

QUEEN KA‘AHUMANU HIGHWAY WIDENING PROJECT

Native Hawaiian Cultural Outreach and Education
University of Hawai‘i and The Kohala Center

November 6, 2020
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Attendees:

Lisa Powell (FHWA)
David Clarke (FHWA)
Harry Takiue (HDOT)
George Abcede (HDOT)
Julann Sonomura (HDOT)

Aric Arakaki (NPS Ala Kahakai)
Rick Gmirkin (NPS Ala Kahakai)
Amanda Johnson-Campbell (NPS Ala Kahakai)
Kiersten Faulkner (Historic Hawai‘i Foundation)
Susan Lebo (SHPD)
Fred Cachola (Makani Hou O Kaloko-Honokohau)
Paka Harp (Makani Hou O Kaloko-Honokohau)
Kekoa Nazara (Kona Hawaiian Civic Club)
Jackson Bauer (DLNR Nā Alahele)
Peter Mills (UH)
Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a (UH)
Cheryl Ka‘uhane Lupenui (Kohala Center)
Kāhele Nahale-a (Kohala Center)
Faith Rex (SMS)
Anna Pacheco (SMS)

I. Welcome (George)

Meeting began at 2:02 pm.

George introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. George apologized for the digital platform rather than being in person and thanked everyone for being here.

Harry thanked everyone for making the time to attend the meeting and thanked UH and the Kohala Center for participating. He said we are here to learn about the programs UH and the Kohala Center are developing and how they are intending to meet the MOU requirements.

II. Pule

Fred did a pule to start the meeting.

III. Review protocols for the meeting

Faith introduced herself and reviewed the meeting protocols.

IV. Aloha Circle (Cheryl)

Cheryl explained that we would open with an Aloha Circle if we were in person. She wanted to do this digitally as a way to bring everyone into the room. Everyone chose their 'āina and kūpuna to bring into the circle and introduced themselves to the group.

Cheryl thanked everyone for their contributions and passed the conversations back to Faith.

V. Introductions and Roles—Share your relationship to and responsibility to the project

Faith asked if there were any questions about participants and roles. There were none.

- A. HDOT – Harry, Julann
- B. UHH – Keiki, Peter
- C. Consulting Parties – All those present
- D. The Kohala Center – Cheryl, Kāhele
- E. SMS – Faith, Anna

VI. Review of the MOU between the UHH and HDOT

Harry began to discuss the MOU with an update on the process.

- A. The new, revised MOU was executed on 10/01/19 and a Notice to Proceed was issued for 07/01/20.
- B. There will be an MOU amendment to extend the MOU duration to provide for the conclusion of the 5-year deliverables of the MOU.
- C. Group Discussion

Paka mentioned the issue regarding lack of consultation on the MOU but he said he would hold back to discuss this here out of respect for the agenda and UH.

VII. Review of MOU between HDOT and UHH

A. Native Hawaiian Archaeology/Anthropology

1. Presentation (Peter)

Peter began the presentation. He said he has been teaching at UH Hilo for 23 years. He said they started a master's program in Heritage Management, and they are working on program development. Their greatest goal is to get people from descendent communities into leadership positions. The program is focused on community and indigenous empowerment.

Peter began to discuss the Bill Barrera collection which was work done in the North Kona region. He explained Bill Barrera's background. He has 25 reports that relate to the Kekaha region of North Kona. His work had been left in a barn on the mainland after he passed, but with raised funding, the reports (130 boxes) were all sent back and stored at the Pohakuloa Training Area. They were then all transferred to UH Hilo in 2013. UH students have been reviewing the reports. Barrera was very meticulous with his work. There is analysis being done to identify origin of artifacts, such as volcanic glass. They have reviewed over 8,000 artifacts to date since 2013, many from Kekaha. Peter said they would like to digitize

the reports related to the Kekaha Region. Peter said they are trying to bring on more students with a focus on students from the Kekaha Region to work on the project.

Peter said thank you, that was just an intro.

2. Group Discussion

Fred brought up the specific MOU requirements. He wanted to know if Native Hawaiian anthropology is being incorporated into the curriculum at UH and if annual reports will be submitted.

Peter said yes, they are familiar with the MOU. He said yes, study in this program will be focused on Native Hawaiian anthropology and other details will be worked out as things move forward.

Fred reiterated that the reason for the MOU was because their cultural landscape was being destroyed and he was glad this area will be captured, stored, curated and taught. Fred also really appreciated finding students from the region and making them the experts.

