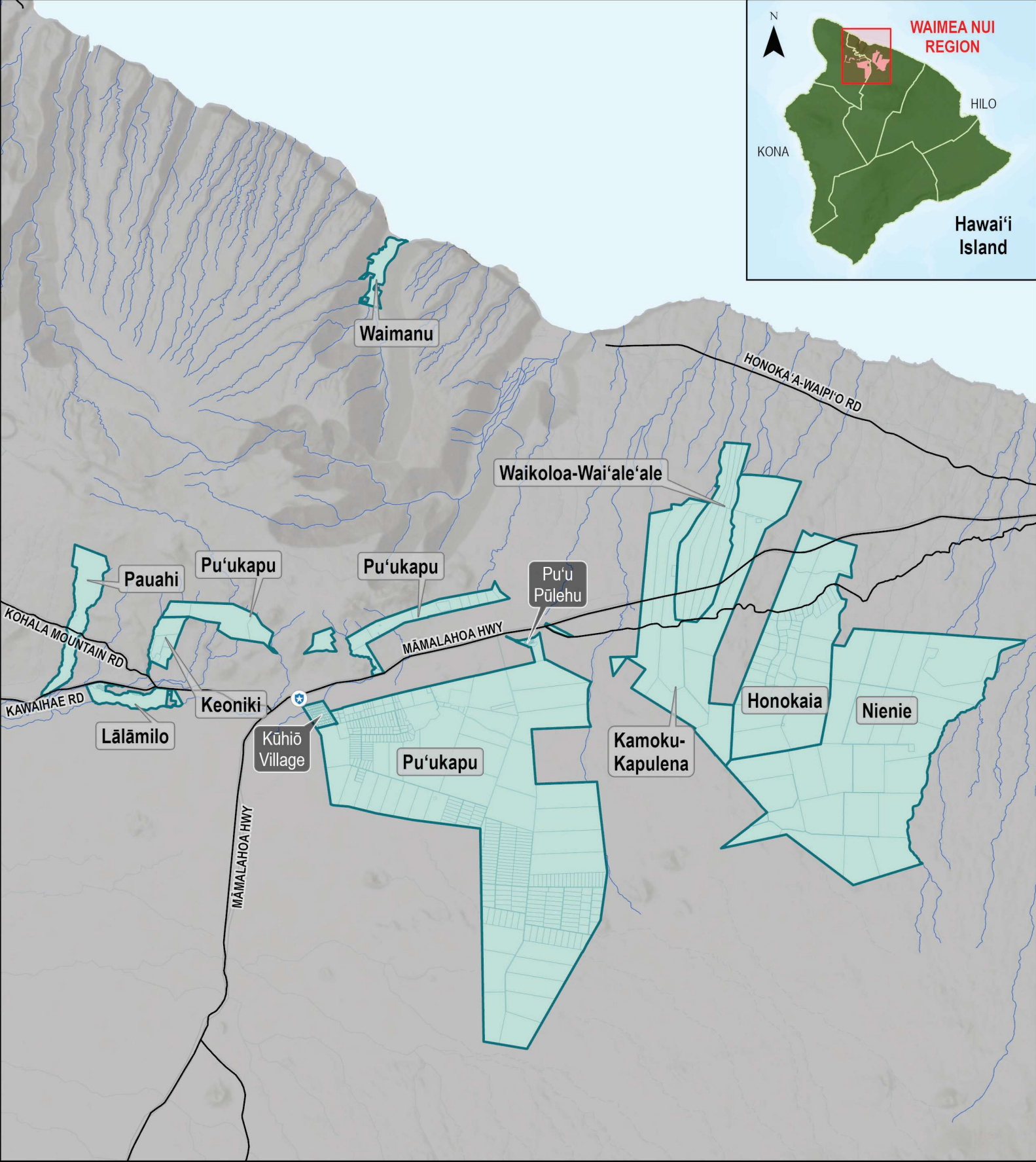
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Or visit the project webpage at:

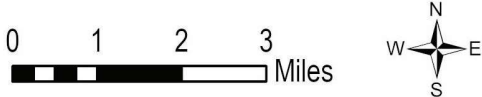
<https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/po/hawaii-island/waimea-nui-regional-plan-update-2025/>



- Waimea Nui Homesteads
- Perennial Streams
- Major Roadways
- Waimea Police Station

DHHL Waimea Nui Regional Plan Update
PROJECT AREA MAP

Hawai'i Island
March 2025



Prepared by: **TOWNSCAPE, INC.**
Environmental & Community Planning

Prepared for: **DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 3, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE: To update the Waimea Nui Regional Plan to reflect the current needs, vision, values, and priorities of the Waimea Nui homestead communities.

