

# Draft Waikapuna Resources Management Plan

**ALOHA AND WELCOME!**

This meeting is being recorded.  
Meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

*Why is Waikapuna important or special to you?*

Childhood memories of Waikapuna.

This area needs to be protected.

Ka'ū is my piko.

Subsistence gathering, cultural practices, iwi kūpuna.

Our ice box for generations.

The place resets my perspective.

It is wahi kūpuna, sacred and should be cared for and kept that way.

It's Ka'ū, part of our home.

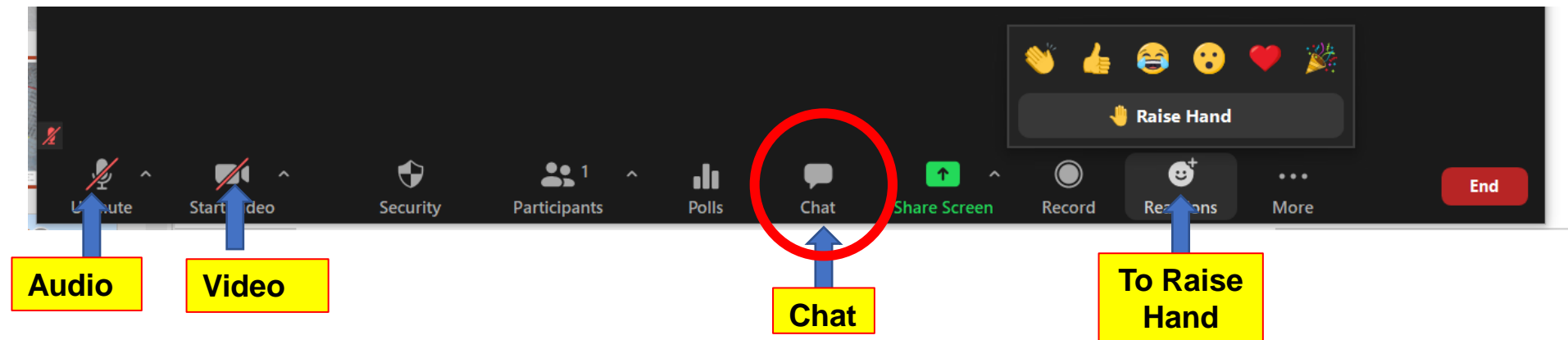


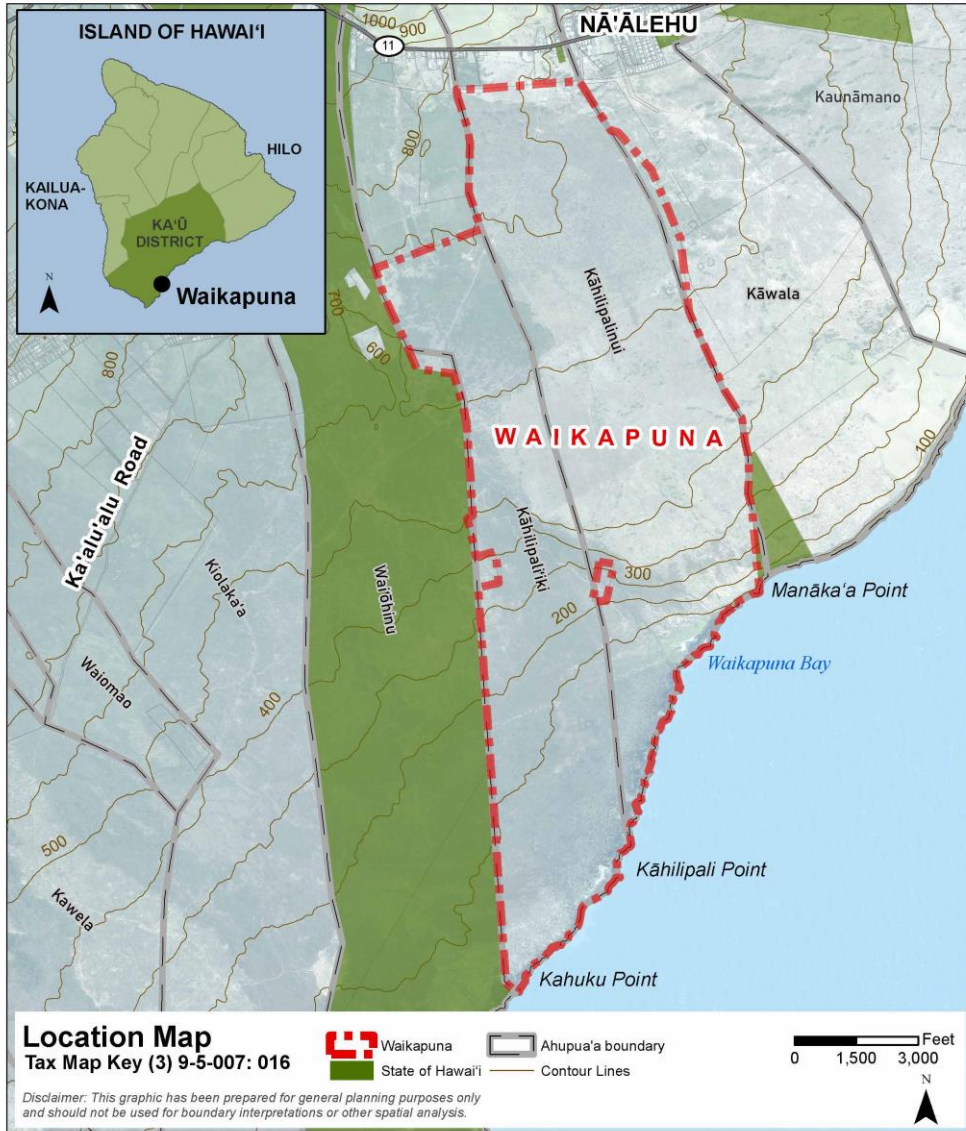
# AGENDA

- Presentation
- Comments/Questions

# Meeting **Kuleana**

- Be respectful and show aloha 😊
- Keep an open mind
- Agree to disagree
- Give everyone an opportunity to speak before speaking again
- Type comments into the “chat” box/wait for facilitator to call on you





