

5th ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS DIVISION, MATERIALS TESTING AND RESEARCH BRANCH
(FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 01, 2024– JUNE 30, 2025)

PROJECT TITLE:

Impact Mitigation for Queen Ka‘ahumanu Highway Widening Project, Phase 2

DATE OF REPORT DUE:

08/19/2025

CONTRACT NUMBER:

Task Agreement No.: 2020-QK-MOU

Cooperative Agreement No.: DOT-10-030

CONTRACTOR:

University of Hawai‘i, Hilo

PRINCIPAL AND CO-INVESTIGATOR:

Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a - Director, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College , University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Dr. Peter Mills – Director Heritage Management MA Program, Anthropology Department, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

HDOT Project Manager:

Dr. Pua Aiu

Hawaii District, Highways Division, HDOT

TOTAL COST OF CONTRACT

\$1,250,000

Account: 1Q41A/B

Source of Funding: NH-019-1(047)

NEXT REPORT DUE:

03/01/2026

INTRODUCTION

The following document is the fifth annual progress report for a planned five-year research program funded by the HDOT. The project seeks to mitigate the adverse effects of the Queen Ka‘ahumanu Highway Widening, Ph. 2. The program is intended to benefit North Kona (Kekaha) communities through projects and activities managed by the Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (KH‘UOK) and the Anthropology Department (AD) at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UHH), and their partners which include the Kohala Center (TKC). HDOT has indicated its desire to implement programs that benefit Native Hawaiian archaeology and anthropology, fund scholarships and research activities of undergraduate and graduate students in those fields, as well as Native Hawaiian Studies at UH. Furthermore, the funds are intended to serve the interests of local Hawaiian language

immersion and Hawaiian-focused charter school education efforts. Substantial progress continues in digitization work and oral history work, digitization, and graduate-student oral history projects, Hawaiian-medium curriculum development, as well as the advisory committee. In collaboration with the Kohala Center, year five will emphasize seeking out and recording additional oral histories of Kekaha residents. An advisory group of Kekaha residents has been organized to discuss the oral histories and other aspects of the MOU, such as appropriate forms of dissemination for digitized archival materials and advisory committee meetings. These efforts are intended to integrate and enrich cultural programming that interprets the Native Hawaiian culture of the region and promotes the Hawaiian language. Our efforts to date on these multiple fronts are summarized below.

BUDGET SUMMARY/FUNDS DISBURSED

| | Total 5 Year Budget | Year 1 Expended 6/30/2021 | Year 2 Expended 6/30/2022 | Year 3 Expended 6/30/2023 | Year 4 Expended 6/30/2024 | Year 5 Expended 6/30/2025 | Total Expended | Remaining Balance |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Salary & Wages | \$ 305,014.00 | \$ 3,968.10 | \$ 24,479.87 | \$ 31,252.63 | \$ 142,553.59 | \$ 175,229.95 | \$ 377,484.14 | \$ (72,470.14) |
| Fringe | \$ 189,109.00 | \$ 2,308.47 | \$ 6,874.45 | \$ 2,433.57 | \$ 13,721.29 | \$ 26,129.89 | \$ 51,467.67 | \$ 137,641.33 |
| Equip. Supplies, food, remuneration, etc | \$ 106,175.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,626.96 | \$ 15,216.14 | \$ 249.37 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 17,092.47 | \$ 89,082.53 |
| Travel | \$ 17,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,639.55 | \$ 79.55 | \$ 2,719.10 | \$ 14,780.90 |
| Contractual | \$ 69,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 69,000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 686,798.00 | \$ 6,276.57 | \$ 32,981.28 | \$ 48,902.34 | \$ 159,163.80 | \$ 201,439.39 | \$ 448,763.38 | \$ 238,034.62 |
| Indirect @ 10% (incl. 1st 25k of KC | \$ 71,180.00 | \$ 627.71 | \$ 4,671.46 | \$ 6,987.84 | \$ 30,003.55 | \$ 9,857.03 | \$ 52,147.59 | \$ 19,032.41 |
| Subtotal w/ indirect cost added | \$ 757,978.00 | \$ 6,904.28 | \$ 37,652.74 | \$ 55,890.18 | \$ 189,167.35 | \$ 211,296.42 | \$ 500,910.97 | \$ 257,067.03 |
| Scholarship Stipend | \$ 117,022.00 | \$ - | \$ 17,280.00 | \$ 23,970.00 | \$ 18,489.00 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 79,739.00 | \$ 37,283.00 |
| Sub-Award: Kohala Center | \$ 375,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 13,734.05 | \$ 53,569.11 | \$ 77,364.49 | \$ 28,977.78 | \$ 173,645.43 | \$ 201,354.57 |
| Total | \$1,250,000.00 | \$ 6,904.28 | \$ 68,666.79 | \$ 133,429.29 | \$ 285,020.84 | \$ 260,274.20 | \$ 754,295.40 | \$ 495,704.60 |

