



**Waimea Nui Regional Plan Update
Beneficiary Consultation #2
Kūhiō Hale, Waimea, HI
April 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Attendance

Participants: A total of 25 attendees signed in at the beneficiary consultation. Of the attendees, fifteen (15) self-identified as lessees of Waimea Nui, two (2) identified as applicants on the waitlist, one (1) was both a lessee and an applicant, four (4) identified as potential successors, one (1) identified as “other,” and two (2) did not indicate their beneficiary status.

Project Team:

- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL): Lillie Makaila
- Townscape: Rachel Kapule and Gabrielle Sham

Handouts Provided (attached):

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Community Values & Vision
3. Slideshow Presentation

Agenda

1. Sign-in
2. Welina, Pule, & Introductions
3. Presentation on Regional Plan Update & Review of BC #1
4. Discussion: Draft Community Values & Vision
5. 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 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.

Community Values & Vision Group Discussion

Following the presentation, Lillie facilitated a group discussion, reviewing each draft value and the vision statement. Attendees were invited to share their feedback, which is summarized in bullet points below each item.

COMMUNITY VALUES

- 1. Caring for Kūpuna:** We honor our kūpuna, those with us and those who came before us, by preserving and passing down their knowledge, protecting their burial sites, and ensuring they have a place to rest in Waimea.
 - a. When a higher level of care is needed for our kūpuna, where do they go? There are no beds available at other facilities. In the description, can you add verbiage on “caregiving” to kūpuna and providing spaces for long-term care of our kūpuna.
 - b. Change the value from “Caring for Kūpuna” to “Caring for the Wellbeing of our Kūpuna.”
 - c. We should get life alert for our kūpuna, and we should be taking care of their homes since most of them were built in 1952. We should help them with fixing their roof, cutting grass, picking up groceries, etc.
 - d. Add somewhere in the description about the “safety” of our kūpuna.
 - e. Also include “providing services for kūpuna.” Most of them don’t want to move into a care home. We should be bringing the care to them/to their home.
- 2. Creating a Safe and Secure Community:** We prioritize the safety and resilience of our community through emergency preparedness, well-maintained roads and infrastructure, and neighborhood watch efforts that protect our families and homes.
 - a. We should install a gate to keep our community safe. There are so many outside people coming into the homestead.
 - b. A gate would prevent outside people from wandering around our homestead.
 - c. Every morning people from outside the homestead parking by my house to walk their dogs because our roads are nice. At nighttime, cars are speeding past my house driving 100 miles per hour. We need to add speed tables on the road.
 - d. Add language in the description of this value to include road safety/traffic control.
 - e. There are people from outside our community coming here to race cars. The police don’t patrol the area.
 - f. Can we invest in street cameras and send people speeding tickets?
 - g. Everyone is speeding past my house to get to hula practice.
 - h. Honokaia has squatters. They attract foot traffic through the homestead, where they go to rob homes in Ahualoa. It’s a challenge to get collaboration between DHHL and the Hawai’i Police Department (HPD) captain.

- i. Ranchers at Honokaia have a key to access the gate to the homestead. Sometimes ranchers leave the gate open when they are making a lot of trips back and forth and other people will sneak in. I'll lock them in so that they have to come and ask me to unlock it and I can educate them. Once I educate them they usually don't come back.
 - j. The sign at Honokaia just says "road closed." It doesn't send the correct message.
 - k. There is plenty of traffic in Honokaia and lots of tour bikes.
 - l. I'd like to understand what emergency access looks like in Honokaia. Does the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD) and HPD have a key for the gate? What does emergency response look like?
- 3. Perpetuating our Cultural Traditions:** We pass down protocols, oli, and inoa 'āina of Waimea Nui to our keiki, not just as tradition, but as knowledge systems that guide how we live. These practices teach us when to plant, how to observe the elements, and help guide our day-to-day actions on the 'āina. We carry forward the old ways while building a better foundation for the generations to come.
- a. How are we passing knowledge down to our keiki? It doesn't say in the description.
 - b. We're all separated. Sometimes you can live next to someone and never meet them. We did classes in the farm lots and went to everyone in the homestead. That's how we got to know our neighbors.
 - c. This description of this value is very broad. Our biggest challenge is getting to use Kūhiō Hale. Where can we practice our culture? Where can we take a class? I can teach people, but I don't have the space/resources. We can use Kūhiō Hale but it's not our space it's the Departments'. We have to cancel whenever there's a DHHL meeting.
 - d. We need a facility. My hālau used to practice in the gym but we got kicked out because hula wasn't considered a "sport." We got kicked out of so many other places too. When we wanted to use Kūhiō Hale, DHHL tried to charge us to use the space. We just need a facility. There's no space for adult learning, only schools for our keiki.
 - e. There are two things that we need: 1) an available space and 2) access to that space.
- 4. Building Pilina:** We support one another throughout our community. We create and care for gathering spaces that strengthen relationships within and across homesteads.
- a. When we have homestead meetings and hundreds of people show up, we constantly hear, "I'm a farmer and you're talking about ranching," or "I'm a rancher and you're talking about farming." So we decided to split up our association into eight divisions. Everyone can choose what they want to focus on. In the beginning, we hosted an annual lū'au for 700 to 800 people. Then we stopped because of COVID. We got to start doing that again.
 - b. What keeps us together is a common enemy, which is DHHL.

