

Group G: Hawaii's Cultural And Natural Resources



Policy Issue Brief:

"Hawaii's Cultural And Natural Resources" by Davianna McGregor

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Summary of the Work Sessions:

Session I. Preferred Futures and Public Policy Strategies

Hawaii's cultural resources can be focused on Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian)cultural values, land use traditions, and can be re-focused on the sustainable aspects of traditional Hawaiian agricultural, land use and ecosystem management values. Culturally-based decision-making processes such as expansion of burial council concepts, AHA councils, 'ohana co-managed ecosystems, and culture-based conflict resolution mechanisms need to be preserved, revived or adapted for modern realities. Planning policies need to include: a state sustainability plan, eco-footprints of the changing capacity of the state, land tax restructuring, updating of state and county plans, a MANUAL setting out clear guidelines for conducting cultural impact assessments, making the state's economic goals serve Agenda 21, and baseline GIS mapping by communities of cultural and natural resources to guide permitting decisions.

Many of these preferred futures will require enlightened legislators and legislative processes such as involving Hawaiian practitioner reviewers as advisers, electing courageous decision-makers committed to protecting cultural and natural resources, clearer laws and rules regarding development, historic preservation, population limits, maintaining view planes, promoting underground wiring and protecting wildlife, and supporting small successful pilot projects.

We need education regarding sustainability that must include reaching out to all sectors of our population and communities with guidelines, case studies, getting everyone to realize the need for action, and developing leadership institutes and programs to teach people how to be cultural and natural resource stewards. Hawaiian cultural values and practices should be infused at all levels of this educational effort.

Finally, Hawai'i can become a center of expertise on sustainability and a laboratory on ecosettlement/ecomangement beginning with DHHL land use and serving Asia and Pacific, consulting in affordable housing, small scale technologies, CBED and watershed planning as just a few examples. These consulting services can meet the needs of developing countries, particularly in the tropics.

Session II. Public Policies and Recommendations/ Next Steps

1. Priority Public Policies:

Lifelong stewardship, education, training, developing models for stewardship and sustaining resources, and the dedication of a portion of tourist tax and GE tax for sustainability of cultural and natural resources

2. Recommended Next Steps:

a. Convene a working group of interested parties to work on the above

b. Identify funding sources to fund sustainability pilot projects

c. Partner with the Environmental Center

d. Convene those who have come to the conference workshop and those who were interested but couldn't make it who want to be involved in a follow-up process and who want to undertake small to larger projects to:

- develop a manual and guidelines in how to best conduct cultural impact studies and guidelines on sustainability standards and convene planners-- county and state --to share best practices and standards for development permits and mitigation measures.

2003 Public Policy Center Annual Conference

- launch pilot project on how to involve Hawaiian practitioners in reviews of penalty and cultural impact studies
- enhance stewardship training programs--encourage networking among stewardship programs; college students e.g. service, credit, like writing intensive, integrate info into a service--learning programs for college students e.g. service, credit, like writing intensive.

e. We need to implement each of the programs set out in the previous section previous section regarding planning and education. We must build into legislative processes the following: tax incentives, infrastructure expenditures, big fines, citizen law suits re-direct legislative funding from interests to sustainable efforts, fund the UH Environmental Center through taxing developers for the EIS/EA studies, and fund the PPC to do policy research. We can design sustainable projects and invite developers and investors to buy into them

G. Hawai'i's Cultural and Natural Resources

Davianna McGregor

Background

Policy Area and Goals

In Hawai`i, protecting the unique cultural and natural resources of our islands is a prerequisite for economic sustainability. The Hawai'i State Supreme court ruling in *Ka Pa'akai O Ka 'Aina v. Land Use Commission* (94 Haw. 31 (2000)) affirmed the necessity of identifying and protecting natural resources which are integral to cultural practices. In 2000, the Hawai`i State Legislature passed Act 50 as an amendment to HRS 343-2 in order to include the effects of economic development on the culture of Hawai'i's communities. One of the goals of this workshop is to identify and discuss policies and available resources which can be used to help communities protect unique and important cultural and natural resources in their district. Another goal is to identify the elements of a methodology to conduct cultural and environmental impact assessments and studies.