# Waikapuna parcel: 2,317 acres

Acquired by Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) in Dec 2019

Received funding from the State LLCP, County Preservation Fund, Trust for Public Land, & Private Donors

Conservation Easement (CE) placed over the property: County of Hawai'i holds the CE

# Purpose of the management plan

- ✓ Fulfill grant requirements with the **State Legacy Land Conservation Program** and **County of Hawai'i Conservation Easement**

Guide stewardship actions and strategies

Protect, preserve, and conserve the significant cultural, historical, and natural resources of Waikapuna

# Contents of the management plan

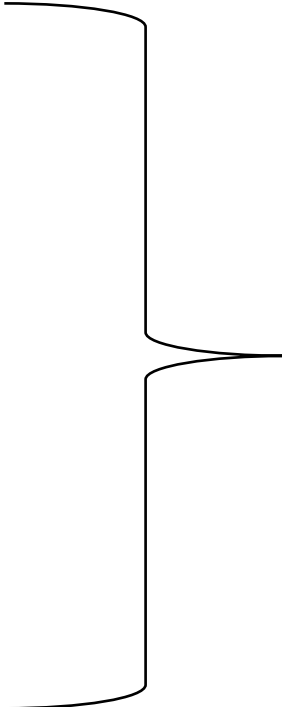
Background Information

Site Description & Summary of Resources

Summary of Values, Issues & Concerns

Proposed Action Items & Strategies

Framework for Implementation



Aligned with the values as outlined in the **County's Conservation Easement** and the **State LLCP** grant agreements

# Process for the Management Plan

- Reviewed existing reports
- Held virtual & in-person Talk Story sessions, community meetings
- Conducted site visits





## *What do you envision Waikapuna to be like in 50 years?*

To remain as we see it today, undeveloped and **thriving** with **abundance** in **fish population** and **native vegetation**.

I envision it looking the same (**pristine and rugged**) and still being enjoyed by the people of Ka'ū and providing food for them.

To **look the same** it is now.

A land that is **respected** and its cultural and natural resources managed by the community for the benefit of community and Hawaiian ancient and current history.

**Stewarded** in a way that provides the 'āina breaks to rejuvenate its resources in between visitors.  
**Undeveloped**. Priority given to Ka'ū residents, with caps on number of days/nights and vehicles. Volunteer hours put in prior to camping overnight. Including learning of historical significance to families of the area, beach clean up, road maintenance, and clearing of invasive vegetation.

# Summary of Talk Story Sessions

## What residents value about Waikapuna

- Sense of place
- Connection to wahi kūpuna & iwi kūpuna
- Place to spend time with family, for education, & to perpetuate Hawaiian practices

## Issues & concerns relating to resources

- Impacts due to unrestricted access
- Fire risk from increased use & drought conditions; impacts from fire response
- Damage to cultural & historic sites
- Safety from ocean conditions, terrain, & natural disasters
- Impacts to nearshore resources & cultural landscape
- Need to mālama the land & hold kuleana to care for resources
- Impacts of invasive plant & animal species on native ecosystem
- Impacts of marine debris, trash, & climate change

# Management Plan focuses on:

Cultivating  
Knowledge



Community  
Stewardship



Guide stewardship actions and strategies



Protect, preserve, and conserve the significant cultural, historical, and natural resources of Waikapuna

# Goals & Strategies for **five Topic Areas**

**Creating Spaces for Knowledge Cultivation & Community Stewardship**



## A Wahi Kūpuna

- A1 Maintain vegetation near cultural sites
- A2 Install signage, markers, or fencing, where appropriate
- A3 Monitor cultural sites
- A4 Install and/or maintain fencing
- A5 Repair cattle ranch wall/install gate
- A6 Conduct additional archaeological surveys

## B Native Plants

- B1 Monitor for pests/disease
- B2 Remove invasive plant species
- B3 Monitor health of wiliwili trees
- B4 Conduct additional flora survey

