

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS
Lānaʻi Community Listening Session
Saturday, November 16, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Lānaʻi Filipino Clubhouse

11:00AM Opening Pule and Oli

11:05AM Introductions & Meeting Logistics (Facilitator - Dawn Chang)

- Mahalo
- Confirm ok to film and take notes
- Housekeeping: Sign-in, bathroom, feel free to take food /drinks throughout

11:10AM Welcoming Remarks (DLNR Chair Dawn Chang and First Deputy Ryan Kanakaʻole)

11:15AM DLNR Division's Brief Sharing

- **Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) – John Medeiros, Maui DOFAW Wildlife Manager**
 - Within each branch, DOFAW staff are organized into programs that include Forestry and Forest Health, Nā Ala Hele Trails & Access, Native Ecosystems Protection & Management, and Wildlife, which includes recreational hunting. DOFAW has a 30,000-acre lease with Pulama Lānaʻi to manage a hunting program on the island, referred to as the Lānaʻi Cooperative Game Management Area.
 - Specific to Lānaʻi, working on:
 - Trails and access, including fishermen's trail;
 - Fire pre-suppression and suppression, especially in Cooperative Game Management Area (CGMA);
 - Recently put satellite collars on deer and mouflons to get a better idea of how these animals move during hunting season and habitat conditions. Please return collars if you come across them.
- **Land Division (LAND) – Daniel Ornellas, Maui District Land Agent**
 - The Land Division is responsible for managing State-owned lands in ways that will promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of Hawaiʻi's people and for ensuring that these lands are used in accordance with the goals, policies and plans of the State. Lands that are not set aside for use by other government agencies come within the direct purview of the division. These lands are made available to the public through leases, licenses, grants of easement, rights-of-entry, month-to-month tenancies or kept as open space area.
 - Land Division is responsible for the processing of request for use of unencumbered government lands. Disposition opportunities include general leases, easements, revocable permits, or rights-of-entry.
 - Contact the DLNR Maui District Land Office (808) 984-8103 for the disposition and use of government lands on Lānaʻi.
- **State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) – Jessica Puff, Administrator**
 - SHPD is comprised of three branches, Architecture, Archaeology, and History & Culture, and together they collectively strive to preserve and protect Hawaiʻi's historic identity. In Hawaiʻi, looking back is an integral part of going forward. SHPD is a part of ensuring that Hawaiʻi's treasured past is here for future generations to appreciate and learn from.
 - Historic homes listed in the state register qualify for benefits, including:
 - Property tax exemption;

- Procured a contractor for tree trimming and landscaping;
 - Repaired over 66 irrigation leaks, 9 minor leaks and five major water main breaks.
- Proposed Work Includes:
 - The breakwater is projected for repair by the Army Corps in 2025. We hope to include repairs needed to the harbor groin fronting Expeditions, as well as the two finger piers; if approved
 - Clearing of the silt basin by Pulama Lāna‘i and possible dredging once completed.
 - Replacement of the roadway lighting pole heads.
- ***Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) – Lieutenant Michael Coelho, Lāna‘i Supervisor***
 - The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) effectively upholds the laws that serve to protect, conserve, and manage Hawai‘i’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawai‘i nei.
 - On Lāna‘i, most of this Division’s efforts revolve around hunting, fishing boating and the Marine Life Conservation District.
- ***Communications – Patti Jette, Communications Specialist***
 - The Communications Team disseminates information about DLNR’s programs, accomplishments, goals, and the Department’s mandate to protect the special natural and cultural heritage of Hawai‘i, including responses to inquiries directed to dlnr@hawai‘i.gov.
- ***Bureau of Conveyances – N/A***

12:00PM Community Listening & Questions

- ***Concerns Related to Mānele Small Boat Harbor*** -- various concerns related to the Small Boat Harbor were raised, ranging from its traffic flow to its structural integrity. Suggestions were also offered to address various concerns.
 - ***Road Markings*** -- to more clearly alert drivers of the one way traffic pattern are needed. A suggestion to alter the one way loop to alleviate traffic in the Expeditions Passenger Ferry area was made. Funneling everyone to the parking lot and downstairs would alleviate 1/3 of the traffic and reduce the risk of a collision, especially in the area behind the trailer boat storage.
 - DOBOR: A solicitation is out for bid and work can be executed once a bid is approved.
 - Ongoing challenges with bringing in heavy equipment needed to perform jobs on the island.
 - More immediate actions identified:
 - Maps -- to post on boats to help travelers as they exit the boat.
 - The maps could also be posted to DLNR’s website, social media, and bulletin boards to spread awareness.
 - Signs are posted, but are often ignored. Need the community’s help to encourage people to be responsible drivers when at the harbor.