- c. The words “across homesteads” is so vast. Our challenge is geography. How do we bring together all the homesteads? We all have different challenges. Our people are so different.
 - d. This place is unique because we all came together. DHHL is trying to separate us.
 - e. There’s a difference between a homesteaders’ association and a homeowner’s association (HOA). A HOA, which they have in Lālāmilo, is policing people. We try to make our community better.
 - f. Include “having opportunities to build pilina.” Offer educational classes and community nights.
 - g. We don’t have somewhere to go to ask questions. We call the DHHL Waimea office and no one answers the phone. Sometimes guidance from DHHL is inaccurate. Where do I find the administrative rules?
 - h. How do I designate a successor? I want an additional letter from the Department that says, “we certify that this person succeeds you and does qualify.” What are the policies and procedures?
 - i. We need to have someone from our homestead act as a go between for us and DHHL.
 - j. DHHL staff are inside the office; we can see them. But when we call, they don’t answer. And when we knock on the door, they don’t open it.
- 5. Being Self-Sufficient and Self-Governing:** We grow our own food, steward our resources, and take responsibility for our community’s well-being and future.
- a. We should have a resource for everyone that needs a house plan. They should be able to select a model for their home that is already pre-approved. Our own kanaka need to be the ones constructing the homes.
 - b. We need a processing facility.
 - c. The Department thinks it’s them that needs to be self-sufficient when really it’s us that need to be.
 - d. We have to rise and do this ourselves.
- 6. Collaborating and Building Shared Kuleana with DHHL:** We value open communication and mutual respect between beneficiaries and the Hawaiian Homes Commission, DHHL, and its staff. Homesteaders, staff, and commissioners cultivate collaboration and trust in one another through consistent dialogue and maintaining an active presence at shared gatherings.
- a. How much staff does DHHL have?
 - i. Response from Lillie: Maybe 150 to 150 staff. The Department is 70% staffed right now.
 - b. Just open the door to the office!

- c. DHHL has so many divisions. We need someone from each division to be at our meetings. It's hard for us to figure out who is in charge of what. They don't have to be there all at the same time. They can come to our association meetings. The commissioner should come to our meetings and hear our concerns. That way when we testify they're familiar with what we're saying.
- d. This value should be the expectation/standard. Not an aspiration.
- e. I have an aspiration. Can we elect our commissioner or have a say in who our district manager is?
- f. We have an opportunity to give names for these positions but no one from the homestead wants to.
- g. This is a good wish list but it's not happening now.
- h. If DHHL staff and commissioners were working closely with us, and they came to our meetings, then we would go to their meetings and support them. We don't know when those hearings/meetings are. If we had the rest of the homestead behind us that would be great. But it's difficult for people to attend because they'd have to purchase a plane ticket/hotel.
- i. Can we add something to the description about time sensitivity/urgency. It took nine months to get the paperwork through when I succeeded my grandfather.
- j. It's hard to collaborate when we have to wait so long.
- k. How are we supposed to connect with DHHL when DHHL itself is disconnected.
- l. It's been so stressful having to fight for a lease when my husband died.
- m. When my mom passed, I was her successor. It took me one year and two months to get the lease. I would hate to see my son struggle to get his lease when I pass away.
- n. There is a lot of gatekeeping from DHHL. A lot of it feels like manipulation. DHHL sent my grandparent's death certificate directly to public notice when it should've been sent to my mom first. We didn't get a chance to notify our whole family that they had passed before it was published. My mom was supposed to be the one to send it the death certificate, but the Department did it without her permission.
- o. We missed so many opportunities to save money because of the time it takes DHHL to do anything. It pisses me off. The Department is so disorganized and mismanaged.
- p. The Department of Public Works (DPW) sent me a notice that my neighbor was complaining about my driveway. Three years later I found the complaint was from Jim Dupont.
- q. Families come to me asking for help. They constantly feel like they have to battle DHHL. This has caused mental anguish in our community. People fall into depression, anxiety, marital problems, etc. It's a crisis.
- r. We've written letters to DHHL when their staff violates their own rules, but DHHL wrote back saying they don't have any disciplinary procedures.