## C Marine & Avian Resources

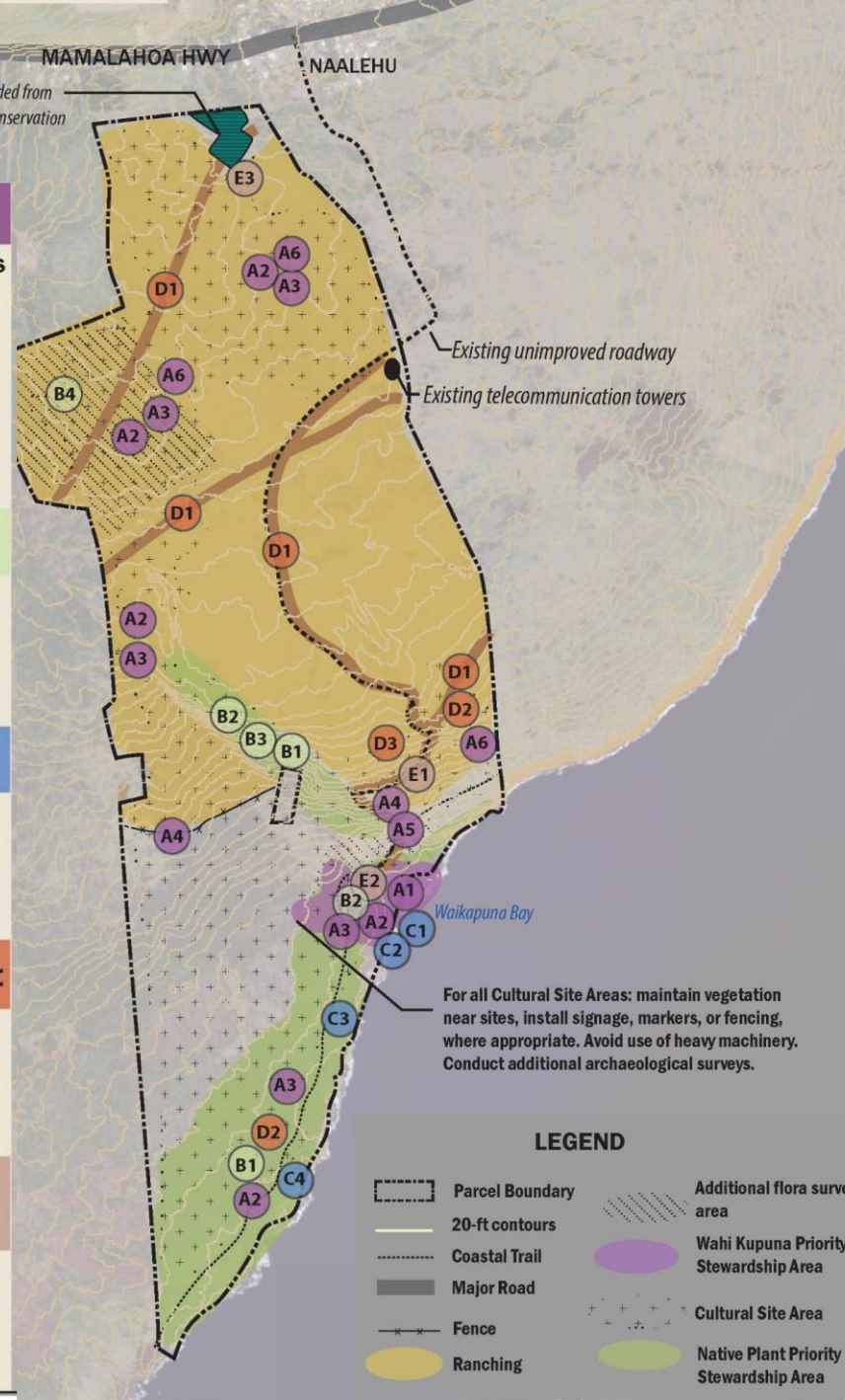
- C1 Conduct regular beach clean-ups
- C2 Survey and document resources
- C3 Monitor seabird habitat
- C4 Establish a Community Makai Watch

## D Fire Prevention & Management

- D1 Maintain fuel breaks
- D2 Monitor and remove fountaingrass and other high fire risk vegetation
- D3 Install dip tank

## E Existing Structures, Roads, Trails & Utilities

- E1 Manage road erosion
- E2 Maintain naupaka from encroaching onto beach area
- E3 Rehabilitate existing structures



# 1 Archaeological, Cultural, & Historic Resources

- Build awareness through education
- Monitor sites – highest use from the public
- Maintain vegetation around sites; use hand clearing methods; on-going maintenance for fenced areas
- For areas leased for ranching
  - Coordinate & communicate with lessees
  - Identify sensitive sites that require addt'l protection and attention
- Repair cattle ranch wall/install gate

