

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS
East Hawai'i Island Community Listening Session
Saturday, October 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
University of Hawai'i, Hilo

9:00AM Opening Pule and Oli

9:05AM Introductions & Meeting Logistics (Facilitator - Janice Ikeda)

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

9:10AM Welcoming Remarks (DLNR Chair Dawn Chang and First Deputy Ryan Kanaka'ole)

9:15AM DLNR Division's Brief Sharing

- ***Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) – David Smith***
 - 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 (LAND) – Gordon Heit***
 - 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) – Jessica Puff***
 - 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.

- OCCL is currently working on loko i‘a restoration permits. Enforcement activities have been primarily focused on unauthorized shoreline construction and on maintaining lateral access on the shorelines.
- Mauna Kea is part of OCCL’s conservation on Hawai‘i Island.
- ***Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) – Ciara Kahahane, Dean Uyeno***
 - 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.
 - CWRM is not looking at designating the Hilo side of the island for water management.
- ***Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) – Ryan Okano***
 - 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. DAR manages fishing locations, quantities, and gathering methods from the shoreline to three nautical miles. DAR also focuses on invasive species management and removal.
- ***Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) – Meghan Statts, Todd Tashima***
 - 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.
 - DOBOR small boat harbors on the east side of Hawai‘i Island include Wailoa Boat Harbor and Pohoiki.
- ***Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) – Chief Jason Redulla, Lawrence Terlep***
 - 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.
 - DOCARE on Hawai‘i Island is separated into three districts: East, North, and West Hawai‘i.
- ***Engineering Division – Gayson Ching***
 - 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 – Dan Dennison***
 - 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 – N/A***

10:00AM Community Listening & Questions

- ***Co-Stewardship Examples*** -- a request for DLNR divisions to share examples of co-stewardship working and opportunities for co-stewardship on Hawai'i Island.
 - State Parks shared that Hā'ena and Makena are good examples of places that were once heavily impacted by over tourism. Potential examples for Hawai'i Island include Kealahou.
 - OCCL's focus on loko i'a restoration and expediting processes for permits
 - DAR noted Community-based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFA) where communities identify rules around fishing practices. An example on Hawai'i Island is Miloli'i.
 - LAND facilitates the management of lands and ensures leases preserve and keep land in the best shape it can be.
 - DOBOR focuses on commercial activities and ensures the community has input on these activities.
 - The Deputy and Chair work on community-led practices to support the various divisions for projects including Lahaina Recovery, revegetation, cultural preservation, and collaboration with other state departments.
 - CWRM designates areas for water management and ensures that the Commission has the full records to make informed decisions, including evidence of cultural and Native Hawaiian practices, which CWRM relies on the community to present. Na Wai Eha is an example of community co-stewardship.
 - SHPD receives community input for federal review and compliance related to Section 106. Part of SHPD's job is to amplify messages from communities to federal agencies. SHPD focuses on places such as Mauna Kea on Hawai'i Island.
 - DOCARE collaborates with the community through the makai watch program.
 - DOFAW works with communities to make places such as forestry, wildlife, and specific areas more manageable. examples include Pololu Valley.
 - Engineering works through other divisions within DLNR, specifically on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that may require public comment or community representation.
- ***Wailoa Boat Harbor and Boat Harbor Funding Concerns*** -- addressing a concern regarding reimbursement process for damages sustained to a vessel that went aground at the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor due to the condition of the harbor's slip. Concerns were raised on the use of DOBOR funds and whether there was funding available for improvements to the facilities at the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor, particularly the comfort station.
 - DOBOR stated that any damage sustained to a vessel on state property requires the owner to file a claim in order to receive a reimbursement.
 - DOBOR has begun dredging at Wailoa Small Boat Harbor and will begin bulkhead fendering at the loading station in November. DOBOR is waiting for permits from Hawai'i County for the comfort station, lateral connections, and washdown area.
 - DOBOR used \$3.2M of CIP funding for projects and plans to use \$1.7M of boating special funds for additional dredging.
 - DLNR proposing legislation to establish a recurring dredging maintenance fund for regular dredging of different harbors.
- ***Mauka to Makai Agency Concerns*** -- for all divisions to work as a mauka to makai agency.
 - DLNR has the opportunity to work as a mauka to makai agency from DOFAW to DOBOR. Examples of mauka to makai work at DLNR include Kipahulu CBSFA and Paepae o He'eia

on O‘ahu. CWRM is also working to look at the entire health of the ecosystem including flow standards, integrating fishing and traditional and customary practices.

