DHHL GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



Department of Hawaiian Homelands & SSFM International, Inc.

In November 2022, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) General Plan, adopted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission following a 20-month planning process. The DHHL General Plan sets the vision and policy direction for DHHL's planning system through 2040 and updates DHHL's first comprehensive General Plan, which was adopted in 2002.

The 20-month process involved extensive consultation with beneficiaries, Hawaiian Homes Commissioners, and other stakeholders to chart the direction and use of Trust lands toward fulfilling Prince Kühiö's vision of returning native Hawaiians to the land while encouraging them to become self-sufficient through homesteading and other uses of leased trust lands. Two rounds of Beneficiary Consultation were hosted virtually between 2021 and 2022, consisting of 14 meetings engaging over 680 beneficiary attendees from across Hawai'i and the continental US. Each round of virtual meetings was accompanied by a virtual open house. A third round of Beneficiary Consultation coincided with the publication of the Draft General Plan Update, during which DHHL hosted eight in-person open house events on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Moloka'I, and O'ahu. The 223 beneficiaries who attended were invited to ask questions and provide input on the draft plan goals and policies developed out of the Beneficiary Consultation and investigative meetings.

Among the notable outcomes of the plan was the establishment of the first statewide land use framework for DHHL lands, which are not subject to County zoning or State Land Use Designations. The project team sought to ensure that the resulting land use framework was aligned with the Trust's mission, responsive to the beneficiary needs, and reflective of Hawaiian values while aligning as much as possible with existing County and State plans and land use designations. The land use and policy framework also sought to incorporate planning considerations and best practices such as climate resilience, housing affordability, sustainability, equity, community health, and economic opportunity.