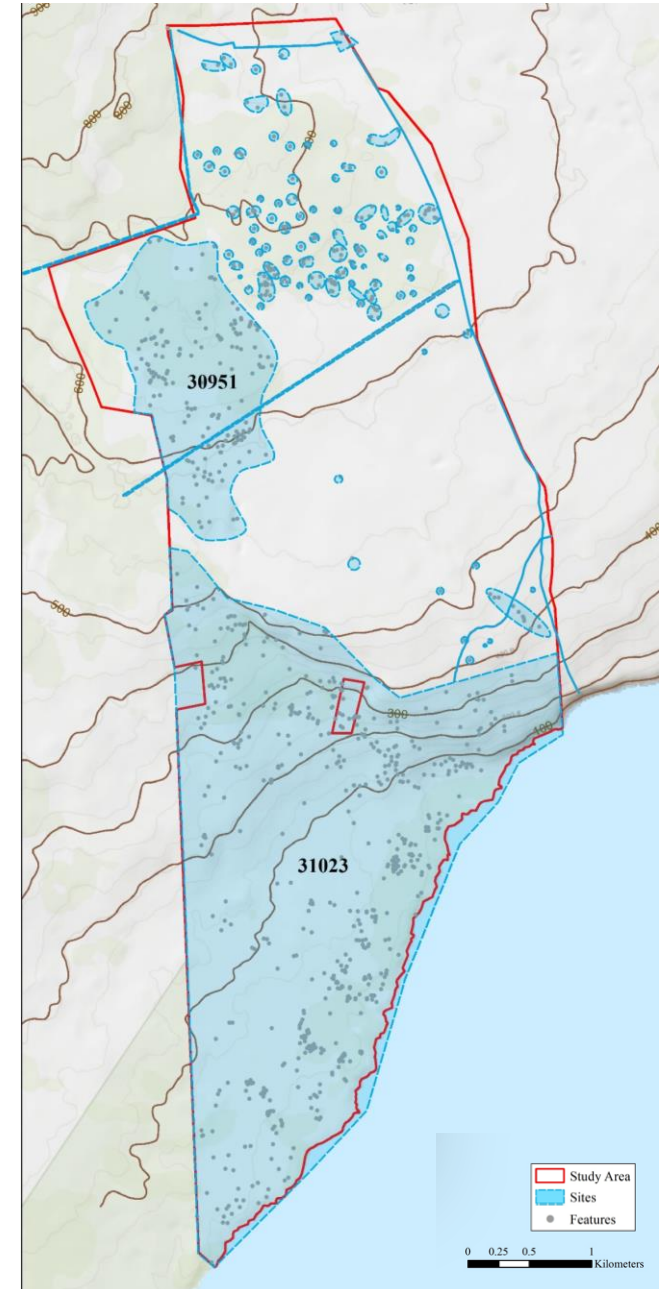
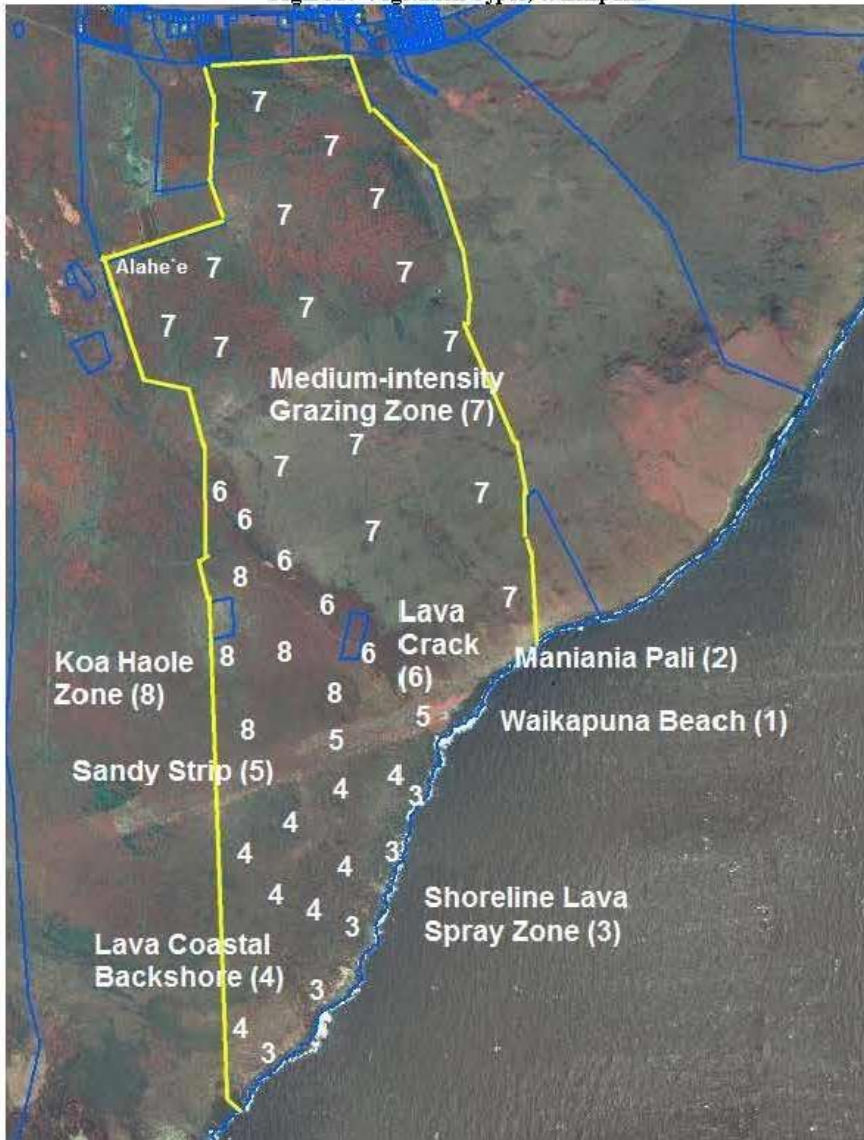


Figure 3. Vegetation Types, Waikapuna



Vegetation Map by Zones (from Terry & Hart, 2017)

## 2 Native Plants

- Remove invasive plants to allow existing native plants to thrive and regenerate before outplanting
- Monitor for any pests and/or diseases
- Prioritize opportunities that perpetuate cultural practices and restore both native plants & cultural sites

