

He'eia State Park

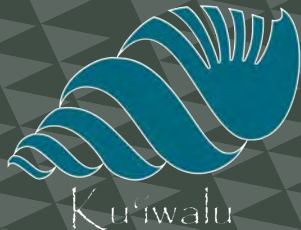
DRAFT Community-Based Long-Range Plan for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System

(Pursuant to Act 166, House of Representatives Thirtieth
Legislature, 2019, State of Hawai'i)

TAX MAP KEYS (1) 4-6-005:002, 004, and 009

Prepared by:

State of Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic
Development & Tourism, Hawai'i Community
Development Authority



December 2021

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Contents

He‘eia Ahupua‘a: A Place of Abundance.....	1
Executive Summary.....	3
Act 166 and Plan Recommendations	5
Act 166 Purpose	5
Plan Recommendations	5
Background Information	8
Setting	8
Regional Location and Ahupua‘a	8
Owners and Lessees of Record	11
He‘eia State Park and Existing Uses	11
Future Uses	16
State and City Designations	16
Surface Water Resources.....	20
Natural Hazards.....	20
Planning Overlays.....	23
Land and Water Conservation Fund (1975)	23
Kāne‘ohe Bay Master Plan (1992)	26
He‘eia State Park Master Plan (1993).....	28
He‘eia NERR Management Plan (2016) and Pending Update (2022)	31
Recommendations based on Planning Overlays.....	35
Act 166 Planning Process Recap	36
Stakeholder Consultation.....	36
Stakeholder Consultation Outcomes	38
Community Meeting	38
Community Meeting Outcomes.....	38
Recommendations based on Stakeholder Consultation and Community Meeting	40
Conclusion.....	41
References	42

Figures

Figure 1: Regional Location and Ahupuaʻa	9
Figure 2: Regional Kuleana.....	10
Figure 3: TMK and Land Ownership	12
Figure 4: Heʻeia State Park Leases and Volunteer Agreements.....	15
Figure 5: State Land Use District and Community Development District Boundaries.....	18
Figure 6: County Zoning and Special Management Area.....	19
Figure 7: Surface Water Resources.....	21
Figure 8: Sea Level Rise and Natural Hazards	22

Appendices

Appendix A	Act 166
Appendix B	September 29, 2021 Public Meeting Notice and Summary

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
BLNR	Board of Land and Natural Resources
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
CDD	Community Development District
DAR	Division of Aquatic Resources
DBEDT	Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
DLNR	State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOCARE	Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
DOFAW	Division of Forestry and Wildlife
DOH	State of Hawai'i Department of Health
DOI	Department of the Interior
DPP	Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu
DSP	State Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	State of Hawai'i, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Environmental Review Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HAR	Hawai'i Administrative Rules
HFD	Honolulu Fire Department
HI-EMA	State of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency
HIMB	Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
HNERR	He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
HOK	Hui o Ko'olaupoko
HPD	Honolulu Police Department
HRS	Hawai'i Revised Statutes
KHCC	Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
KCF	Kāne'ohe Cultural Foundation
KK	Kama'āina Kids
LWCF	Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory

OP	State of Hawai'i, Office of Planning & Sustainable Development
PFH	Puakea Foundation
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SHPD	State Historic Preservation Division
SMA	Special Management Area
SLO	State Liaison Officer
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SLUD	State Land Use District
TMK	Tax Map Key
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

He'eia Ahupua'a: A Place of Abundance

Traditionally, the ahupua'a of He'eia is located in the moku of Ko'olaupoko and is uniquely configured. It is bounded by the ahupua'a of Kahalu'u in the north and by Kāne'ohe in the south. The mountainous section of the ahupua'a is marked by the Ko'olau cliffs, the tallest pu'u (peak) being Pu'u Keahiakahoe (the fires of Kahoe Hill) overlooking the ahupua'a of He'eia and Kāne'ohe. He'eia Ahupua'a extends eastward across Kāne'ohe Bay to include the tip of the left lobe of the Mōkapu Peninsula and also Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). Traditionally, the He'eia Ahupua'a is rich in wahi pana (storied places) and mo'olelo (histories). The term He'eia may refer to the name of the grandson of the demigod 'Olopana, who became the foster child of the goddess Haumea after 'Olopana had been washed out to sea. The term He'eia may also derive from a tidal wave event that "washed" (he'e 'ia) the people out to sea and back, after which they were victorious during a battle with people from Leeward O'ahu. Hawaiians also regarded Ke'alohi Point (the shining) as a leina 'uhane (leap of the soul), a place where the souls of the dead leap into the sea. (Hawaii Office Planning, 2016) citing Cruz and Hammatt 2012) Anciently, He'eia Ahupua'a is a place of momona (abundance) from He'eia fishpond¹, the reef of Malauka'a where octopus are found, the traveling uhu and 'ohua fishes, to the rich lo'i kalo in the mauka wetlands, fed by freshwater streams.

Today, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of State Parks (DSP), has jurisdiction of approximately 19 acres of land within the ahupua'a of He'eia, known as He'eia State Park. It is situated on an elevated peninsula known as Ke'alohi, bounded by the ancient He'eia Fishpond owned by the Bishop Estate (Kamehameha Schools) and managed by Paepae o He'eia, the mauka wetlands owned by the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) and being restored by Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, He'eia Kea Small Boat Harbor, and Kāne'ohe Bay. Currently He'eia State Park is leased to Kama'aina Care Inc. and a place for cultural activities including mālama 'āina (care for the land; in this case riparian corridor restoration), canoe (wa'a) building and paddling, and marine education. It is an important and well loved gathering place for the community; a place to celebrate 1st birthdays and graduations with lū'au, and to come together for community meetings and events.

In 2016, DLNR signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join as a co-management partner of He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (He'eia NERR). In 2017, the He'eia NERR was formally designated by President Obama, thereby establishing He'eia State Park as a part of He'eia NERR. As an official partner of the He'eia NERR, DLNR joins with Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Paepae o He'eia, and Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology in a collaborative management agreement to steward the lands and waters of the Reserve in a manner that is consistent with Hawaiian values, to engage in biocultural restoration, and to support culturally-appropriate research. The provisions of Act 166 of the 2019 Hawai'i State Legislature facilitated the opportunity to design a community consultation process that sought to first engage with the relevant current stewards of both He'eia State Park and He'eia NERR co-management partners and then broaden the community engagement process. While there may be some unresolved issues, based upon the entirety of the community engagement process and the ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, we believe there is genuine desire to collaborate shared use of He'eia State Park with He'eia NERR co-management partners and He'eia State Park tenants. He'eia State Park can be a vibrant community gathering place.

¹ Up until about a century ago, there were several functioning fishponds in He'eia.

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Executive Summary

He'eia State Park is a beloved social, cultural, and ecological resource. Its traditional place name, Lae 'O Ke 'Alohi (also spelled Ke'alohi) which means shining or brightness (Pukui, Mary Kawena, Samuel H. Elbert, Esther T. Mookini, 1974) alludes to its geographical and spiritual prominence within the He'eia ahupua'a.

Act 166 of the 2019 Hawai'i State Legislature was initiated by community members of the ahupua'a of He'eia, out of their deep care for the place and the desire to see future development and management guided by community values. As stated in the Act, its purpose is to, *"appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a He'eia State Park community-based long-range plan for the He'eia Estuarine Research Reserve System."* The community values reflected in this plan are those that have been long-held by the community of He'eia. Many of these values have endured sufficiently to be documented in related plans, discussed herein. He'eia State Park's unique location at Ke'alohi highlights the interconnectedness of all things ecological and cultural. The interconnectedness can serve as a touchpoint for future development and management actions within He'eia State Park ("the Park") and throughout the ahupua'a.

The task of preparing this report was assigned by Act 166 to HCDA. While HCDA owns and has administrative responsibility for 400 acres adjacent to He'eia State Park, the agency does not have administrative responsibility over He'eia State Park beyond its duties under Act 166; the primary State agency with administrative responsibility for the Park is DSP. Adoption and implementation of any of this report's recommendations will therefore only result from the various stakeholders working together, likely under DSP's leadership, with significant engagement from lessees of the Park and in consultation with long-time community members and the public. In addition, the utilization of Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to assist in the original purchase of the Park site effects certain requirements and restrictions on how the land is used in perpetuity.

This report leads with these recommendations (listed below) and specific actions for DSP's consideration to integrate He'eia NERR with the major programs and activities of He'eia State Park.

- **Recommendation 1: Perpetuate outdoor recreation, community gathering, public access, and cultural activities within the Park that are consistent with community values.**
- **Recommendation 2: Advance collective action toward development of a He'eia NERR Interpretive Center within the Park.**
- **Recommendation 3: Engage scientific and research endeavors within He'eia State Park, led by He'eia NERR.**
- **Recommendation 4: Take steps toward He'eia NERR comprehensive coordination of ecological stewardship within the Park.**

Supporting information follows in subsequent sections that include map figures, summaries of related planning efforts, and a summary of public engagement conducted for this planning process. Warm gratitude is extended to those who initiated Act 166; participated in one-on-one dialogue, small group discussions and the public meeting; and those who contributed and constructively challenged the planning team responsible for this report. Mahalo!



Photo 1 Views of He'eia Ahupua'a from He'eia State Park

Act 166 and Plan Recommendations

Act 166 Purpose

The purpose of Act 166 Hawai'i State Legislature is to, "appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a He'eia State Park community-based long-range plan for the He'eia Estuarine Research Reserve System."

As noted previously, the task of preparing this report was assigned by Act 166 to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority HCDA, a known entity in the ahupua'a of He'eia, as the agency owns and has administrative responsibility for 400 acres adjacent to He'eia State Park. A Memorandum of Agreement between DLNR and HCDA for the development of an Act 166 plan for He'eia State Park is critical to the understanding of the project purpose and need. The inter-agency agreement provides clarity on the scope of the planning process. The scope of work lists two tasks, which very specifically call out the need for community engagement and integration of the He'eia NERR goals and objectives.

The HCDA shall have its Contractor contact the stakeholders identified in Act 166 and any other community members who have an interest in the future of the He'eia State Park or who would be affected by activities at the park. The Contractor will work with the individuals and entities to develop options for the future uses and activities of He'eia State Park consistent with the goals and objectives of HNERRS. (emphasis added)

The HCDA shall have its Contractor prepare a report of its findings, including the outcome of stakeholder discussions, and develop a community-based long-range plan to integrate HNERRS with the major programs and activities of He'eia State Park consistent with its goals and objectives. (emphasis added)

HCDA has no jurisdiction to assign responsibilities, timelines, budgets, or priorities for Park stakeholders. As such, the recommendations herein are suggested based on literature review and the communications with stakeholders documented within this plan.

Plan Recommendations

The recommendations in this plan are based on key values that resonate throughout prior and ongoing community endeavors, some of which are documented in reports and plans and others which are held and shared as community mana'o (wisdom). These values are useful in developing a framework for the planning of physical improvements, management of those improvements, as well as the planning of programs and activities. The unique setting of He'eia State Park at Lae 'O Ke 'Alohi where one can see the ahupua'a of He'eia in its entirety provides an opportunity to highlight the interconnection and oneness of all things ecological, and cultural.

To integrate He'eia NERR with the major programs and activities of He'eia State Park, consistent with its goals and objectives, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendation 1: Perpetuate outdoor recreation, community gathering, public access, and cultural activities within the Park that are consistent with community values.

Action 1-1: Maintain lease commitments between DSP and Kama'aina Care and all sub-agreements with community organizations that are presently in place.

Action 1-2: Document and record specific known locations of historic and cultural resources within the Park. Seek to undertake documentation as a cooperative effort between lineal descendants of Heʻeia and a State agency such as DSP or SHPD. Resulting documentation should be used as guidance for any new physical planning within the Park. Identify an appropriate entity that has the capacity to be the repository of the cultural inventory.

Action 1-3: Evaluate on-site facilities management practices for near-term and long-term ecological health of the ahupuaʻa such as:

- Invasive species removal and native habitat restoration
- Feral cat management
- Stormwater management best practices
- Shoreline management that acknowledges sea level rise, rather than hardening with walls, sandbags, etc.

Recommendation 2: Advance collective action toward development of a Heʻeia NERR Interpretive Center within the Park.

Action 2-1: Heʻeia NERR, Kamaʻāina Care, and DSP meet on a regular basis and set forth an agenda and assignment of responsibilities toward shared use of the Park including, but not limited to the following.

- Negotiate an adjustment to the existing lease held by Kamaʻāina Care for the purpose of use of some land area within the Park for an Interpretive Center and/or Educational Hālau.
- Form agreement as to ecological stewardship responsibilities within the Park.
- Evaluate feasibility of adjusting park hours to facilitate greater public access to the Park and park facilities for an Interpretive Center and community gatherings.
- Provide periodic (monthly or quarterly) updates to the Kāneʻohe and Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Boards.

Action 2-2: Heʻeia NERR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) determine what restrictions/responsibilities will be placed on development, activities, or uses within the Park if federal funds from NOAA are used for NERR construction or activities. Share this information with DSP.

Action 2-3: Heʻeia NERR and DSP craft an outline of what is sought in an Interpretive Center for DSP to initiate conversation with NPS with respect to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Action 2-4: In consultation with lineal or cultural descendants of Heʻeia, incorporate the following themes in to planning, design, and program implementation:

- The values of mālama ʻāina, kōkua, kuleana, ʻimi ʻike, ʻimi naʻauao and how they are embodied in the context of Heʻeia
- Heʻeia ahupuaʻa stewardship practices and basis in indigenous and local knowledge
- Keʻalohiʻs specific cultural and physical significance within the ahupuaʻa
- Pono actions and protocols in the context of Heʻeia
- Connect educational, stewardship, and management activities to outdoor recreation.
- Consider new or refinement of themes that emerge through updates of the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan.

Recommendation 3: Engage scientific and research endeavors within Heʻeia State Park, led by Heʻeia NERR.

Action 3-1: To further the Heʻeia NERR Management Plan objective to be the leading repository of information for natural resources in the Heʻeia estuary, convene entities that operate within the Park to discuss any data previously developed and managed/stored in a dispersed manner (i.e. water quality data, vegetation transects, bird or fish counts, etc); and the potential for Heʻeia NERR to be the long-term repository for said data.

Action 3-2: Work with entities who operate within the Park to explore research questions, and or potential available data, photos, etc. that could augment current Heʻeia NERR scientific research.

Recommendation 4: Take steps toward Heʻeia NERR comprehensive coordination of ecological stewardship within the Park.

Action 4-1: Explore partnerships with entities operating within the Park to augment and supplement ecological stewardship activities; expanding stewardship to comprehensively include all park habitats; and continue ecological stewardship activities for the long term.

Action 4-2: Continue and expand invasive species removal and native habitat restoration, including shoreline and riparian restoration, and active management of the feral cat population.

Action 4-3: Collectively participate in an update to the 1992 Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, consistent with the long-range planning recommendations of that plan.



Photo 2 An Interpretive Sign at Heʻeia State Park that Orients Visitors

Background Information

Setting

Regional Location and Ahupua'a

He'eia State Park is located approximately one mile north of Kāne'ohe, within the moku of Ko'olaupoko, on the windward side of O'ahu.

The Park is sited on Lae 'O Ke 'Alohi, also spelled Ke'alohi, which means shining or brightness, and is also the name of a star (Ke'alohi) (Pukui, Mary Kawena, Samuel H. Elbert, Esther T. Mookini, 1974). Ke'alohi Point is a significant place within the ahupua'a of He'eia because from this point, an observer can see every part of the ahupua'a. Another significant landmark in the area is Mōkapu Peninsula (Kāne'ohe Marine Corps Base, a portion of which is within the ahupua'a of He'eia) across Kāne'ohe Bay to the east. Refer to Figure 1.