OUTCOMES: by the end of the meeting, we will:

- Know what a DHHL Regional Plan is, how it is used, and how it will be created.
- Know the proposed timeline for the Regional Plan Update.
- Have gathered input to create a list of community values and write a vision statement for the region.

SCHEDULE:

- ❖ Sign-in
- ❖ Welina, Pule, & Introductions
- ❖ Presentation on Regional Plan Update
- ❖ Visioning Exercise Part 1
- ❖ Refreshment Break
- ❖ Visioning Exercise Part 2
- ❖ Closing & Next Steps

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for:

Thursday, April 17, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

At Kūhiō Hale



Community Values & Visioning Activity

PART 1: COMMUNITY VALUES (35 MIN)


What are the community values that represent your homestead?

1. What are the values that guide/shape this community?
2. What does that look like in your community?

PART 2: VISIONING (35 MIN)

When your mo'opuna are grown up and living in the homestead, what is life like for them?

1. What does your homestead and/or the broader Waimea Nui look like?
2. What does it feel like?
3. What about the community are your mo'opuna proud of?



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

WAIMEA NUI

Regional Plan Update

Beneficiary Consultation #1
April 3, 2025
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

MEETING AGENDA



- 6:00 pm Welina, Pule & Introductions
- 6:15 pm Presentation on Regional Plan Update
- 6:30 pm Visioning Exercise Part 1
- 7:05 pm Refreshment Break
- 7:15 pm Visioning Exercise Part 2
- 7:50 pm Closing & Next Steps

MEETING KULEANA



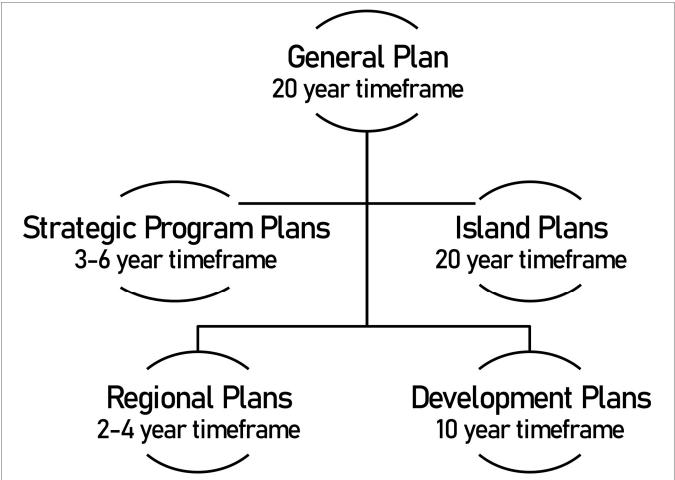
- Be Open: open your mind, ears and heart. Take home new ideas and information.
- Be Comfortable: move around and use facilities.
- Be Respectful: please do not interrupt the person that is talking, show aloha, treat others how you would like to be treated.
- Be Creative: work towards future solutions/aspirations.
- Agree to Disagree: accept that others may have different perspectives and opinions.
- Cellphones off or on silent: please take calls/texts outside.

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WHAT IS A REGIONAL PLAN?



DHHL Planning System




Purpose of the regional plans :

- To enable the community to be involved in planning for their region.
- To assist the community with identifying and prioritizing projects within the region.
- To identify detailed action steps needed to implement the priority projects.


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WAIMEA NUI REGION



- Homestead Regional Profile
- Regional Lands & Development
- Infrastructure
- Homestead Concerns & Priorities