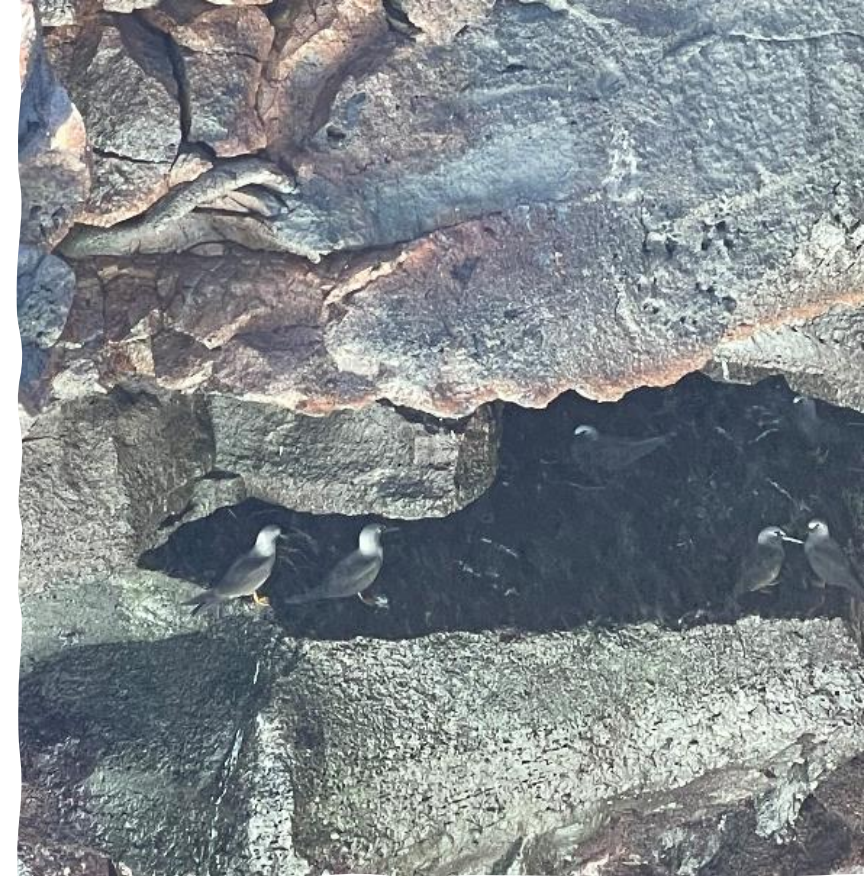
# 3

## Marine & Avian Resources

Promote responsible land uses

Build awareness through educational outreach and stewardship; establish community makai watch program

Establish long-term scientific monitoring program of resources to support traditional & local knowledge and traditional ways of monitoring







## 4 Fire Prevention & Management

---

- Conduct educational outreach for site users
- Maintain fuel breaks esp. during drought & dry seasons
- Communicate & coordinate with Fire Department
- Develop detailed fire management plan

# 5

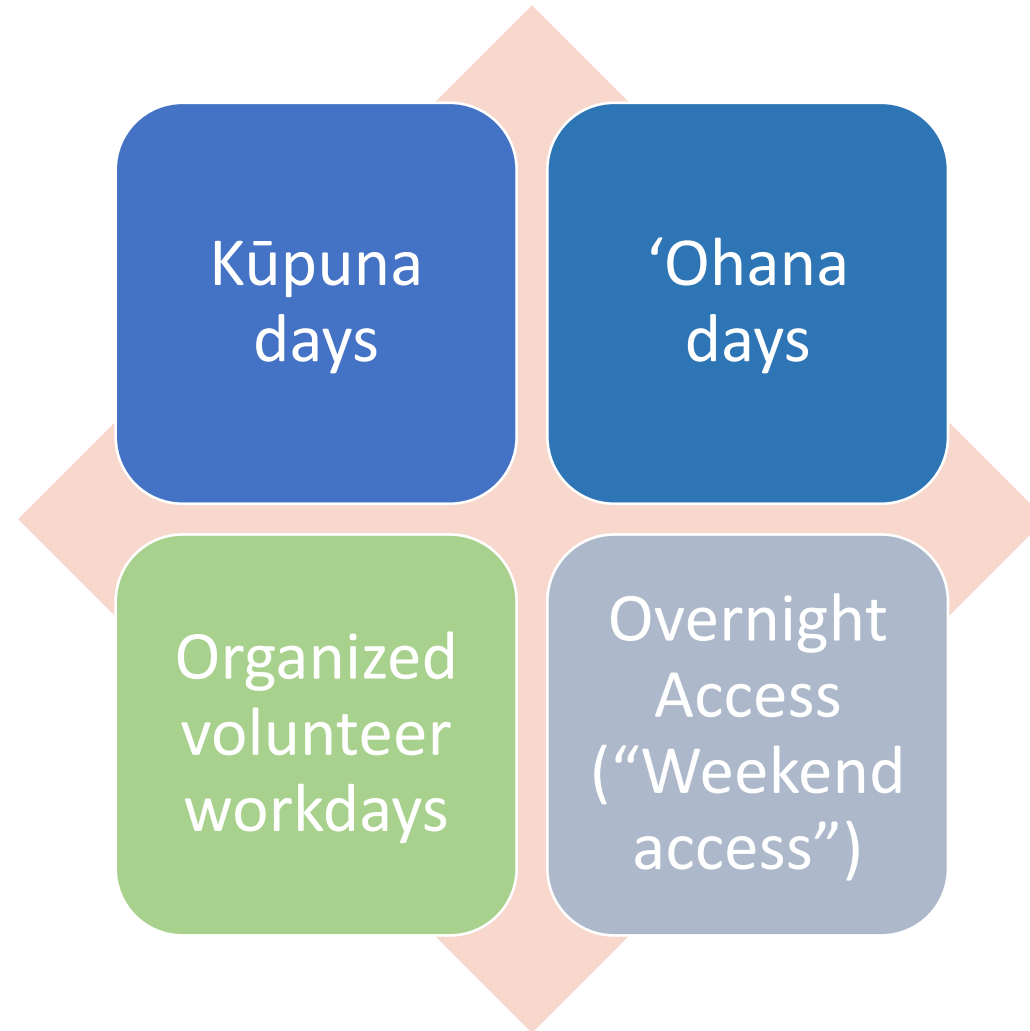
## Existing Structures, Roads, Trails & Utilities