He'eia State Park is bounded to the west by He'eia Kea Harbor and He'eia Pier, and Kamehameha Highway (Hawai'i Route 830). Across Kamehameha Highway from the Park is HCDA's He'eia Community Development District (CDD), which accommodates restorative agricultural practices by Kāko'o 'Ōiwi. Located to the north and east of the Park is Kāne'ohe Bay, including the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology located at Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). The Park's southern boundary consists of He'eia Stream and the restored fishpond owned by the Bishop Estate (Kamehameha Schools) and maintained by Paepae o He'eia. Refer to Figure 2.



Photo 3 Park Entry Road

PDF: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\PDF
Path: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\GIS\Project\1 Regional Location and Ahupua'a.mxd



LEGEND

- He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels)
- He'eia State Park
- Ahupua'a Boundaries
- Ahupua'a of He'eia

Source: OHA & SHPD, 2021.
Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

Figure 1:
Regional Location and Ahupua'a

Hawai'i Community Development Authority
North

Linear Scale (miles)
0 0.25 0.5 1

Island of O'ahu



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels) | HCDA He'eia District |
| He'eia State Park | Kāko'o 'Ōiwi (excl. kuleana parcels) |
| Kama'aina Care Inc. | Paepae o He'eia |
| Other Official Park Users | HIMB |

Figure 2:

Regional Kuleana

Hawai'i Community Development Authority
North

Linear Scale (feet)
0 375 750 1,500

PBR HAWAII
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

Owners and Lessees of Record

He'eia State Park comprises three tax map key (TMK) parcels: (1) 4-6-005:009 (18 acres), 002(<1 acre), and 004 (<1 acre). All three parcels are owned by the DLNR and leased to Kama'aina Care Inc. Lands adjacent to and surrounding He'eia State Park are generally owned by the City and State. A notable exception is the land underlying He'eia Fishpond to the east of the Park, which is owned by the Bishop Estate (Kamehameha Schools). Refer to Figure 3.

He'eia NERR is noted to exclude certain known kuleana (relating to land tenure) parcels, which are located outside of He'eia State Park. (Hawai'i Office of Planning, 2016)

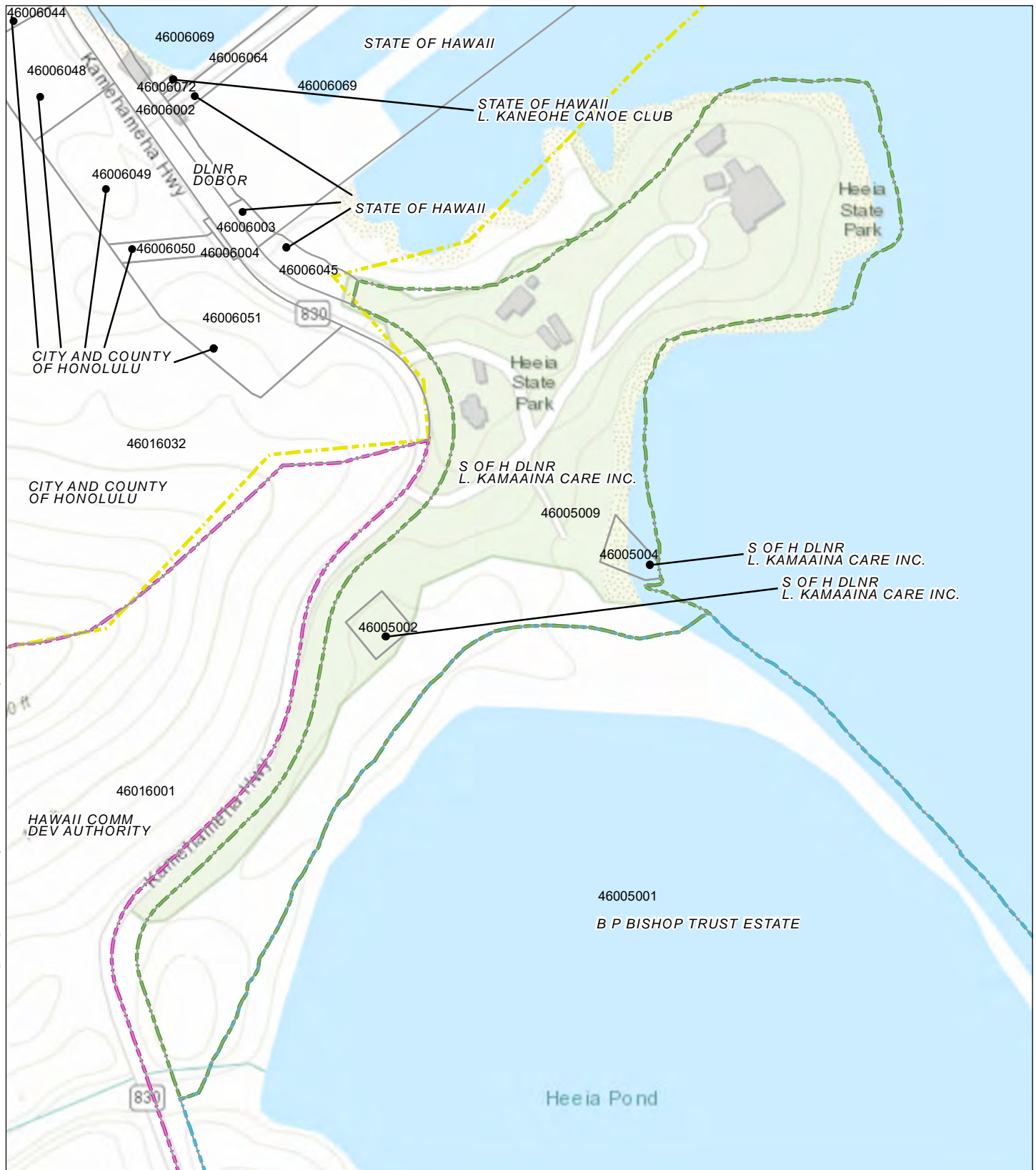
He'eia State Park and Existing Uses

He'eia State Park is one of 50 parks managed by the DLNR, Division of State Parks.



Photo 4 The Park's Large Pavilion is often used as a banquet hall for community events.

There are five entities that formally partner with and utilize various areas of He'eia State Park. The nature and terms of these agreements are summarized in the following pages.



- He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels)
- HCDA He'eia Community Development District
- He'eia State Park
- TMK Parcels

Source: C&C DPP, 2021. C&C HoLIS, 2021.
 Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

Figure 3:

Tax Map Key and Land Ownership

Hawai'i Community Development Authority

North

Linear Scale (feet)

0 75 150 300

Island of O'ahu

PBR HAWAII
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

Table 1: Inventory of Partnerships Within He'eia State Park

Park Partner	Partnership Type	Approx. Area of Use	Partner Since	Renewal	Reviewing Entity
Kama'āina Care Inc. dba Kama'āina Kids (KK)	Holds agreement to oversee management of He'eia State Park.	Lessee of park lands, if not explicitly designated to another partner.	2010	25-year lease.	DLNR Division of State Parks
Hui o Ko'olaupoko (HOK)	Adopt-A-Park partner	5.7 ac	2012	Annual (subject to renewal) Not anticipated to renew in June 2022.	BLNR
Kāne'ohe Cultural Foundation (KCF)	Volunteer agreement (wa'a tradition outreach/education)	1 ac staging area	2013, renewed 2019	5-year (subject to renewal). Recently renewed.	DLNR Division of State Parks
Puakea Foundation (PFH)	Volunteer agreement (kālai wa'a outreach/education)	0.5 ac	2002	5-year (subject to renewal) Recently renewed (January 2021).	DLNR Division of State Parks
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Collaborator with DLNR (DAR and DOCARE) and He'eia NERR	Less than 0.5 ac (parking, trailer, and scuba storage)	2012	1- or 2-year (subject to renewal).	KK

Kama'āina Kids (KK): The non-profit Kama'āina Care Inc. (dba Kama'āina Kids) is the lessee of He'eia State Park and provides management oversight of the Park, with smaller areas within the Park subject to binding volunteer agreements with community groups/non-profits. KK is a private, non-profit, multi-service organization that provides a range of childcare and youth programs and activities. At He'eia State Park, KK manages the Park banquet hall, an important community facility and also operates its Eco-Ventures program, as described on its website, a water safety and small craft skill program that includes kayaking and sailing, and related kayak equipment rentals. KK's kayak operations have been a cause for community concern and there are differences in opinion regarding whether or not the kayak operations are in violation of its lease and/or community plans. KK uses the proceeds from the banquet hall and Eco-Ventures program to fund its management of the Park, which runs over \$400,000 per year. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and limits on social gatherings, banquet hall rental income and revenues from after school programs have sharply declined. KK has expressed general openness to collaboration and/or accommodation of He'eia NERR uses within the Park, based on a formal agreement between the two parties negotiated by DSP.

Hui o Ko'olaupoko (HOK): HOK is a non-profit watershed management group that works with communities to improve water quality through ecosystem restoration and stormwater management. HOK's operations span the Ko'olaupoko area, generally between Makapu'u and Kualoa, and has conducted restoration efforts along He'eia Stream since 2012. HOK holds an Adopt-A-Park agreement

with the Division of State Parks. The agreement delineates an approximately 5.7-acre area for HOK's He'eia Estuary Restoration Project, which aims to improve water quality and increase habitat for native aquatic animals at the estuary, by removing invasive plants and replanting native Hawaiian species.

Kāne'ohe Cultural Foundation (KCF): KCF is a non-profit organization that pursues the wellbeing and education of people in Hawai'i, and aims to provide "a dynamic and nurturing learning environment" that emphasizes Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. Originally established as the Kāne'ohe Canoe Club, KCF primarily pursues this vision at He'eia State Park through Hawaiian canoe (wa'a) paddling, racing, and sailing. KCF aims to foster, preserve, and perpetuate wa'a practices, and to educate the public about the history and culture of the sport. At He'eia State Park, KCF holds an agreement that includes an approximately 1-acre area for several wooden buildings used for wa'a storage and maintenance, and educational programs. KCF's watercraft are located nearby at He'eia Kea Harbor.



Photo 5 Puakea Foundation Canoe-Building Hale

Puakea Foundation of Hawai'i, Inc. (PFH): PFH is a non-profit organization that aims to perpetuate the history, culture, and traditional and contemporary folk arts of wa'a building by Pacific Islanders. PFC is pursuing educational, racing, and genealogical components of wa'a culture. PFH is named for (Uncle) Bobby Puakea, a master koa wa'a builder who has designed and repaired many canoes at He'eia State Park. At the Park, PFH hosts hands-on demonstrations, lectures, and workshops on wa'a craft and restoration. PFH holds an agreement for an approximately one-half-acre area of the Park where a recently-completed open sided hālau structure is used for wa'a storage, displays, and educational programs described above.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental non-profit organization that focuses on both land and water conservation. TNC has undertaken many projects in Hawai'i (notably at Kāko'o 'Ōiwi in the He'eia CDD). TNC's agreement at He'eia State Park is for a small area (less than 0.5 acres total) that includes a portable trailer, parking areas, and maintenance and storage space. TNC uses this area to house office, staging, and logistical operations for its local projects. The maintenance and storage space also functions as a training hub for underwater conservation work in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll.



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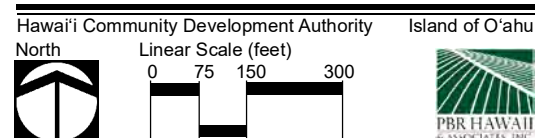
- He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels)
- He'eia State Park
- Park Facilities
- Kama'aina Care Inc.

Other Official Park Users

- HOK
- KCF
- PFH
- TNC

Figure 4:

He'eia State Park Leases and Volunteer Agreements



Source: DLNR Division of State Parks, various dates.

Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

Future Uses

He'eia NERR: As noted previously, proponents viewed He'eia as a good candidate for NERR designation, due to its potential contribution to the NERR System's research, education, and natural resource stewardship goals. The He'eia NERR includes He'eia State Park, among other areas. He'eia NERR has expressed openness to leading engagement in scientific and environmental stewardship activities within the Park, subject to agreements with owners and lessees of record (currently DSP and KK). (As noted previously, KK has expressed general openness to collaboration and/or accommodation of He'eia NERR uses within the Park, based on a formal agreement between the two parties negotiated by DSP.)



Photo 6 Looking toward an area that once was the site of picnic pavilion (since removed)

State and City Designations

The State Land Use Commission has designated He'eia State Park as being within the Urban District, which generally includes *lands characterized by "city-like" concentrations of people, structures and services. This District also includes vacant areas for future development.* Refer to Figure 5. This designation may be a reflection of the commercial land uses (Ulu Mau Village, restaurant, gift shop) operating at Ke'alohi before it was acquired for the purposes of a park. While this designation is not explicitly consistent with the land's preservation zoning under the City's Land Use Ordinance (discussed below), the Land Use Commission notes that county ordinances and rules prevail in the Urban District. As discussed previously and shown in Figure 5, He'eia State Park is not within HCDA's He'eia CDD.

The Park is zoned P-2 (general preservation district) by the City and County of Honolulu. The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu state that the purpose of preservation districts is *to preserve and manage major open space and recreation lands and lands of scenic and other natural resource value.* Regarding the P-2 district, the ordinance states:

It is also the intent that lands designated urban by the state, but well-suited to the functions of providing visual relief and contrast to the city's built environment or serving as outdoor space for

the public's use and enjoyment be zoned P-2 general preservation district. Areas unsuitable for other uses because of topographical considerations related to public health, safety and welfare concerns shall also be placed in this district. (ROH §21-3.40)

Generally permitted uses within the P-2 district include aquaculture, crop production, forestry, game preserves, livestock grazing, cemeteries, public uses and structures. Other uses including outdoor recreational facilities, would a Conditional Use Permit, and/or be subject to other review.

The entire park is within the Special Management Area (SMA). Refer to Figure 6. Future development may necessitate an SMA Use Permit and/or SMA-minor.



Photo 7 Area of former picnic pavilion, and an older restroom building



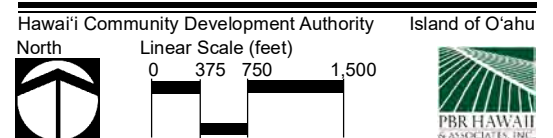
- He'eia NERR (outer boundary)
- HCDA He'eia Community Development District
- He'eia State Park

State Land Use District

- Agricultural
- Conservation
- Rural
- Urban

Figure 5:

State Land Use District and Community Development District Boundaries



Source: State Land Use Commission, 2020. State Office of Planning, 2017.

Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

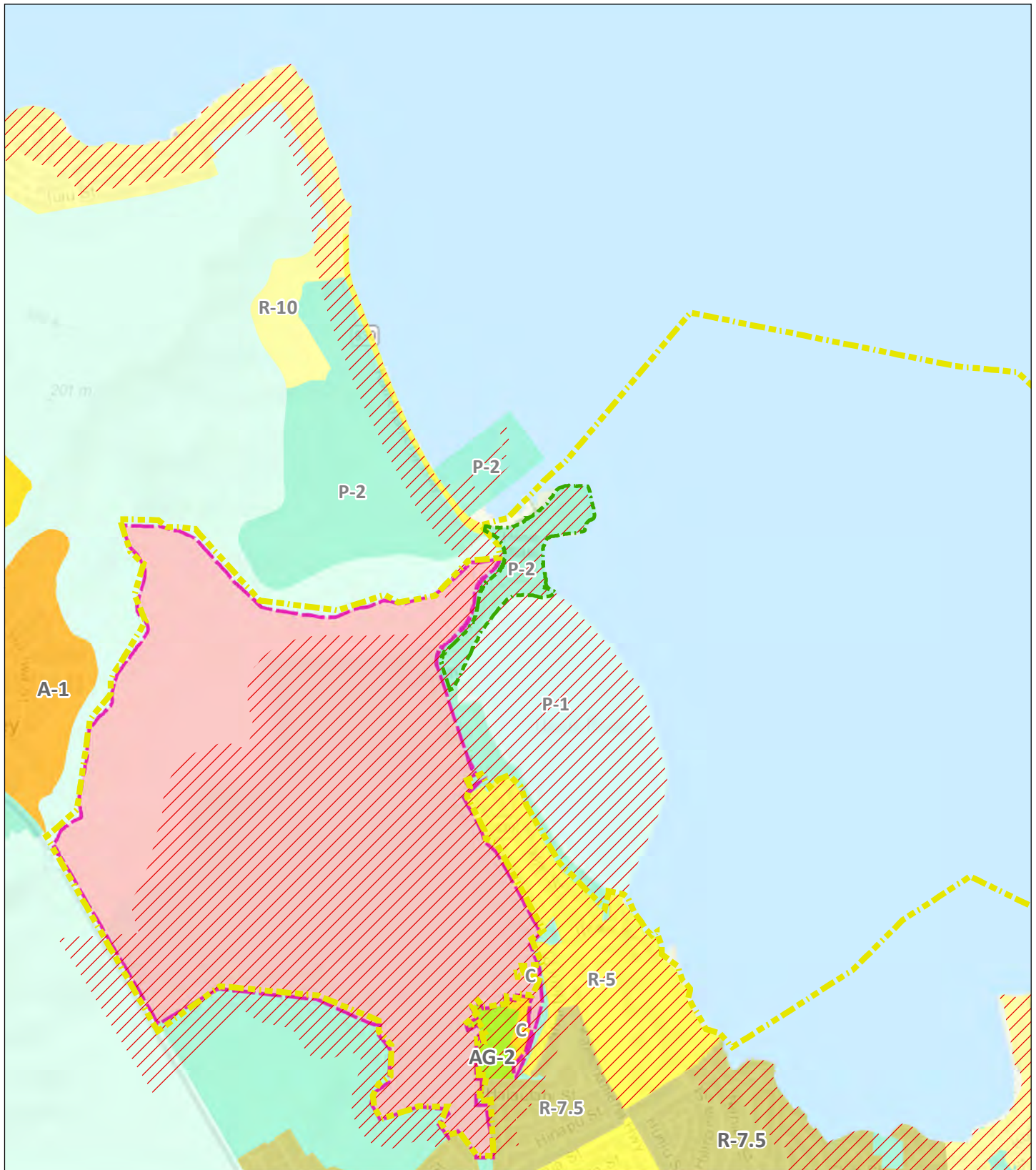
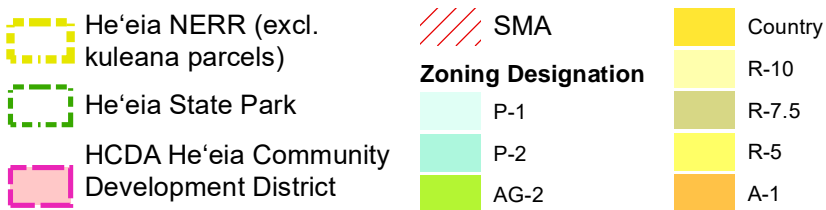
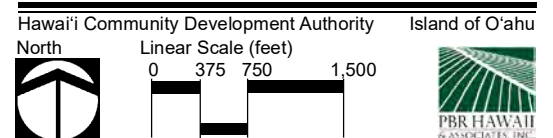


Figure 6:



County Zoning and Special Management Area



Surface Water Resources

Ke‘alohi Point is surrounded by a wealth of surface water resources. He‘eia Stream traverses a portion of He‘eia State Park as it drains into the restored fishpond at Paepae o He‘eia.

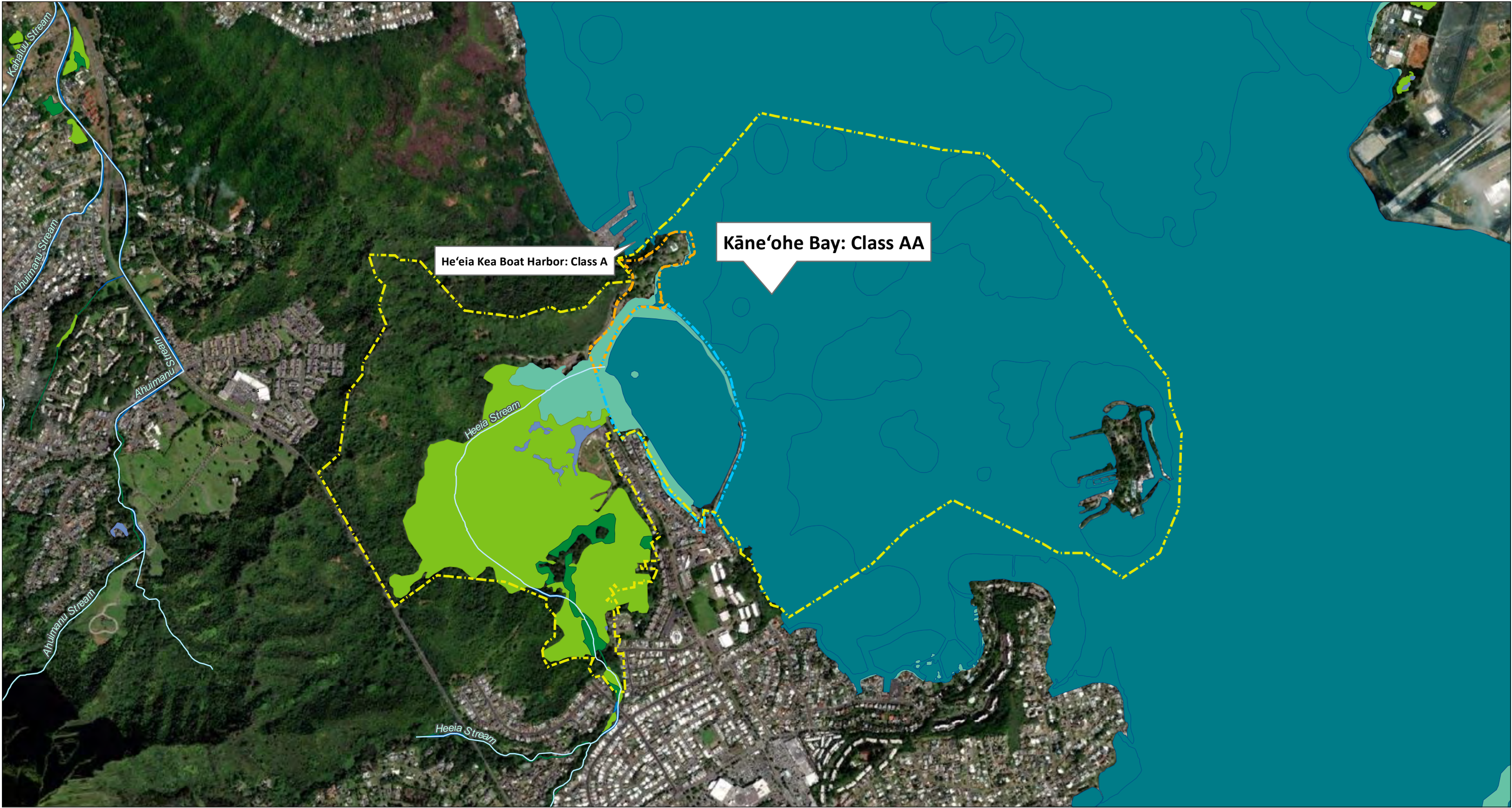
The portion of He‘eia State Park that faces the fishpond is designated as an Estuarine and Marine Wetland, with more seaward portions designated as an Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Wetland. The latter designation extends along the coastline on both sides of He‘eia State Park. Refer to Figure 7.

Ke‘alohi Point borders both Kāne‘ohe Bay and He‘eia Kea Harbor, classified by the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health as a Class AA and Class A water, respectively. According to DOH Water Quality Standards, “It is the objective of class AA waters that these waters remain in their natural pristine state as nearly as possible with an absolute minimum of pollution or alteration of water quality from any human-caused source or actions.” Regarding Class A waters, the standards state, “It is the objective of class A waters that their use for recreational purposes and aesthetic enjoyment be permitted as long as it is compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters.” (HAR §11-54-03)

Natural Hazards

Portions of the Park facing the fishpond are in the 3.2 foot Sea Level Rise Exposure Area, due to passive flooding concerns. He‘eia State Park is also within the evacuation zone for an extreme tsunami. Refer to Figure 8.

PDF: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\PDF
Path: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\GIS\Project\7 Surface Water Resources.mxd



LEGEND

- He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels)
- He'eia State Park
- Paepae o He'eia

- Stream Type**
- NON-PERENNIAL (none shown)
 - PERENNIAL

Source: DOH, 2002. NWI/USFWS, 2019.
Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

Wetland Type

- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Riverine
- Lake (none shown)
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

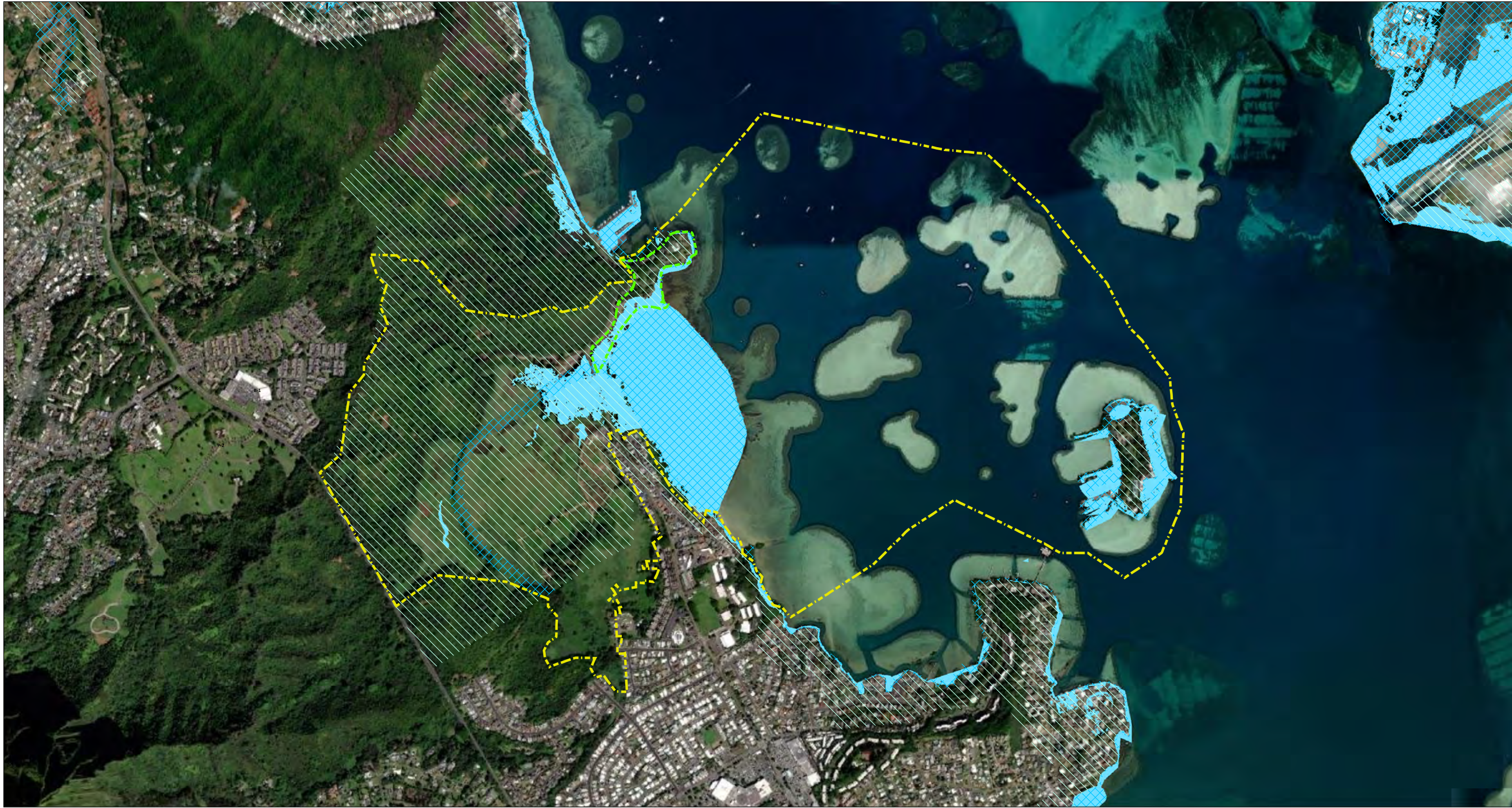
Figure 7:
Surface Water Resources

Hawai'i Community Development Authority
North

Linear Scale (feet)
0 375 750 1,500

Island of O'ahu

PDF: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\PDF
Path: Q:\Oahu\Heeia State Park Long-Range Plan\GIS\Project\8 SLR and Natural Hazards.mxd



LEGEND

- He'eia NERR (excl. kuleana parcels)
- He'eia State Park
- SLR Exposure Area - 3.2 Ft. Scenario
- Tsunami Evacuation Zone
- Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone

Source: C&C, 2010. University of Hawaii Coastal Geology Group & Tetra Tech, Inc., 2017.
Disclaimer: This graphic has been prepared for general planning purposes only and should not be used for boundary interpretations or other spatial analysis.

Figure 8:
**Sea Level Rise and
Natural Hazards**

Hawai'i Community Development Authority
North

Linear Scale (feet)

0 375 750 1,500

Hawai'i Community Development Authority
Island of O'ahu

Planning Overlays

This section provides an overview of the four existing planning efforts for the Park, and recommendations based on a review of those plans.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (1975)

Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) were utilized by the DLNR for acquisition of 18 acres now known as Heʻeia State Park in 1975. The use of these funds to assist in the purchase of this site came with certain requirements and restrictions on how it is used in perpetuity. This section of report details the LWCF Act and the rules governing LWCF assisted facilities, some of which are especially relevant to long range planning for Heʻeia NERR facilities in the Park.

The [LWCF Act](#) was passed by Congress in 1964 and signed into law in 1965. The LWCF program is administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), National Park Service (NPS) and provides funding for the acquisition and development of public lands to meet the needs of all Americans for outdoor recreation and open space. LWCF includes a federal program for land acquisition and a state assistance program where grants are provided to the states on a matching basis up to 50% for the acquisition of land and the development of facilities for public outdoor recreation. States are apportioned LWCF monies annually based on population and states must prepare and maintain their eligibility for those funds by 1) preparing and maintain a SCORP that is accepted by NPS, 2) submitting and gaining NPS approval of projects to receive funds, and 3) requesting obligation of the apportioned funds for the approved projects. Each state must designate a State Liaison Officer (SLO) to oversee the program. In Hawaiʻi, the SLO is either the Chairperson or Deputy from DLNR appointed by the Governor and Alternate SLO are staff persons within DLNR, Division of State Parks who manage the grant program.

