STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Kaʻehu
600 Kukona Rd.
Wailuku, HI. 96793

Maui Site Visit Summary
of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
May 25, 2022 – 11:45 AM

ATTENDANCE:
Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee B. Kaleiʻāina Lee
Trustee Dan Ahuna
Trustee Keliʻi Akina
Trustee Mililani Trask

ADMNISTRATION STAFF:
Sylvia Hussey, Ka Pouhana / CEO
Lei-Ming
Joshua Koh

GUEST:
Kahulu Maluo-Pearson, Exec. Director
Kuʻulei Maunupau, Dir. of Sustainable Planning
Polani Kahakalau Kalima
Hanoa Puaʻa-Freitas, Land Specialist/ KUPU Intern
Kauwela Kaia, Land Restoration Specialist
Roman Gaspar
Lohelani Furtado-Gaspar, KUPU Intern
Jesse Nathenson, Land Restoration Specialist
Kahealani Ferreira, Site Coordinator

BOT STAFF:
Lehua Itokazu
Kanani Iaea
Amber Kalua
Anuhea Diamond
Crayn Akina
Brandon Mitsuda
Evalani Canto
I. Call to Order
Site visit starts at 11:00 a.m.

II. Introduction

Kaʻeʻhu staff greets the Trustees with an oli.

III. Site Visit

A. Kaʻahu

Kahulu Maluo-Pearson welcomes the Trustees and staff to Kaʻeʻhu. She introduces the staff of Kaʻeʻhu. Her hope is that they share a better understanding of Kaʻeʻhu is and what they do. She turns the time over to Kuʻulei.

Kuʻulei Maunupau, Dir. Of Sustainable Planning She states Kaʻeʻhu bay is 64 acres of coastal wetlands. On the property there is kuleana lands, shore lines, a birthing stone, 40 + archaeological sites, one river, two streams, many native flora and fauna, and nesting to for turtle and monk seals. She thanks Hōkūlani Holt and Ku Kahakala for their support from the beginning, if it were not for them they would not be here today. This area was kapu (sacred) and set aside for Aliʻi and makaʻaināna of this area that tended the loʻi. There are fresh water springs, a healing spring, sacred lauhala grove, and heiau’s. Kaʻeʻhu was known for the fresh underground water springs and the food supply for the warrior training grounds and this area. The property was purchased from the Wailuku Sugar Company in 2004 by a company called North Shore LLC and went into foreclosure in 2009. Neighbors and members of the community asked Maui County for help to preserve this land. Trust for Public Lands (TPL) purchased the land in 2012 then Maui County purchased the land, and finally, Kaʻeʻhu secured the property in 2014 with right of entry until 2024.

Kaʻeʻhu developed a planning consortium in 2017, working on a long-term plan. They are partnering with lineal families as of right now they have partnered with four.

Some of the programs offered are poi youth program, kalo family program under the Maui police department, community workdays, and we also use this place as an outdoor classroom. She shares that Kaʻeʻhu is funded by the county of Maui, the land is owned by the County of Maui and Kaʻeʻhu has a right of entry (ROI). The Alu Like program offers internship and three interns currently are at Kaʻeʻhu. They have worked with different schools, one of them being Lahaina Intermediate. During Covid, Kaʻeʻhu did food distribution working with Queen Liliʻuokalani Trust and various farmers. Kaʻeʻhu has hosted the Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund and together can collect between 2,500 to 5,000 lbs of plastic marine debris per month.
They also offer archealogical field training. Last year the program discovered an ancient wall. The more research was done they realized it was an acient 12 acre fish pond wall, which is very rare. We are hoping to restore the fishpond.

**Polani Kahakalau Kalima** Speaks on the the Kū-A-Kanaka program contracted by Kaʻehu. They work hands-on with the community. Initially Kū-A-Kanaka was contracted using their kitchen, utilizing Hawaiian ingredients and making things like ulu crepes and ʻuala crepes. During Covid they wanted to figure out how to teach and enrich their students. So, during Covid they started in the kitchen virtually and eventually brought chefs in to film virtually but be in person at Kaʻehu. They have also brought in professionals to teach lāʻau lapaʻau, lauhala weaving, and making hau cordage. Kaʻehu has an abundant of hau and what better way to learn about hau and the different ways to use hau. Overall, they encourage the use of resources that surround Kaʻehu and teach the students how to pick, clean, strip, prepare, and use the different food and plants that surround this area.

**Hanoa Puaʻa-Freitas** Shares that some of the work they are doing to restore Kaʻehu are hosting community work days. Clearing out waterways, weeds, overgrowth, and rocks has really helped with keeping this area maintained. The idea is get rid of the invasive plants and help the native species thrive. He shares that he is a product of the program KUPU and acknowledges OHA as a funder for this program. He is working for Kaʻehu for the rest of the year and then Kaʻehu will be picking him up as a full-time worker. He mahalos OHA for providing for KUPU who then provides for many youth.

The trustees take a walk along the shoreline to see the ancient fish pond wall that has been discovered and has been uncovered for today’s site visit.

Inclosing Kahulu shares their partnership with Hawaiʻi Visitors Bureau, the Mālama Hawaiʻi program. Visitors come to Hawaiʻi and give some of their vacation time to learn and give back to the area they are visiting. Kaʻehu is working on funding for their workforce development program that will integrate those skills where there is great need for and bigger interest, like archaeology, bookkeeping, landscaping, storytelling, music, and video production. In the future they hope to incorporate ʻOhana evenings in Kaʻehu. Families can come and work on projects, share a meal, take a cultural workshop, and then enjoy music or a movie under the moon light. They feel this will foster community building and securing a sense of place.

**IV. Public Testimony**
None

**V. Announcements**
None
VI. **Adjournment**
The site visit ended at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu  
Board Secretary

Site Visit Minutes Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on August 18, 2021.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments:
1. Excused Memo – Trustee Ahu Isa
2. Excused Memo – Trustee Waihe‘e