---

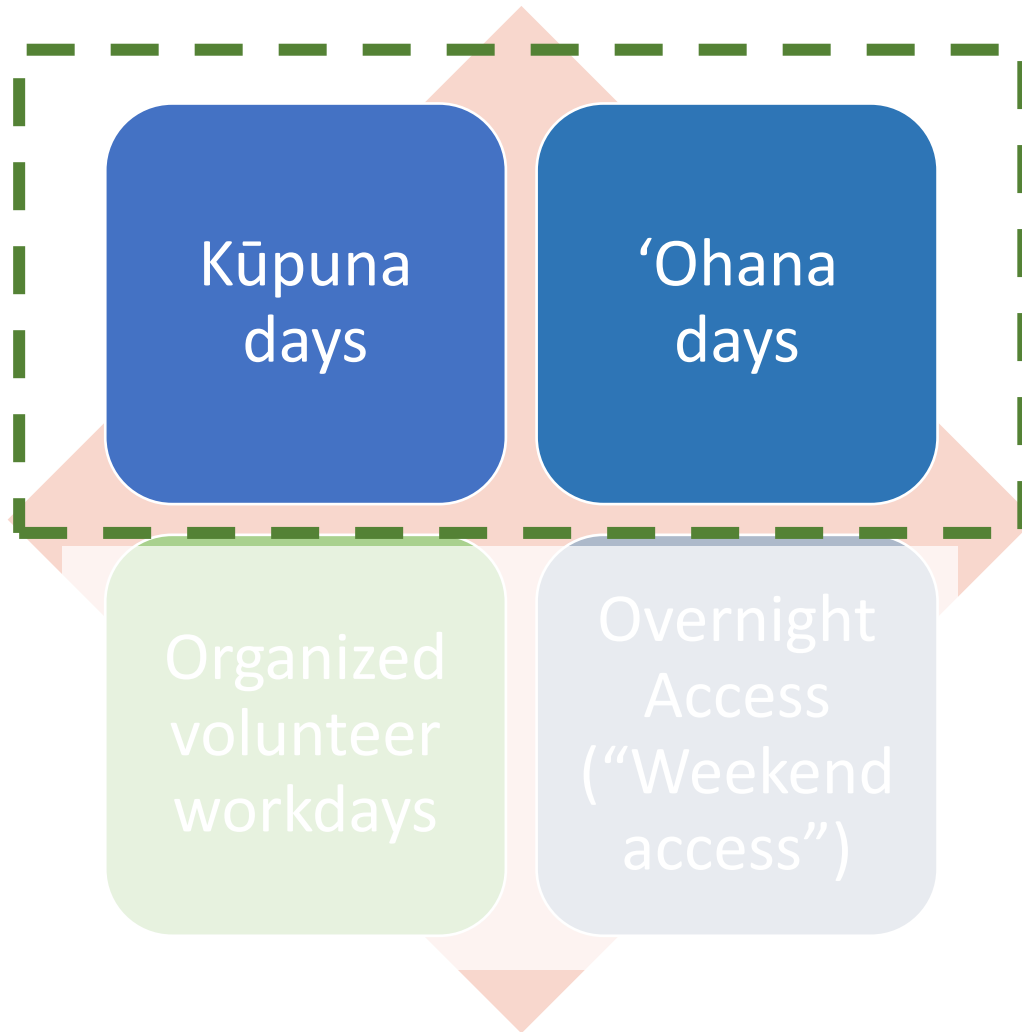
- Maintain existing roads & trails to ensure safe access for site users and to support fire suppression actions
- Restore & reuse existing structures to facilitate and support stewardship activities
- Do not compromise the sense of place or negatively impact cultural sites
- Comply with the Grant of Conservation Easement



# Create spaces for individuals & families to have a role in stewardship through:



# Guidelines for Kūpuna Days and 'Ohana Days



- Occur during weekdays to avoid conflict with weekend Overnight Access
- One family at a time
- An individual from the family must have visited before
- Request at the beginning of the week; one day access.

# Guidelines for Overnight Access

---

- One group allowed at a time, typically on weekends
- One designated weekend per month for volunteer workdays; no group overnight access during this weekend.
- Reservations are required. Only hold one reservation at any given time.
- Reservations made available on a quarterly basis (to avoid wait times of a year+)
- Participation in community stewardship activities will be encouraged and will allow for priority access to the reservation system.