Kiersten Faulkner asked which location the reports were housed in.

Peter said the copies that SHPD has are in Kapolei. He said originals are at UH Hilo.

Kiersten asked if the scope of the project would include preserving the originals as well as digitizing.

Peter said their scope is to digitize and they will not be thrown out, they will be working on an additional plan to preserve the reports.

Kiersten said eventually we need to answer that question. She also wanted to ensure that students won't just be scanning but will be reviewing the content.

Peter said they are being very intentional about trying to generate content interest and valuable learning experiences for students and those working on the project.

Paka thanked Peter and the University for the work and for storing the documents. He said OHA could possibly be worked with to find a place for storage of originals.

Faith thanked Peter and the group moved on.

B. Native Hawaiian Studies Scholarship Program and Hawaiian Immersion or Charter School Support

Keiki introduced herself and explained her background in education, with a focus on 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Keiki shared background on the K-12 programs and schools, teacher education and the growing focus on revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Currently, Hale Kuamo'o is producing curriculum and materials around 'āina and 'ōlelo. Keiki highlighted the importance of language in contextualizing culture and sense of place. Funding for the development of Hawaiian focused curriculum has not been widely available to develop place specific curriculum. Keiki discussed the Barrera collection and some of the benefits of the work, such as the development of place names.

Keiki said she and Peter discussed how to better align and intertwine their programs as an 'ōlelo Hawai'i pathway to the MA in Heritage management. She said they are looking at the scholarships as a way to bring more 'ōlelo Hawai'i students through the heritage program. Keiki said they also have a Hawaiian Language and Culture MA and PhD. They are hoping to use scholarship support to bring more funding

and enrollment into the program. This would help develop more professionals to complete work like this in the Kekaha area and elsewhere.

Mandy Johnson-Campbell said her hope is that some of the funds for this project can be used for immersion pre-schools and other childhood programs financial aid, as it is a big expense for families. The expense leads to low enrollment numbers and struggling schools.

Keiki said she understands and agrees. However, they are currently focusing on increasing qualified teachers and providing curriculum to the schools.

Mandy reiterated her focus was on helping families enroll in the preschools with tuition support.

Keiki said the focus is broader on curriculum and addressing the critical teacher shortage area by at this time.

Kiersten asked if there were any numbers around how many scholarships, how many years, what is covered with the scholarships.

Keiki said some scholarships will be divided between MA and PhD students and the others will be for undergraduate. The scholarships would be assistance and stipends for students in their programs. They have not gotten into the specifics yet, but they do want to focus on students from Kekaha.

Peter said they are not looking to assist just one student, they want to do multiple students (2 a year) but they don't want to lock themselves into how many, for how long. They are working to get scholarship notice out in December 2020 for the Fall of 2021 (MA program admits on alternate years) and appreciate the Kohala Center's help get word out into the community. If they do not meet the December deadline, then scholarship would be for Fall 2023. They would like it to be flexible, because they imagine they will face challenges enrolling students. They are trying to select focused students who are already committed to a certain line of research when they apply.

Kiersten said she believes this will require a lot of outreach and student assistance.

Peter said yes. They went from having no funding to having funding, so they have to jumpstart their plans. They have a timeline to get folks signed up now, so they are working on the pipeline.

Kiersten asked if the timelines for expending the funds aligns with the program development.

Fred discussed the intent. So much has been lost. The goal is to save as much as we can and to share with and develop Hawaiian scholars. He also agreed with Kiersten, that timelines are important. There are also still a lot of details that need to be worked out and coordinated.

Peter said the planning for this has been going on for many years, but they were awaiting funding. Now that they have it, they are going to move forward but they do need clear messages on when they can move forward so they can plan adequately.

Paka said the DOT endowment program would be more valuable and needs to be considered and pursued. It would serve more students long term and double the resources. Paka also wanted HDOT to develop a funding timeline for UH to better support plan implementation.

David said they are responsible for oversight of the implementation of the mitigation and said they are happy to work on clarifying timeline. He is happy this is moving forward.

There were no other questions and Faith passed it on to Cheryl. Aric indicated that he met with Cheryl regarding the possibility of intersecting these initiatives with on-going archaeological and

historic research projects that the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail is currently undertaking with UHH's Anthropology and Geography Departments on trail documentation in the Kekaha region.