- s. There's a lot in Pu'ukapu that we used to get cinder from. But the Department took it back when an endangered species was found on it. We went there with the Fish and Wildlife Service to come up with a plan on how to still access the cinder while protecting the endangered Nehe plant. When we went there we found Jim Dupont mining his own cinder. We thought he would be fired but instead he was promoted.

VISION STATEMENT

"Waimea Nui is a community rooted in the old ways of living. We live in balance with the world around us, guided by the voices and 'ike of our kūpuna. We know the names of our 'āina and the names of our people. Across the different homesteads, we work together, advocate for one another, and uphold our values through self-governance. We grow our own food and are sustained by our own 'āina. We've built a relationship of trust with DHHL. This way of life is our foundation, and it's what we pass down to the children of Waimea Nui."

- a. Change to "grow and raise our own food."
- b. Add that we strive to work with DHHL and collaborate with the district manager.
- c. Change "it's" to "it is" in the last sentence.
- d. Add Commissioners will work with us and for us.

Closing & Next Steps

Lillie closed the meeting by outlining the next steps. She and the consultants will revise the draft values and vision statement to reflect the mana'o shared during the discussion. At the next meeting, we'll provide a handout with the revisions, but most of the time will be focused on brainstorming project ideas and refining the list for priority project voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Several community members approached Lillie after the meeting to request rescheduling Beneficiary Consultation #3, as many could not attend on May 8th. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Kūhiō Hale.



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 17, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE: To share a draft list of community values and a draft vision statement for community feedback and revisions, and to begin discussing project ideas that address key concerns for the Waimea Nui region.

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

- Understand what a DHHL Regional Plan is, how it's used, and the process for creating it.
- Gather community feedback on the draft values and vision statement.
- Identify key issues and concerns in the community, and begin shaping initial project ideas to address them.

SCHEDULE:

- ❖ Sign-in
- ❖ Welina, Pule, & Introductions
- ❖ Presentation on Regional Plan Update & Review of BC #1
- ❖ Discussion: Draft Community Values & Vision
- ❖ Refreshment Break
- ❖ Discussion: Issues, Opportunities, & Resources
- ❖ Closing & Next Steps

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for:

Thursday, May 8, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

At Kūhiō Hale



Draft Community Values & Vision

VALUES

Caring for Kūpuna

We honor our kūpuna, those with us and those who came before us, by preserving and passing down their knowledge, protecting their burial sites, and ensuring they have a place to rest in Waimea.

Creating a Safe and Secure Community

We prioritize the safety and resilience of our community through emergency preparedness, well-maintained roads and infrastructure, and neighborhood watch efforts that protect our families and homes.

Perpetuating our Cultural Traditions

We pass down protocols, oli, and inoa 'āina of Waimea Nui to our keiki, not just as tradition, but as knowledge systems that guide how we live. These practices teach us when to plant, how to observe the elements, and help guide our day-to-day actions on the 'āina. We carry forward the old ways while building a better foundation for the generations to come.

Building Pilina

We support one another throughout our community. We create and care for gathering spaces that strengthen relationships within and across homesteads.

Being Self-Sufficient and Self-Governing


We grow our own food, steward our resources, and take responsibility for our community's well-being and future.