The [LWCF State and Local Assistance Program Manual](#) was updated in March 2021 and sets forth the administrative procedures and requirements for the program. This new manual (Volume 71) reflects changes in relevant laws, regulations, and other legal authorities since the previous manual was issued in January 2021. The manual sets forth requirements for maintaining LWCF assisted sites to, “assure that LWCF-assisted areas remain accessible to the general public including non-residents of assisted jurisdictions”. (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2021) It includes basic standards for operation and maintenance, access standards, leasing/concession guidelines, and “conversions of use”. Standards from the LWCF Program Manual relevant to this project are described below.

Operations and Maintenance

LWCF assisted sites are required to be operated and maintained such that:

- The property is to appear attractive and inviting to the public.
 - Sanitary facilities are maintained to applicable health standards.
 - Outdoor recreation facilities should comply with State and Federal Legislation (the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is listed as an example).
 - “Properties shall be kept reasonably open, accessible, and safe for public use. Fire prevention, lifeguard, and similar activities shall be maintained for proper public safety.”
 - Structures and infrastructure shall be kept in reasonable repair.
 - The facility must be open for public use at reasonable times of the year and hours of the day.
- (Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program, p. 98)

Availability to Users

LWCF assisted sites are required to be available to users regardless of their place of residence, race, national origin, religion, or sex. With respect to place of residence, the LWCF Manual specifically notes that, “preferential reservation, membership or annual permit systems is prohibited except to the extent that reasonable differences in admission and other fees may be maintained on the basis of residence.” (p. 100) The manual specifies that fees charged to non-residents cannot exceed twice the amount charged to residents. If a LWCF assisted site is free for residents, the charge for non-residents must be comparable to that of other outdoor recreation facilities of a comparable nature. Except for non-resident fishing license fees, this standard applies to the entire recreational area within the LWCF assisted site boundary.

The requirement for availability to users does not prevent “reasonable use limitations” when needed for site maintenance or preservation. The manual allows for the number of users in an area or the type of user and offers “hikers only” or “hunters only” as examples of acceptable use restrictions.

Leasing and Concessions

Leasing or establishing a concession agreement with a private group or individual is permitted for LWCF assisted sites, provided the operator is managing the facility for outdoor recreational use and within the LWCF program requirements. If the outdoor recreation use is lost or compromised, the State is responsible to find a replacement property.

Conversions of Use

LWCF assisted properties are required to be retained for public outdoor recreation, and any “conversion” of the use to other than public outdoor recreation requires approval by NPS (54 USC Section 200305(f)(3)). When conversions are under consideration (or in some cases discovered after the fact), the State is responsible to manage a conversion process with NPS. This process includes determining the area that will be removed from public outdoor recreation, an analysis of alternatives to conversion, appraisal of fair market value of the property lost, and selection proposed equivalent replacement property. Examples of conversions include:

- Property interests that are conveyed for private or non-public outdoor recreation use.
- Non-outdoor recreation uses are added within the LWCF project area.
- Unallowable indoor facilities are developed within the LWCF project area.
- Termination of public outdoor recreation use.

Examples of actions that are not considered conversions include:

- Underground utility easements.
- Proposals to construct public facilities (see next section)
- Proposals for “temporary non-conforming uses”
- Proposals to build sheltered facilities or to shelter existing facilities (provided they don’t change the overall public outdoor recreation characteristics, and meet specific “sheltering criteria” listed in the manual).
- Proposals for changing the overall outdoor recreation use of an LWCF assisted property from its intended use when funds were accepted.

Proposals to Construct Public Facilities

LWCF assisted properties are permitted to add “public facilities” if the facility benefits outdoor recreation use of the entire park and if the facility is compatible with the outdoor recreational resources of the Park. When a public facility is proposed, the State must submit an application along with a project amendment agreement to NPS to document the proposal and to confirm that it is not a conversion of use. The NPS has specific criteria for consideration of a proposal for public facilities. They are summarized below:

- Uses of the facility are supportive of outdoor recreation use and the park’s outdoor recreational use is primary.
- Potential and future benefits to the park’s outdoor recreation utility should be documented to show a “net recreation benefit”.
- The proposed facility must be under the control and tenure of the public agency that sponsors and administers the original park area.
- The proposal has been reviewed by the SLO.

Significant Changes of Use

LWCF assisted properties must be maintained for some form of outdoor recreation use in their entirety. NPS approval is required when a LWCF assisted property is proposed to change from one eligible use to another when the proposed use would significantly contravene the original plans or intent for the area as described in the initial LWCF application. The LWCF manual guides the State to bring any change of use to their attention for a determination of whether a formal review and approval process will be required. The manual further notes that a primary consideration in the NPS review will be consistency with the State’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Act 166 Plan Recommendations Relating to LWCF

The grant agreement for the acquisition of He’eia State Park includes a general “project scope” statement and a supporting program narrative (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1975). The project scope identifies the LWCF assistance will be used for acquisition of 13.866 acres for a State Park providing water-oriented recreational opportunities. The program narrative expands on this to note the following uses:

- Access to the shoreline for fishing and other water-oriented recreational opportunities.
- Scenic lookout and picnic site having outstanding views of Kāne’ohe Bay.
- Visitor orientation center providing display and interpretive materials concerning historical aspects of the He’eia fishpond.

It is recommended that the following steps are taken to pursue He’eia NERR uses within the Park.

- Provide as detailed as possible description of the proposed uses to DSP for an initial consultation with NPS to determine if a formal change of use is required.
- Document proposed uses alignment with the original LWCF grant agreement and the SCORP.
- Based on NPS response, prepare formal change of use request, and/or proposal to construct a public facility.



Photo 8 Plein Air Painters Capturing the View Makai from Ke'alohe

Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan (1992)

In May 1992, the State of Hawaiʻi Office of State Planning approved the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, which was prepared by the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan Task Force (pursuant to Act 208, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 1990). What follows is an account of the pertinent planning directives and goals as it relates to the Heʻeia State Park.

The planning area included the Koʻolaupoko District as well as the watersheds of the twelve streams entering Kāneʻohe Bay, the inner bay waters designated Class AA, and the outer bay Class A waters². The

² The State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Health, Environmental Management Division, Clean Water Branch is responsible for protecting the public health of those who enjoy the State's coastal and inland water resources. To accomplish this, the Clean Water Branch administers statewide coastal water management activities including permitting, water quality monitoring, and enforcement. The Department of Health's [Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 11, Chapter 54 \(HAR 11-54\)](#) defines the State water quality standards, which outlines appropriate uses and water quality goals within designated marine areas. Marine waters are further classified under HAR 11-54-3(c) as either Class A or Class AA waters. Class AA waters are to: *remain in their natural pristine state as nearly as possible*

boundary line between the two waters runs between Pyramid Rock off Mōkapu (sic) Peninsula and Kaoio (sic) Point at Kualoa. (Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan Task Force, 1992, p. i)

The Task Force recognized that, a strong relationship exists between activities in the watershed and the health of Kāneʻohe Bay. Land use concerns included riparian influences, runoff and pollution from urban development, and limited public access to the Bay shoreline. Strong evidence assembled by the Task Force indicated that water and ecological quality in the Bay had been deteriorating since the mid-1980's. (Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, p. i)

Several planning concepts established the foundation for subsequent Task Force positions and recommendations. These included:

- sustainable use of the resources of the Bay;*
- the need to accommodate a variety of interests and existing uses within the limits of sustainability; and*
- the recognition that different zones of use and areas of different ecological value and sensitivity existed within the Bay. Ecological integrity, economic use, preservation of the opportunity for cultural and traditional pursuits, water safety, aesthetics, and fairness were of predominant concern in the public dialogue. (Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, p. i)*

The overall goals and objectives of the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan are to:

- Preserve and protect the unique natural resources of Kāneʻohe Bay for the continued use and enjoyment of the general public and future generations;*
- Resolve conflict among various uses of the Bay: including the general public, anglers, and commercial ocean recreation operations; and*
- Assess the environmental and ecological impacts of activities on the Bay and in the watershed. (Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, p. 1)*

The Master Plan included numerous references to Heʻeia State Park, including the following pertaining to educational uses:

The facilities of Heʻeia State Park at Lae ʻO Ke Alohi (sic) and the frontage of King Intermediate School. with the Heʻeia Fishpond between them, present a unique opportunity to create and enhance access for educational purposes. An additional major benefit would be access for youth through organized activities - canoe halaus, sailing clubs, etc. Educating youth about the ecology and cultural resources of the Bay and allowing them the opportunity to experience the Bay may provide the best long term protection for the Bay. The addition of finger piers for fishing and passive recreation might be considered for these sites. King Intermediate School, Heʻeia State Park, and HIMB-Coconut Island form a potential educational "triangle" worthy of further program expansion... (Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, p. 24)

with an absolute minimum of pollution or altercation of water quality from any human-caused source or actions. To the extent possible, the wilderness character of these areas shall be protected." Class A waters are designated marine areas which are protected, "for recreational purposes and aesthetic enjoyment... Any other use shall be permitted as long as it is compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters."

The amount and type of educational access to the Bay should be increased so that people can more easily learn about the preservation of this natural resource. Youth programs at He'eia State Park, King Intermediate School, HIMB, and at the several fishponds should be supported... (Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan, p. 27)

...He'eia State Park (Lae 'O Ke Alohi (sic)): from Urban to Conservation to preserve this prominent land feature that is a major public access point for viewing the Bay and to be consistent with current and intended use of the area. (Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan, p. 34)

However, most references to He'eia State Park were in regard to recreational uses:

4. *Provide finger piers at King Intermediate School and near Lae 'O Ke Alohi (sic) (connected to He'eia State Park) to increase access to and opportunities for educational activities on the Bay.*
5. *If possible, connect He'eia Kea Harbor to He'eia State Park at Ke Alohi (sic) Point.*
6. *Create an extension of He'eia State Park in He'eia Kea valley to preserve public open space and provide protection from urbanization. Its location near He'eia Kea Harbor would also allow space for additional parking and pier related facilities.* (Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan, p. 36)

Chapter 5 of the Master Plan related to implementation, and Table 3 of that Chapter included a summary of all of the recommendations of the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Planning Task Force. Table 3 did not contain any specific recommendations on environmental and/ or cultural education, or on the use of He'eia State Park for educational or cultural uses.

He'eia State Park Master Plan (1993)

The [He'eia State Park Final Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) Master Development Plan](#) was prepared in support of publicly funded improvements within the Park. The EIS noted the SCORP's finding that improvements to existing recreational facilities would be needed on O'ahu, as well as the Park's potential to attract visitors interested in learning about Hawaiian history and local ecological resources. It is also plausible that existing structures within the Park were deteriorating and in need of improvements, as they were inherited from the Park's former use as Ulu Mau Village, a privately owned and operated cultural entertainment center and restaurant. (At that time, the area was known as Matson Point.) DLNR's development of the He'eia State Park Master Development Plan may have also been prompted by the land's anticipated change in use from commercial to public park.

According to the EIS, several Conceptual Plans were prepared largely based on implementation of a proposed interpretive plan entitled, "Conceptual Development Plan, He'eia State Park, Friends of He'eia State Park, June, 1990", prepared for the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). The "He'eia State Park Master Plan Advisory Committee" was also formed to provide community-based input into the planning process. Based in part on recommendations developed by the "He'eia State Park Master Plan Advisory Committee", the goal statement for He'eia State Park, was as follows:

He'eia State Park should recognize and perpetuate the natural and cultural heritage of the site known as, Lae 'O Ke Alohi (sic) and its surroundings, and serve the entire community as a social, educational, and cultural gathering place.

To achieve the stated goal, the interpretive values of the Park, on-going interpretive programs, and the emphasis on passive recreation for the Park, the following objectives were developed in the master planning process to guide future management decisions and selection of the preferred conceptual plan. Objectives included:

- *Optimize the use of He'eia State Park as an important recreational and interpretive resource for all residents of Hawai'i by providing programs and interpretive information that improves the overall awareness of the natural environment.*
- *Preserve and enhance the existing natural qualities and opportunities unique to Lae 'O Ke Alohi (sic) and the Kāne'ohe Bay environs.*
- *Provide for site improvements and facilities, as necessary, to enhance the interpretive value of the Park.*
- *Expand and emphasize on-shore and off-shore passive recreational opportunities, educational programs, and activities that relate to the Park's natural and cultural resources.*
- *All interpretive programs and facilities shall be oriented to the Park theme: Man, the land, the sea, and their relationship as exemplified by the evolution of land use in the Kāne'ohe Bay region from early Hawai'i to the present day.*

The He'eia State Park Master Development Plan included the following activity areas/uses:

- Main Interpretive Area
- Lū'au Pavilion Area
- Pier Interpretive Area (proximal to He'eia Kea Pier)
- Stream Interpretive Area
- Story Development of Natural and/or Historic Interpretive Values
- Types of Interpretive Programs and Techniques



Photo 9 He'eia State Park Welcome Sign

The Plan's descriptions of interpretive facilities included:

The primary focal point in the park will center on the site of the existing Visitor Center. An elevated platform or second story is proposed to provide a permanent viewing area, and multi-purpose room. Interpretive boards would also be placed adjacent to the many windows envisioned for the structure... Proposed facilities to communicate cultural values include replacement of the existing concrete slab with amphitheater and "stage" to accommodate Hula performances and other activities. A second interpretive platform (as shown in Alternative C) would be provided to extend out over the reef area fronting the Visitor Center. This platform would be designed for reef interpretation and not be accessible to boats or water related activities. (He'eia State Park Final Environmental Impact Statement Master Development Plan, 1993, pp. 12-13)

An information kiosk and shelter would be provided near the bus drop-off point at the top of the pathway leading to the Visitors Center. Area to be landscaped with new paths, benches and interpretive viewing stations...

Interpretive viewing stations would be provided along the walkway system at selected overlooks and along He'eia Stream. The cultural interpretive values of He'eia Fishpond and He'eia Stream will be described at the shoreline interpretive area and the ethno/botanical garden. Facilities at the shoreline interpretive area include an open air enclosable shelter with a restroom, outdoor showers, picnic tables, and connection of the interpretive trail to a future He'eia Meadowlands Trail to be connected at Kamehameha Highway near the "Long bridge". This trail system through the park will link He'eia Kea Pier with He'eia Meadowlands. A boardwalk is proposed for areas located over saturated soils within areas of dense vegetation.

The heavily vegetated area between He'eia Stream and Kamehameha Highway would be cleared of refuse and undesirable vegetation. Collaboration with the He'eia Fishpond lessee should be encouraged to assist in the removal and control of mangroves to reduce possible damage to He'eia Fishpond and improve viewing. Mangrove control along He'eia Stream is presently being contracted to maintain the stream in a natural condition...

The Interpretive Program for the preferred alternative will center on the natural environment and the impacts Hawaiian and western societies have created within the transition zone between land and sea. Emphasis should be placed on the geologic and biological evolution of Kāne'ohe Bay, the habitation patterns and importance of the site displayed by the Hawaiian culture, and how the natural environment is affected by the current condition. Landscape plantings have been proposed in locations to create a clear spatial definition of activity areas, viewing platforms, or special interpretive features. Some plants will require removal or relocation to maintain and enhance view corridors. (He'eia State Park Final Environmental Impact Statement Master Development Plan, 1993, p. 14)

In recognition of the known burial grounds and heiau site that exist within the park, an[y] remains found on the site be re-buried after consultation with the Burial Council and designated representative(s) of the original Hawaiian families of the He'eia Ahupua'a (sic). The re-burial site will not be identified except by records maintained by the State and Burial Council...

