



Waimea Nui Regional Community Development Initiative

Creating pathways towards self-sufficiency





The Waimea Nui Regional Community & Economic Self-Sufficiency Project

The Waimea Nui Region covers in excess of 27,000 acres of Homestead Lands on which 536 leases have been awarded. The Homestead is part of the Waimea Community which has a population of about 14,000 people of which roughly 40% are of Hawaiian decent. Waimea is a diverse traditional agriculture region, with strong opportunities from both its human and natural resources.

The Waimea Nui Homestead community is composed of land used for residential, agricultural, and pastoral purposes, as designated by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA). Currently, there are limited local economic opportunities for the Waimea Nui Region residents and most commute 40 to 50 miles a day to the Waikoloa Coast for employment.

The Waimea Nui Regional Community & Economic Development Program is a beneficiary driven, shared community effort. The purpose is to create the fundamental infrastructure needed to build a vibrant, self-sufficient community grounded in traditional Hawaiian values. The replicable and innovative models of the Development Initiative can service other communities and be duplicated to suit the needs of other. The next step is a Master Plan which integrates a series of community service and economic development projects specifically designed to promote the resilience and self-sufficiency of Waimea, facilitate timely and comprehensive community-based growth focused on 6 specific areas with corresponding goals:

- 1) Community Facilities
- 2) Farming and Ranching
- 3) Health and Wellness
- 4) Fitness and Recreation
- 5) Economic Development
- 6) Utilities



Community-Sourced and Supported Development Initiative for the 21st century

In the 21st century, we're recognizing that addressing deep seeded societal challenges are beyond simple solutions in single sectors. The dynamics and interactions in human ecosystems are as interconnected as natural ecosystems. Thus, impacts in one area may affect many, and an impact to one may be restricted by the state of other connected elements.

For example, if this project attempted to stimulate the growth of the agriculture region by simply having a training program, a few farmers who utilized local distribution opportunities like the farmers markets would succeed, but anyone looking to produce larger quantities would be limited by the lack of food safety certified cooling and packing facilities. Thus, if the goal is to improve the viability of farming, the other barriers to growth must also be addressed.

Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Association Development Initiative: Balancing competition with collaboration and using economic development for social good

The Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association (WHHA) recently got the license to a 161 acre parcel of land that is designated community development land. WHHA, through consultation with beneficiaries, identified a series of potential projects that the community members want to have in the homestead. This initiative has spurred a reinvigoration of civic engagement. Close coordination and involvement from beneficiaries are moving some of the priority projects forward, and WHHA is working through its nonprofit community development arm, HCDC to begin the first two projects, a community cemetery and park and a community agriculture complex.

To provide sustainable economic support for the numerous public service projects,

WHHA has balanced the list with revenue generating elements that also fit within the regional plan, HHCA, and beneficiary consultation results. **One of the distinguishing strengths of this project is that it is rooted in the Hawaiian traditions of collaboration and cooperation.** This is one of the most valuable lessons that can be learned from Hawaiian culture for improved community cohesion. Though competition in a capitalist society drives innovation, collaboration within a community creates stability and strengthens the social fiber of communities.

Unbridled competition and pursuit of profit has shown to tear social fabrics that hold our communities together. Using cooperatives to improve buying power and market access by creating economies of scale has proven highly successful. These new economic models have invaluable multiplier effects on economic sustainability and improved quality of life.

This project not only promotes the cooperative approaches to agriculture, but using revenue generating businesses to sustain the community services takes the cooperative model on level higher in stepping collaboration within industries one step further to partnering for-profit and non-profit entities for overall economic sustainability for the entire community development initiative.

“Not to say economic security isn't important – it is – but focusing solely on money to provide security is using 19th century thinking for 21st century challenges”

- Towards Sustainable Communities

Development Focus Areas



Community Facilities

Restoring the teaching, living, and sharing traditional Hawaiian culture as a daily experience in Waimea. Creating opportunities for restoring the connectivity and social fiber of our communities.



Farming and Ranching

Building an agriculture industry that places Waimea Nui at the center of the States drive for food and energy self-sufficiency, and establishes a strong, lasting economy built by the homestead for the benefit of all.