JANUARY 2012

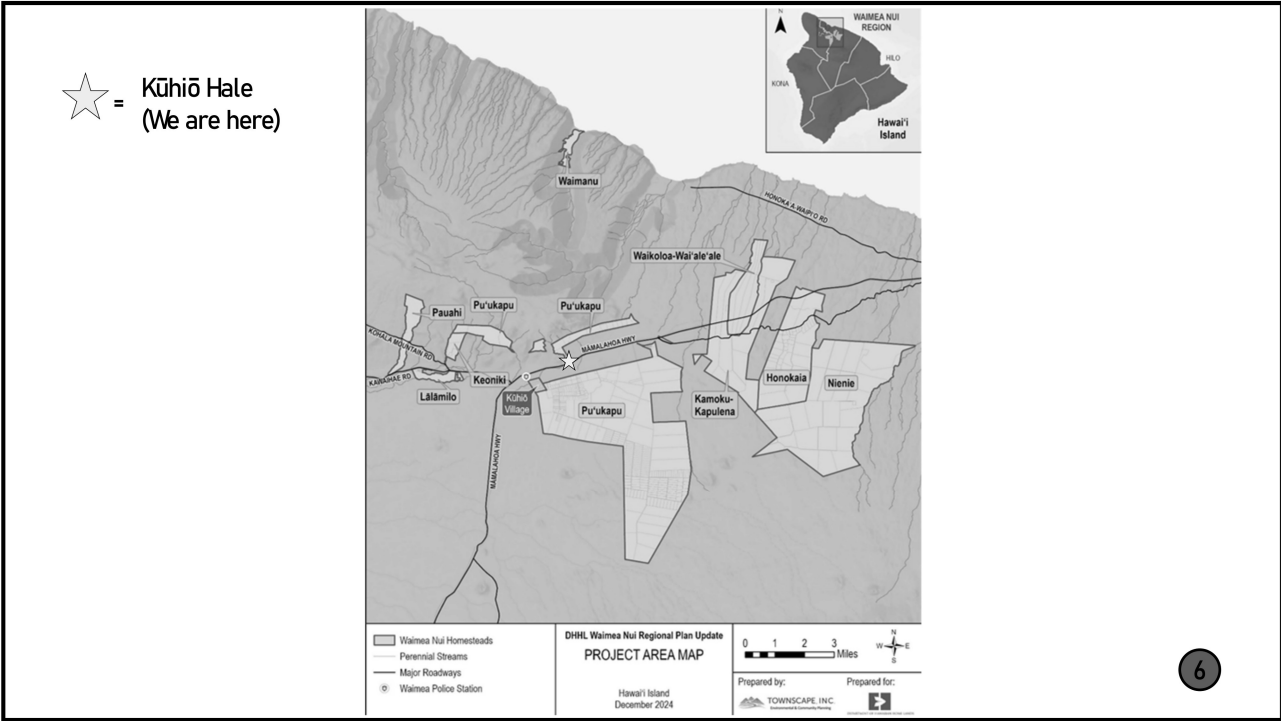


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UPDATE ALSO INCLUDES:

1. Vision Statement and Community Values for the Region.
2. Implementation Action steps for each Priority Project.

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2012 PRIORITY PROJECTS



Priority Project #1

Waimea Hawaiian
Homestead
Community
Complex --
Planning

- PROJECT CHAMPION: WHHA
- CURRENT STATUS: In-Progress.
- In 2015, HHC approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Association's (WHHA) Environmental Assessment (EA) and granted a 65-year lease. WHHA has completed the internal road network.
 - In 2022, HHC approved the Final EA for the KOKO Health Center. WHHA secured funding for its initial development phase and is seeking more for future phases.
 - In 2024, Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, with the assistance of DHHL, received federal funding for the construction of an emergency operations center to provide coordination and response for wildfire and other emergencies in the region.

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2012 PRIORITY PROJECTS



Priority Project #2

Evaluate and
Revise
Ag/Pastoral
Program in
Waimea Nui

- PROJECT CHAMPION: DHHL/WHHA
- CURRENT STATUS: In-Progress.
- DHHL had previously awarded a \$100k agriculture peer-to-peer technical assistance grant to WHHA to promote more farming on Waimea homestead areas.
 - In 2025, DHHL planning office hired an Agricultural Program Specialist to provide technical assistance to agricultural and pastoral homesteaders.

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2012 PRIORITY PROJECTS



Priority Project #3

Support/Plan
Development of
Affordable
Homestead
Alternatives in
Waimea Nui

PROJECT CHAMPION: DHHL

CURRENT STATUS: In-Progress.

- Statewide, DHHL has been contemplating alternative affordable homestead options for its beneficiaries. This could result in alternatives applicable to Waimea Nui.

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2012 PRIORITY PROJECTS



Priority Project #4

Assess the
Implications of
Eliminating
Requirement to
Pay Property
Taxes

PROJECT CHAMPION: DHHL

CURRENT STATUS: Not Started.

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2012 PRIORITY PROJECTS



Priority Project #5

Assess the Implications of a Non-Standard Building Code

PROJECT CHAMPION: DHHL

CURRENT STATUS: On-Hold.