The interpretive program for individuals can be “self-guided” through the provision of informational kiosks and pamphlets, and predetermined stopping points of interpretive interest. In addition, the interpretive signage program and walkways system will provide handicap access to interpretive areas in accordance with recognized standards.

Heʻeia NERR Management Plan (2016) and Pending Update (2022)

In 2016, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development published a [2016-2021 Management Plan](#) for the Heʻeia NERR. Heʻeia NERR staff produced a subsequent Management Plan Update (2022-2026), to reflect minor adjustments made after the first five years of operations; it is nearly finalized. (This report utilizes language and information from the anticipated Management Plan Update where appropriate.)

Established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the NERR System is a State-Federal partnership between NOAA and the coastal states. The system protects over 1.3 million acres of estuarine land and waters across the country (in 29 research reserves) for the purpose of advancing and applying knowledge of estuaries to improve coastal management and stewardship.

The State of Hawaiʻi, through its Office of Planning (now Office of Planning and Sustainable Development), coordinated with NOAA to nominate the Heʻeia estuary as a NERR. On May 21, 2014, Governor Abercrombie officially nominated Heʻeia as a NERR to support NOAA’s policy to encourage expansion of the program in unrepresented areas of the country. In particular, the State believed that the designation of Heʻeia could contribute to the objectives of the NERR System by addressing the research, education, and natural resource stewardship goals of the system. Heʻeia is easily accessible to researchers, educators, and the public. More importantly, the nomination received the broad-based support of the Native Hawaiian community, represented by the Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC) and current stewardship groups active in the estuary, including Paepae o Heʻeia and Kakoʻo ʻŌiwi.

The Heʻeia NERR seeks to integrate indigenous resource management approaches with contemporary principles of the NERR System to support sustainable co-management of the Heʻeia estuary. The Heʻeia NERR includes Heʻeia State Park, Heʻeia Fishpond, Heʻeia wetlands, a large expanse of marine waters with patch and fringing reefs, and Moku o Loʻe (Coconut Island). The total acreage of the Heʻeia NERR is approximately 1,385 acres. The habitat types represented in this Heʻeia NERR include both aquatic and terrestrial areas: coral reefs and open marine waters, the enclosed Heʻeia Fishpond, mangrove stands, landscaped areas on Moku o Loʻe and at Heʻeia State Park, taro patches and gardens, overgrown wetland marshes, seasonally wet grasslands, and Heʻeia Stream.

The Heʻeia NERR includes a core area and buffer areas, as shown in the image below reproduced from the Heʻeia NERR Management Plan (Hawaiʻi Office of Planning, 2016) and pending Management Plan Update (Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology, 2022).



Photo 10 He'eia NERR core and buffer areas

The buffer areas of the He'eia NERR are contiguous with the core area and encompass about 762 terrestrial and aquatic acres. These areas were found suitable to be designated as buffers because they are vital to the long-term viability of the natural process and research and educational activities, and these areas are also currently used for, or planned to be used for, major agricultural, aquacultural, restoration-related, recreational, or commercial activities. The 476 acres of land in the He'eia NERR buffer area consist of HCDA's He'eia CDD, the He'eia Fishpond, He'eia State Park, and Moku o Lo'e.

An extensive community engagement process laid the foundation for the nomination and designation of the He'eia NERR. The general public and in particular the He'eia NERR co-management partners, along with OP and NOAA, were fully engaged throughout the development of the He'eia NERR management plan. The foundation for community engagement was laid by the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC), which actively engaged not only the Hawaiian community but the larger community in activities involving Kāne'ohe Bay and the upland areas. The KHCC represents the ahupua'a of Kāne'ohe, He'eia, Kahu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waiāhole, Waikāne, Hakipu'u, and Kualoa on the windward side on the island of O'ahu. Included in that representation are families and kūpuna (elders) who have lineal and cultural connections to He'eia. In addition to the KHCC's work, for more than 10 years, the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) has been working to involve the community in its research projects in Kāne'ohe Bay. Community engagement has included education programs and tours of Moku o Lo'e for individuals, families, and community and school groups. Other groups, like Paepae o He'eia and Kako'o 'Ōiwi, have long been actively engaged in culturally restoring the He'eia Fishpond and the lo'i kalo, respectively, and have generated great interest and involvement by the larger community in these efforts.

A working vision and mission statement were developed as a result of this process and were subsequently revisited by key focus groups and the steering committee. The Management Plan Update includes an update to the He'eia NERR vision and mission statements:

He'eia NERR Vision

The ahupua'a concept is a global example of a thriving and resilient social-ecological community. The biocultural integrity of the ahupua'a of He'eia is restored to a state of 'āina momona and is a legacy for future generations.

He'eia NERR Mission

To practice and promote stewardship through Native Hawaiian philosophies and values. Our efforts are supported by Indigenous knowledge, innovative research, education, and training that nourishes healthy and resilient ecosystems, economies, and communities.

To support the He'eia NERR vision and mission statements, a number of goals and objectives were developed regarding "research and monitoring", "education", and "stewardship". Regarding He'eia State Park, the following He'eia NERR Management Plan goals appear most relevant:

Goal 2

Develop place-based education and training programs that inspire and educate the community about coastal ecosystems and Indigenous resource management practices that mālama these systems sustainably, developing 'dual fluency' within the community.

Goal 3

Engage in collaborative management to practice and promote stewardship that sustains cultural, biological, and natural resources.

Regarding He'eia State Park, the following He'eia NERR Management Plan objectives appear most relevant:

3. Synthesize information for relevant outputs by weaving Indigenous knowledge with research to better inform community decision making toward creating a sustainable ecosystem.

4. Increase student, educator, and community understanding of coastal ecosystems and Hawaiian resource management.

5. Provide a comprehensive framework to integrate and enhance coordination and effectiveness of place based education and training programs that have been initiated independently by the He'eia community.

6. Weave Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), including Indigenous science, with conventional science to inform climate adaptation, habitat restoration, and water quality.

7. Engage and educate the community on the practices and values of the Hawaiian resource management to promote 'āina momona and pono stewardship efforts by all sectors of the community.

8. Become a leading repository of information for cultural, biological, and natural resources in the He'eia estuary.

9. Develop the tools, capacity and connections to increase public awareness across the community, island, state, nation, and the world of the ecological and cultural significance of coastal ecosystems, the ahupua'a, and ultimately the entire moku.

10. Support restoration of key areas in the He'eia NERR to improve habitat and increase ecosystem services.

The 2016-2021 Management Plan for the He'eia NERR and subsequent Management Plan Update are very comprehensive in developing goals, objectives, policies and strategies, including identifying physical facilities that might be needed to educate the public and manage the He'eia NERR. The 2022 Management Plan Update mentions that the He'eia State Park is anticipated to provide centralized access and an operational base for the He'eia NERR, but it does not specifically state that the Park should be acquired for such purposes. The He'eia NERR acknowledges that the Park is currently leased by Kama'aina Care, Inc. (dba Kama'aina Kids), and any He'eia NERR-related facilities development activities on state park lands would require a license amendment or special use permit issued by the Division of State Parks and/or DLNR. Some statements regarding He'eia State Park in the 2016-2021 Management Plan include:

As visitor use facilities are developed for the He'eia NERR, it is anticipated that He'eia State Park, with its ample parking and visitor use facilities, will become the point of entry for visitors to the He'eia NERR and provide administrative office space and an operational base for He'eia NERR staff members.

There may be increased opportunities for the public to access the area moving forward. Additional access continues to be provided independently by the co-management partners. The He'eia NERR management plan calls for more hands-on experiences for the public, and this is another opportunity for managed visitor access that is consistent with He'eia NERR management plan goals and objectives.

It is anticipated that He'eia State Park, with its public parking lot and visitor-use facilities, will become one of the main points of entry for visitors to the He'eia NERR (Figure 39). The park currently has ample parking spaces and room for cars, vans, and buses, which will bring visitors, school groups, and tourists to the site. While the facilities at the State Park are currently used for commercial purposes by a third-party leasee, there is the potential to convert these facilities for education purposes. The park also has ample room for development of a community education, research, and visitor center for the He'eia NERR. While these visitor use facilities are being developed, HIMB provides interim office space and an operational base for He'eia NERR staff.

A facilities challenge for the He'eia NERR is the lack of large, dedicated meeting and teaching space to support larger school groups and community groups for the education program. These need to be in a location that is convenient for public access and parking, including school buses. The He'eia State Park has large meeting rooms that can be used for education, and also has ample parking, but is already in use by a third-party leasee for commercial purposes. There are two outdoor education pavilions at Kāko'o 'Ōiwi and Paepae o He'eia, but both are small and temporary

without sufficient parking at each site. HIMB has larger facilities, but parking and access to Moku o Lo'e is challenging due to the required arrival by small shuttle boat.

Another facilities challenge is adequate space for administrative and program staff in a location accessible to the public. The He'eia NERR core staff, i.e. the Reserve Manager, Research Coordinator, and Education Coordinator, are located at HIMB. HIMB has limited space and there are logistics challenges of getting access to the island via the shuttle boat. The island also has limited public access. Having an office and baseyard facility located on O'ahu, perhaps at the State Park, would provide better logistics for conducting field work at terrestrial sites in the He'eia NERR, and provide greater accessibility to He'eia NERR staff for co-management partners and the public.

Some of the considerations for siting to avoid potential climate change impacts at the He'eia NERR site include the reality that most of the land within the He'eia NERR is either a low island, or at elevations less than 20 feet along the shoreline or just inland. Some of the highest ground in the He'eia NERR is at He'eia State Park at 57 feet elevation. These coastal locations are susceptible to a combination of sea level rise and increased storm surge hazards related to climate change. In considering these factors, the co-management partners identified He'eia State Park as a potential site to consider in the planning process for visitor center development. This will need to be further evaluated during the facility planning process.

Recommendations based on Planning Overlays

Based on the planning and land use overlays discussed above, the following recommendations³ have been developed.

- He'eia NERR and NOAA determine what restrictions/responsibilities will be placed on development, activities, or uses within the Park if federal funds from NOAA are used for He'eia NERR construction or activities. Share this information with DSP.
- He'eia NERR and DSP craft an outline of what is sought in an Interpretive Center for DSP to initiate conversation with NPS with respect to LWCF.
- He'eia NERR work with DSP to design (in physical form and programs) an Interpretive Center such that it is directly supportive of outdoor recreation in compliance with the LWCF.
- In consultation with lineal or cultural descendants of He'eia, incorporate the following themes in to planning, design, and program implementation:
 - Indigenous and local knowledge
 - Ahupua'a stewardship practices
 - Ke'alahi's specific cultural and physical significance within the ahupua'a
 - Connect educational, stewardship, and management activities to outdoor recreation.
 - Consider new or refinement of themes that emerge through updates of the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan.
- Collectively participate in an update to the 1992 Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan, consistent with the long-range planning recommendations of that plan.

³ HCDA has no jurisdiction to assign responsibilities, timelines, budgets, or priorities for Park stakeholders. As such, the recommendations herein are suggested based on literature review and the communications with stakeholders documented within this plan.

Act 166 Planning Process Recap

Stakeholder Consultation

The purpose of Act 166 is to appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a He'eia state park community-based long-range plan for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

The Act goes on to list specific entities to be consulted in the planning process. Those groups include:

1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
2. The Department of Land and Natural Resources;
3. Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa;
4. Kako'o 'Ōiwi ;
5. Paepae o He'eia;
6. Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club;
7. Ko'olau Foundation;
8. A representative of the Kāne'ohe Neighborhood Board; and,
9. A representative of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board

To meet the requirements of Act 166, the HCDA initiated a two-phase community engagement approach. The first phase involved arranging a series of either one-on-one or small group meetings or calls with individuals representing the above entities. Some parties in the above list required multiple one-on-one and small group engagements as they are most directly involved in the current management of He'eia State Park (DLNR as an example).

The purpose of meeting with the He'eia NERR stakeholders individually was to understand their organizations' issues, concerns, and goals and objectives in relationship to the legislative intent of Act 166. Table 2 documents contacts with entities named by Act 166 as well as other organizations closely connected with the He'eia NERR and He'eia State Park.

Table 2 Phase I Community Engagement Contacts

Date of Engagement	Organization	Purpose/Topic
3/16/2021	HIMB	Project initiation/ gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/16/2021	Paepae o He'eia	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/18/2021	Ko'olau Foundation	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/18/2021	Kama'āina Kids	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/19/2021	DLNR, Chair's Office, Water Resource Management; Division of State Parks; Land Management Division; Division of Conservation and Resources	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166

	Enforcement; Division of Aquatic Resources; Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands; Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation	
3/23/2021	Kākoʻo ʻŌiwi	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/23/2021	Heʻeia NERR	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/26/2021	NOAA	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
3/26/2021	Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
4/5/2021	Heʻeia NERR Reserve Advisory Board & Heʻeia NERR Manager	Discuss jurisdictional and land dispositions
4/5/2021	Kamaʻāina Kids	Project initiation; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
4/8/2021	Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club and Kakoʻo ʻŌiwi	Discuss jurisdictional and land dispositions
4/13/2021	DLNR Kamaʻāina Kids Heʻeia NERR Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club NOAA	Seek mutual understanding of land dispositions and explore alternatives for shared uses within the Park
5/4/2021	Hawaiʻi State Senate / Senator Gil Riviere	Project update
5/4/2021	Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives / Representative Lisa Kitagawa	Project update
5/7/2021	Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board Chair Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board Chair	Project update; gain understanding of organization goals relating to Act 166
5/20/2021	Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives / Representative Scot Matayoshi	Project update
6/2/2021	Hawaiʻi State Senate / Senator Jarrett Keohokalole	Project update

Stakeholder Consultation Outcomes

The following outcomes were achieved from the one on one and small group meetings:

- Existing land dispositions, such as the 25-year lease held by Kamaʻāina Care were described to the stakeholders.
- Information regarding the implications of the Park being a LWCF-assisted facility was transmitted.
- Alternatives for land disposition were discussed and constructive conversations in the small group meetings moved the stakeholders toward consideration of sharing space within the Park. The site of an old picnic pavilion is one possible location for an Interpretive Center and/or Educational Hālau (see photos below).
- Opportunities for partnership in outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and interpretive education between the stakeholders were preliminarily explored.
- Disagreements and differences of opinion remain about current uses and activities within the Park, particularly relating to kayak rentals. This was acknowledged.

Community Meeting

A community meeting was held for the Act 166 Planning effort. The meeting was held on September 29, 2021 via video conference (Zoom). Over 60 attendees present for at least part of the meeting, including the project team. The meeting started with an oli from Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, community member and lineal descendent of Heʻeia ahupuaʻa. Following was a presentation from the project team and included an update on Heʻeia NERR activities by the Heʻeia NERR Manager. The presentation covered the Act 166 planning process, an update on Heʻeia NERR activities to date, and a concept for an educational hālau for Heʻeia NERR at the Park, and then moved into a series of participatory questions.

The facilitated interactive session used a combination of live polling, the Zoom chat box function, and open mic responses. The public was invited to provide additional written comments for two weeks following the meeting.

Community Meeting Outcomes

The primary messages received from the public in the public meeting and follow up comments are summarized below (please see Appendix B for the complete meeting notes).