- ***Nene Conservation and Invasive Species Concern*** -- concerns to protect the nene population and mitigate issues with feral cats and toxoplasmosis which kills nene that eat the cat food placed in feeders throughout the island. Questions were asked on what the public can do to take action and improve the issuing of citations, especially in West Hawai‘i where there are less DLNR staff.
 - DOFAW commended the use of cat mapping and acknowledged the challenges of managing wildlife in an urban environment. DOFAW is working to coordinate with their wildlife manager to bring enforcement in illegal cat feeding areas.
 - DLNR is willing to make state lands available for a cat sanctuary and ensure safe neutering practices.
 - DOFAW is currently working to hire for more positions in West Hawai‘i.
- ***Modifying DLNR Job Requirements*** -- a concern was raised over the experience required for various DLNR positions and how those might be modified to accept ‘āina-based stewardship experience in place of existing education requirements.
 - DLNR’s Human Resource division is working to create more tailored job opportunities that include alternative qualifications.
 - DLNR also suggested KUPU for college age individuals looking to find a job at DLNR.
- ***Naniloa Golf Course Lighting*** -- concerns about the night golfing and lights that could potentially harm birds. A question was asked if this issue could be looked into and whether there is a lease for these kinds of activities so the public does not have to pay to obtain records.
 - LAND will look into the lease permitting for night golfing.
- ***Game Management Concerns*** -- including the decreased number of sheep available for hunting, especially on Mauna Kea. Requests were made for DLNR to revisit eradication practices and ensure proper game management and hunting for the community as outlined in HB1872. Others requested a proper Game Management Plan be created to balance the sheep and goat population and ensure future resources.
 - DOFAW noted that sheep destroyed much of the Mauna Kea ecosystem and eradication is under Federal order.
 - DOFAW recognizes HB1872 with selected management in different areas. Data shows that populations are relatively stable.
 - DLNR, under Department of Agriculture (DOA) Act 90, will be transferring pasture leases back to DOA and are working to make a determination of some pasture leases for DOFAW to increase the number of hunting areas.
 - DLNR relies on the Game Management Council at both the state and county level and encourages individuals to make recommendations to the council that could be brought to DLNR for consideration regarding cultural gathering rights.
- ***Managing Hawai‘i Island’s Carrying Capacity*** -- whether DLNR or the State has plans to manage game mammals and fisheries to ensure people are still able to gather without harm to the ecosystem.
 - DLNR is working on getting better information on the current status of resources available. DLNR encourages individuals to share counts of animals that they see in particular areas for gathering. DLNR is working with CWRM to ensure they have proper monitoring devices to measure water quality and flow.

- ***Puna and Kumukahi Access*** -- concerns regarding the influx of people coming to Kumukahi. An ask was made for better management of Kumukahi, including the heiau and protection of native species.
 - DLNR is aware of the heiau and iwi kupuna that exist in Kumukahi. The County is looking to reopen the road that was once impacted by the 2018 lava flows. DLNR is working with the County to identify how this area can be stewarded. DLNR encourages individuals to speak with their agencies and the County about Kumukahi concerns as decisions will be made regarding the management of the area.
- ***Shark Harvesting Permit*** -- questions regarding the permitting requirements for harvesting sharks for native gathering and how long the permit process might take.
 - DAR will follow up on this specific request. Current legislation does not permit the intentional take of sharks. Legislation gives authority for sharks to be taken for cultural use under a special activities permit. DLNR is currently working to establish this permitting system

Additional Community Concerns & Feedback

- ***Action Based Work*** -- for DLNR's actions to speak louder than their words and to work in adherence with their government on occupied lands.
- ***Game Management Concerns*** -- Reminder that hunting and fishing is of cultural significance.
- ***Collaboration Across DLNR Divisions*** -- a request for DLNR agencies to break silos between government agencies to ensure everyone is working together.
- ***Increased DOCARE Presence Around Hunting Units*** -- an ask for DOCARE to increase their presence in mauka hunting areas, not only during bird season.
- ***Appreciation for DOCARE Accountability*** -- an appreciation that DOCARE posts the names of individuals who are cited online as it provides community accountability.

11:30AM Closing

- Closing Words from Chair Dawn Chang
 - 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)