

DLNR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS  
**Central Maui Community Listening Session**  
Saturday, December 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Maui High School Cafeteria

**9:00AM Opening Pule and Oli**

**9:05AM Introductions & Meeting Logistics (Facilitator - Anuhea Arakawa)**

- 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)**

- Overview of DLNR’s Mission
- Purpose of the Meeting - introduce DLNR Team and what we do, listen to the community, and try to answer any questions or concerns you may have, and find opportunities to collaborate with this community
- Meeting format – DLNR divisions will introduce themselves, provide overview of their kuleana, and briefly describe what they do in Maui

**9:15AM DLNR Division’s Brief Sharing**

- **Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) – Scott Fretz, Maui Branch 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.
  - Specific to Maui, work focuses on upper elevations which leaves problems with fire and erosion. DOFAW focuses on improving management and protection of endangered species.
- **Division of State Parks (SP) – Alan Carpenter, Assistant Manager**
  - The Hawai‘i State Park System is composed of 55 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.
  - Maui has 8 Parks, 3 Hana Waysides and Polipoli cabins. Important cultural sites on Maui with SP include Makena, Haleki‘i Heiau Wai‘ānapanapa State Park, and ‘Āo Valley State Monument.
- **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 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. For more information related to the use of government lands within Maui District please contact Daniel Ornellas, District Land Agent, at the DLNR Maui District Land Office at (808) 984-8103.
- **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 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.

- SHPD is a regulatory agency for Chapter 16 and Section 106 and are consulted for projects that can impact historic resources.
- Historic homes listed in the state register qualify for benefits, including:
  - Property tax exemption;
  - Tax credit for rehabilitation.
- Specific to Maui, SHPD is in the process of working on a grant with Maui County for historic properties impacted by the wildfires.
- Seeking applicants for Maui and Lāna'i Burial Council.
- Vacant office positions in the Maui office include an office assistant and 2 Maui Island archaeologists.
- **Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) – Michael Cain, Administrator**
  - 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 the Ho'āla Loko I'a process to support loko i'a projects. Please contact OCCL if you have a loko i'a project.
  - Enforcement activities have been primarily focused on unauthorized shoreline construction and on maintaining lateral access on the shorelines.
  - OCCL has a beach fund to invest in beach restoration projects. Please contact OCCL if you are engaged in a project that could benefit from OCCL's beach fund.
  - Zoned conservation areas on Maui include most mauka areas, west Maui, Upcountry, and Haleakalā .
- **Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) – Ciara Kahahane, First Deputy Director**
  - 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.
  - Current Maui work focuses to set streamflow standards for licensed areas in East Maui, setting instream flow standards in Haiku region of west Maui. Central Maui work will focus on studying hydrologic boundaries in the next few years and understanding of aquifers. West Maui was recently designated a water management area, there is permitting and lots of work to do to support rebuilding and protection of resources and balance. East Maui is Na Wai Eha and litigation there regarding designation. The Commission is receiving guidance from the Supreme Court and is working to follow that guidance and issue permit.
- **Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) – Russell Sparks, Aquatic Biologist**
  - 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.
  - DAR's education outreach programs are available to provide resources and speaking engagements focused on estuaries and marine ecosystems.
  - In Maui, DAR has piloted the Holomua Marine Initiative, planning to work with the community on nearshore water management, watershed management, threats to ecosystems, and working alongside the fishing stakeholder community. Programs for protected species include partnership with NOAA.

- **Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) – Meghan Statts, Administrator**
  - 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.
  - On Maui, DOBOR is focused on rebuilding the Lahaina Small Boat Harbor and improvements to Ma‘alaea Small Boat Harbor boat ramp.
- **Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) – Jason Redulla, Chief**
  - 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.
  - There are 17 officers on Maui, 2 on Lāna‘i, and 2 on Moloka‘i. Next Friday, there are 6 officers graduating which will be a significant boost in Maui.
- **Engineering Division – Dina Lau, Branch Chief**
  - 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, 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@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlnr@hawaii.gov). Communications maintains DLNR’s social media, including Facebook and Instagram.
- **Bureau of Conveyances – N/A**

#### 10:00AM Community Listening & Questions

- **Concerns Related to Ma‘alaea Small Boat Harbor** – various concerns related to the Small Boat Harbor were raised:
  - **Boat Launch Ramp** – questions on improvements to fix the boat ramp, tires near the boat area, wooden platform walking area, and spigots at the washdown facility. A question on when these fixes will occur.
    - DOBOR: If there are immediate fixes that require attention, DOBOR suggests talking to Paul Sensano, Maui District Manager.
    - DOBOR: There is no current funding for the ramp and pier improvements.
  - **Pier Safety** – a question on when pier repairs will be made. Others shared difficulties to support Lāna‘i travelers to Maui during the Lahaina wildfires as the pier made it unsafe to transport people and supplies.
    - DOBOR: Immediate pier issues should be brought to the harbor agents when they are seen.
  - **Dredging** – a question was made for dredging at the harbor as it can be an inexpensive cost.
    - DOBOR: DOBOR will go to the legislature to request funding for dredging improvements. DOBOR is hoping to introduce a bill for a \$5M revolving fund for dredging projects. A community suggestion was made to inform the mailing

