

# KEEPING WAIMĀNALO, WAIMĀNALO: COMMUNITY VALUES & PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE



## SSFM International

In 2015, the State legislature appropriated funding to develop a community-based planning document for the community of Waimānalo, on the island of Oah'u. The planning effort was designed to be an ahupua'a-based, community-driven planning effort that focused not only on documenting the identity and aspirations of a community, but on building the community's capacity through the planning process.

The scope and objectives of the project were defined in collaboration with a community leaders' working group that included respected community members representing diverse segments of Waimānalo. The following project goals were identified: to preserve and restore the resources within Waimānalo's ahupua'a; help maintain the community's character over time; express the community's kuleana to Waimānalo and each other; mobilize local and outside resources to get projects done and address community priorities; provide guidance for Neighborhood Board and community organization decision-making; communicate local priorities to city and state decision-makers; and, communicate to newcomers and visitors an understanding of the fundamental values of Waimānalo.

The project team met with schools, non-profit organizations, and community members and groups to document the work they do to support the community and perpetuate the values of Waimānalo. Public agency consultations were conducted to ensure that the community document accurately reflected the objectives and programs of various agencies that own land or are active in Waimānalo. Community meetings as well as small group meetings were held to identify and refine the values, needs, and actions important to community members that are contained in the planning document. Volunteers from the community made special efforts to reach kūpuna and hard to reach members of the community to gather their mana'o on the planning document.

The resulting *Keeping Waimānalo, Waimānalo: Community Values & Priorities for the Future – Exploratory Document* was released in December 2017. It contains:

- 1) **VISION FOR WAIMĀNALO**, a set of statements that captures community identity and aspirations.
- 2) **COMMUNITY VALUES**, grouped into seven themes: Celebrating culture, history, and our connections to the 'āina; Strengthening our people; Protecting agricultural lands; Valuing 'ōhana; Enhancing health and safety; Promoting local jobs and businesses; and, Managing and preserving resources and community character. Within each value, the document elaborates on which elements must be preserved, and what needs to be built, created, or restored.
- 3) **ACTIONS** identified by the community. Thirteen priority actions are described in detail along with potential partners and implementation recommendations. An action matrix documents all of the ideas that were raised during the process.

The Exploratory Document is rich in photographs, anecdotes, and stories about the people and organizations shaping Waimānalo. It is designed to be shared, inspire a sense of community pride, and inform residents and others alike about what makes this community special. The final product is community owned, and intended to be used by and for the community to support existing efforts, gather resources for community-driven projects, and provide a roadmap for Waimānalo to better organize and represent its interests.



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