

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS  
**Windward O‘ahu Community Listening Session**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 5p.m. – 8p.m**  
**Windward Community College**

**5:00PM Opening Pule and Oli**

**5:05PM Introductions & Meeting Logistics (Facilitator - Herb Lee)**

- 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) – Deputy Director Kaleo Manuel, Dean Uyeno, Dr. Ayron Strauch***
  - 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 and 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

- ***Dam Maintenance and Inquiry on Earthen Dams*** -- including process considerations to properly maintain dams and avoid flooding. A question was posed on the number of earthen dams on O‘ahu.
  - Engineering has authority to inspect and enforce if dams are not in compliance with current standards. The division conducts inspections every two years. It is the dam owners’ responsibility to maintain their dam and ensure they are up to the current standards. If the owner would like to fix a dam they must ensure compliance and apply for approval to fix, alter, or build on the existing dam.
- ***Lease Inquiries and Military Lease Timelines*** -- questions regarding DLNR generated revenue for leases, military leases and the current timeline for lease renewals with the upcoming 2029 lease. Others asked if research has been done to compare Hawai‘i’s dollar leases with other states’ leases.
  - DLNR received \$17 million for the past fiscal year, which includes funds from military leases. However, not all of the revenue generated by the Department is available to support its various divisions, such as the 20% of ceded land revenue that goes to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. DLNR also noted that not all divisions have a mechanism in place to generate revenue. Some divisions receive support from the State or Federal government. Additionally, DLNR noted that despite their vast amount of responsibility, they receive 1% of the State’s revenue, which leads them to seek partnerships and co-stewardships. DLNR has not done any comparison with other states.
  - DLNR Chair stated that at the time immediately following statehood, the State was in a very different position regarding large leases, including leases to other government agencies such as the Department of Defense (DOD). At that time, DLNR could offer nominal consideration of \$1 for such leases. DLNR has the ability to issue 65 year leases. DLNR stated that the DOD is still going through their environmental process and have their leases until 2029. If the military would like to renew their leases or extend, they will have to go through a process of environmental review or conservation district use. DLNR has not received any request from the DOD to begin a regulatory process as of now.
- ***Streamflow Restoration at Kawainui*** -- questions regarding the larger watershed in Kawainui and whether there are opportunities to increase streamflow restoration and address the oxygen and water issues at Kawainui.
  - CWRM has looked at the natural flow through the levee system in Kaelepulu. As a regulated levee, restoring the flow is a CIP question. The Kawainui and Hāmākua Marshes are managed by DOFAW. Neither CWRM nor DOFAW had the funds necessary to rebuild the levee to restore the natural flow.
  - CWRM would love to partner with DOFAW on a larger project that enhances water quality and natural flow to that system and protects endangered waterbirds.
  - DOFAW had a preliminary siphon plan that was taken to the legislature, but were not able to garner the support of engineers who were skeptical about the plan.
  - Kaelepulu is a complicated ecosystem to balance with a lot to consider. DOFAW is happy to work with the community to address the resulting water quality concerns.
  - DOFAW noted that addressing tilapia and waterbird issues in the water are complicated. If water were to flow into wetlands and tilapia get in there then water birds may die since

they eat the bugs there. Many of the mangroves have been removed from the area as well as at Hāmākua which has really helped.

