

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS
West Hawai'i Island Community Listening Session
Saturday, October 12, 2024, 3p.m. – 5:30p.m.
Natural Energy Lab of Hawai'i Authority

3:00PM Opening Pule and Oli

3:05PM 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

3:10PM Welcoming Remarks (DLNR Chair Dawn Chang and First Deputy Ryan Kanaka'ole)

3:15PM 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. DOFAW in West Hawai'i focuses on Pu'uwa'awa'a and Pāalamanui.
- ***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 – 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.
- OCCL in Kona focuses on regulatory land use, constructions and projects that are on land for 30 days or more.
- ***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’s focus in Kona include the proposed Ota Well Project which will come before the Commission in the future.
- ***Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) – Christopher Teague***
 - 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, marine response, and coral restoration.
- ***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.
- ***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***

4:00PM Community Listening & Questions

- ***Kawaihae Harbor and Boating Concerns*** -- addressing the waiting list for Kawaihae south and north harbors and what the public can do to expand the number of slips available.
 - DOBOR stated they have 2,000 permits available statewide and there are 14,000 registered boats statewide. DOBOR requests that the public provide support budget requests to extend piers within Kawaihae during the legislative session, as there is not enough boating special funds to cover the full amount.
 - DAR is willing to support DOBOR with the small area of coral.
- ***Water Runoff*** -- concerns were raised about the increased river flow runoff that is also causing land damage to homeowners. The runoff may also pick up pesticides and fertilizers from farms up mauka. A request was made of the State to identify ways to capture water to aquifers and reduce the runoff into the ocean.
 - DOFAW is working with the Sustainable Forest Institute to get an urban forestry program certified to manage green infrastructure.
 - Divisions in ag work may work in collaboration with Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) or Department of Agriculture (DOA). DOA is also working to encourage landowners to keep dams and reservoirs that may be demolished or abandoned.
 - DOFAW is managing watersheds through fencing and a contract to remove cattle to increase infiltration, and while ensuring Kona has enough water.
 - CWRM is interested in learning more about this issue.
- ***Community Supporting State and County*** -- questions on projects that have County jurisdiction versus State. Others asked how they can ensure communities are not isolated as new projects start, especially if communities may be able to care for some of these projects in a more effective way.
 - DLNR is working to identify strategies and ways that DLNR divisions can partner with communities to care for resources. Similar to Hā'ena, this may also provide economic opportunities for management and self sufficiency.
 - DLNR is trying to meet regularly with the County water departments and CWRM to collectively work through community issues.
 - SHPD has requested interested community organizations or groups to apply for grants out of their division for historical projects that come from the County. These grants can range from \$60,000-70,000.
- ***Keaukaha and Kealakehe Wastewater Plants*** -- regarding the waters that go into the Harbor and the sewage that impacts the coastline.
 - DLNR is aware of the environmental impacts regarding the need to build up further mauka to avoid ocean runoff, as well as pumping water issues.
 - Through CWRM, DLNR is working with the County Planning Department to be part of the planning process.
 - SHPD is working to proactively address projects that will have cultural impacts.
- ***Photography Permits and Enforcement*** -- advocates looking for support in having permitting rules better enforced. Others asked about the updated Wiki Permitting Sites and why certain locations disappear as a usable park, without any notice.
 - State Parks commends this effort. State Parks took state beaches off of their list after concerns about reservation and capacity.

- COMMS suggested an online seminar, something that was done on Kaua‘i when there were similar problems.
- DLNR is working to be responsive when the community provides information regarding enforcement. DLNR states that concerns must often come in large amounts to grab leadership’s attention.
- DOCARE shared they often are in a reactive mode due to the limited officers on island. DOCARE shared that when reports are submitted with evidence and license plate information, DOCARE will visit the violator's residence and issue citations with legal evidence.
- **Enforcement of Existing Laws to Protect Wildlife** -- including native birds, such as the nene, seals, and other marine life. Volunteers concerned about unleashed dogs, feral cats, and trucks on the beach that endanger native species despite signs prohibiting them, particularly at O‘oma Beach. Questions were asked about increased support, partnership, and enforcement from DLNR
 - DLNR recognizes this issue. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had instructed cat feeder boxes be removed. DOCARE is monitoring the issue and DOBOR has rules that feeding cannot happen on their facilities given toxoplasmosis is the leading cause of marine mammal death.
 - DLNR suggested an education campaign to inform people about this issue, in particular those who continue to feed cats.
- **Permit and Processes for Community Caretakers** -- as these processes can be time consuming, especially as individuals are stewarding areas such as Konohiki and Kealakekua. A question was asked on how the permit processes may be modified to include clauses for those stewarding wahi pana.
 - OCCL is working to streamline restoration processes, especially tied to loko i‘a.
 - DAR is aware of this issue and notes their limited capacity and staffing. A suggestion was made by DAR to consider auto renewals for individuals who care for these areas.
 - State Parks noted that Kealakekua is complicated due to its Marine Life Conservation District designation. It is also a potential site for a community-based management area, similar to Hā‘ena.
 - State Parks is open to working to see what lease options or programmatic agreements might be available to create a longer time period for caring for a place without having to always go through permitting renewal.
- **Aquaculture Prioritization** -- a question was raised regarding DLNR’s prioritization of aquaculture requests, specifically from NELHA, as they are asking permission to drill low flow sea wells to address the larval problem.
 - DAR is not familiar with the issue and plays a role in aquaculture permitting. DAR will follow up to identify where potential hang ups may be within the Department or Division.
 - DLNR would like more information on this topic so they can communicate with DOA, CWRM, and DAR as tied to the promotion and advancement of aquaculture and water quality.
- **Water Conservation of Keauhou** -- a request for CWRM to create conditions for the County so water is not wasted and ensure fresh water impacts are minimal, particularly with NELHA.
 - CWRM is aware that shoreline monitoring is currently being discussed between NELHA and Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. CWRM is committed to monitoring the health of

shoreline ecosystems to understand the impacts that mauka wells will have on shoreline habitats.

- CWRM would like to facilitate talk stories to speak about conditions that might be most beneficial to the community and how to work with the County to ensure they are protecting water resources.
- DLNR has shared with NELHA that community outreach is critical on projects to address community concerns.

Additional Community Concerns & Feedback

- ***Green Waste for Soil*** -- a request for DLNR to express to the County to take green waste and create soil for regional parks and ensure they will not impact lava tubes.
- ***Collaboration with CNHA*** -- a suggestion for DLNR to collaborate with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) to identify opportunities for community driven education projects on Hawai'i's resources.
- ***Kaloko Honokōhau National Park*** -- concerns regarding three major floodways where groundwaters can lead to the ocean. A recommendation was made for the County to upgrade their wastewater treatment plan.

5:00PM 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)