Collaborating and Building Shared Kuleana with DHHL

We value open communication and mutual respect between beneficiaries and the Hawaiian Homes Commission, DHHL, and its staff. Homesteaders, staff, and commissioners cultivate collaboration and trust in one another through consistent dialogue and maintaining an active presence at shared gatherings.

VISION

“Waimea Nui is a homestead community rooted in our traditions and rural lifestyle. We live in balance with the world around us, guided by the voices and 'ike of our kūpuna. We know the names of our 'āina and the names of our people. Across the different homesteads, we work together, advocate for one another, and uphold our values through self-governance to build a safe, united, and thriving lāhui. We grow our own food and are sustained by our own 'āina. This way of life is our foundation, and it's what we pass down to the future generations of our mokupuni.”




DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

WAIMEA NUI

Regional Plan Update

Beneficiary Consultation #2
April 17, 2025
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

MEETING AGENDA



6:00 pm

Welina, Pule & Introductions

6:15 pm

Presentation on Regional Plans & Review of BC #1

6:30 pm

Discussion: Draft Community Values & Vision

7:00 pm

Refreshment Break

7:10 pm

Discussion: Issues, Opportunities, & Resources

7:50 pm

Closing & Next Steps

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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.
- **Cellphones off or on silent:** please take calls/texts outside.