- ***He'eia Pier Parking*** -- whether parking be expanded at He'eia Pier without using the mauka side of the highway with the blind curve.
  - State Parks is working on expanding back as much as possible.
- ***He'eia State Park*** -- inquiring on the park hours, public use of the park and use of the banquet hall.
  - State Parks is unaware of the Park being closed during the day for private events. While the Banquet Hall can be rented for exclusive use, the Park should follow its regularly stated hours. Any closures outside of observed holidays violate lease terms.
  - State Parks management is unaware of any unusual park closures. State Parks recommends that people call the division when they experience similar situations at He'eia Park and the Division will investigate.
- ***Extending Public Park Hours*** -- whether public park hours be extended beyond the 8am-5pm for those who may want to utilize public parks after work.
  - State Parks notes that Parks are closed at certain times of day for safety. Some parks, such as Diamond Head, are open from 7:45 am to 7:45 pm. State Parks will circle back to understand why the park hours for He'eia are as they stand.
- ***Albizia Control*** -- controlling Albizia on O'ahu, specifically in Ha'ikū.
  - DOFAW stated that Albizia is an invasive species to Hawai'i and modifies watersheds. There is an [Albizia Plan](#), written by JC Watson, that identifies different control methods, including the use of herbicides or girdling. DOFAW is hoping that the watershed partnerships can discuss strategies to adopt for expansive Albizia control.
- ***Live Training Sites on O'ahu and Ordinances*** -- whether DLNR will take a stance in the future to address land used as live training sites in Hawai'i.
  - DLNR Chair shared that they are looking to the community to provide comments to BLNR regarding what is acceptable, especially with regards to ordinances.
  - DLNR recognizes they can do a better job of monitoring, especially tied to live ordinances, which can be included in lease conditions.
- ***Kāne'ohe Marine Corp Base Concerns*** -- whether DLNR is aware that the Kāne'ohe Bay Marine Corp Base is looking to expand their range of live firing, going towards the ocean.
  - DLNR Chair is not aware of receiving an environmental study to expand the Marine's firing range and will follow up with the DOD.
  - DLNR has requested that DOD branches hold informational briefings to the Land Board. Please share all concerns with the DLNR Chair.
- ***Endangered Species Act*** -- whether DLNR has looked into [House Concurrent Resolution No.69, H.D.1, S.D.1](#) to submit a petition to list the endemic pueo, also known as the Hawaiian short-eared owl, as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.
  - DOFAW is aware of the petition to add the pueo to the federally endangered list. If the pueo is added to the federal listing, DOFAW would subsequently add it to the State list. DOFAW will follow up on the current status of the petition.
- ***Little Fire Ant Information and Communication*** -- whether messaging, guidance, or signage can be shared by DLNR communications for the public to mitigate or eradicate little fire ants in their community.

- DOFAW will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) the O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee, and the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to establish clear guidelines and materials, similar to those created to address the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.
- ***Securing Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor*** -- if gates can be added to the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor to address the theft and boat sinkings.
  - DOBOR will coordinate a meeting with this community and DLNR Chair to address these longstanding concerns.
- ***Cross Division Collaboration and Ahupua‘a Mindset*** -- questions on current collaboration and cross-division coordination efforts across DLNR divisions to address various issues. A question was asked whether listening sessions will be held on Maui.
  - DLNR divisions meet regularly, especially when issues affect multiple agencies.
  - Please share your questions with the DLNR Chair. Questions will then be sent to the corresponding division for follow up.
  - DLNR is trying to enable and work with communities and recognize they are not doing that effectively across Hawai‘i. DLNR is trying to make this a major component of their internal coordination. He‘eia Estuary is an example of a community driven initiative.
  - DLNR will be holding meetings on all islands.
- ***Addressing DLNR Staff Vacancies*** -- how the community can support DLNR to address their staff vacancy issues or help to push for increased funding for wages.
  - DLNR, internally, is working to change the minimum qualifications for DLNR employment to validate and hold more emphasis on ‘āina-based knowledge. DLNR is also working at building career pathways to keep existing staff engaged.
  - DLNR is working with the legislature to increase wages and determine how to permit those already in the system to move to higher levels of employment based on supervisory responsibilities.
  - DLNR also requests that people attend legislative sessions to publicly participate and support DLNR’s mission to preserve and protect as well as initiatives, such as DAR’s ocean stewardship fees, by providing testimony and making their voice heard.
  - Co-stewardship is another way the community can support DLNR’s efforts.
- ***Shifting Land Board Meeting Time*** -- whether meetings can be shifted to a later time to increase participation and increase opportunities for public input and informing the community about decisions made.
  - DLNR is unsure if they can change their meetings to a later time given the potential for these meetings to run long. DLNR made these community listening sessions at a later time for the convenience of the community.
  - DLNR is aware that many things brought to the Board by applicants are not publicly known. DLNR urges applicants to do community outreach before presenting to the Board.
  - To keep the community informed about decisions made during Board Meetings, DLNR urges applicants to arrive to Board meetings having completed a Ka Pa‘akai Analysis.
- ***Kāne‘ohe Bay Concerns*** -- addressing the noise issues at Kāne‘ohe Bay Sandbar as well as whether there will be compensation for the restoration work done to remove the plane that landed in Kāne‘ohe Bay.