Sustaining Hawai'i's Natural Resources

Located midway between the American and Asian land masses, the islands of Hawai`i are the most isolated land mass in the world. They are home to diverse and unique endemic species of plant and animal life. By the end of the 20th Century, Hawai`i had the largest number of extinct and endangered endemic species of flora and fauna of any place in the world. Traditionally, Hawaiians were the caretakers of resources and ecosystems that lie within or adjacent to their communities. They practiced a system referred to as kapu which carried highly proscriptive norms related to resource management. For example, fish and limu (seaweed) were harvested seasonally and not during spawning season. When it was deemed that resource levels were declining, the area was designated off-limits to fishers and harvesters. Violators were severely punished. Throughout the islands subsistence livelihoods thrive in particular rural communities. Surrounding these communities are pristine and abundant natural resources in the forests, streams, and oceans. These rural Hawaiian communities were bypassed by mainstream economic, political, and social development. Hawaiians living in these communities continued as their ancestors before them, to practice subsistence cultivation, gathering, fishing, and hunting for survival. Thus, we find that the natural resources in these areas sustained a subsistence lifestyle and a subsistence lifestyle, in return, sustained the natural resources.

Sustaining Cultural Resources

The practice of Hawaiian culture is tied directly to the quality of, and access to, native flora and fauna and the integrity of cultural sites and use areas. Hawaiian communities are particularly vulnerable to development which alters the conditions of, or access to, native natural resources and habitats and/or cultural sites and use areas. The long-term effects of inappropriate development upon Hawaiian peoples and lands are reflected in the varying degrees of cultural dissolution and social problems. When a planned development will impact the condition of or access to natural and cultural resources, an analysis of cultural impacts is requisite part of a social impact assessment.

Issues

Many communities have been involved in initiatives to empower themselves through community-based planning processes, engaging multiple constituencies in a dialogue to develop a vision for the community. □ This process is informed by Native Hawaiian concepts of stewardship of the land (malama aina) and land management systems wherein the ahupuaa or watershed is the basic resource management unit. □ Mapping techniques are often used to identify services, resources, and other qualities that lie within the community. □ It is a means to assess deficits and strengths as a basis for developing a strategic plan. □ The group will also discuss policies which can help to promote this process, incentives such as tax breaks to protect significant cultural resources, on site management of public lands, and resources which can be made available to communities to pursue such projects.

One approach to doing this is Cultural Impact Assessments (CIA), which have become a major legal requirement in the permitting/approval process for development in Hawai`i. Numerous laws at the federal, state and county levels affect the legal compliance and defensibility of CIAs (Federal Clean Water Act, National Register Bulletin, Hawai`i Revised Statute 343). Despite such legal requirements, CIA guidelines continue to be amorphous and vary in terms of how they are conducted. Commensurate with establishing new guidelines for CIAs is the development of new methodological approaches to conducting them. A multi-methods approach that includes community surveys, ethnographies, archival research, GIS mapping, and assessments of access rights and natural resources are some of the critical methods and approaches that should be considered. One of the goals of the workshop is to identify key elements of a Cultural Impact Assessment and multiple methodologies which can be used to conduct a CIA. Another goal is to design a manual on how to conduct a CIA.