Health and Wellness

Taking control of the health of all Native Hawaiians in the region putting it into the hands of fellow Native Hawaiians.



Fitness and Recreation

Creating fitness, activities, and the spirit of community through sport, competition, and shared experience. Providing the entire Waimea community with a place to gather, to focus on fitness, and to build healthy lifestyles that reverse the costly effects of obesity and other illnesses.



Revenue Generation and Sustainable Jobs

Building viable, sustainable economic capacity for the regions on the Homestead. Economic capacity that creates the revenue and jobs that mark Waimea as a self-sufficient region able to develop, fund, and expand projects with its own resources.



Utilities

Establish the capability for the region to provide the energy, water, fertilizer that allows the programs components to operate independently.

Community Facilities

One key to lasting healthy communities is good social bonds and a strong sense of community culture. The community facilities promote positive interactions and cultural identity at all levels of the community, from keiki (youth), through family, kupuna (elder), and beyond.

- Cemetery with a Park and Chapel
- Community Center
 - 800 seating capacity
- Auditorium
 - 500 to 800 capacity
- Punana Leo Hawaiian Language Pre-school
 - Established 1995
- Kanu o Ka 'Aina Charter School
 - Established in 2000
- Higher Learning program in conjunction with UH-Hilo
- WHHA Office
- Business Incubator and Resource Center

The young keiki can learn Hawaiian Language at Punana Leo Hawaiian Emersion preschool, and then graduate to Kanu o Ka 'Aina charter school. The Hawaiian culture can be preserved in the university supported archival facility. The community center and Auditorium provide gathering places for celebrations and events. Community members interested in starting new businesses can find support and resources at the business center, designed to promote continued economic development.



Priority Project: Cemetery with Chapel and Park

The priority project for Waimea residents is the cemetery because currently there is no place in the area to bury our kupuna. The only options on Hawai'i Island are in Hilo or Kona, which is over an hour away. Hawaiians continue to take care of their families and commune with their family members even after their death. Traditionally, when there is a party or event, gifts would be taken to the graves out of respect for the kupuna who have already passed on, such as leis and food. It's important that their mana (power) goes back into the ground that feeds them. Also, families need to be able to visit their kupuna who have passed and consult with them. Because there is no place in Waimea to be buried, people are cremated, which is not traditional practice, but for residents of Waimea, it is the only way to stay close to your family. The first public project, which is also stated as a priority in the Department of Hawaiian Homelands regional plan, is the development of a cemetery and park.





Farming and Ranching

Agriculture in Hawaii has yet to recover from the fall of the sugar cane industry and numerous barriers inhibit the rapid expansion into the vast untapped markets that locally produced foods could fill. To address these barriers we are creating the following infrastructure projects that will be powered by the low cost energy from the digester. Also, Waimea is famous for its paniolo (cowboys) and ranching culture, so the development is promoting the preservation of those practices by providing equestrian facilities and a roping arena.