Cultural values that should be embodied in the educational hālau:

- Mālama ʻāina (to take care of the land)
- Aloha ʻāina (love and reverence for the land)
- Ahupuaʻa stewardship (from the uplands to the sea)
- Kōkua (help, aid, assistance)
- Kuleana (right and responsibility)
- Pono (goodness, just, correct or proper procedure, excellence)
- ʻImi ʻike / ʻimi naʻauao (to seek knowledge, research, learning, as well as deeper insights and enlightenment from ancestral wisdoms)
- Hōʻihi kūpuna Kūpuna (honor elders/ancestors)

Important things to teach to children, the general public, visitors:

- Appropriate behaviors and protocols before experiencing Heʻeia
- Interconnectedness of the ecosystem, cultural practice, stewardship and people
- Indigenous stewardship practices
- Uniqueness of Heʻeia ahupuaʻa
- Respect for the ecosystem, Ke ʻAlohi, and wahi kapu of the area
- Food sustainability: fishing practices, plants, whole food systems (ahupuaʻa)

Comments relating to how to teach:

- Kūpuna to inform content
- Hands on learning and stewardship

The most ecologically sensitive areas of the Park:

- The entire park, generally
- Shoreline/riparian zones, specifically mentioned

The most culturally sensitive areas of the Park:

- The entire park, generally
- iwi kupuna (burials), specifically mentioned
- old house site(s), specifically mentioned

Pono stewardship in the ahupuaʻa of Heʻeia:

- Aligned with cultural values
- Community-based
- Inclusiveness, shared vision
- Restoration of native ecosystem and food systems with an understanding of the people and moʻolelo (histories) of Heʻeia.

Values to be explored for Heʻeia and future programs that would reflect those values:

- Gathering: to learn, teach, practice, and celebrate
- Community: togetherness, collaboration,
- Science: citizen science, food sustainability, climate change/sea level rise
- Move away from commercial activity as a means of financial support

Recommendations based on Stakeholder Consultation and Community Meeting
The following recommendations⁴ have been developed as a direct result of the stakeholder consultation and community meeting. These recommendations are also reflected in the opening chapter of this report.

He'eia NERR, Kama'āina Care, and DSP meet on a regular basis and set forth an agenda and assignment of responsibilities toward shared use of the Park including, but not limited to the following.

- Negotiate an adjustment to the existing lease held by Kama'āina Care for the purpose of use of some land area within the Park for an Interpretive Center and/or Educational Hālau.
- Form agreement about ecological stewardship responsibilities within the Park.
- Provide periodic (monthly or quarterly) updates to the Kāne'ohe and Kahalu'u Neighborhood Boards.

He'eia NERR, Kama'āina Care, and DSP: consult with lineal descendants when crafting interpretive programs and educational collateral materials. A similar recommendation resulted from review of relevant planning documents earlier in this report.

Document and record specific known locations of historic and cultural resources within the Park. Ideally, documentation would be undertaken as a cooperative effort between lineal descendents of He'eia and a State agency such as DSP or SHPD. Resulting documentation should be used as guidance for any new physical planning within the Park, and housed in a location that is both secure and accesible for Park planning and operational decision-making.

Evaluate on-site facilities management practices for near-term and long-term ecological health of the ahupua'a such as:

- Invasive species removal and native habitat restoration
- Feral cat management
- Stormwater management best practices
- Shoreline management that acknowledges sea level rise, rather than hardening with walls, sandbags, etc.

⁴ HCDA has no jurisdiction to assign responsibilities, timelines, budgets, or priorities for Park stakeholders. As such, the recommendations herein are suggested based on literature review and the communications with stakeholders documented within this plan.

Conclusion

This plan reflects values specific to the community of He'eia as reflected and documented in related planning efforts and through engagements over the last year. It is clear that Ke 'Alohi is a beloved social, cultural, and ecological resource – one of geographical and spiritual prominence within the ahupua'a. The intersection of this place's cultural and ecological value can (and should) serve as a touchpoint for future development and management actions within the Park and throughout the ahupua'a.

This plan's recommendations are based on key values that resonate throughout prior and ongoing community endeavors, some of which are documented in reports and plans and others which are held and shared as community mana'o. These values are useful in developing a framework for the planning of physical improvements, management of those improvements, as well as the planning of programs and activities.

The community engagement process brought to light points of strong disagreement between stakeholders, particularly relating to current management and operations of the Park. However, this planning process did make incremental strides in convening conversations that have the potential to lead to mutually beneficial resolution of stakeholder differences. Adoption and implementation of any of this report's recommendations will therefore only result from the plan stakeholders working together, likely under DSP's leadership, with significant engagement from lessees of the Park and in consultation with long-time community members and the public.

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APPENDIX A:
ACT 166



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 27, 2019

GOV. MSG. NO. 1268

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 27, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1068 HD1 SD2 CD1

RELATING TO HEEIA STATE PARK.
ACT 166 (19)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEEIA STATE PARK.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has
2 coordinated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
3 Administration to nominate Heeia estuary as a national estuarine
4 research reserve. The National Estuarine Research Reserve
5 System is a network of twenty-nine protected areas along
6 America's coastlines that was founded on the principle that
7 long-term protection of representative estuaries provides stable
8 platforms for research, education, and management practices that
9 benefit the nation's coasts. In 2012, the office of planning
10 was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the selection of
11 a National Estuarine Research Reserve System site in Hawaii. In
12 2014, Heeia was officially nominated as a national estuarine
13 research reserve to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
14 Administration's policy encouraging expansion of the program in
15 unrepresented areas of the country. The Heeia estuary site
16 includes Heeia state park, Heeia fishpond, and the Heeia
17 community development district, as well as marine waters with



1 patch and fringing reefs and Moku o Loe (Coconut Island). In
2 order to be a success within the National Estuarine Research
3 Reserve System, a community-based long-range plan for Heeia
4 state park must be developed.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for and
6 require the involvement of community members and organizations
7 in the development of a Heeia state park community-based long-
8 range plan for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve
9 System.

10 SECTION 2. To ensure the involvement of key community
11 stakeholders in this planning process, the Hawaii community
12 development authority and any entity designated by the Hawaii
13 community development authority to manage the Heeia state park
14 shall invite and consult with the following entities or
15 individuals in the development process of the Heeia state park
16 community-based long-range plan for the Heeia National Estuarine
17 Research Reserve System:

- 18 (1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
19 (2) The department of land and natural resources;
20 (3) Hawaii institute of marine biology of the University
21 of Hawaii;



- 1 (4) Kakoo Oiwi;
2 (5) Paepae o Heeia;
3 (6) Koolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club;
4 (7) Koolau Foundation;
5 (8) A representative of the Kaneohe neighborhood board to
6 be appointed by the chair of the Kaneohe neighborhood
7 board; and
8 (9) A representative of the Kahaluu neighborhood board to
9 be appointed by the chair of the Kahaluu neighborhood
10 board.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the
14 Heeia state park community-based long-range plan for the Heeia
15 National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

APPROVED this 27 day of JUN, 2019

David Y. Ige

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 1068, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

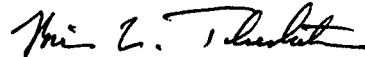
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

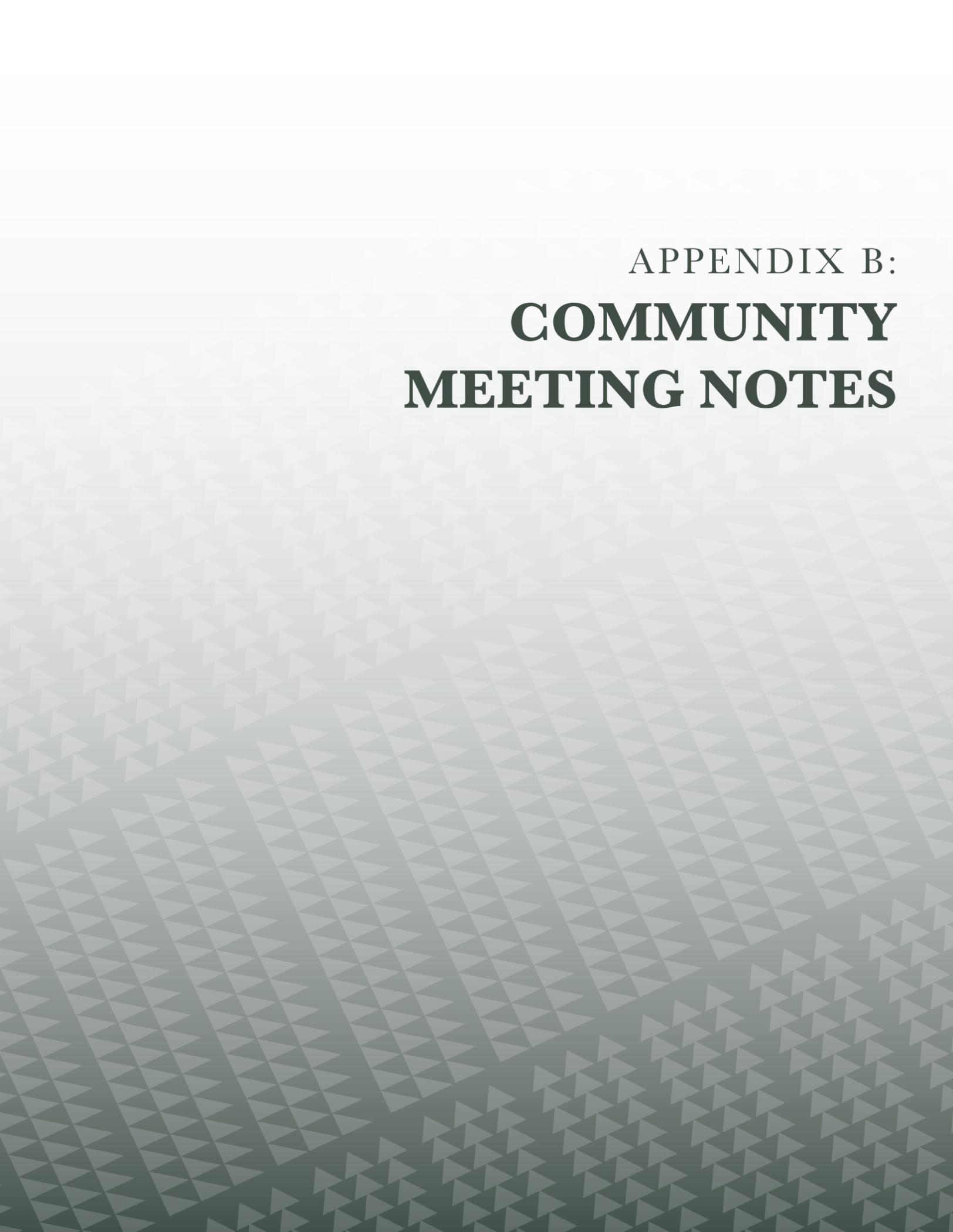
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 30, 2019
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the
Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate



APPENDIX B:
**COMMUNITY
MEETING NOTES**

Virtual Community Meeting

Wednesday, September 29th
5:30-7:30 pm

BACKGROUND INFO:



In 2019 Act 166, "Relating to He'eia State Park" was signed in to law. Act 166 delegated the planning process to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA). Act 166 directs HCDA to develop a He'eia State Park community-based long-range plan for the He'eia NERR. The HCDA and their planning consultants have been engaging with community stakeholders named in Act 166. The HCDA would like to share progress made to date and to receive feedback on that progress from the community.

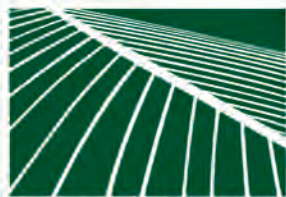
AGENDA:

- Update on He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (HNERR) activities in He'eia
- Update on implementation of Act 166
- Update on Plan for HNERR at He'eia State Park
- Community input on Plan for HNERR at He'eia State Park

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Join Zoom at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81621550850>
- We are also accepting written comments: If you are unable to participate but would like to provide input, please email your comments to Catie Cullison at ccullison@pbrhawaii.com
- If you require special assistance, please contact Catie Cullison at PBR HAWAII: ccullison@pbrhawaii.com or (808) 521-5631

Your participation as an observer or active participant in the virtual meeting is warmly welcomed ~ MAHALO!



PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.

R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA
President / Chairman

RUSSELL Y. J. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED® AP BD+C
Executive Vice-President / Principal

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI
Senior Vice-President / Principal

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED® AP BD+C
Senior Vice-President / Principal

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED® AP BD+C
Vice-President / Principal

TOM SCHNELL, AICP
Principal

CATIE CULLISON, AICP
Principal

THOMAS S. WITTEN, FASLA
Chairman Emeritus

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA
Founding Partner

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA
Associate Principal

MARC SHIMATSU, ASLA
Associate Principal

DACHENG DONG, LEED® AP
Associate Principal

ANN MIKIKO BOUSLOG, PhD
Project Director

RAMSAY R. M. TAUM
Cultural Sustainability Planner

MICAH McMILLEN, ASLA, LEED® AP
Senior Associate

NATHALIE RAZO
Senior Associate

GRACE ZHENG, ASLA, LEED® GA, SITES® AP
Senior Associate

ETSUYO KILA
Associate

GREG NAKAI
Associate

SELENA PANG
Associate

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MEETING NOTES

DATE: November 2, 2021

MEETING DATE: September 29, 2021
(public comment closed October 15, 2021)

SUBJECT: Act 166 Plan for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (He'eia NERR) at He'eia State Park

ATTACHMENTS: A. PRESENTATION
B. POLLING AND CHAT COMMENT RESPONSES
C. WRITTEN COMMENTS

This memorandum summarizes topics discussed at the public meeting for the Act 166 Plan for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (He'eia NERR) at He'eia State Park, which was held on September 29, 2021 via video conference (Zoom). There were over 60 attendees present for at least part of the meeting, including the project team. The meeting started with an oli from Frank Hewett, community member and lineal descendent of He'eia ahupua'a. Following was a presentation (attached as Appendix A) from the project team presented by Dawn Chang of Ku'iwalu, Kawika Winter of He'eia NERR and Catie Cullison of PBR HAWAII. The presentation covered the Act 166 planning process, an update on the NERR activities to date, and a concept for an educational halau for the NERR at the Park, and then moved into a series of participatory questions.

The interactive session used a combination of live polling, the Zoom chat box function, and open mic responses. The live polling results and additional chat box responses are attached as Appendix B. The public was invited to provide additional written comments until October 15, 2021. Comments received are Attachment C to this memo.

The primary messages received from the public in the public meeting and follow up comments are summarized below (please see Attachment A for a complete list of responses, and more in-depth responses with important nuance).

Cultural values that should be embodied in the educational hālau:

- Mālama 'Āina (to take care of the land)
- Ahupua'a stewardship (from the uplands to the sea)
- Kokua (help, aid, assistance)
- Kuleana (right and responsibility)
- Pono (goodness, just, correct or proper procedure, excellence)
- 'imi ike / 'imi Na'auao (to seek knowledge, research, learning, as well as deeper insights and enlightenment from ancestral wisdoms)
- Kupuna (elders)

Important things to teach to children, the general public, visitors:

- Appropriate behaviors and protocols before experiencing He'eia
- Interconnectedness of the ecosystem, cultural practice, stewardship and people
- Indigenous stewardship practices
- Uniqueness of He'eia ahupua'a

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE KĪLAUEA RECOVERY PROGRAMMATIC EA PUBLIC MEETING 1

10/26/21

Page 2 of 2

- Respect for the ecosystem, Ke Alohi, and wahi kapu of the area
- Food sustainability: fishing practices, plants, whole food systems (ahupua‘a)

Comments relating to how to teach:

- Kūpuna to inform content
- Hands on learning and stewardship

The most ecologically sensitive areas of the Park:

- The entire park
- Shoreline/riparian zones

The most culturally sensitive areas of the Park:

- The entire park
- iwi kupuna (burials)

Pono stewardship in the ahupua‘a of He‘eia:

- Community-based
- Inclusiveness, shared vision
- Restoration of native ecosystem and food systems with an understanding of the people and mo‘olelo (stories) of He‘eia.