*An error in billing in direct costs for year 4 was identified and has since been corrected in year 5.

WORK COMPLETED/OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED:

Progress to date includes the completion of some of the proposed tasks and objectives defined for the project. Status on specific goals is presented below for the five areas contained in the MOU:

a. Cultural Programming

Digitizing archaeological reports has focused primarily on the William Barrera reports. A high-quality Epson scanner with a multi-page feeder capacity, acquired in year 2 for the anthropology department, has continued to be used for scanning archaeological reports from the Kekaha region (some with original photos) in years 3, 4, and 5. A first Heritage Management graduate student hired in 2021 digitized the majority of the archaeological reports and edited the optical character recognition (OCR) text, and has since completed the digitizing and editing of all archaeological reports from the Kekaha region. Additionally, work has been done to digitize Barrera reports from other locales. A second anthropology

undergraduate (now a Heritage Management MA student as of the Fall of 2025) has continued to work on organizing and digitizing loose files and additional reports pertaining to Kekaha in the Barrera collections. A total of 25 Barrera Reports have been completed for Kekaha. These files have been transferred to a team at KH‘UOK to begin the process of designing a web page for community use and access on the [Ulukau](#) Hawaiian Digital Library. Over the year some members of the Kekaha community advisory group have expressed concern for remaining in control of the dissemination of information from the reports, and UH staff continues to work with them to address their concerns.

b. Native Hawaiian Anthropology/Archaeology

The UHH is strengthening its Hawaiian and Hawai‘i-related anthropology courses through three main pathways: 1) building capacity between the AD and KH‘UOK; and 2) increasing the quality of information available for studying the archaeology of the Kekaha region through digitization of archaeological reports from the Kekaha region, and 3) organizing and analyzing a large collection of archaeological material from Kekaha collected by William Barrera.

At the undergraduate level in anthropology, the Native Hawaiian student who was affected by the Maui fires and received tuition scholarship funds for the 2023-2024 academic year has continued to work on digitizing reports and as a liaison with the Ulukau team at KH‘UOK responsible for designing web access to digitized materials. He has also completed an 18-minute video describing his archaeological analysis of stone tool collections from Kekaha in the Barrera collections, presented the results at the annual Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Conference, and received the society’s award for the most outstanding student presentation.

c. Native Hawaiian Studies Scholarship Program

Scholarships for Fall 2025 have been selected and are being released. This included 5 BA students in Hawaiian Studies, 1 Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education student, 6 MA students in Indigenous Language and Culture Education, and 6 Ph.D. students.

c. Anthropology and Hawaiian Immersion/Charter School Support

The Pāhana Nānāikamalama internship project, reported in last year’s annual report, has continued to develop curriculum materials rooted in the traditional knowledge of Kona, as written by John Waile Heremon Isaac Kihe for Ka Hoku o Hawai‘i, a Hawaiian language newspaper. Well researched and developed by undergraduate and graduate Hawaiian Studies students, the project—named *Ho‘olale a ka ‘Ūkiu*—is a collaboration with Hale Kuamo‘o, the Hawaiian Language Center of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language. Its goal is to expand resources for Hawaiian immersion classrooms in middle and high schools, where the curriculum remains limited. The materials include five place-based stories, a 20-poster and lesson set, high school and elementary versions of the story of *Makalei*, and an online interactive database resource map of Kona. The final set of materials is now being prepared for print, and all completed resources will also be available on the [Ho‘olale a ka ‘Ūkiu](#) website.