- In 2017, DHHL attended Hawai'i Building Code Council meetings to research and learn the process of building code development and approval. However, due to staffing turnover and competing priorities, progress on this initiative has stalled.
- In 2024, DHHL signed its first internal building permits for the Yorktown renovation project in Kalaeloa, O'ahu.

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COMMUNITY VALUES & VISIONING ACTIVITY

Breakout Groups

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PART 1: COMMUNITY VALUES



What are the community values that represent your homestead?

- 1. What are the values that guide/shape this community?
- 2. What does that look like in your community?

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REFRESHMENT BREAK

Please be seated and ready for
the next activity in 10 minutes!

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PART 2: VISIONING



When your mo'opuna are grown up and living in the homestead, what is life like for them?

1. What does your homestead and/or the broader Waimea Nui look like?
2. What does it feel like?
3. What about the community are your mo'opuna proud of?

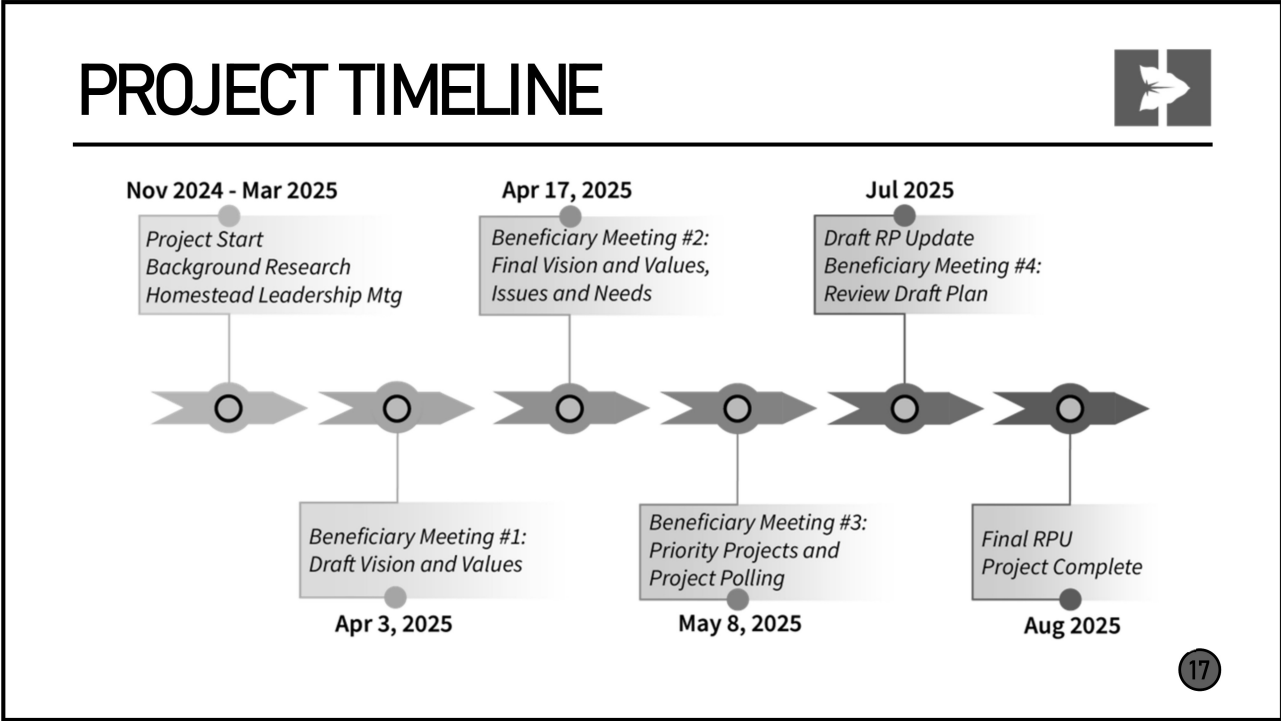
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NEXT STEPS



- Presentation slides and discussion recap will be posted on the DHHL website.
- Draft a vision statement and a list of community values to discuss at Beneficiary Consultation #2.
- Next meeting date: Thursday, April 17, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Kūhiō Hale.
 - Purpose: To identify issues and needs in the community.


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MAHALO


For more information, please contact:

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Or visit the project website at:
<https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/po/hawaii-island/waimea-nui-regional-plan-update-2025/>

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