- list of when testimonies are needed for upcoming Bills so the word can be spread.
- **Waterline Leaks** – questions for timeline for the repair as it is wasting water.
    - DOBOR: The PO to fix the waterline break was approved yesterday and should be done quickly.
  - **Closed Bathrooms** – bathrooms being closed at Ma‘alaea Small Boat Harbor during the weekends.
    - DOBOR: The bathrooms have been closed due to issues from vandalism, homelessness, and tourists. A solicitation will be put out shortly.
  - **Trimming Coconut Trees** – a question on timeline for trimming as it can lead to injury.
    - DOBOR: Will work on trimming the coconut trees in 2025. A suggestion was to contract Common Ground, a non-profit organization who will harvest the trees for free.
  - **Reef Markers** – an ask to improve reef markers or install 3 signs in each reef area which are currently only pipes; some people have added cones, so they are visible.
    - DOBOR: DOBOR did not install the reef markers, they were installed by the Coast Guard. DOBOR will need to coordinate with DAR to install reef markers.
  - **Safety Buoys** – whether these will be installed as the lack of buoys confuse new boaters and make it dangerous to come into the harbor. A question was asked if the 3% commercial boat fees can go towards this improvement, as safety buoys may only cost \$10k.
    - DOBOR: installed red and green buoys in the water near the west end of Ma‘alaea. However, the chains are the first to go.
    - DOBOR: is aware that they need to do a better job tied to harbor maintenance. 3% goes to the Boating Special Fund. Wailoa Harbor was allocated \$6M for projects and dredge project bids were \$1.5-2M more than allocated. DOBOR has to use Boating Special Funds to supplement funds received from the legislature. DOBOR is supplementing funds from the legislature.
  - **Injuries at the Harbor** – a question was asked of who is responsible for quick fixes if someone is injured at the Harbor, specifically on the sidewalks which have no railing and numerous cracks.
    - DOBOR: The State is responsible.
  - **Kihei Harbor Repairs** – whether the bathroom sinks will be repaired.
    - DOBOR: Just received approval to put out a solicitation for bathroom improvements. It should be out soon.
  - **Monitoring Archeological Sites in Lahaina** – questions raised on SHPD and DLNR’s plan to ensure that the cleaning of archeological sites in Lahaina are properly monitored without risking the loss of more historic properties. Additionally, how will SHPD staff monitor this work as the Governor's proclamation to build homes expedited work from FEMA, Coast Guard, and Navy.
    - SHPD: Under Section 106, Maui County is certified as a historic preservation district. This creates structure to ensure historic resources are protected and considered. SHPD is working to create a MOU with Maui County to streamline the permitting process but not at the expense of monitoring. As of Friday, 100% of permits were processed.
  - **Kamehameha III and Lahaina Library Clean Up** – questions on whether these areas will be a historic corridor and an ask to not make that area part of the Harbor.
    - DLNR 1st Deputy: Kamehameha III Elementary and the Library are still in the early process of transition. These two sites are still being held by prior landowners, the Department of Education and State Libraries. A lot of planning has not occurred yet, Maui County and ‘Ōiwi will take lead on this work.

- SHPD: The sensitivity of cultural sites and ensuring community recovery are always on the forefront of conversations tied to Lahaina cleanups. Additional comments and questions can be brought to ‘Ōiwi.
- **West Maui Mountains Mass Eradication Concerns** – concerns raised on the sustainability of mass eradication of game animals in the mauka regions and the impacts it has on hunting and down to the coastlines and waterways.
  - DOFAW: A balance needs to be found between water conservation and hunting in the areas DLNR manages. Half of the waters are designated for watershed, the other half remains open for hunting. Areas that are under watershed protection are fenced off, but not closed.
- **Lahaina Harbor Updates** – questions on the status of rebuilding Lahaina Harbor, whether an additional harbor will be built, as well as the number of slips that will be available. A question was asked on how Lahaina Harbor will be rebuilt and whether wa‘a voyaging canoes will be allowed through the harbor.
  - DOBOR: DOBOR has spent \$2.2M on Lahaina Small Boat Harbor. DOBOR will request additional funding at the next legislative session. Design and permitting conditions were put into place prior to the fires. DOBOR does not have plans to build an additional harbor.
  - DOBOR: There is a statute that allows voyaging canoes to enter the harbor.
- **Lahaina Harbor Boat Slips** – a question on how people acquire slips at Lahaina Harbor, specifically when it is overcrowded and whether commercial boats with slips pay the same fee as residential slip owners.
  - DOBOR: Slips are required if you own a boat. No one without a boat should have a slip.
  - DOBOR: Commercial boats are required to pay 3% of their gross income, which is a higher rate. DOBOR is currently in a lawsuit.
  - DOBOR: Recognizes that people need access and there are overcrowding issues.
- **Marine Gathering for Aquariums** – concerns raised regarding foreigners, aquarium and pet store owners who gather fish for selling and whether people have been consulted to allow this.
  - DAR: Aquarium fisheries are not existent currently on Maui. There were two large operations that never took off. Since the Supreme Court decision and environmental impact review, there have been no entities pursuing that on Maui. If this issue does arise on Maui, it will be addressed through public scoping.
- **Ukumehame Stream Access** – who provided access for an individual to build a home and stonewall on the top of the stream which blocks the river. A request was made to allow taro farmers to farm in that area.
  - DLNR Chair: CWRM is available to speak after this meeting to provide help.

