

**KANALOA KAHO‘OLAWE 2026
PLANNING UPDATE
June – December 2013**

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INTRODUCTION

In June 2013, after several months of planning and organization, the Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe Planning Group (KKPG) initiated a process of gathering perspectives from individuals in the community that have a relationship or interest with the Island Reserve. By initially focusing on this audience, the KKPG believed it would be able gather input from those with the greatest experience or connection to the island. KKPG designed the information gathering process around a series of meetings or focus groups that posed several questions regarding participants views and desires for the near- to mid-term future.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION GATHERING PROCESS

From June through November 2013, the KKPG conducted series of meetings across much of the State. Each meeting was conducted in a similar format and the agenda consisted of providing an overview of the planning process and history of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. After this, the following questions were posed to the group for discussion.

1. In the 12 years from 2014 to 2026, what do you envision as the ongoing and new functions for Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe as a Cultural Reserve?
2. For the functions that you listed, what are some elements and activities that you can suggest?
3. What are sources that can help sustains these functions and activities?
4. As a cultural reserve, what will be the importance of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe to the Native Hawaiian governing entity?

Meeting participants were also offered the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and share their general impressions about the island, the planning process, or other interests or concerns. On average, the meetings lasted about two hours and were dependent upon the number of participants in each meeting.

The KKPG facilitated 14 meetings on six islands:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • 6/22 - Hakioawa, Kaho‘olawe - 16 | • 9/9 - Lahaina, Maui - 8 |
| • 7/19 - Wailuku, Maui - 14 | • 9/13 - Kula, Maui - 6 |
| • 8/20 - ‘Aina Haina, O‘ahu - 18 | • 9/23 - Lana‘i City, Lana‘i - 6 |
| • 8/22 - Kahului, Maui - 23 | • 9/27 - Kalama‘ula, Moloka‘i - 22 |
| • 8/29 - Kihei, Maui - 18 | • 9/30 - Manoa, O‘ahu - 10 |
| • 8/29 - Keaukaha, Hawai‘i - 23 | • 10/27 - Kaunakakai, Moloka‘i - 13 |
| • 9/6 - Keauhou, Hawai‘i - 8 | • 11/4 - Kaka‘ako, O‘ahu - 9 |

Also, at each meeting, participants were provided the opportunity to provide their input in writing via a survey questionnaire. A copy is attached as Appendix A. Questionnaires were also made available through the websites of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) and Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, and via email to interested parties. A total of 12 write-in responses to the survey were received.

In sum, a total of 206 people participated in the information gathering process from June to November.

SYNTHESIS OF INPUT

The information gathered during this five-month process resulted in the emergence of a number of consistent themes, ideas, and perspectives that will provide the KKPG sufficient information to develop the foundational elements of a strategic plan.

However, it should be noted that the manner in which this information came forth and was recorded varied from meeting to meeting. This was due to the composition of participants, the facilitators, and note-takers in each meeting. Although the four questions referenced above provided a consistent means of structuring each meeting and obtaining input, it was observed in many of the meetings, participants needed to be given the opportunity to express their general attitudes, beliefs and opinions about Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe as a means of contextualizing their responses to the questions.

Consequently, the information provided below is divided into five sections to generally reflect the four questions posed in each meeting with a added section to capture participant's general attitudes and perceptions of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. Additionally, given the variability noted above, the content in each section is based on a qualitative assessment of the input and reflects only the major common themes or thoughts that emerged across all groups and not the spectrum of all responses. The actual meeting notes and verbatim write-in responses are included in the Appendix B for reference.

1. General Attitudes and Perceptions of Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe

- It is a unique place - unlike any other island. A place for gathering knowledge, understanding, mana through practice and protocol involving the interaction of human / environment / natural forces.
 - History special to Native Hawaiians - an icon for re-establishment of a people and nation
 - A sacred and culturally significant place - because of its name and the experiences / activities that occur there
- A place that is difficult to name - "cultural reserve" disliked, "pu‘uhonua" preferred by some & not others, "wahi kapu" proposed. Reference made to the island as the "piko" or "portal"
- Viewed as a destination - a place to go to for a particular set of activities, but to eventually return home (where ever home might be).

- Access to island is for a purpose (cultural, religious, subsistence, etc.) not recreational.
- Some consideration of permanent presence or residency on island but not on a large scale
- A non-commercial island
 - Island should be kept in an undeveloped "natural" state
 - Desire for less restrictions / freer access; however, conflicts with need for safety and respect for island
 - There is a belief that politics and money are corruptive influences and there is a desire to keep them away from Kaho‘olawe.