C. Recording of Oral Histories

Cheryl gave an overview of why the Kohala Center is involved. The Center works statewide when they have been invited to assist. She discussed the importance of trails and the connections between moku and community. Having the physical and educational ability to walk the trails of our ancestors is critical and is connected with leadership development. They focus on education in the West-Hawaii Complex, including Kekaha. The relationships here are also what bring them to the table. Cheryl felt fortunate to join HDOT, the current custodians of many of our trails, some of which lie on traditional pathways of our ancestors. It will be important to share this work in classrooms but also with the community. Part of their work is hoping to also learn and become better stewards. She was also grateful to have Kāhele as a part of the team and introduced her to provide a few words.

Kāhele expressed the importance of relationship building with place and 'āina. Their intent is not just to document but to build connection to 'āina, place, ecosystems and the work. Many of their staff are fluent in Hawaiian and they are excited to be a part of this project.

Fred brought attention to the MOU. He would like some specific discussion on the oral histories recording.

Cheryl said they do not have formal experience recording oral histories, but they have some. She acknowledges they cannot take a western approach to this and they are open to input from all on the process. She also mentioned the challenge of identifying kupuna who are willing to participate and that they will likely rely on relationships.

Fred said that after the destruction of their cultural classrooms he wants to highlight the lack of their cultural histories in books, it is with the kupuna. He wants to stress urgency and importance locating these histories before they are gone, and the places are gone.

Cheryl said the urgency is acknowledged and agreed with. This will be central to the initial effort on this work.

Peter reiterated that their program isn't just about archeology. Their students have much experience with oral histories in other regions. Peter asked if any students they know of that would be interested and willing to join the program and complete oral histories with their kupuna. Due to the timeline, these students need to be applying in the coming months.

Susan said thank you to everyone and the program sounds wonderful. She suggested the timing and flexibility should be built into the MOU.

Paka said additional funding for construction damages will maybe flow towards UH Hilo. Paka agreed with Susan that flexibility should be incorporated into the MOU. He asked David Clarke if there are any provisions for extensions.

David said yes, that can be included.

Paka wanted to recommend virtual trail experiences be available for disabled.

Susan asked for MOU amendment timeline. Harry said that will be discussed in December.

Kekoa said many Kupuna may not communicate their mana‘o with researchers. He wanted to know how Kohala Center would deal with this.

Paka said it is all voluntary, but he hopes Kohala center can access knowledge. He treasures the oral histories his ancestors have provided.

Cheryl said yes. They will rely on relationships in the area but also acknowledge they are not a trusted partner in the area and that it will take time, and throughout they will be respectful.

Peter said he echoes what has been said. Their program is about community. They want community to have a say in how the information is used. It is about saving information the community wants saved, not about extraction.

Aric agreed and said this project is for the families. The histories collected do not have to be exclusively oral histories, it can be photographs. Also, the information does not have to be disseminated but may be just preserved for the family and historical purposes.

Paka said we must consider kama’aina haole residents with long time histories must be included as well. Paka said often their kupuna are interviewed but they are not offered any appreciation other than a mahalo, so he appreciates Cheryl’s mention of a gift, thank you for their time and insights.

Susan said we should think outside the box on what constitutes an interview. We could do five but maybe some are different, like walking the trail and talking or having a group gathering to review and discuss photos. She suggested building flexibility into the MOU.

Paka said he agrees with Susan. Paka said when his mother was interviewed his aunt was there as well and it helped bring up memories. The talk story style may be a better approach.

Kekoa brought up the length of this process. He said normally, when this happens, they are just trying to extract information. Kekoa said they must take time to build a relationship and trust (pilina) .

Faith thanked everyone and noted we were running over schedule on the meeting. The group decided to bring the meeting to a close.

Harry thanked everyone for the meeting.

VIII. Review of Next Steps (Harry)

Notes will be distributed in about a week for the group to review and comment.

IX. Mahalo Circle (Cheryl)

Cheryl requested everyone online insert a word of appreciation into the chat and asked if anyone on the phone would like to contribute.

Fred brought up the reason they were here. For mitigation of the damages caused to their culture and classroom. He was grateful for everyone’s participation and very pleased with the mitigation.

Faith thanked all presenters.

X. Pule

Fred closed the meeting with a pule.

Susan thanked everyone for a productive meeting.

Paka said he wanted to volunteer a kupuna for an oral history, Fred. Paka thanked everyone for their participation.