**Quarterly Reservations  
for Overnight Access**

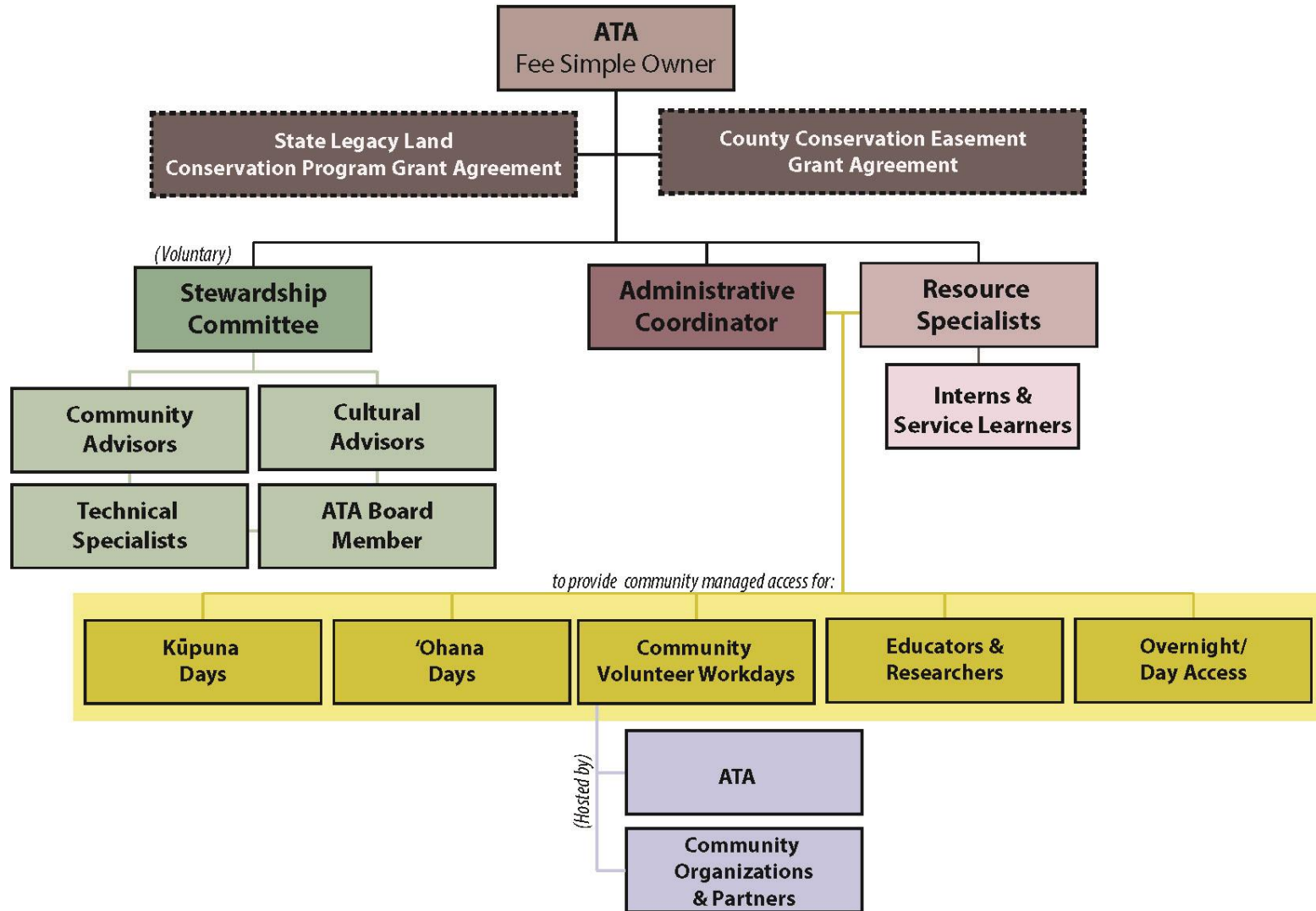
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sept	Oct Nov Dec
<b>Make reservations in:</b>			
Dec	Mar	Jun	Sept

**Order of Priority for  
access to the  
Reservation System  
for Overnight Access**

<b>Volunteers</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month
<b>Ka'ū residents</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month
<b>Non-Ka'ū residents</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month

