

KAILAPA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PLAN 741

The Kailapa Community Association (KCA), formed by the Kailapa Hawaiian Homestead community, leased a 14.3-acre parcel in Kawaihae, Hawai’i Island, from the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) for a community resource center. The KCA collaborated with students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa (UHM). The project was part of two DURP courses, a community planning course and a site planning course. The process included a report describing the cultural and historical background of Kawaihae and presented the planning process for the resource center coupled with a conceptual plan encapsulating the community’s vision of a place that perpetuates Native Hawaiian culture and values. The emphasis was on participatory design – students lived with host families and engaged with community members to better understand their needs and priorities.

Five different design proposals evolved from the charrette and further research were aligned with the goals of the KCA to improve the health and wellness of the Kawaihae community and to preserve and protect the lands, waters, and culture of Hawai’i. Keeping the historic landscapes undisturbed, the designs sought to provide a “piko” for the community and create a sense of place by strengthening community bonds through intergenerational interaction. All materials produced were submitted to the KCA to help them garner funds necessary for future endeavors.

The APA Hawai’i Chapter Jury commend the students and advisors for developing a participatory community process that resulted in impressive alternatives for the community resource center. The project continued over two semesters demonstrating the commitment of the students and professors to the community.

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