- DOFAW noted that Kāneʻohe Bay is noted as an environmental sanctuary, however, there are no rules. DOFAW works with DOCARE on this issue but much of it is voluntary compliance as DOCARE cannot enforce without regulations in place. DOBOR and DOCARE are working on the Sandbar to address this issue and encourage pono practices.
- DOFAW in partnership with Kupu, Hawaiʻi Economic Development, and Hawaiʻi Tourism are hiring individuals who will help to encourage people to behave in a more responsible and respectful manner at the Sandbar. DAR is also implementing pono practices through education with children and protecting our ocean resources.
- DAR was able to remove the plane and their priority has been assessing the damage and providing emergency restoration to remediate the site and prevent further coral damage. 180 corals that were overturned to increase the chances for survival. DAR noted that the area where the plane landed was not a high energy environment which means there were not many corals.
- In the long term, DAR is looking to enforce action or compensation for the staff who were out there, but have not had any conversations with the Navy yet. DAR is currently gathering data regarding the damage and will have a conversation with the Navy. DAR will keep people informed through the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council.
- ***Responding to Community Input and Increasing Public Partnerships*** -- how DLNR can respond to community input prior to the public taking action and future plans to establish partnerships in restoration, awareness, or education.
  - DLNR acknowledges that government responses are not proactive. DLNR is taking this community listening session approach as a way to be proactive, respond to community questions, and work towards a culture supporting transparency.
  - More information on partnership opportunities can be found on DLNR's website.
  - DLNR Deputy shared that DLNR is creating roadmaps and pathways for community members interested in partnering to have an easy and clear process for collaboration. DOFAW can provide permits to clear trails as they do not have enough staff to go where those are needed and rely on community partnerships to engage in this work.

#### ***Additional Community Concerns & Feedback***

- ***State and Federal Government Involvement*** -- a request to bring Federal, County, and State government to table to discuss lessons learned and what government agencies can do in the future such as, including other government entities into the community listening sessions.
- ***Commending DLNR Support*** -- supporting stream water in Heʻeia and commending DOCARE over the past 20 years to protect cultural and natural resources, positive comments to see the Division with 20 officers and would like to see this further increased to 40.
- ***Ensure Public Park Access*** -- a hope that DLNR will advocate to upkeep public parks for the public and protect public access to parks. Although private users generate revenue, public access should be protected.
- ***Consult Public on Future Projects*** -- request for users to be consulted first if projects commence such as repairing piers at Hawaiʻi Kai or Keʻehi Lagoon to ensure projects meet the users needs and minimize future problems.
- ***Minimize Commercial Recreation*** -- an ask for DLNR to keep commercial recreation out of Kāneʻohe Bay.

- ***Notice of Future Community Listening Sessions*** -- as some were only informed about the listening session through the Senator's bulletin notice.
- ***Ocean Era*** -- concerns about Ocean Era in Ewa Beach.
- ***Shifting Time of DLNR Meetings*** -- whether DLNR Board meetings can alternate every other month where one is held in the daytime and the other in the evening.
- ***Live Fire Trainings*** -- importance for individuals to be trained in regard to live fire training although there should be no new sites opened for training.
- ***Hazardous Tree Removal*** -- a request to teach community members about the safe and cost-efficient removal of hazardous trees and if DLNR can provide funding or subsidies for the removals.

#### **7:45PM Closing**

- Closing Words from Chair Dawn Chang
- DLNR's Commitments from Deputy Laura Kaakua:
  - 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**