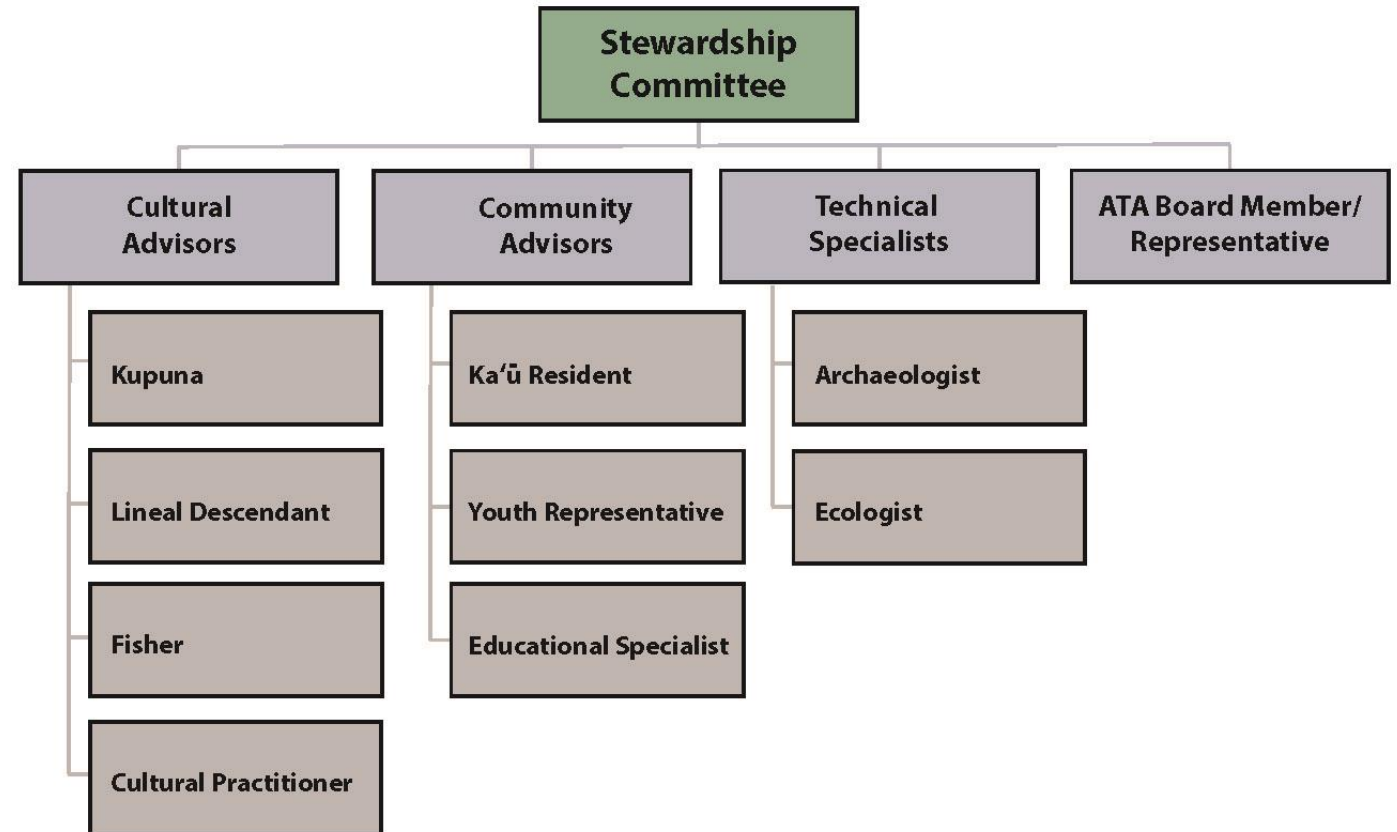
# Implementation

- Stewardship Committee to oversee implementation of the management plan & advise ATA
- Administrative Coordinator to oversee admin of programs
- Resource Specialists to provide hands-on oversight of resources
- Admin Coordinator & Resource Specialists to report to the Stewardship Committee



# Stewardship Committee

- Oversee implementation
- Guide ATA on stewardship programs & projects
- Voluntary capacity
- Fulfill duties of Administrative Coordinator & Resource Specialists until funding is secured





# Summary of Administrative Tasks for ATA

- 
- Establish the Stewardship Committee
  - Update existing lease agreements
  - Establish & organize the administration of kūpuna days, ‘ohana days, & organized volunteer workday programs
  - Identify & implement an online system for reservations
  - Seek funding & hire staff

# Phasing Plan

- Major milestones to guide stewardship & to evaluate progress
- Short-term/on-going; mid-range, & long range

## SHORT TERM (IMMEDIATE TO 5 YEARS; ON-GOING)

### General

- Implement volunteer and managed access programs
- Develop and initiate educational outreach

### Cultural Resources

- Install fence around pasture area; repair ranch wall
- Maintain and monitor cultural resources; install signage/marker for burials and/or sensitive sites
- Meet with lessees to identify cultural sites
- Maintain vegetation around cultural sites

### Marine & Avian Resources

- Beach cleanup
- Survey and document marine and avian resources
- Manage yellow jackets

### Native Plants

- Monitor pests/diseases impacting native plants
- Remove invasive plant species

### Trails & Roadways

- Manage and maintain the eroded section of the roadway

### Fire Prevention & Management

- Coordinate with Fire personnel
- Maintain fuel breaks
- Develop detailed fire management plan

## MID RANGE (5 to 10 YEARS)

### Cultural Resources

- Outplant native plants around cultural sites

### Native Plants

- Outplant native plant species, if appropriate
- Survey and document additional cultural sites

## LONG RANGE (10 to 20 YEARS)

### Fire Prevention & Management

- Install water/dip tank for firefighting
- Restore cultural sites damaged (if appropriate)

### Structures

- Rehabilitate existing structures, including creating an office and native plant nursery

Key to  
successfully  
implement  
management  
plan for  
Waikapuna

- Level of trust and relationship must be developed and maintained
- Collaboration and partnerships with other landowners for greater landscape level protection and stewardship
- Management Plan to be periodically updated; adaptive management



# Comments/Questions

# How to **submit comments** on the Draft Management Plan?



- ❖ Management Plan available on County's website:
  - <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/Browse.aspx?sartid=13770&dbid=1>
  
- ❖ Comments due **April 22, 2023**.
  
- ❖ Email to: [gabrielle@townscapeinc.com](mailto:gabrielle@townscapeinc.com)
- ❖ Mail to: 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1160  
Honolulu, HI 96813
  
- ❖ Google Sheet – scan QR code



- Upon request, black & white, hard-copies of the Waikapuna Draft Resources Management Plan are also available at the Department of Finance, Property Management Division, 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1101, Hilo, HI 96720, or by mail before the meeting, upon request.
- Cost of copies is \$1.00 for the first page and \$.10 for each additional page. Copies may be mailed to interested persons after payment of fees for copies and postage are received. Please call (808) 961-8069 to request copies.