

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS
Central O‘ahu Community Listening Session
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 5p.m. – 8p.m
Ke‘ehi Lagoon Memorial State Park, Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Hall

5:00PM Opening Pule and Oli

5:05PM Introductions & Meeting Logistics (Facilitator - Ku‘ulani Keohokalole)

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

5:10PM Welcoming Remarks (DLNR Chair Dawn Chang)

5:15PM DLNR Division’s Brief Sharing

- ***Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) – David Buckley, Marigold Zoll***
 - 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.
- ***Division of State Parks – Curt Cottrell, Alan Carpenter***
 - The Hawai‘i State Park System is composed of 50 parks encompassing approximately 30,000 acres on five major islands. These parks offer a variety of outdoor recreation and heritage opportunities. The park environments range from landscaped grounds with developed facilities to wildland areas with trails and primitive facilities.
- ***Land Division – Kevin Moore, Barry Cheung & Luke Sarvis***
 - The Land Division is responsible for managing State-owned lands in ways that will promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of Hawai‘i’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.
- ***State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) – Alan Downer***
 - SHPD is comprised of three branches, Architecture, Archaeology, and History & Culture, and together they collectively strive to preserve and protect Hawai‘i’s historic identity. In Hawai‘i, looking back is an integral part of going forward. SHPD is a part of ensuring that Hawai‘i’s treasured past is here for future generations to appreciate and learn from.
- ***Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) – Michael Cain***
 - OCCL is the primary regulatory agency for land uses in the State Land Use Conservation District. Our main duties include reviewing applications for land uses and making recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and in developing enforcement cases against alleged violations of Conservation District Rules.
 - The majority of our work in recent years, both on the permitting and on the enforcement side, relates to the impacts of coastal erosion. We’ve worked on permits for sand nourishment, on

coastal restoration work, and with the Department of Transportation on projects to protect the roads and highways. We've also worked with practitioners on loko i'a restoration permits. Enforcement activities have been primarily focuses on unauthorized shoreline construction and on maintaining lateral access on the shorelines.

- ***Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) – Ryan Imata, Neil Fujii***
 - The Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) administers the State Water Code, which was created by the 1987 Hawai'i State Legislature. The Commission's mission is to protect and manage the waters of the State of Hawai'i for present and future generations.
 - There are a total of seven members on the Commission. Two are ex-officio (by virtue of office) members and five are appointed by the Governor from lists submitted by a nominating committee, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- ***Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) – Brian Neilson, Kimberly Fuller***
 - The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources is to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.
- ***Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) – Ed Underwood, Meghan Statts & Bruce Schwartz***
 - The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) manages all of the State's small boat harbors and ramps, the boating safety program, the vessel registration and titling program as well as overseeing the recreational and commercial ocean water activities and conflicts from the high water mark out 3 miles which are all just a part of our 13 mandates required by law. Our mission is to preserve Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources while ensuring public access to State Ocean waters and enhancing the ocean experience.
- ***Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) – Chief Jason Redulla, Branch Chief John Silberstein***
 - 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.
- ***Engineering Division – Carty Chang***
 - Engineering Division provides engineering services and technical assistance to other departmental divisions and State agencies to implement capital improvement or repair and maintenance projects and administer programs for water and land development, mineral resources development, and prevention of natural disasters (i.e., administering the Dam Safety and National Flood Insurance Programs).
- ***Communications – Ryan Aguilar***
 - 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.
- ***Bureau of Conveyances – Les Kobata***
 - Provide O'ahu residents and businesses online access to all recorded documents back to 1976 for research and downloading for a fee.

