

**Northwest Hawaii Island Community Wildfire Protection Plan  
2016 Community Input and Action Plan Update**

There are currently five CWPPs for Hawaii Island including: Volcano, Ka’u, Ocean View, South Kona and NW Hawaii Island. Although there is no requirement to update the CWPPs, HWMO felt an update would be an important tool to spark community organizing activities and action. In addition, the community input and action projects needed to be updated. Fire hazard is predicted to increase with high vegetation and continued drought. We have decided that now is an important window of opportunity to update the plans and learn from, inspire, and support communities to reduce their hazard and increase their protective/preventative efforts.

From March 2015 to February 2016, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization coordinated and held six meetings across the Northwest Hawaii Island Planning area to update the community input and action plan for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Hawaii Fire Department, County of Hawaii Civil Defense, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife participated in these meetings.

In addition to this update input and action plan information, the boundaries of the plan were expanded to include the entirety of the North and South Kohala districts, as well as the area that comprise Pohakuloa Training Area, which is a slight expansion, but allows the CWPP-covered area to be more complete and representative of the projects and wildland-urban interface in the region. Future full-narrative updates will use the updated and improved boundaries as well.

<b>Community Input and Action Plan Waikoloa Area</b>		
<b>Community Concerns</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Estimated Costs &amp; Project Lead</b>
Dedicated secondary/emergency egress is needed; Lack of ingress/egress (current backup road heads west).	Pave and/or grate the emergency access road;  Inform state/county/regs that more money and better legislation are needed;  Install more roads, improve shoulders on Waikoloa Rd, and improve road construction for evacuation and firefighting in the Waikoloa area;	\$60K grating per year, \$4M paving. WVA + County  Time costs. WVA + community volunteers  Costs TBD, WVA + County + State

	Develop and distribute more maps of emergency evacuation routes for residents.	\$10K mapping, \$4K printing WVA or HWMO
Controlling fuels/vegetation	Develop more firebreaks around perimeter of Waikoloa neighborhoods, in unmanaged areas within the Village, throughout the adjacent wildland areas, and to protect nearby sensitive natural resource areas like the Wiliwili Forest;	\$400K-\$2M, WVA, Private ranchers, HWMO, Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative
	Develop firebreak and firefighting access on NW perimeters of Village;	\$200K, WVA, HWMO, Private ranchers/lessees
	Support financial and logistical assistance programs that assist residents with control of fuels within village boundaries;	\$8-10k per chipper/dumpster day, WVA, HWMO, County
	Support more cattle ranching (esp. mauka), to include installing the necessary infrastructure for water and fencing for animals to graze fire fuels;	\$50K-\$2M, WVA, Ranchers
	Enforce brush abatement codes;	Costs TBD (internal to HFD, County needs greater personnel capacity and funding to enforce
	Increase awareness of native, drought tolerant plants through education, workshops, and programs to grow and distribute Firewise and native plants.	\$50k/year; Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative, HWMO
	Enforce unmaintained vegetation on private property and developer lands	\$100k, WVA
Vegetation management in gulches and	Install fencing for pulse grazing by managed sheep or goats for fuels management in gulches and internal unmanaged areas of Waikoloa Village;	\$100K- 350K, WVA or private landowners