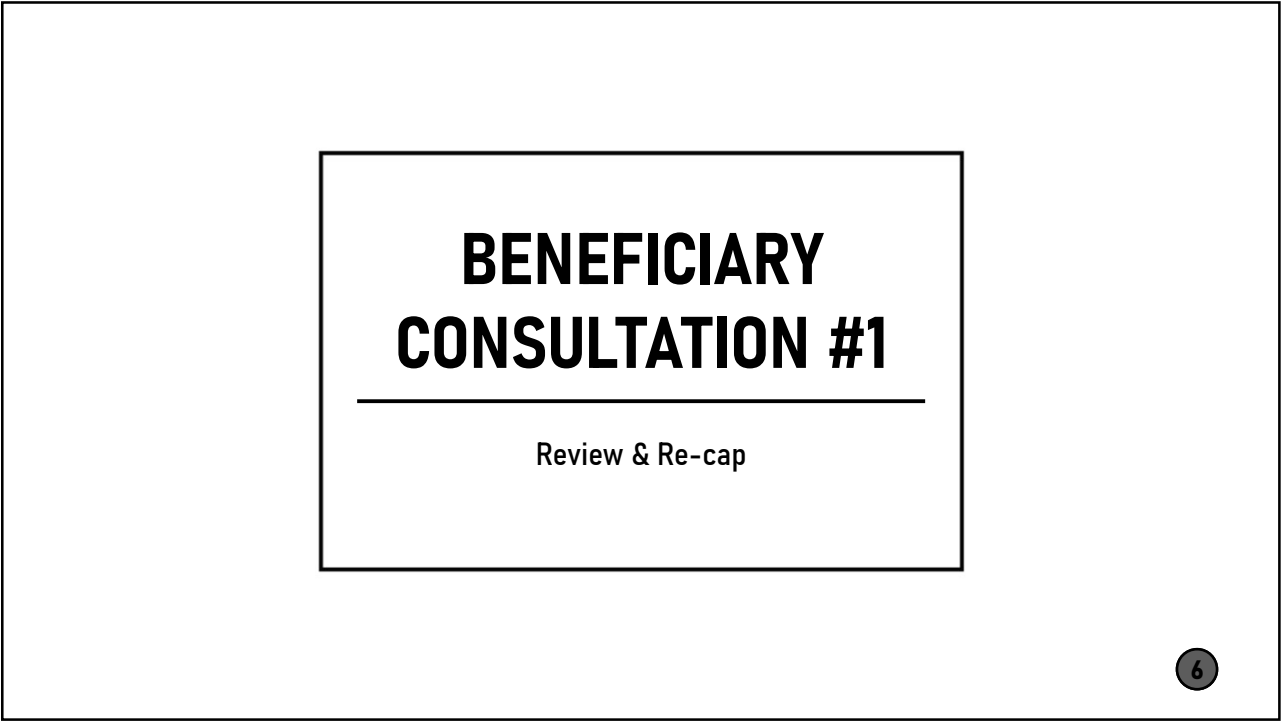
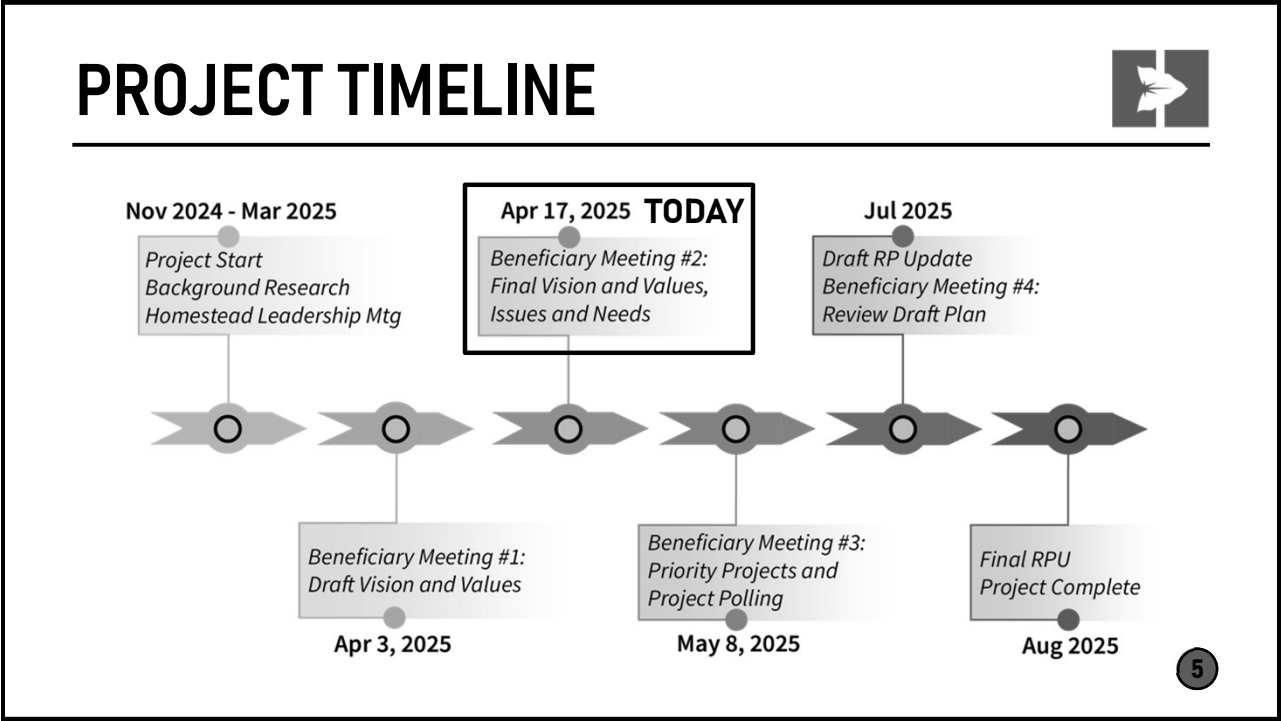
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MEETING OBJECTIVES



- Provide a recap on the previous meeting (BC #1)
- Receive feedback on draft community values and vision statement for Waimea Nui
- Document issues, opportunities, and existing community resources and assets
- Compile an initial list of projects for further consideration

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WHAT IS A REGIONAL PLAN?

DHHL Planning System

```
graph TD; GP[General Plan  
20 year timeframe] --- SP[Strategic Program Plans  
3-6 year timeframe]; GP --- IP[Island Plans  
20 year timeframe]; SP --- RP[Regional Plans  
2-4 year timeframe]; SP --- DP1[Development Plans  
10 year timeframe]; IP --- DP2[Development Plans  
10 year timeframe];
```

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

UPDATE ALSO INCLUDES:

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

JANUARY 2012

HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TRUST
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

8

DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES & VISION

Group Discussion

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DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



Caring for
Kūpuna



Creating a Safe
and Secure
Community



Perpetuating our
Cultural Traditions



Building
Pilina



Being Self-
Sufficient and
Self-Governing



Collaborating and
Building Shared
Kuleana with DHHL

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DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



1. Caring for Kūpuna

We honor our kūpuna, those with us and those who came before us, by preserving and passing down their knowledge, protecting their burial sites, and ensuring they have a place to rest in Waimea.