Values to be explored for He‘eia and future programs that would reflect those values:

- Gathering: to learn, teach, practice, and celebrate
- Community: togetherness, collaboration,
- Science: citizen science, food sustainability, climate change/sea level rise
- Move away from commercial activity as a means of financial support

Please see attachments for a more details.

The meeting concluded and a call for any follow up comments was made before expressing gratitude for participation.

Community Input Summary

He'eia State Park Plan for He'eia NERR

Public Meeting

September 29, 2021

Prompts with approximate Zoom video timestamp (approximate time) are as follows.

- 0:00 (~5:32) Video start
- 23:18 (~ 5:55 pm) Your mana'o: What cultural values should be embodied in the Educational Hālau?
- 33:48 (~ 6:08 pm) Your mana'o: What are the most important things we should teach at the educational hālau to children? To the general public? To visitors?
- 42:38 (~ 6:17 pm) Your mana'o: What is pono stewardship in the ahupua'a of He'eia?
- 49:55 (~ 6:24 pm) Your mana'o: What are the most ecologically sensitive areas of the park?
- 56:45 (~ 6:31 pm) Your mana'o: What are the most culturally sensitive areas of the park?
- 1:25:58 (~ 7:00 pm) Your mana'o: What values do you think should be further explored for He'eia and what types of programs reflect those values?
- 1:36:18 (~ 7:11 pm) Your mana'o (fill in the blanks): He'eia is a place where _____?

Chat feedback is a direct quote from the Zoom chat.

Oral feedback may be paraphrased or slightly shortened.

Your mana 'o: What cultural values should be embodied in the Educational Hālau?

Test	sustainability, malama aina	Kuleana
kokua	native species	History
Cultural and ecological history of the area.	'Imi Na'auao	Pono actions, Kuleana, Ahupua'a management practices for sustainability

35

Chat feedback:

- *History, cultural practice, community piko, education*
- *In the tradition of pono...kūpuna should guide the program. the kūpuna are the living embodiments of the akua and the 'aumakaua...their kuleana is great in the vision, the planning and the outcomes...do everything with pono from beginning to end so that all is pono....no go back wards...follow the order....the hāloa...*
- *COVID the fishpond is closed at the moment. Only essential workers and program participants allowed on-site.*

Oral feedback:

- Recently went to the site with family; it's beautiful, have done fabulous job. Really appreciate the work. Wanted to walk on the wall of the pond; apparently it's not allowed, wondering why.

- Moderator: Many different entities have jurisdiction. Cannot answer but some participants at the meeting may have the answers.
- Three main considerations for cultural values: mālama wao akua (caring for the realm of the gods). Everything there is connected to akua. Akua give birth to 'āina. 'Āina provides waiwai pono; the rain that falls from the sky and nourishes the 'āina which created man. Going forward, these three principles are very important. How we respect the akua connected to the 'āina, how we honor the 'āina itself, and how we respect and honor the people from that 'āina and the iwi hānau o ka 'āina; kūpuna who are the living representatives of 'aumakua, in the tradition of kupuana (process of growing) you go from keiki to 'ōpio to kūpuna. The next step is 'aumakua, aukua. So kūpuna need to bring their "ike (memories), and no'eau (skill).
- There is another cultural resource in the park, beyond just the NERR: A wahi kapu. The point is very important sacred place – and there is a heiau site that the building sits on. This needs to be addressed.

Your mana 'o: What cultural values should be embodied in the Educational Hālau?

malamapono, aloha 'aina, aloha i ke kai - we will offer more suggestions with Catle directly in a subsequent meeting

partnerships

'imi 'ike

Native plants and wildlife showcases historical uses and current conservation efforts

History of the Ahupuaa from pre Cooke to present: land usage, cultural and economic values, community inclusiveness.

Sustainability, Malama aina, native species, history, all

Importance of Kaneohe bay ecosystems

Canoe cultural activities

Native species and malama aina

Your mana 'o: What cultural values should be embodied in the Educational Hālau?

Pono Practices, Malama Aina, history, cultural significance of various areas and land features

lokahi

Education, traditional and contemporary cultural practices, climate change & resiliency preparation for the future

How community individuals can get involved with restoration?

Unique ecological and cultural significance of Heela; and, community resilience in action

Aloha Aina. I ka wa ma mua, I ka wa ma hope. Nana i ke kumu. Wahi pana and mo'olelo showcasing a storied landscape. Mai'au ka hana, mai'au ka loa'a. I would love to see the park manicured and cared for as a cultural space

Climate change education

shared use of the halau by active groups in the area

Education on sustainable fishing practices

Your mana 'o: What cultural values should be embodied in the Educational Hālau?

Hawaiian paddling, both traditional and current paddling.
Sharing knowledge, teaching classes, etc.

interconnectedness of ecosystem restoration and watershed health

For cultural use and practice, cultural workshops, presentations, displays, history/cultural history, native species, appropriate art exhibits, Host tours.

Making this space a living Hawaiian cultural park with the educational halau a component within

Having partnerships with Kupuna and next generations, students, people who use the Bay, Ohana's, etc. All community members should be involved.

Respectfulness to our aina; our responsibilities as stewards; and how we are connected.

Environmental issues along with the education.

Educational with transportation to neighbor islands, canoe paddling.

Your mana 'o: What are the most important things we should teach at the educational hālau to children? To the general public? To visitors?

Sustainable fishing practices	History of ahupuaa	culture, history, ecosystem, stewardship, sustainable food production
Aloha aina	to visitors: pono travel	to keiki & public: protocol, malama aina, native species
Respect for na kupuna, theirs and others - especially Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners; respect for the importance of Kealohi and the wahi kapu of the area.	Climate change impacts for the ecosystem	I think hands on education using resources from the area. How did people live, fishing, farming and crafting supplies

20

Chat feedback:

- *The Educational Halau should be used to provide presentations (talks, displays, interactions) that will educate our community and visitors regarding indigenous ecological knowledge and cultural values associated with the land. I would also hope that we would find there a means to provide translations for scientists and students regarding the indigenous knowledge.*
- *Cultural values....mālama ke akua...mālama ka 'āina...mālama nā iwi hānau o ka 'āina*
- *Are the people at the state park (kamaaina kids) willing to be part of the Nerr?*
- *Are you going to go over the Poi Factory project on Heeia wetlands?*
- *Malama Na wahi kapu - heiau at Kealohi point needs to be honored and respected*
- *I think before we allow people to walk here and there...the kūpuna need to share the protocols...there are protocols to Akua...there are protocols to 'āina...there are for iwi hānau o ka 'āina.....*

- "Aeo"

Oral feedback:

- There is a pono for those who go on the property—a protocol that keeps the akua, 'āina, and people in their sacred places. Part of the protocol is ritual and ceremony. Before bringing people, keiki, visitors—establish the protocols first. Be respectful. There is pule, oli, and other ways to honor akua, 'āina and people. This comment applies to all educational programs/people, teaching them that He'eia has a deep meaning. There are ways that people who come from there know and understand. Address akua, honor 'āina and honor resources with protocol. The order matters. We need to know and understand ourselves in the order, and once we are strong in the protocol, we can invite others.
- In addition to culture and science, the educational hālau needs to prepare children for climate change and resilience. He'eia could have a central role as an educational center, in preparing the next generation for shoreline change and receding. Important for the keiki.
 - Moderator: He'eia NERR is a unique NERR. Community felt strongly that it's about sustainability and a living ahupua'a.
- There is ongoing construction adjacent to the stream. Kūpuna (some family) had homes there and moved out when it became a park. Missing iwi needs to be addressed; we have to go with protocol and have to make pono before you move forward with positive progress in the state park. Requested funding from Legislature was for planning of the whole State park, not just the NERR program. Although we are proud of the NERR, the initial intent was for planning the whole park, at the request of the Kahalu'u and Kāne'ohe Neighborhood Boards. This needs to be considered.
 - Moderator: The intention is to include everyone's comments in the report. Some things are beyond scope because we are really looking at input for the NERR on their educational hālau. But appreciate the comment. State Parks is in attendance. Comments will be relayed in the report.

Your mana 'o: What are the most important things we should teach at the educational hālau to children? To the general public? To visitors?

uniqueness, biological diversity, cultural landscape of Kawahaokamano (Kaneohe Bay)

Importance of estuaries and why

Ma ka hana ka 'ike, in doing one learns, hands to the land to learn malama aina

Aloha aina, the accomplishments of na kapuna, and respect for those that have come before

Malama aina, love and respect native animals and plants..

self sustainability practices, how to grow culturally significant plants & food

Sustainable practices and community based food systems for community resilience

How to be respectful to the aina; how to be good stewards; how to continue lifelong learning.

Education should be provided in multiple languages. As a fisher from He'eia, I have witnessed folks from other countries who do not respect sustainable fishing practices and/or laws and harvest resources undersized and out of season.

Your mana 'o: What are the most important things we should teach at the educational hālau to children? To the general public? To visitors?

Teach Community through cultural practice and hands-on work, while reviving Lae o Kealahi as the actual name of the place. Continue restoration work (terrestrial and aquatic) as it encompasses the resilience of the 'āina and needs to be shared.

For visitors, how to be respectful of culture, wildlife, ecology; how they can support Heeia restoration

Your mana 'o: What is pono stewardship in the ahupua'a of He'eia?



16

Chat feedback: None

Oral feedback:

- Nice to be part of this and to see this on the table for discussion. This effort goes way back. Over the years, several master planning attempts in area of Lae o Kealahi which is in the park. From here you can see the entire ahupua'a of He'eia. The heiau in the area is sacred. Should this very important promontory be under State Parks management? Or under another group that could manage not just to open it to public access (which has included commercial activity) but really a focus on ahupua'a.
- What is pono stewardship in the ahupua'a of He'eia? Several meanings: Pono, righteous; Pono; all that is good; or Pono, the natural order. Which are we talking about? Akua, 'āina, kānaka. That is important in reflecting how this program is going to go. To care for the ahupua'a in its rightful way, we have to take a step back and look at how we use this word.
 - Moderator: Clarification: What would you consider pono stewardship?

- Sit down together with the kūpuna. They have fabulous, long-time memories. My mom is 90. The kūpuna have long, beautiful, wonderful memories. As we plan for the outcome of the ahupua'a, we need to incorporate the 'ike (the vision), the observation, the knowledge. 'Ike kūpuna came with the growth of many years through the process of kupuana. It is a long process of knowledge and enlightenment; we need to begin to honor that process with the kūpuna.
- Approach should be community based rather than commercial base. For instance the NERR consists of 6 community based organizations. These do not always agree, but come from the common foundation of being community based.

Your mana 'o: What is pono stewardship in the ahupua'a of He'eia?

Current leasee seems to value financial return above Pono stewardship

Inclusiveness, regardless of where people are from, is pono component to the stewardship and to mālama He'eia.

If the goal is to preserve culture and educate, stewardship should focus on the people and how they used the area. I think that this concept should be combined with restoring native environment to pre human contact as well

Shared common vision. We (should be) all in it together. Restoration of native ecosystems, traditional food systems, with an understanding of our mo'olelo and in order to honor our kupuna.

Pono stewardship means caring for the land and its surrounding waters so its natural resources are preserved, it natural flora and fauna can thrive there, and the environment includes and cares for its resident peoples.

inclusiveness, let those that want to malama aina be participants & guide them with aloha

proper, respectful, fair, and harmonious management of the 'āina (land) and wai (water)

Your mana 'o: what are the most ecologically sensitive areas of the park?

shoreline	Shoreline ecosystems	The riparian area. There are many species of native birds foraging and nesting there.
shore and stream	It's all connected and matters, land to sea by the flow of wai	Every year, we lose about 2 feet of shoreline due to sea level rise.
Good to know areas that will be most affected by climate change and incorporate mitigation measures	The coral reef community in Kaneohe Bay adjoining the fishpond.	mangrove around the park's entire shoreline should be removed & replaced with native coastal species

19

Chat feedback:

- *BWS needs to free up more water into Kako!*

Oral feedback:

- The whole park is sensitive. And includes the ocean. There was a limu restoration project at Kealohi—to restore huluhulu waena but it is probably gone now. But this is the most logical area for this activity. The fish pond's salinity was not enough for the manaua ogo that they planted there. Along the shoreline in the park was the most logical area for this activity. Sustainability is a better activity than commercial tourism. We should go back and restore some of the things that we lost in the past in our ocean.
- Rather than ecologically sensitive.. want to mention an ecological threat, feral cats. Parks is trying to remove them, but people keep bringing them and toxoplasmosis associated with the feces have an impact on native monk seals. This is a threat to the adjacent marine environment.

- We cannot identify a part that's ecologically important. The entire park is important. Viewplanes, the importance of standing on the promontory to see landward and seaward across the entire ahupua'a. Ecologically that is what is important. Lae o Kealahi is the piko of He'eia. You can see Mōkapu Peninsula, He'eia Kea, and so on. We have to look at it as a whole, and re envision what we want for this ahupua'a. Master planning effort (by PBR) was done 20 years ago and was almost entirely ignored and then a restroom was built right in the viewplane as you stand looking towards the pier, and Kualoa. Have to go back and look at master planning, which is finally coming to focus on the point. It is such a significant site. We have to rethink what we are doing there. Cannot be commercial. Anything but that. This idea does not exclude the public—it includes the public in a much more meaningful way.

Your mana 'o: what are the most ecologically sensitive areas of the park?

Need to be removing mangrove on either side of the park, around the point and Heela Kea Pier side of the park as well.

Need to be doing more predator control; cats, rats, mongoose

The entire park!

the entire park - Kealahi Point

The lack of fresh water in the ahupua'a making its way down stream and out in to the Bay is a REAL problem

Kahawai water flow and kai that receives it, as it feeds through the lo'i and loko i'a in the ahupua'a and continues into the ocean, making the whole place vitally sensitive.

The mangrove around the shorelines, all the way around the Kealahi point.

I want to add my support about looking at the ahupuaa as a whole.

da kanaka

Your mana 'o: what are the most ecologically sensitive areas of the park?

Stream and estuary systems

Your mana 'o: What are the most culturally sensitive areas of the park?

All of it!

Same as the last answer - it is the whole of it that matters most

The whole "park" is a leina. The whole park is culturally sensitive

da kanaka

Breathing life into its name, Lae o Kealohi, to spiritually embody the leina, and bring sanctity to the whole place as culturally sensitive.

iwi kupuna should be properly located/recorded and perhaps cordoned off for their safety

Burial areas and Kalaeulaula Heiau

7

Chat feedback:

- 'AINA HO'OLA'AI 'IA E NĀ KINI AKUA O KA 'ĀINA
- *If no commercial activities occur, how will the park generate funding to operate (Utilities, maintenance, etc.)? How will the NERR operate (financially) without (commercial) funding?*
- *He'eia Kea should be part of the discussion*
- *mahalo...I as well as many in the community are overly concerned of the current managment of the park and the area in a whole. access to the community is very limited. hours the park is open..bathrooms for public and the amount of tourist that occupy the parking for use of the kayak business.*
- *Thus far, nobody has mentioned the Oahu general public's perception of the value of He'eia as a gathering place for ohana events such as one year baby luau's, family reunions, graduation celebrations, weddings, canoe club fundraisers etc... at the Banquet Hall. We need to acknowledge that people, not*

in this meeting, have had venerated celebrations at this State Park. This is the public's park for gathering as well as the new interests in re visioning how this park unit has value for new initiatives.