unmanaged vegetated areas	Limb, trim, remove, and maintain kiawe trees throughout and around the village as necessary for improved mitigation and risk reduction.	\$75K- \$300K yearly, WVA or HWMO
Wildfire conditions are increasing but public awareness is not yet high enough	Develop neighborhood action items and programs to educate and assist with risk reduction;	\$50K-\$100K/year, WVA or HWMO
	Put up fire safety, ignition prevention, and extreme fire danger signs.	\$50K-\$100K, WVA or HWMO
Firefighters are overwhelmed and under-resourced during big wildfires. We need to improve access to water and more water for firefighting	Gain permits as needed and install standpipes for truck refill and temporary firefighting water ponds as well as diptanks for helicopter-based firefighting strategically in and around Waikoloa Village and surrounding wildland environments;	\$400K- \$4M, WVA, County, HWMO, WDFI
	Develop staging areas near stand pipes and water resources to aid in firefighting operations.	\$100-400K, County, WVA, Lessees
	Increase CERT team roles and training in and around Waikoloa and nearby areas	\$200k for training and travel; County, WVA, HWMO
Need to prepare for wildfire response that is smooth including evacuation awareness/education	Model and hold drills of emergency scenarios with all agencies and CERT groups	\$50K-\$150K, WVA, County, HWMO
	Install evacuation signage and maps	\$40K, WVA, HWMO, County
Illegal trash/debris burning	Increase awareness (renters, newcomers); signs and flyers at shopping center; include handout in welcome to community packet (The Greens, condos)	\$20K, WVA and/or HWMO
Communication about wildfire preparation	Increase HWMO's ability to be present in the area, support part of staff time to dedicate to this area's	\$30k/year, HWMO

between responders/communities (residents)	awareness and education, and Firewise leadership; Increase youth education (Kaleo the Pueo)	\$25k/year, HWMO
Personal property owners dumping their green waste in fire break and yards	Implement fines; share in cost of container for private green waste disposal days	\$150k/year, WVA
Need to improve water availability for firefighting	Install system of water reservoirs and diptanks	\$150k per diptank, \$3-7M for full network in North Kohala
	Install standpipes in strategic locations for firefighting use	Costs TBD, County, State

<b>Community Input and Action Plan</b> <b>Coastal North and South Kohala (Puako, Waialea, Hapuna, Mauna Kea, Kawaihae area, Kohala Waterfront)</b>		
<b>Community Concerns</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Estimated costs &amp; Project Lead</b>
Dry fire prone vegetation isn't managed to reduce fire risk	Work within community associations to identify residents and owners to issue a citation or send out letters;	\$5-\$20k per community/year, community associations
	Develop and/or support community programs and workdays for fuels management and reduction of fire prone vegetation;	\$60k region-wide community program coordinator/year, \$10-15K per workday, all communities, HWMO
	Hold residential/neighborhood green waste removal and chipper days;	\$10-\$15k per greenwaste or chipper day, community associations, HWMO

	<p>Manage fuels on Waialea Bay backtrail and Puako fuelbreaks</p> <p>Develop hazard assessments and specific plans for each residential community;</p>	<p>\$150k/year; Waialea/Puako community associations</p> <p>\$10k per assessment, community associations, HWMO</p>
<p>Specific input to Puako: Cannot clear vegetation next to Puako church - rubbish and trees - trail is broken but neighbors don't want to see people walking by on trail. There is a misperception of mulch on Puako firebreak being a fire hazard</p>	<p>Define what counts as a match for Firewise grant; seek donations for monthly veg. clean up days; work with Puako Property managers; education and facilitation of better collaborations is needed</p>	<p>Part of \$60K for regional coordinator or \$20k for community association to implement</p> <p>Same as above</p>
<p>Illegal campfires</p>	<p>Install signs, work to increase access for HPD/HFD.</p>	<p>Signage per trouble spot, \$8-15K, community associations</p>
<p>Fuels bordering communities</p>	<p>Contract vegetation reduction along perimeters</p> <p>Develop and implement longer term strategy, such as grazing corridors or re-planting of less fire-rone plants</p>	<p>Costs TBD, based on contractor estimates, led by community associations, HWMO, fire partners</p>
<p>Fuels management along highway</p>	<p>Work with DOT to understand what is already covered and how often, fill in gaps</p>	<p>Costs TBD, community associations, HWMO</p>
<p>Community Development Plan includes fire breaks that are not yet installed</p>	<p>Review and install</p>	<p>Costs TBD, County, Community associations, HWMO</p>
<p>Many fires start right on road. Lots of fountain grass and accidental ignitions.</p>	<p>Install signage on roads and beaches</p> <p>Arson reporting program and signs</p>	<p>\$15k, community associations, county, DOFAW, State Parks, HWMO</p> <p>\$100k, HFD, HPD, Community Associations,</p>