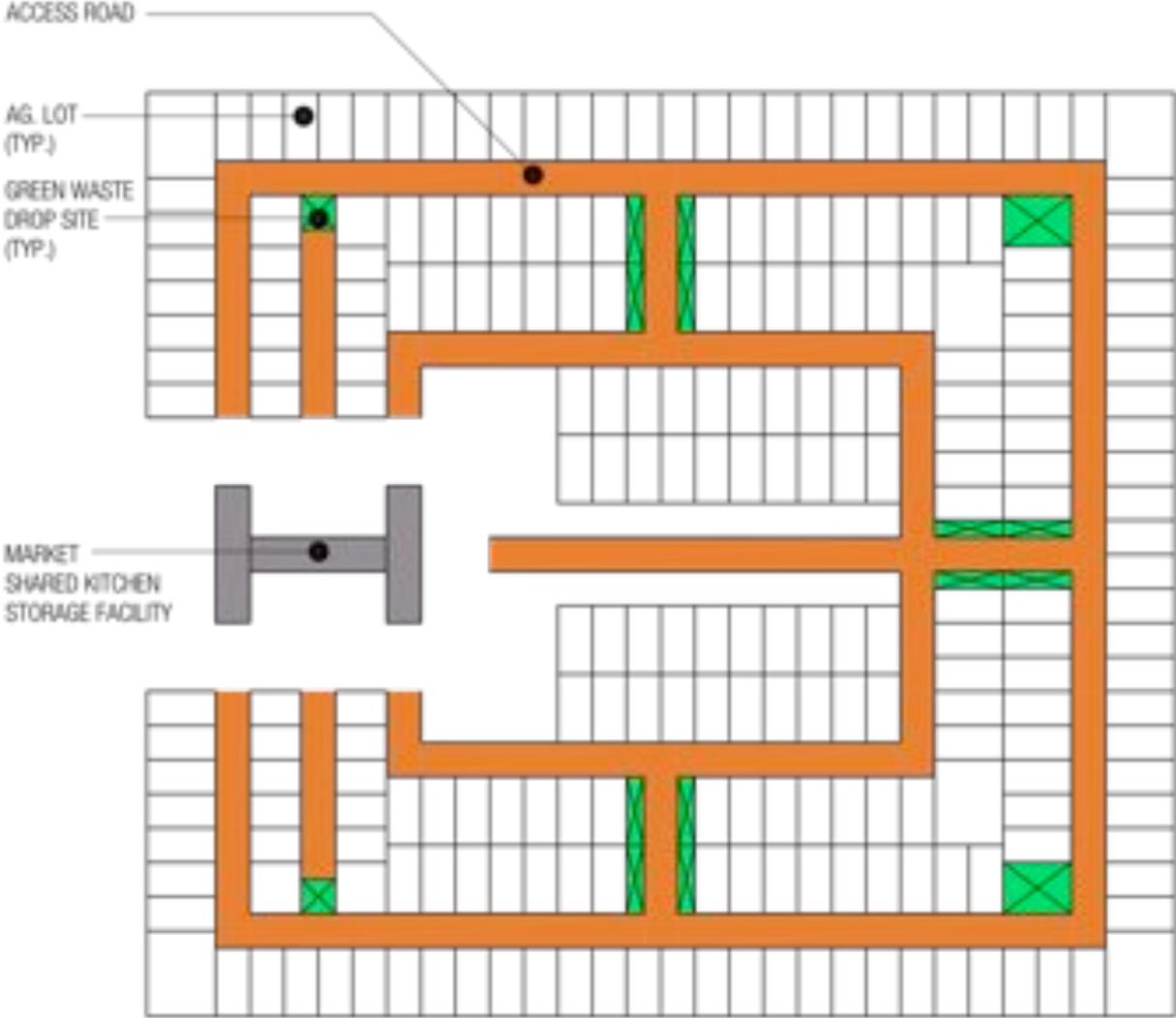
- Community Ag Park with farm lots and a daily farmers market
- Post Harvest Facility
- Farmer's Cooperative
- Equestrian Center and Roping Arena
- Off-site Feed Lot and Slaughterhouse
- Farmer Training Program
 - o Currently underway and funded by First Nations

Priority Project: Pu'ukapu Community Ag Park will consist of 246 parcels, each consisting of a 5,000 sq ft area to farm, available to the community for lease. Most of the available agriculture lands for lease are through Hawaii County, Department of Agriculture, or Bishop Estates, but all of these land owners have strict qualification requirements for their lessees which creates a substantial barrier for anyone with limited experience and capital to begin farming. This Ag Park with its smaller

farm plots will function as a jumping off point for new farmers to gain experience in an area with educational resources and mentors, and when they have become successful at growing their crops, they can graduate to larger parcels of land available through the other landowners.



Pu'ukapu Community Agriculture Park



FARMERS CO-OP

SCALE: W 100 FT
H 50 FT



Veteran and Homesteader
To Farmer Program
Waimea, Hawai'i

Health and Wellness

Despite the presence of a community hospital, Native Hawaiians in North Hawaii continue to be under-served when it comes to primary care. Hawai'i County has a federal designation as a medically underserved area and medically under-served population. This problem is most acute among Native Hawaiians, who make up 38.8% of the population in Waimea.

