



A Wai'anae Cares Community Meeting Summary Report

April 27, 2024

Held at Ka'aha'aina Cafe

Introduction

On February 21, 2024, driven by the increasing concerns of the rising violence, a group of over 35 local residents and organization members came together to discuss thoughts on potential actions that could bring hope and support to our Wai'anae moku (from Keawa'ula to Nānākuli). Unified by a shared commitment to positive change, this discussion gave birth to the **Wai'anae Cares initiative**. The group decided to hold an event to engage the people in generating solutions to the issue of violence along with other issues and factors related to it. The first community-wide meeting, the **Taking Back Our Moku** event, was held on Prince Kūhiō Day at Wai'anae High School. It brought together 90 community members who identified and prioritized short-term solutions to implement.

The meeting held on April 27, 2024 was a followup to the initial event as requested by those in attendance. The purpose of this second meeting was to gather community members to create action plans for the solution priorities identified at the first meeting. There were 46 people who attended, many of whom were kūpuna from the Wai'anae Coast.

Visioning

In order to focus everyone on a single vision, participants gathered into groups to discuss what they hoped to see for the Wai'anae moku. We include common themes of the visions from each group, a summary vision statement created at the meeting, and individual group notes below.

Summary of Vision Themes

- People and families:
 - Are safe, healthy, economically stable, emotionally supportive, spiritually strong / Ho'omana
 - Are connected to language and cultural values and practices, including mo'olelo, mo'omeheu, Iolani Hawai'i, mo'okū'auhau, kumulipo
 - Live values, and are respectful especially to kupuna, caring, honest, live aloha especially to 'ōpio, have kuleana, practice aloha 'āina
 - Communicate and support each other
- Community: Resilient; has mentors; supportive of youth agencies
- Place:
 - Ahupua'a centered; there are lawai'a and mahi'ai; more trees and color
 - Economic infrastructure, prosperous, active, attractive
 - Protect holoholona Hawai'i

Draft Vision Statement

Within our language comes the understanding of what it means to hō'ihi (respect) our kūpuna 'ike, within our culture, we better understand how to do that through 'āina and aloha will automatically follow and live through our 'ōpio.

Vision Notes By Group

<p>‘Ōlelo, Manaleo, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Kula, ‘Āina, Kupuna, Hoomana, Access, Kuleana, Ola, Loina Hawai‘i, Ku‘ana, Mālama, Hō‘ihi, Pale, Mo‘olelo, Mo‘omeheu, Lokahi, Lā‘au, Mea‘ai, Aloha kekahi i kekahi, ‘Auamo, Wai, Kanaka, ‘Ike, Hula, Hālau, ‘Aha, Pilina, Ho‘oponopono, Pono, Piko, Hana, Huli ka lima i lalo, Mele, Kumulipo, One hanau, Kulāiwi, ‘Iwi, ‘Ewe, ‘Ea, Kai, Lawai‘a, Mahi‘ai, Hana no‘eau, Mea Hawai‘i, ‘A‘ole Makapō, Kala, Mihi/kala, No‘ono‘o, Wai, Mea Kanu, ‘Ano‘ano, Pō/ao, Kūkākūkā, Holoholona hawai‘i</p>	<p>Self: Spiritual strength, health, safety, continuous learning, economic stability, responsibility</p> <p>Family: Emotional support, respect, care, safety, communication, role models, culture, nurture</p> <p>Community: Resilience, mentors, follow through, sharing, caring</p> <p>Islands: Economic infrastructure, transparency</p> <p>World: Stories, communication</p>	<p>-Respect kupuna -Aloha ‘opio, sharing -Ahupua‘a, water, land, ocean -Aloha ‘aina, volunteer program, mo‘olelo, education -Language (ma ka ‘olelo Hawai‘i), pidgin english in Hawaiian, mo‘okū‘auhau</p>
<p>-Ahupua‘a centered community development -Wai‘anae Town is attractive, prosperous and active -More trees, color and beauty -Kupuna are protected, respected and actively engaged (intergenerational) -We stop moaning about our losses and pain and move on</p>	<p>-Disciplined -‘Ōpio involved -Respect -Communication styles different for each generation and with government/DHHL -Unity/lokahi -Instill values in next generation -Know your family, roots, who you are -Listen!</p>	<p>Motivating words: -Be kind to others in everything we do -Live aloha -Practice honesty, be transparent -Doing the right things -Learn more about youth agencies and support them financially -Learn ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i practice and use</p>

Action Planning

Participants broke up into 5 groups to discuss action plans for solution priorities, shown below.