Work Session II. Public Policies and Recommendations/Next Steps:

- WHAT ARE THE 2 OR 3 PRIORITY PUBLIC POLICY AREAS FOR THIS GROUP?
- Lifelong stewardship education training
- Public policy center provide leadership in convening interested groups and stakeholders to view and improve guideline standards and incentives for protection of cultural and natural resources; gather data on cultural and natural resources
- Develop models for stewardship and sustaining resources
- Dedicate a portion of tourist tax and GE tax for sustainability of cultural and natural resources
- WHAT NEXT STEPS ARE PROPOSED?
- Convene a working group of interested parties to work on the above
- Identify funding sources to fund sustainability pilot projects
- Partner with the Environmental Center
- WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN NEXT TO ADDRESS THOSE PRIORITY POLICIES?
- Convene those who have come to the conference workshop and those who were interested but couldn't make it who want to be involved in a follow-up process and who want to undertake small to larger projects:
- Develop manual and guidelines in how to best conduct cultural impact studies and guidelines on sustainability standards
- Convene planners-- country and state to share best practices and standards for development permits and mitigation measures
- Pilot project on how to involve Hawaiian practitioners in reviews of penalty and cultural impact studies
- Enhance stewardship training programs--encourage networking among stewardship programs; college students e.g. service, credit, like writing intensive.
- Not sell Hawaii, but if want to invest, need to accept sustainability standards
- integrate into a service--learning programs for college students e.g. service, credit, like writing intensive.
- Develop clear rules/standards that require environmental and cultural assessments

- Clarify environmental laws--draft legislation and lobby legislation for such clarification
- Curriculum overhaul/development to create Hawaiian-culture centric lessons across the curriculum
- Begin discussion on Hawaiian culture-based decision-making processes and how to change existing legal, civic, and educational processes
- Discussion that leads to standards, guidelines, protocols for sustainable resource use, restoration, and preservation
- Develop data resources, accessible, understandable
- Develop tax incentives, infrastructure expenditures, big fines, citizen law suits
- re-direct legislative funding from interests to sustainable efforts
- fund the env. center by taxing developers so that the EC does the EIS/EA
- fund the PPC to do policy research
- design sust. projects and invite dev. and investors to buy into them
- The community and the legislation needs to be educated that change/action is necessary for the state and for our children
 - Children in school need to be taught that sustainability is an important consideration in preserving our life in Hawaii
- WHO ELSE SHOULD BE INVOLVED?
- Environmental center, state office of planning, office of Hawaiian affairs, Kamehameha schools, attorneys for stakeholders, stakeholders, historic preservism division, county planning departments, the nature conservancy, Malama Hawaii
- practitioners
- lawmakers
- community leaders
- business leaders--funding
- cultural practioners; Kupuna
- community
- county and state legislators; elected and appointed decision makers
- Public--private--community partnership to dev. MOA for all cultural/env. issues raised

- Decision-makers in state and city
- Governments
- Legislators
- Council members
- Business community
 - Organizations
- HOW CAN THE PUBLIC POLICY CENTER HELP?
- Convene planners/decision-makers to develop identify/share best practices
- Partner with environmental center and stakeholders willing to participate to develop manual/guidelings for EIS/CIS
- Type notes/post-its from groups into reports
- Convene interested working group to identify specific projects and how to carry out over time, and secure money funding for these projects
- Facilitate
- Act as a catalyst to convene discussions seeking to gather and analyze info and facilitate decision-making
- Type up all the notes taken from all the groups and distribute to participants
- help fund sust. research/action dealing with cultural and var. resource concerns
- Be the driving force behind the sustainability issue
- Would and should provide research and cita to evaluate policy alternatives
- Make reports and recommendations for decision-makers to consider and use.

