

# KAUA'I KĀKOU: KAUA'I COUNTY GENERAL PLAN



## County of Kaua'i & SSFM International

In February of 2018, the update of the Kaua'i County General Plan was adopted by the Kaua'i County Council, following a three year planning effort. It was signed into law by Mayor Bernard Carvalho the following month. The plan, entitled Kaua'i Kākou, was prepared by the Kaua'i County Planning Department, along with a consultant team led by planners from SSFM International's Strategic Services Group.

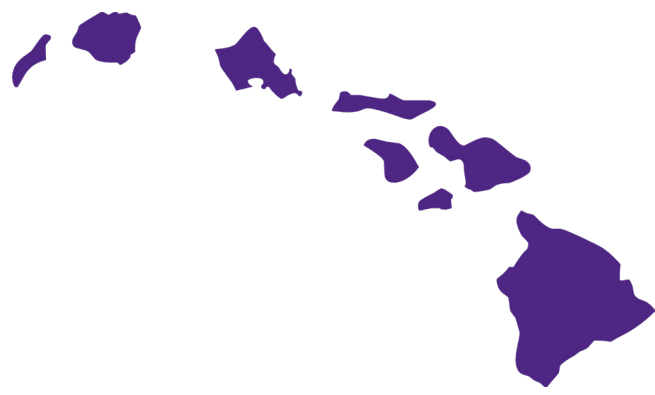
The General Plan is the guiding policy document for the County of Kaua'i, setting the island wide vision and goals, identifying Kaua'i's unique qualities to be protected and preserved, and directing where and how growth should occur to ensure sustainability, resilience, and opportunity for all over the next twenty years.

The project team deployed an extensive community engagement program that sought widespread participation in developing a new and improved General Plan Framework consisting of a Vision statement, four overarching Goals, nineteen key Policies, 42 Objectives, and 607 Actions. The Objectives and Actions were organized into ten topical areas, or Sectors: The Watershed, Housing, Land Transportation, Critical Infrastructure, Shared Spaces, Economy, Heritage Resources, Energy Sustainability & Climate Change, Public Safety & Hazards Resiliency, and Opportunity & Health for All.

A Citizens Advisory Committee was engaged throughout the process to work through each sector and provide early input on the development of policies and actions to be further tested through community input. Toward that end, the project team developed an educational and communications campaign using professionally designed and visually stunning graphics. The team deployed innovative engagement techniques that reached tens of thousands of people across the island through a website, social media, and online survey as well as through pop-up events across the island, youth education partnerships, community workshops, print media and advertising, and two rounds of public meetings in each of the island's six planning districts. In all, more than 1,700 comments were logged and 1,000 survey responses were received.

While established guidelines provide a framework for the role, function, and content requirements of General Plans, there remains ample opportunity for innovative planning approaches and application of best practices. The project team set out to create a plan inspired by the most progressive thinking in comprehensive planning, and right-sized to fit this unique island community. An extensive review of current best practices and of plans from across the country informed several key innovations in this General Plan Update.

The planning process for the General Plan update is well documented in the plan, as well as the supporting technical studies and other documents available on the website ([www.plankauai.com](http://www.plankauai.com)). Its methods can be replicated by other Counties and communities in Hawai'i and beyond.



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