6:00PM Community Listening & Questions

- ***Fishing and Commercial Gathering Concerns*** -- addressing the decline in uhu (parrotfish) and kala (unicorn fish) populations, particularly on O‘ahu, as a result of illegal gathering in unregulated areas. A suggestion was made if an administrative rule could be established to prohibit uhu spearfishing at night or limit commercial spearfishing at night. This could be communicated through education and is backed by scientific research, and enforceable.
 - DLNR encourages individuals to attend the Land Board meetings to share testimonies regarding this issue.
- ***Makapu‘u Lighthouse Landscaping and Parking*** -- concerns were raised about the Native Hawaiian plants that were planted and not properly maintained, lack of parking which leaves people crossing unsafely, and a need to address the amount of litter and trash in the area.
 - State Parks agrees that human waste is a large issue at Makapu‘u. At its creation, the parking lot was intended to be larger. However, when conducting community engagement, many shared they did not want a large parking lot. DLNR is looking into the water systems to address plant landscape maintenance.
- ***Ke‘ehi Boat Launch Area*** -- concerns raised regarding the efficiency of the shorter boat launch and whether an artificial reef can be built to maintain fish populations and increase fish stocks. A question was also raised regarding fishing in Ke‘ehi Lagoon.
 - DAR is interested in stock enhancement and replenishment and have sent funding Bills to the legislature to provide funding for DAR to grow out fish stocks and hope that continued resources will allow DAR to sustain a fishstock program as it requires a substantial amount of funding.
- ***Concerns at Kuli‘ou‘ou*** -- regarding large amounts of seaweed that were removed with no EIA that impacted the bonefish and invertebrates in the mudflats and commercial divers and fisherman gathering and wandering in the mudflats and waters of Kuli‘ou‘ou.
 - DAR acknowledged that the mudweeds in Maunalua are an issue as they outcompete the native seagrass. DLNR is working to bring back the native limu and seagrass.
- ***Lineal Descendant Land Stewardship*** -- whether kanaka maoli and lineal descendants will have the opportunity to manage, practice, and steward ‘āina and attain leadership positions in DLNR.
 - DLNR Chair highlighted Hā‘ena State Park and Miloli‘i as places where many of the stewards who manage the areas are lineal descendants of the place. DLNR is committed to working more closely with community to similarly steward land and water resources in other areas.
 - State Parks highlighted the Kealahou Master Plan as an example where lineal descendants played a large role to inform the cultural and historical value of the Bay.
 - The current DLNR Chair, 1st Deputy, and Deputy Director are Native Hawaiian.
 - Aha Moku are an integral part of DLNR and how the preservation and protection of cultural and natural resources is ensured.
- ***Protection of Cultural and Historical Sites*** -- clarifying DLNR’s role to stop projects in order to protect cultural and historical sites in Hawai‘i.
 - DLNR recognizes that counties are the decision makers when it comes to deciding whether a project is approved or not. DLNR is a regulatory agency and does not propose projects and are governed by laws, constitutions, statutes and administrative rules.
- ***Ala Wai Boat Harbor Concerns*** -- including signage improvements for towing or citing cars as well as improvements for the parking lot, construction, sediment and erosion. Additionally a

question was raised on having part of the Boat Harbor be a State Park, addressing live-aboard permitting, and adding a lock to the harbor gate and restrooms.

- State Parks has made progress in regards to managing cars in the parking lot however there is a lot of additional work to be done as there are limited spaces.
- DOCARE has never lost authority to issue citations. Certain areas of the parking lot are under a private contract by DOBOR to manage, DOCARE can also issue citations in this area as necessary.
- DLNR stopped issuing live-aboard permits 4 years ago as part of a policy decision. DLNR does not have plans to issue permits in the future.
- Regarding locking of gates, DLNR continually goes to the harbor to put locks on the gate. People are filling locks with epoxy and cutting fences to open the gate.
- In regards to the restrooms, DLNR is working to create a card reader system for restroom facilities. DLNR works with DOCARE special duty officers Friday through Saturday night and the weekends.
- ***Beach Erosion and Climate Change Concerns*** -- concerns to educate the next generation on climate change issues specifically in Waikīki, Ala Wai and other areas across Hawai‘i.
 - OCCL has given multiple presentations regarding climate change and protecting beaches from erosion. OCCL will continue to follow their mission to protect resources. The University of Hawai‘i and City and County of Honolulu are focusing on sustainability and erosion mitigation in Waikīki.
- ***Ocean Era Corporation Concerns*** -- concerns regarding Ocean Era project in Ewa Beach and questions on the current status of the project. Others voiced a concern that this project may have negative impacts, similar to Kona.
 - OCCL noted that Ocean Era has conducted some community outreach, however, they have not submitted any application which is required to be submitted to both DOT and DLNR.

Additional Community Concerns & Feedback

- ***New Game Wardens*** -- an appreciation for the new game wardens to remove illegally laid fishing nets.
- ***Paikō Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary*** -- regarding the milo trees that were removed yet invasive species were left in the lagoon.
- ***Appreciative of Current DLNR Leadership*** -- for the administration acknowledging the Aha Moku and lineal descendents and connections to ancestral knowledge. Kanaka maoli are genuinely involved in the stewardship of land, bringing their voices forward and continually working in ‘āina restoration.
- ***Land Stewardship*** -- land ownership of a place in the western sense does not equate ownership in a Hawaiian sense. The ongoing care for a place is an ongoing responsibility and requires an ownership of that kuleana. There is no need for a paper lease to say that you own land, it can be proven from a person’s actions.

7:45PM Closing

- Closing Words from Chair Dawn Chang
- DLNR’s Commitments from Deputy Laura Ka‘akua:
 - Send follow-up meeting notes to legible emails on sign in sheet
 - Post meeting notes and Q&A summary on website

- As needed follow-up with on-island staff (and if needed DLNR leadership)

8:00PM Meeting PAU