- DOBOR will be looking at managing parking. Improving the parking situation will impact how traffic enters and exits the parking lot.
- **Structural Integrity** -- comments were sought on the structural integrity of the Small Boat Harbor due to water leaks. There was concern that the community was not informed of any structural integrity concerns at the Small Boat Harbor. Others voiced disappointment that Meghan and Paul were not in attendance and did not brief others to provide answers to questions and concerns related to the structural integrity of the boat harbor that were previously brought to her attention.
 - DOBOR: As a result of the pipeline being improperly laid, there have been 5 water breaks.
 - Inadequate amount of sand under the pipes is causing a hammering effect on the pipeline, leading to ruptures.
 - A significant amount of potable water was lost from the water source.
 - Structural integrity affected in multiple ways:
 - Sea level rise has affected the lower road causing the open gate valve to be 3 feet underwater.
 - Water is also seeping into the groin at the harbor basin wall.
 - During king tides and full moon, docks 1 and 2 are impacted:
 - Dock 1 under water to ankle level;
 - Dock 2 to water level.
 - Utilities will likely have to be brought above ground for protection at some point.
 - DLNR Chair: Meghan and Tim provided the following responses:
 - There are no CIP funds to make the necessary repairs, estimated at \$2M, and it is not in this year's CIP budget at this time.
 - DOBOR has over \$300M in deferred maintenance.
 - DOBOR will work with Senator Lynn DeCoite and Representative Mahina Poepoe to look for funds.
 - The middle section, which is the most vulnerable, will remain closed until repairs can be made.
 - A press release was issued on 11/6/24, announcing the harbor was reopened as of 10/30/24 although the mid section of road remains closed.
 - The concerns raised require expert evaluation. DLNR will discuss further with a structural engineer.
 - The Department is in the middle of budget preparations and is not sure if any maintenance costs can be added at this time.
- **Community Suggestions to Fund Repairs** -- several suggestions were made as a way to fund repairs to the small boat harbor, including suing the contractor who improperly installed the water line or tapping into Federal Transit Administration funding tied to ferries.
 - DLNR First Deputy: Statute of limitations for this type of construction is typically 6 years from the time of discovery of defect. We will look further into both suggestions.
- **Harbor Range Lights** -- given the Mānele Small Boat Harbor is a tight harbor with low visibility to get into, community members inquired if the Department would be open to

installing harbor range lights that would be managed by the federal government. The existing channel markers managed by the State break away and harbor range lights would provide an additional safety resource.

- DLNR Chair: DLNR works with the Coast Guard on several DOBOR related projects and will follow up on the potential of installing harbor range lights.
- **Community Input** -- concerns were raised that community input was not sought regarding the changes to traffic flow at the small boat harbor. The community would like to reactivate the Mānele Harbor Advisory Committee made up of a cross section of folks who use the harbor, including commercial operators, Pūlama Lānaʻi, and trailer boat owners.

Additional Community Concerns & Feedback

- **DLNR Contact List** -- a handout with emails and heads of each department was requested
 - SHPD: Staff names, email, and phone numbers can be found on the [DLNR website](#).
- **Needed Equipment** -- a grader is needed for road repairs, fire mitigation and suppression, and control of invasive plants in the area of DLNR's hunting lands. Lānaʻi is the only island without a dozer. Suggestion was made to make a formal request to Senator DeCoite and Representative Poepoe to secure funds as a means of fire suppression.
 - DOFAW: No plans to purchase a grader at this time. Current contract with Pūlama Lānaʻi for DLNR equipment operator to use rented equipment.
- **Communication** -- question was raised regarding the feedback loop and how the community can expect to hear back from DLNR on a timeline to allow the community to respond with recommendations and comments. DLNR's website and press releases are not ideal for this community. Suggestions were made to add meeting attendees to DLNR's distribution list, link to [Lānaʻi 96763](#) and [Lānaʻi Today](#), and use DOBOR's emergency alert texting platform to provide the community with updates.
 - DLNR Chair: Several platforms currently being used to disseminate information, including:
 - Updates through Joelle Aoki;
 - Press releases distributed to media;
 - [DLNR website](#);
 - DLNR's consolidated website, [Explore Outdoor Hawaiʻi](#);
 - DLNR's daily newsletter.
 - DLNR will check to see if DOBOR's text alerts are for emergency use only or if this can be another method of alerting community members to website updates.
 - Open to sharing to Lānaʻi's points of contact and linking to Lānaʻi 96763 and Lānaʻi Today.
 - Will do our best to communicate more effectively and more often and follow up on recommendations made.
 - Communications added that news releases are also posted to social media, including [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- **Additional Staff** -- more DOCARE officers are needed. Currently only four on Lānaʻi and most resources are deployed to enforce hunting regulations, leaving little resources to support Lānaʻi's

CBSFA and ocean resources. The Academy is a valuable program; two island residents are graduating from the Academy and the community wants to ensure the Academy gets the necessary funding to continue.

- DLNR Chair: The greatest difficulty is the lack of facilities. DLNR is working on a permanent site for DOCARE.
 - Makai watch is an integral part of the community. We've had pilot funding through Hawai'i Community Foundation to support that and efforts are being made to institutionalize that within the Department.
 - The island will get at least two officers, including one from the new group.
 - DLNR is working to provide officers with vehicles and equipment.
- **Budget Development** -- a question was raised regarding the process of developing budgets for the various Department divisions and how residents might provide input and advocate for the small boat harbor.
 - DLNR Chair: Budget development is left to the individual divisions who would assess risks and prioritize needs. Budgets are not specific to each island.
 - Given the condition of Mānele Small Boat Harbor compared to others across the state, Lāna'i is not a priority.
 - Advocates can share their concerns with Joelle Aoki, who will raise up to Meghan Statts.
 - DLNR will communicate specific legislation, bills, or areas of impact to Lāna'i residents to garner support.
 - The Department urged community members to pursue board and commission opportunities as a way to represent the community in a decision making role.
- **Procurement Solicitations** -- a community member asked if budgets are set at the time a solicitation is released. The inquiry was specifically related to groundings and a job that was performed, but for which payment is still outstanding.
 - DLNR Chair: Budgets are set at the time a solicitation is released. However, there is a delay between the time the estimates are made and the funds are appropriated and actually released.
 - Groundings are funded in a special manner.
 - DLNR will follow up with the salvage master who has not been compensated for work done.
- **Jet Ski Ban** -- there was an interest to learn why jet skis are banned on Lāna'i.
 - DLNR Chair: Jet skis cannot be operated outside an Ocean Recreation Management Area (ORMA). The Department will follow up with DOBOR to see if there are plans to establish ORMA on Lāna'i.