Oral feedback:

- The 'āina (land) provides 'āina (the meal). In this ahupua'a there are many wahi pana (legendary places) which make this land very sacred because it's a kinolau (a manifestation of the akua). There are many akua in this ahupua'a. For example Lae o Kealohi (Kāne). The Ma'eli'eli (Hina). The fishpond loko i'a He'eia (Haumea). These akua exist everywhere which makes the ahupua'a not just sacred to the akua, but a part of their existence connecting to the 'āina. First learn the protocols, because we have to ask permission. We are not born with entitlement; we ask through poli, kāhea, and pule. As we respect the many akua, it strengthens us not only in the relationship but spiritually, mentally, physically connected through kuleana, inheritance, to the 'āina, and then keeps us in connection perpetually to the akua. This ties back to the types of mālama.

Additional oral feedback (*Precedes prompt, and is not related to the preceding or subsequent slide*)

- The people who have grown up in this area think of He'eia as including He'eia Kea – let's draw the circle bigger. We need to talk about He'eia Kea which is so important to this ahupua'a; it's under City jurisdiction primarily. When the NERR scope came up, suggested to include He'eia Kea. Draw the circle around everyone/everything that should be at the table. It's time. Then we'll be talking about the entirety of the He'eia ahupua'a.
- Seeing many friends and family on this call. Act 166 is a little confusing to read because it suggest HCDA has authority over the park, when I don't think they do. Intent is to have interpretive educational facility for NERR in the park, not necessarily a change in management.
 - Moderator: Confirmed. Act 166 directs HCDA to enter this contract, but they have no jurisdiction over the park and do not intend to expand jurisdiction. So the goal is to identify and navigate through jurisdiction. Looking for a path forward of collaboration, but acknowledge there are challenges.
- The reason the community asked Rep. Kitagawa to allocate the funding through HCDA is because of its concern that State Parks division would give the funding to Kama'āina Kids to develop a long range plan for the park. To mitigate that, community wanted a planning agency like HCDA to do the community-based planning for DLNR. The Parks director told the community that money from DLNR had previously been given to Kama'āina Kids; community didn't want that to happen again; goal was community based planning.
 - Moderator: HCDA has been supportive of the process but recognize their own limitations on jurisdiction; looking for a path forward for joint use.

Your mana 'o: What values do you think should be further explored for He 'eia and what types of programs reflect those values?



20

Chat feedback:

- *State Parks has never given any funding to Kama'aina Kids for any planning effort, nor would we. State Parks initially opposed the planning effort since there was already a master plan, however we agree that due to the new element of the NERRS that the master plan should be amended to reflect this new designation and how to optimize the role of the park with this very prestigious and unique designation*
- *Why can't the educational hall be in an existing structure in the state park, rather than building more – especially since the land is so sacred.*
- *Kayak guided cultural/environmental educational tours would help to interpret He'eia NERR, and act as a hands-on/experiential learning opportunity for reiki, local community and park visitors. This will be an opportunistic additional activity to NERRS educational halau and purpose, as it could share the whole ahupua'a.*

Oral feedback:

- State Parks agrees about the cultural significance of the promontory and will also reach out to the broader community. Note the broader community sees He'eia as a gathering place for 1 year baby lū'au, family reunions, wedding receptions, canoe club fundraisers, etc. That is the function of the banquet hall. There is a higher altruistic goal of integrating park with new designation under the NERR, but also this is the public's park and Parks has outsourced management.. Pre-COVID, this was (and will be again) a gathering place for important family and community events. State Parks is open to moving in many directions based on collective consensus of optimal use, but cannot ignore that that's what the general public sees. And everyone here is a local stakeholder.. but what do we do about broader community expectations in the future?
- Acknowledge the importance of climate change. Would hope that anyone who passes through the ahupua'a would come away thinking about the big picture: Food security. Climate change. The importance of carrying culture forward, embracing the bigger picture. Ideally in any ahupua'a, we could see from summit to breakers. He'eia extends across Kāne'ohe Bay. We need this point of view in any ahupua'a on the island, in the state. This is where science and culture come together, which is important. That is my dream and hope for He'eia. The work going on now is incredible. The community fought off development that would have precluded these future options. Would hope that what we achieve here becomes a template for every other ahupua'a around Kāne'ohe Bay or the rest of the island.
- I am so proud of He'eia NERR because of the sustainability that they restored, e.g., He'eia fishpond. So proud of what Hi'ilei guys did. A major development proposed for it was as yacht club parking or to fill it in. I saw the plan for that. Kāko'o 'Ōiwi did an immense job through years of hard work. Years ago no one through that area could be farmed. I have seen it in my lifetime; a beautiful job, immense job. We fought for the park. In 1978 it became a park. We wanted it to be protected. Putting it in the hands of DLNR we thought it would protect our resources. Coming to this point today, sorry to say.. to us looks more like a private park right now. No more aloha. We wanted this plan when we approached the Legislature. Almost 2 years of asking State Parks, our iwi is displaced. We need to put it back in place. That is so pono ole. Talk about pono. Seems they are neglecting it, ignoring it. To do that for this type of land is directly in the wrong. We have to do good for the 'āina or it will come back and eat us, we want to do good. And we always had the public involved. NERR is the purpose of the park but seems like park's outcome is not belonging to the public anymore. But iwi is the most important thing; it needs to be put in place. And the work along the river is burial grounds. Lots of digging occurring. Someone who worked on the project said they found bones but apologized that they threw it away. We want something good. By all means, follow through on what we wanted it to be from the very beginning. For all people and all of Hawai'i.

Your mana 'o: What values do you think should be further explored for He 'eia and what types of programs reflect those values?

Community and togetherness. Aloha to everyone and the ability of everyone to enjoy it. I had my wedding reception here and was lucky to be able to have that in my own area

Respect for community plans previously developed..such as Kaneohe bay Master Plan

Commercial kayak rentals are not consistant with any cultural values. Tourists are renting kayaks going on to patch and fringing reefs of the Bay, trampling coral and snorkeling without dive flags. Kayak rentals are perpetuating ignorance

A gathering place for 'ohana celebrations and gatherings.

respect: for aina, each other, flora, fauna

We need to be modelling what acceptable behavior is. Can the activities, and programs in the park be this place for our community. The answer is yes I think.

citizen science or science that can be broken down for general public consumption

Fishing values, cultural workshops, canoe paddling, reef exploring, more youth and young adults collaborated with Kupunas, and Kupunas sharing their past knowledge.

As a gathering place for ohana, accessible. Open on sundays for ohana..not locked gates

Your mana 'o: What values do you think should be further explored for He 'eia and what types of programs reflect those values?

sharing facts, not spreading lies

The local community gathers to learn, teach and practice the hawaiian cultural practices.

Your mana 'o (fill in the blank): He 'eia is a place where ____?

I feel and see Hawai 'i

aloha is shared freely

Generational knowledge can be perpetuated and the past can guide our future.

People come together. The leaping off place where our souls are judged.

learn

Where the local community comes to learn, teach and practice Hawaiian cultural

Community meets the 'āina to the kai, as all are interconnected.

We can go to gather with our Ohana and enjoy.

We have chance of blending cultural knowledge and science to educate the world.

9

Chat feedback: None

Oral feedback:

- Talking about pono. This land part of the cycle of the akua. Waiwai pono, the natural resources, is a connector. The wai comes from heaven in the form of rain (enter akua). It falls to the 'āina. As it falls to the 'āina, we also partake of waiwai pono. Akua has waiwai pono in all of its relationships with rituals and protocols. The 'āina has its own Waiwai pono (wealth, natural resources, but also protocols, rituals). So do the people. Everything is connected and nothing is disconnected, in the waiwai pono. As we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. If we don't take care of our kuleana and responsibilities to this 'āina, usually the land will come back to bite – you will be the meal for the 'āina. Whatever we do, go with mālamalama – enlightenment and clear vision. Go very very carefully, because our kūpuna are still connected to the 'āina. Where you walk, step, go—there is nothing there that is not sacred to those people from the time before.

- Really appreciate all the knowledge. There is a lot of support in the community for NERR educational hālau to be located in the park. This is an indigenous knowledge, 'āina based knowledge, western knowledge opportunity for us all to share. That will be helpful. Hopeful that there will really be an opportunity and we won't have to wait until 2025. Really important for that to take place now. Really agree with a lot of what was said.
 - Moderator: Appreciate that we are all here to honor and respect He'eia, and hopefully that we find a path forward.

From: [kristi kahale](#)
To: [Catie Cullison](#)
Subject: He'eia Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:29:16 PM

Mahalo for the meeting this evening.

I am sure you have heard the Continued concerns of the community and we appreciate the opportunity to Share our voice.

As mentioned the the state park has very limited hours and is currently only opened during the time of the kayak business which is reflected on the kamaaina kids website, those hours that the gates are opened are from from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. closed on Sunday and and federal holidays. No other state park is closed to the community on Sundays, when they are off of work, and federal holidays.

I think the state park should be open for the local community to use. Not closed as soon as they are off of work.. During 8 to four the parking lot is full of tourist renting the kayaks.

This is privatization of a public area with significant cultural and historical meaning.

For many years the people have questioned and asked and voiced the concerns of the current management with no action being taken.

Iwi kupnua lost somewhere by hands of people who have no experience in the proper protocol.

All in the name of profitability.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Kristi Kahale
He'eia, O'ahu

Catie Cullison

From: Annette Tashiro [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Frederick Reppun
Cc: Catie Cullison
Subject: Re: He'eia State Park meeting

Hi Fred/Catie:

Thanks so much. I was able to log in and give my input during the meeting last night. I am not a Keiki O Ka Aina O Kaneohe. I'm actually a Palolo Valley girl who visited the Wong Family during my Hanabata days. We had a house on the hillside so I learned to ride a bike at the Wong's residence on Kapalai Road. I moved to Kaneohe in 1978 and lived on Pua Inia St. and now on Nukoki Place off Mokulele. I attended many luau and parties at the He'eia State Park. My children participated in various programs through Kamaaina Care and other educational activities at that site.

I was active with Seicho-No-Ie Hawaii and visited the Reppun Family property back in the early 2000 for a Youth Spiritual Training Seminar. We had already visited Coconut Island. We wanted to learn about the Ahupua`a process and how to respect the ocean, land, and nature.

Last night I attended as a Grandma and also a member of the Statewide Independent Living Council (advocating for persons with disabilities being able to live in the community of choice instead of an institution). The He'eia National Estuarine Reserve is a valuable resource to the community as well as to the State of Hawaii. There are so many stakeholders who have the best interest of this place at heart. I feel so grateful.

I was involved with Community Cares in 96744 and continue to live with that philosophy as my guiding principle. I care about the community in which I live, play, and enjoy the beautiful environment. I want to help as much as possible.

Mahalo,
Annette C. Tashiro

On Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 9:03 AM Frederick Reppun <freppun@hawaii.edu> wrote:
Hi Annette,

Thank you for your email to the He'eia NERR. A lot of people experienced problems logging in to last night's meeting. If you would like more information or to submit comments, please communicate with Catie Cullison of PBR Hawai'i, cc'd on this email.

Mahalo,
Fred

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Frederick Reppun
Education Coordinator
He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
freppun@hawaii.edu
(808) 779-9411

From: [Cottrell, Curt A](#)
To: [Catie Cullison](#); [Dawn Chang](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] accusations of inadvertent findings
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 3:22:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aloha Catie and Dawn: This is for the official record of the He'eia meeting minutes.



Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Curt A. Cottrell, Administrator
Room 310, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808.587.0290
(21° 18' 56.1708" N and 157° 51' 29.1348" W.)

From: Kristen Nalani Kane [mailto:nalani@huihawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Cottrell, Curt A <curt.a.cottrell@hawaii.gov>; Carpenter, Alan B <alan.b.carpenter@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Mar, Kekai K <kekai.k.mar@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] accusations of inadvertent findings

In response to the continuing accusations of inadvertent findings by HOK at Heeiea State parks please see the attached letter, which includes the contract addendum that has been included in all subcontractor and staff contracts on the site since our work began there 2016.

What are the next steps to resolve this issue?

Kristen Nalani Kāne
Project Director
Hui o Ko'olaupoko
www.huihawaii.org
Nalani@huihawaii.org
Office:(808)381-7202

From: Cottrell, Curt A [mailto:curt.a.cottrell@hawaii.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Kristen Nalani Kane; Carpenter, Alan B
Cc: Mar, Kekai K
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Adopt A Park agreement

Hi Kristen: State Parks will need a signed statement by HOK that either:

1. You have never encountered iwi in the project site, or that if you have unearthed iwi,
2. that HOK has gone the Chapter 6E protocols and notified SHPD.

Absent that, everything is hearsay for us to approach Rocky on her allegations.



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This memo is to attest that Hui o Ko'olaupoko field staff at the He'eia Estuary Restoration Project (TMK: 46005009) have not encountered any iwi (bones of deceased humans) on the property since the beginning of our work there in 2016.

Since 2016, Hui o Ko'olaupoko has been working on the He'eia Estuary Restoration Project, aimed at improving water quality and increasing habitat for native aquatic animals by removing invasive plants and replanting native Hawaiian species.

We are aware of the sensitive cultural and historical components concerning the property. As such, all HOK staff involved in fieldwork at the site since 2016 have signed a memo outlining protocol to follow if any inadvertent discoveries of anything resembling iwi were to be found. The protocol includes the immediate notification of the State Historic Preservation Office.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Kristen Kāne
Project Director
Hui o Ko'olaupoko
Nalani@huihawaii.org
Office: (808)381-7202

Jeffery Harris
President, Board of Directors
Hui o Ko'olaupoko
capac1jah@gmail.com
Cell: (808)2204266

Inadvertent Discoveries

In the event that any staff, temporary worker, intern, volunteer or other person or persons associated with Hui Ku Maoli Ola or their contractors who inadvertently discovers what appear to be iwi (bones) at the Lower He'eia restoration site, the following protocols should be followed:

1. All work stops
2. A call should be placed to the Executive Director of HOK at 808-381-7202. If not available, a message should be left about the discovery, date, time and a return contact number. Once Hui o Ko'olaupoko is notified, they will be the responsible party to contact the State Historic Preservation Office and other entities deemed appropriate.
3. The area should be flagged with orange flagging, but not labeled (example, do not label with: bones, iwi or other wording to identify the nature of the discovery)
4. A tarp is placed over the discovery
5. NO PHOTOGRAPHS
6. The discovery should not be discussed with any other entity, partner, community member other than Hui o Ko'olaupoko

Once this protocol is completed, work can resume not closer than **fifty (50) feet** from the discovery. If subsequent inadvertent discoveries take place, each one will follow the protocol listed above. Work cannot begin in this area until Hui o Ko'olaupoko has been given the approval from all authorities, at which time Hui Ku Maoli Ola will be provided written notice.

This amendment to the original contract is executed by:

Date

Executive Director, Hui o Ko'olaupoko Date