	Fuels management along roadways;	HWMO
Not all house numbers are visible from street - firefighter access	Remind people to make house numbers visible, hire painting or address installation service as needed per community	Costs TBD, Community associations
Hazardous fuels around Puako boat ramp (high traffic area)	Needs attention; need to contact state or county to find ownership; install signs and manage fuels	Costs TBD, based on contractor estimates; Lead TBD based on ownership/jurisdiction
Lack of community awareness and preparedness	Support Firewise program to help communities through Firewise process; Door to door outreach with printed materials	\$75K per year for Firewise coordinators and projects, HWMO \$5k/year printed materials and volunteer support, community associations

<b>Community Input and Action Plan Waimea, North Kohala, and Mauka Areas</b>		
<b>Community Concerns</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Estimated costs &amp; Project Lead</b>
Cultural sites are highly impacted by wildfires	Protocol for mitigation/fuels reduction in a culturally sensitive way; map out sites ahead of time to help during suppression	\$10-25K, (Kohala Lihikai NGO to contact and work with)
Sensitive cultural features present firefighting challenge - cannot access rock walls, burial sites, not enough info only can take defensive posture	Work with OHA, state archaeologists. Need maps, protocols, pre-fire plans (don't bulldoze here, where is water, etc.)	\$20-40K project coordination, \$100K pre-fire plan each for 3 regions, HWMO, Kohala Lihikai, NPS, Ala Kahakai
Residents not prepared to take care of homes & yards	Education and outreach via HWMO and Firewise program	Costs TBD, support community program coordinator and programs, HWMO, Community associations, DOFAW
Need signs on road (high fire danger)	Get permission from state; put up signs at	\$10-15K; HWMO, DOT, State Highways

	Queen K hwy and upper road (Mamalahoa)	Division, Community Associations
Address signs standards should be implemented	Define address standards law? Ordinance?	Cost TBD, County, HWMO, Community Associations
Carelessness, unattended, unauthorized burning, cooking fires	Education; provide ordinance info to violators	Costs TBD, County, DOFAW, HWMO
Unexploded ordnance (indicate which areas are cleared)	Need updated maps, distribute or make available to public	Cost TBD, Lead TBD
Need water for firefighting	Install system of water reservoirs and diptanks along FD-defined elevation line to improve water for firefighting  Install standpipes in strategic locations for firefighting use	\$150k per diptank, \$3-7M for full network in North Kohala  Costs TBD, County, State

Because of the non-regulatory nature of the CWPP, the relevance and effectiveness of the CWPP updated action plan will rely heavily upon community initiative and involvement. Expertise, technical support, and implementation assistance can be provided by the appropriate agencies and organizations involved in fire issues in the NW Hawaii Island area, and area residents are urged to contribute their time and effort to implement the actions they self-identified in the CWPP update meetings.

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, in cooperation with the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group, will provide technical support, identify and coordinate funding when possible, and serve as a centralized resource for wildfire risk reduction information. Together, representatives will work within their scope and jurisdictions to assist in prioritizing and recommending funding for projects, documenting the successes and lessons learned from those projects, and evaluating and updating the CWPP as needed.

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization will continue to raise funds and aim to provide outreach and educational programs to youth and adults through school programs, community events, homeowners/community association programs, and workshops in the coming year to kickstart additional community involvement in implementing the actions identified in this plan.

Many of the CWPP action items will require new financial and time support for wildfire risk mitigation projects. This will involve actively pursuing funding for projects, staying informed and in contact with one another, and updating the CWPP regularly so that it remains a “living” document. Continuing to build community awareness of these issues and actions will assist with fostering individual and community investment in projects.