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DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



2. Creating a Safe and Secure Community

We prioritize the safety and resilience of our community through emergency preparedness, well-maintained roads and infrastructure, and neighborhood watch efforts that protect our families and homes.

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DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



3. Perpetuating our Cultural Traditions

We pass down protocols, oli, and inoa ‘āina of Waimea Nui to our keiki, not just as tradition, but as knowledge systems that guide how we live. These practices teach us when to plant, how to observe the elements, and help guide our day-to-day actions on the ‘āina. We carry forward the old ways while building a better foundation for the generations to come.

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DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



4. Building Pilina

We support one another throughout our community. We create and care for gathering spaces that strengthen relationships within and across homesteads.

14

DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



5. Being Self-Sufficient and Self-Governing

We grow our own food, steward our resources, and take responsibility for our community's well-being and future.

15

DRAFT COMMUNITY VALUES



6. Collaborating and Building Shared Kuleana with DHHL

We value open communication and mutual respect between beneficiaries and the Hawaiian Homes Commission, DHHL, and its staff. Homesteaders, staff, and commissioners cultivate collaboration and trust in one another through consistent dialogue and maintaining an active presence at shared gatherings.

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DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

“Waimea Nui is a homestead community rooted in our traditions and rural lifestyle. We live in balance with the world around us, guided by the voices and ‘ike of our kūpuna. We know the names of our ‘āina and the names of our people. Across the different homesteads, we work together, advocate for one another, and uphold our values through self-governance to build a safe, united, and thriving lāhui. We grow our own food and are sustained by our own ‘āina. This way of life is our foundation, and it’s what we pass down to the future generations of our mokupuni.”

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REFRESHMENT BREAK

Please be seated in your breakout
groups in 10 minutes

18

ISSUES,
OPPORTUNITIES, &
RESOURCES

Breakout Groups

19

ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, & RESOURCES

1. What issues or challenges exist in the homestead community that we can create a solution for?

2. What ideas do you have to help address these issues?

GOAL: Identify projects that will address the community's needs.

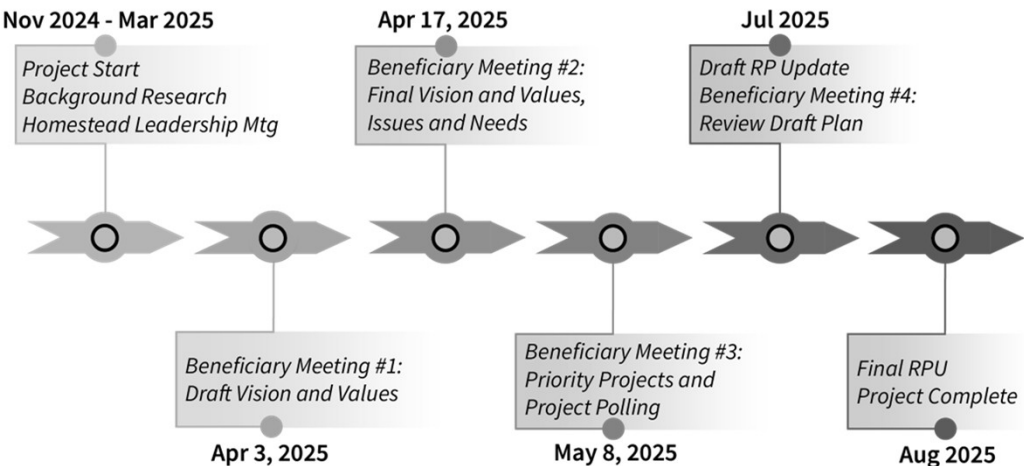
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NEXT STEPS



- Presentation slides and discussion recap will be **posted on the DHHL website.**
- At Beneficiary Consultation #3, we will finalize the list of potential projects and open the voting period for **priority projects.**
- Next meeting date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Kūhiō Hale.

PROJECT TIMELINE



MAHALO

For more information, please contact:

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DEPARTMENT OF
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

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