

Waimea Nui Regional Plan Update FINAL LIST OF PROJECTS FOR VOTING

1. Waimea Nui Hawaiian Homestead Community Initiative

Continue creating a place-based community initiative that supports the well-being of Waimea Nui homesteads from keiki to kūpuna. This includes developing a 191-acre community complex with a neighborhood park, youth recreation facilities, a Community Hale, a cemetery, and revenue-generating spaces. The project also proposes a dedicated facility for cultural and educational classes, community gatherings, and a small-scale agricultural processing center to support local farmers and ranchers with crop processing and value-added production. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will improve community preparedness and response. To support kūpuna, the project includes in-home services such as home repair, yard maintenance, grocery delivery, and healthcare assistance, as well as long-term care facilities reserved exclusively for beneficiaries. It also aims to perpetuate paniolo culture through dedicated programming and facilities. Finally, Waimea Nui homesteaders seek to address some of the challenges on trust lands on Maunakea (Humu'ula and Pi'ihonua).

2. Waimea Nui Agricultural and Pastoral Pilot Program

Establish a pilot project to improve the success of homestead farmers and ranchers through a collaborative approach between beneficiaries, DHHL and other resources. Provide critical infrastructure for both agricultural and pastoral lots, along with training, technical assistance, and resource support. Conduct a community-driven needs assessment to identify priorities specific to each homestead. This project supports long-term food security, economic self-sufficiency, and will serve as a replicable model for other homestead communities.

3. Strategize and Initiate Subdivision/Commencement Date with County of Hawai'i

Initiate an inclusive process with Waimea Nui homesteaders for subdivision/commencement date for Pu'ukapu pastoral lots to allow for permitting of structures, assignment of Tax Map Keys (TMKs), and commence seven-year property tax grace period. Understand implications of commencement on homesteaders as well as the county's and DHHL's definition of commencement.

4. Equitable and Sustainable Water Access

Provide an affordable and adequate supply of potable and non-potable water for homestead use, farming, ranching, and fire response/prevention across Waimea Nui. Provide more immediate water options like fill stations, standpipes, and water hauling, especially to Honokaia and other areas without access to water, and address water pressure issues on DHHL systems to ensure equal distribution across homesteads. Develop a sustainable, equitable water system; analyzing water rates and usage; negotiating water agreements; and clarifying water sourcing and usage rights. This project also seeks to address the need for interim in-stream flow standards in and resolving the issue of utility companies who have existing infrastructure on HHL that do not serve the homesteads or provide benefit to the HHL Trust.

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5. Establish a Waimea Nui Advisory Committee

Create a community-led committee to independently monitor, advise on, and ensure transparency, performance, and accountability of DHHL activities and priority projects in Waimea Nui. The advisory committee will prepare testimony and participate in monthly commission meetings, beneficiary consultations, and provide oversight of DHHL and Commission actions and project implementation. Develop initiatives that encourage open-door policies, regular DHHL staff and Commissioner participation at community meetings, and explore methods for beneficiaries to provide feedback on policies, processes, and staff performance.

6. Homestead Safety and Security Improvement Program

Enhance road safety by installing speed tables, security gates, and street cameras, as well as improved and appropriate signage to control traffic and reduce unauthorized access. Signage should also mark homestead boundaries clearly while avoiding redundancy to prevent visual clutter. Improve road infrastructure throughout Waimea Nui by using high-quality, safe materials, and provide the homestead with a dedicated budget for ongoing road maintenance and necessary improvements. Improve communication systems and the clear identification of lots to support effective emergency response. Implement risk mitigation strategies to address issues such as loose dogs, loose livestock, squatters, and trespassers. Take proactive measures to prevent and respond to fires, including both arson and wildfires, and modify existing fire tanks to improve wildfire response capacity. Increase enforcement and compliance efforts to enhance overall safety. Develop an evacuation route/plan for the homestead.

7. Homestead Community Benefits Program

Establish a revenue-sharing model to ensure that beneficiaries receive direct economic benefits from energy generation projects on homestead lands. This project includes conducting an audit of existing infrastructure in Waimea Nui in order to determine fair market compensation.