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Work Session I. Preferred Futures and Policy Strategies:

- Thriving Hawaiian cultural communities with foundation of sustainable economies (subsistence, community-based)
- Other support preservation of Hawaiian cultural values, and incorporate into institutions
- Government, school, etc
- Tax incentives for landowners (property tax) to conserve cultural and natural resources, i.e. tax break to keep land in two production
- Each ecosystem in Hawaii be ohana co-managed
- Models of how to protect culture and natural resources so that development can be sustainable
- State investment in community-based economic development and microenterprise
- Other tie revenues earned with use of natural resources to community sustainability.
- Conscientious and tedious commitments to preserve, understand, respect and live our culture and national resources so that it's second nature
- Write a state sustainability development plan for Hawaii
- How are we going to educate residents and visitors about living on an island in a sustainable manner
- We need an Eco-foot print of the changing capacity of these islands
- Restructuring of land taxes
- Updated state and country plans
- Make transparent what the state subsidize e.g. tourism vs. CBED
- Provide recycle-able mesh bags for hikers to carry out their trash from hiking trails
- develop a public relations campaign to educate the public
- Hawaii economic development goals should serve Agenda 21
- Courageous decision-makers committed to protecting our cultural and natural resources armed with
 - 1) Clear protection policies
 - 2) Clear protection standards

- 3) Adequate Data/Information
 - 4) Hawaiian practitioner reviewers/Advisors
- Better policy regarding venture capitalists and diversified agricultural economies.
 - Re-institutionalize culturally-based decision making processes
 - 1) Legal--expansion of burial council concept to embrace traditional and customary rights, natural resource issues
 - 2) Civic--AHA councils, watershed organizations, community-based economic development
 - 3) Educational--Hawaiian culture, history, language across the curriculum
 - What it will take:
 - Education about sustainability
 - Small successful pilot projects
 - Fight developers and landowners
 - Learn from other BMP
 - Vote good people in office
 - Education to affect change
 - requiring/exposing children to be cultural and N.R. stewards of specific places/resources
 - Provide guidebook/guidelines for developers/business people
 - develop leadership-institutes/outreach programs/community programs to teach people how to be cultural/N.R. stewards.
 - Getting everyone to realize the need for action.
 - Willingness to compromise
 - I can tell my mo'opuna that the land and ocean of our islands are better than when I grew up--from Kaho'olawe to Hawaii and to Ni'ihau
 - Baseline GIS mapping--by communities--of cultural and natural resources which can be used as an overlay to protect the resources by planning departments in permitting decisions
 - Less development, more protection of natural beauty, respect for wild life.
 - Citizen suits for environmental protection
 - Provide support programs for single parents

- Restrict development, maintain views use underground wiring, protect wildlife
- We need sustainable bench marks to measure if we are moving towards S.D.
- Dedicated funding for active stewardship and care for all state lands/water.
- Shared values that balances the culture, natural resources and life styles that we enjoy and cherish.
- Population limits
- Create true "home-rule" through legally endowed local 'AHA councils to provide local guidance to regional, island wide, and statewide development
- Support for cultural institutions including immersion schools, etc.
- Look to and learn from the past to chart our future!
- An equilibrium where human activities in Hawai'i do not negatively impact our natural resources or cultural heritage.
- Clear guidelines (manual) on conducting cultural impact assessments
- Hawaiian access and special districts for Hawaiian subsistence and culture/practices
- Clear standards to review and approve CIS
- Involve review by Hawaiian cultural practitioners of CIS/EIS
- Common and aligned value for cultural/natural resources--across ethnicities and generations and socioeconomic groups
- Clearer laws and rules regarding development, historic preservation, cultural practices
- Greater emphasis/requirements for natural resource and cultural education at all grade levels
- How about a mechanism to resolve cultural disputes?
- A place where future generations can be proud of our decisions today and the options we have left for them
- Recognition of local talent and intellect--generation of new opportunities
- Look for jobs and education local labor force needs
- Hawaii expert in R&D on sustainability and a laboratory of ecosettlement and ecosystem management done in cultural compatible way starting from DHHL land and serving the Asia/Pacific in affordable housing small scale appropriate technologies CBED and watershed planning
- Provide services to III world countries' needs

- Do not sell Hawaii for real estate and luxury tourism
- Preferential purchasing of Hawaii-produced goods (esp. AG)
- Recognize cultural resources ARE natural resources
- UH create courses that cross-train western and non-Western techniques
- Affordable housing with buy-back clauses