d. Oral Histories of Kekaha Region

Engagement with the Kekaha community through the Advisory Committee continues throughout the interview process, providing valuable community insights as interviews are conducted and supporting adaptive approaches to the overall process, including the interview and transcription phases. Additional

effort has been made to support community members' understanding of the project's scope of work and to encourage their continued feedback and input throughout the project's duration. This involves the project coordinator scheduling one-on-one meetings with known family members to address all questions and concerns, as well as similar processes for interviewees and their 'ohana before their interview date and during the post-interview transcription drafting and finalization. Following this outreach, project staff and Kohala Center staff schedule meetings to assess and debrief on interviews and transcription, identifying successes, failures, and areas for growth. Significant progress continues to be made to ensure that these families feel comfortable with the direction this project is taking and that they will continue to have opportunities to provide input and feedback to staff, which will be heard and ideally adopted in standard operating procedures for staff moving forward.

The collection of oral histories has continued with updates to the Advisory Committee, and consideration for questions and concerns posed by individual committee members is made to ensure that the collection of oral histories continues to follow the intended vision and guidelines set forth by the committee and the broader community of Kekaha. To date, 6 individuals have been interviewed. An additional 8 interviews are confirmed and are pending scheduled dates. Although the number of oral history interviews completed in 2024 is expected to increase in quantity, the process for identifying interviewees and arranging interviews has proven challenging for the community in recent months due to a lack of availability. The staff have had discussions on the best approaches moving forward to ensure interviews are completed. To summarize this process to this point in 2025, the following milestones have been reached over the year:

- 1) Development and completion of SOPs and Workflows for transcription, drafting, and editing
- 2) Pre-interview research and preparation for 4 upcoming interviews.
- 3) Post-processing of 6 interviews for transcription
- 4) Transcribing of 6 interviews
- 5) Completion of final drafts for 5 of those transcriptions, with one more draft awaiting interviewee review.
- 6) Community consultation regarding data storage and final housing source(s), oral history repository, Barrera collection repository.
- 7) Community consultation for planning of community event(s). and final products.

WORK PLANNED FOR the final months:

1. In the anthropology department, one graduate student in Heritage Management will continue to work with the Barrera collections and the Ulukau Hawaiian Digital Library to create a site collection for the developed collections and resources.
2. Hale Kuamo'o (the Hawaiian Language Center of KH'UOK) will complete the curriculum and resource materials, preparing them for dissemination to immersion schools statewide and teacher training in Hawaiian medium schools.
3. Through continued regular monthly meetings of principals, AD and KH'UOK will follow up, support, and coordinate with TKC to fulfill their sub-agreement. The Manager will

work with TKC and graduate students to recruit and identify community participants in the project. Collectively, these individuals will help identify the broader goals of the communities themselves, which we aim to facilitate through the collection and preservation of interviews, among other efforts.

4. The discussion and preparation for a closing community celebration for the project.

ATTACHMENT B:

University of Hawai‘I Subrecipient: The Kohala Center

Project Title: The Traditional Pathways Project

Federal Award No: DOT-10-030, TA 2020-QK-MOU

Subaward No: HI1663

Budget Period: 07/01/2021-12/31/2025

Reporting Period: 07/01/2024-06/30/2025

Report Type: Annual

The main purpose of this project is to 1) support UH-Hilo in fulfilling existing MOU between DOT and UH-Hilo to “promote educational and other activities that will mitigate such adverse effects [of the “Kaloko Intersection Project” and the “Queen K Project” and help perpetuate the Hawaiian culture”]; and 2) provide project leadership to unify the five programs as listed in the agreement under one project named, “The Traditional Pathways Project”, through Pathways Research and Design. Specific objectives include:

1. Provide applied research and other relevant, experiential learning opportunities for grant-funded undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Native Hawaiian studies and/or Native Hawaiian anthropology.
2. Collaborate with UH-Hilo grant-funded undergraduate and graduate students to conduct oral histories with community members from the Kekaha region of Hawai‘i Island.
3. Support UH-Hilo in the development and outreach of educational/enrichment materials to Hawaiian Immersion/Charter Schools and to community members in Kekaha that capture and interpret Native Hawaiian cultural practices in the Kekaha region
4. As a Pathways Research Cohort a) conduct historical and cultural research on Kekaha with a focus on traditional pathways; and b) share the mo‘olelo and research findings for informational and feedback purposes
5. As a Pathways Design Cohort, initiate new or integrate into existing curriculum (e.g Native Hawaiian archaeology and/or anthropology courses at UH-Hilo, Hawaiian immersion/charter schools, Hawai‘i Island community-based organizations) drawing on research through arts and other media
6. Finalize project by creating a mo'oku'auhau (genealogy) of this Traditional Pathways Project to serve as a model for Hawai‘i-based private/public partnerships and shared leadership.

Organization/Program Achievements: What was accomplished in connection to this project?

Total Project Summary (July 2021 - December 2025):

1. Pilina built with the community of Kekahawai‘oleonākona and with key members and organizations in the area.
2. An Advisory Committee was formed to help guide the project.
3. In March 2025, a No-Cost Extension was approved by HDOT and UHH to extend TKC’s subcontract from June 30, 2024 to December 31, 2025.
4. Five (5) oral history interviews have been completed with six (6) individual interviewees.
5. Two (2) transcripts have been finalized and signed off on by the interviewees.

Annual Summary (July 2024 - June 2025):

1. TKC submitted a proposal for a No Cost Extension of the subcontract, with the new end date proposed for December 31, 2025. The proposal was accepted by HDOT and UHH in March 2025.
2. Interviews are continually being planned for, and work is continuing to progress on the interviews already completed. (Program goal 2d.)
3. Steps are being taken to analyze the interviews with the intention of creating materials that can be used by the community and schools. (Program goal 2c, 2e.)

Highlights for Quarter 1: July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024

4. No work was conducted at this time as we waited for the acceptance of the proposal for a no-cost extension.

Highlights for Quarter 2: October 1, 2024 December 31, 2024

5. No work was conducted at this time as we waited for the acceptance of the proposal for a no-cost extension.

Highlights for Quarter 3: January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

6. On March 4, 2025, the proposal for the no-cost extension was formally accepted, and TKC could restart its work on the project.

Highlights for Quarter 4: April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

7. Work continued on the interviews. This mainly consisted of finalizing transcripts, editing the final interviews, and planning for other materials that will be created from the mana‘o shared in the interviews.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL

| Expenses | Year-to-Date Actual 07-01-2021 thru 06-30-2025 | Budget Revised | Budget Original | Balance Remaining |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Project Lead | \$ 80,041 | 112,500 | 100,000 | 32,459 |
| Project Assistants (Ka'ena + Kāhele) | \$ 42,079 | 81,078 | 60,000 | 39,000 |
| ʻĀina Accountability staff (Commucations & Marketing incl. Liam/Anianikū/Kaimana) | \$ 3,523 | 26,890 | | 23,367 |
| Employee Benefits & Taxes | \$ 35,180 | 64,181 | 44,800 | 29,001 |
| Contract Services | \$ - | 0 | 40,000 | 0 |
| Program Supplies | \$ 2,077 | 7,400 | 6,400 | 5,323 |
| Marketing | \$ 81 | 81 | 12,500 | 0 |
| Honoraria | \$ 737 | 9,632 | 5,000 | 8,895 |
| Travel & Transportation | \$ 1,905 | 5,000 | 6,300 | 3,095 |
| Meetings & Events | \$ 3,527 | 19,325 | 51,087 | 15,798 |
| Total Direct Expenses | 169,150 | 326,087 | 326,087 | 156,937 |
| IDC @15% | \$ 28,378 | 48,913 | 48,913 | 20,535 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 197,527 | 375,000 | 375,000 | 177,472 |