People without health insurance or a primary care provider are less likely to get timely treatment, screening and preventive services and are more likely to use costly emergency services resulting in higher emergency room and hospitalization rates. According to the Hawai'i County Physical workforce study 2010 by John A. Burns School of Medicine, Hawai'i County currently faces a shortage of 200 physicians based on actual supply and calculated demand. Further, the overall age-adjusted death rate for cancer in Hawai'i County is consistently twice the death rate for the State and three times the death rate for healthy people. The reasons for the large difference are likely complex and most likely include inadequate access to care, which would provide timely screening, diagnosis and appropriate treatment, as well as life-style risk factor such as smoking, obesity and alcohol consumption. These life-style risks are all addressable through improved access to health care.

The Kaheleaulani Clinic, in its new facilities, is envisioned to be a vibrant, inter-dependent Native Hawaiian community based on cultural values with individuals achieving their optimal spiritual, mental, and physical potential. Kaheleaulani includes:

- 1) Health & Wellness Offices,
- 2) Health Clinic
- 3) Kupuna (Elder) Center
/ Kupuna Housing



Recreation and Fitness

This project not only promotes health and wellness by providing easy access to health services and fresh foods, but it also promotes more exercise and activities through its facilities to encourage holistically healthy lifestyles. The following facilities were identified as priorities for the homestead community and Waimea.



- Gymnasium with Emergency Shelter qualifications
- Track & Field facility within Football & Soccer Stadium
- Quad-plex baseball fields (Little League, HS, and Softball)
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Park and walking paths

We are athletic people and many community members would like to partake in sports, but there is no common place to practice and hold games. Keiki from the community get trucked around the island if they want to participate in athletics, making it more time consuming for the keiki and challenging for 'ohana (family) to support them by attending games.

The few teams and sports leagues in Waimea are limited by the availability of facilities. Often times, going out to support hometown teams is pivotal in creating cross-cultural interactions among usually separate groups under the shared interest of supporting the hometown teams. The addition of athletic facilities that are open to the entire Waimea community will provide opportunities to build bridges among community members.



Revenue Generation and Sustainable Jobs

A number of the desired facilities are public service projects, like a community park, cemetery and kupuna center. These types of projects can be costly to maintain, so there is a need to pursue revenue-generating projects that can contribute to the continual operation and maintenance of the other community benefit projects. Thus, HCDC is pursuing a variety of development project in Pu'ukapu that will balance revenue generation and non-profit public services to the homestead.

- Restaurant(s)
- Washerette
- Commercial Development strip
- Driving Range
- Chip-n-Putt and Par three Golf facility
- Commercial Kitchens
- Hawaiian cultural center with amphitheater



Hawaiian Cultural Center

Our Hawaiian culture has been hidden to the world dwarfed with Polynesian culture. People want to know about the Hawaiian people when they come to Hawai'i. A Hawaiian Cultural Center with culturally trained educators teaching language and the arts, to our own people, so our people can share it with the world. A gathering place to perpetuate our history to preserve our culture will also be part of this project.



Utilities

One of the most significant barriers to economic growth in Hawai'i is the extremely high cost of electricity due to Hawai'i's geographic isolation and subsequent dependence on oil for electricity generation.

Having onsite power generation that can be distributed throughout the property to the other facilities completely changes the economics of these businesses by reducing one of the largest overhead costs, energy, especially energy intensive businesses like food processing. This creates a drastic improvement in the economics of local businesses by greatly reducing costs. The anaerobic digester that provides the onsite power generation from organic waste also produces low cost fertilizer as by-product.

This creates an unprecedentedly self-sustaining community. The onsite electricity generation partnered with the new emergency shelter and new well that is pumped by lower cost renewable energy creates an infrastructure base that is highly resilient and self-sustaining in emergency situations.

- Green Waste Digesters for Electricity
- Water Development Projects paired with renewable energy source for low cost pumping

Electricity rates on Hawai'i Island average around \$0.41/kWh.

This is three times the national average.

Island of Hawaii : Native Hawaiian Population Density Maps