Connecting to Culture and Cultural Practices

Reawaken cultural practices

- Driven by ‘opio
 - Translator to help explain practices
 - Maintain awareness
1. Hapai- Identify and register/connect to culture
 - a. Practice to piko: Recognize the source, connection to past, present, and future.
 2. Practice Kula Iwi- Malama our kupuna (kumu)
 3. Ho‘omana- Action of possessing spirituality
 - a. Everything has mana
 - b. Encompass the universe, Po and Ao

4. Ma ka hana ka 'ike- learn by doing
5. 'Opio life skills, maui
6. Aina foundation- Kau Hale, Practice in your life, home, work, everywhere

Community Engagement

- Faith-based church outreach
- Hawaiian civic clubs
- Cultural activities- gates/wall open
- Organized leadership
- Intentional awareness of events
- Community oriented policing- "peace-ing"
- Nānākuli security watch- "awareness to care"
- Educated community and connection

Cultural Education

Cultural practices in the home

- Hawaiian values
- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
- Cooking
- Fishing
- Kanu (planting)
- Protocol
- Health and medicine
- Transportation (handivan)
- Music

- Ke akua

Cultural practices at school

- Mahi'ai
- Aloha 'āina
- Hula hālau

*Make sure to include all cultures, not just Hawaiian

Action Plan for Cultural Workshops

1. Identify who is already doing workshops- Ex. Ma'ō Farms does cooking and mo'olelo
2. Coordinate across groups and communicate in central place (ie. website)
3. Survey/ask community what they are interested in, especially kupuna and 'ōpio, ex. Hukilau, imu)
4. Find out what schools have in terms of cultural and 'ōlelo classes and kumu for them so can see which schools need kōkua from community

'Opio and 'Ohana

Goal: Build a better Wai'anae community

- Create a youth council
- Identify community partners/youth agencies that we can partner with, such as: DOE, Boys and Girls Club, Clubs, Valley of Rainbows, KOTR, Kamehameha Schools, NKK, LT, Charter Schools, Wai'anae Comprehensive, Rotary Club, Hawaiian Civic Clubs
- Create a funding plan to fund activities
- Create a central resource bank for all 'opio and 'ohana
- Develop an outreach plan
- Develop a communications plan, social media
- Plan a fundraiser and approach funders

Youth Mental Health

- State/federal/nonprofit support of existing organizations and programs through sustainable funding
- _____ supporting parents and youth, families and household
- Larger systematic entities (DOE, DOE, etc.) aligning and connecting with community organizations → synergizing
- Creating a crisis response team (WCCHC, DOE complex)
- Building CTE programs and vocational programs
- Kupuna and 'opio
- May 2 @ 5pm Nānākuli Public Library

Next Steps

All those who have signed up for the Wai'anae Cares Newsletter and who have come to our meetings will receive this report. This information lays the groundwork for future Wai'anae Cares meetings and planning around community-identified solutions. To continue to support these efforts we ask community members to:

- Sign up for the Wai'anae Cares Newsletter to be updated on the latest efforts on the waianaecares.org website
- Spread the word and invite others to attend, especially 'ōpio
- Sign up to join a Wai'anae Cares committees on the website, including Communications, Youth, Events/Activities, and Westside Legends.

Mahalo

We mahalo and recognize all contributors for their efforts:

Wai'anae Moku Navigators, Kamehameha Schools, Ma'o Farms, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club, Wai'anae Coast Rotary Club, Wai'anae Economic Development Council, 'Elepaio Social Services, Georgette Stevens, Dana Newman, Nani Peterson, Shar Poe