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

- **Native Gathering Rights** – conservation laws should not regulate or restrict native gathering rights, specifically for established koas or time restrictions to lay net. Native animal species are not regulated for hunting animals out of season, therefore Kanaka Maoli should not be put under those same regulations.
  - DAR: DAR recognizes that there are endangered species that are protected under federal law and are required to follow those concurrent laws that the state holds. DAR recognizes there are concerns regarding best practices for harvesting resources.
  - DLNR Chair: DLNR recognizes it can be difficult to approach resource management from a western perspective. DLNR is transitioning to more culturally sensitive management. DLNR is requesting community support to identify resources that should remain protected in order to ensure proper conservation with gathering.
- **Protecting Kanaka Maoli and ‘Iwi Kupuna** – a request for DLNR and DOCARE to live up to their mission statement and role to protect Kanaka Maoli.

- DLNR: Are engaging various strategies such as acquiring lands that still need to be protected for ‘iwi kupuna restoration. DLNR is preserving the Kamehameha III Elementary Lands that were going to be cleaned up by FEMA.
- ***Ka‘anapali Beach and Commercial Activities*** – a request for DOBOR to regularly communicate updates on issues tied to Ka‘anapali as its beaches are a public trust resource. A request was made for DOBOR to increase protections as people are getting injured from the commercial catamarans that come in on high surf days. A request was made to do an Impact Assessment on commercial activity in Ka‘anapali.
  - DOBOR: DOBOR understands the user conflicts in Ka‘anapali and are currently in a lawsuit tied to commercial activities.
- ***Building an Additional Small Boat Harbor*** – a suggestion to build an additional boat harbor in Ka‘anapali.
- ***Maui Burials*** – a request for SHPD to improve their processes for burials on Maui and consider Aha Moku practices when working with ‘iwi kupuna.
- ***Hāmākua and Ko‘olau Charter*** – Maui voters deserve opportunity and time to see the charter they voted for manifested.
- ***Haleakalā Diesel Fuel*** – a request to clean the 600 gallons of diesel fuel that is in the pu‘uwai of Haleakalā which impacts Maui water.
- ***Establishing East Maui Streamflow Standards*** – a request to set streamflow standards as there is no water supply and people are waiting for modifications to be made and receive a timeline of next steps.
- ***Inviting the Next Generation*** – a concern for the lack of young people in attendance.
- ***Wailuku Water Decision*** – a request for proper oversight for Wailuku water, set aside time for Na Wai Eha and to terminate the Surface Water Use Permit between Wailuku Water Company and CWRM.
- ***Denying County Permits*** – to not allow County permits if there are archaeological, historical, or traditional impacts to a project.
  - DLNR Chair: Specifically on Maui, DLNR has given Maui county the space to work with stakeholders regarding water issues, as requested by the Maui Water Authority.
- ***Desecration Notices*** – a request for DOCARE and SHPD to respond to desecration notices.
  - DLNR Chair: Apology for no response. A lack of response sometimes means Divisions are in investigation. DLNR recognizes they should be acknowledging complaints they receive and commits to being better.
- ***Commitment to Community Listening Sessions*** – a request for DLNR to commit to quarterly listening sessions and to have listening sessions in East and West Maui.
  - DLNR Chair: DLNR completed 9 listening sessions in 18 months. DLNR will take comments regarding quarterly listening sessions.
- ***Information on Testimony and Bills*** – advocacy for funding for DLNR requires better communication so the public knows when to come out. A community suggestion was made to use commercial operators, such as Pacific Whale Foundation to get the word out on needs via email.
  - DLNR Chair: DLNR will continue to communicate Bills that are introduced through existing networks and will share the legislative Bills online.
- ***Security Cameras*** – a request to install security cameras at Ma‘alea which only requires power and wifi.
- ***Harbor Markers at Ma‘alea*** – a suggestion to put in concrete piles, similar to Ala Wai and Ke‘ehi on O‘ahu which are maintenance free and do not require chains.
- ***Adhere to Agency Responsibility to Protect*** – a request for DLNR to protect the land, air, and water, as it is a responsibility of the Agency.