2. Preferences for Future Activities on Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe

- Stewardship in Island Sustainability - food security, crops, water, ocean life
 - Test site for living off the land/ocean
 - Alternative energy - small scale solar, wind, ocean (generate what you need)
 - Providing for subsistence lifestyle - on-island subsistence fishing, gathering by lineal descendants
 - Mālama cultural sites
- Religious center to honor Hawaiian nature gods, host spiritual Hawaiian leaders and residency for practitioners
- Provide access to the island for the general public to experience A place for healing, restoration, recovery, rehabilitation - including: health (physical, mental), spiritual growth, cultural/historical trauma, incarceration/prison
- Education center / classroom for culture-based learning / all age levels-through college / immersion learning in:
 - Navigation/astronomy
 - Farming
 - Fishing
 - Arts - Language, Oli, Mele, etc.
 - Sciences (traditional + western)
 - Lololo, Ho‘ohanohano, Hanakaulike
 - Papakumakawalu

3. Identified Physical Infrastructure or Activities to Manifest Preferences

- Small scale development - no large infrastructure. Build things on island only in certain places and leave the rest. Buildings should be "Hawaiian" not western or military-styled. Removing military infrastructure / restoring Honokanai‘a as a Hawaiian place.
- Environmental restoration - restoring native plants and animals, eradicating alien plant and animal species
- Re-use of on-island materials for human consumption - e.g., kiawe for charcoal, making honey, etc.
- Small scale energy development - place or building-specific wind and solar power.
- Build or create education center(s) with shelters and gathering places.

- Allow spaces for practitioners - open areas to strengthen and maintain "relationship" and conduct protocol.
- Providing access to places - completing ala loa and using for Makahiki
- Continuing and increasing access to the island - managing the inherent conflict between preserving the "sanctity" and uniqueness of the island while increases exposure and opportunity for learning.
- Developing the Kihei site to allow learning and education for those who cannot access the island
- Need to support and educate next generation - instill a stewardship / cultural ethic
 - Developing a Kaho'olawe curriculum
 - Bringing students to island
 - Teaching traditional skills & practices
 - Create and utilize new media

4. Mechanisms, Sources and Conditions for Implementing Activities

- Funders:
 - Navy
 - NGOs - philanthropists - Gates, Ellison, etc.
 - Local NGOs - QLCC, KS
 - State - Agencies (e.g., OHA, DOE)
 - State - Legislature (CIP, tax revenue, etc.)
 - International indigenous organizations
- Mechanisms:
 - Grants
 - Legislation
 - MOU agreements for infrastructure
 - Appeals (to large NGOs)
 - Crowdsourcing
 - Increase access fees
 - Donations
 - Commerce - sale of from-island products (e.g., honey, salt, charcoal)
 - Cultural / spiritual tourism
- Non-Monetary (Socio-Cultural) Resources
 - EKF - Papaku Makawalu
 - Practitioners - skilled experts
 - Kupuna - knowledge holders
 - Keiki / haumana - next generation learners
 - Lineal descendants
- Conditions
 - No commercial activities on-island
 - "Sanctity" of island is preserved
 - Title X and MOU conditions
 - Commercial activities off-island

5. Relationship of Kaho‘olawe vis-à-vis the Native Hawaiian Governing Entity

- Acknowledged as a difficult issue
 - Different personal opinions about NHGE and sovereignty
 - Mostly critical of current efforts - Kana‘iolowalu
 - Critical of past efforts - Akaka Bill
 - Some maintain sovereignty exists (pro-independence)
- Future is uncertain
- Concern about loss of cultural identity
- Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe must remain unchanged - its character, purpose maintained
 - Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe could be the force / place to unify Native Hawaiians
 - Decisions about the "nation" should be made on Kaho‘olawe
- Land base for the Nation

KKPG PLANNING WORKSHOP

On November 1, the KKPG conducted an all-day workshop to discuss the above-referenced input and findings from the meetings. The objective of the workshop was to distill the input into major thematic areas which would form the basis of the strategic plan.

During the workshop, KKPG members were afforded the opportunity to reflect and share their impressions of the process, information gathered, and initial ideas on forming thematic areas. After this, the group engaged in a facilitated discussion to form some consensus around major thematic areas. Several emerged at the outcome of the workshop:

- Healing the island:
 - Environmental restoration
 - Continued cleanup
 - Cultural site rehabilitation and making new cultural sites
- Connecting to the source / piko:
 - Ceremonies that connect to spiritual realms
 - Sanctuary for cultural practices
 - A center for cultural, language, ecosystem, stewardship and place-based learning
 - Opportunities for self-awareness / discovery /healing
 - Research & knowledge development
- Infrastructure:
 - Infrastructure and “systems” using alternative energy
 - Leading in sustainability / climate change
 - Understanding & unifying ourselves as Hawaiians – grounding for Governance
 - Off-island revenue generation
 - Completing the ala loa

At the completion of the workshop, the KKPG agreed to reflect further on these themes, regroup, and refine them into a clearer directional and focal statement. Since then the KKPG met, via teleconference on November 21 and discussed further edits and refinements. No conclusions were agreed upon and the group continues to discuss these points.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The KKPG has made considerable progress over the past six months - from organizing, finding common ground, to developing and implementing a process for listening to interested stakeholders that have a relationship and experience with Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. Ideas have been translated into a process and executed in a manner that has resulted in considerable input (Appendix B).

In the coming weeks, the KKPG will continue refinement of the major thematic areas and identify priority projects or activities. It is expected that this work will be completed in early 2014. After which, further community review, assessment of feasibility, and accordant revisions will need to be made before the strategic plan is completed and ready for final adoption.

