

# Pilina Puowaina



## Community Conversations Updates

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Project Introduction - April 2, 2025

History and Culture - April 16, 2025





# NO KĀKOU, NA KĀKOU... FOR PAPAĀKŌLEA, BY PAPAĀKŌLEA

Aloha mai kākou,

We're excited to share our first update on PILINA PŪOWAINA, an initiative dedicated to creating a Kūpuna Supportive Living Center to help our cherished kūpuna age safely in place. This newsletter highlights the takeaways from the Community Conversations held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Project Introduction) and April 16<sup>th</sup> (History and Culture).

These conversations were the first of many and we invite you to join us in this journey of creating a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive community. Your insights, feedback, and participation are crucial as we shape this project together. Let us come together to ensure that our kūpuna have the opportunity to age with dignity, joy, and the unwavering support of a community that cares deeply for them. Mahalo in advance for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to working alongside you to bring PILINA PŪOWAINA to life and to build a future where generations can thrive.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Theone Kanuha  
President, Kula no nā Po'e Hawai'i

Dr. Adrienne Dillard, MSW, LSW, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer



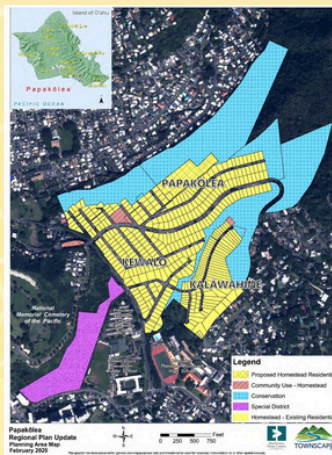
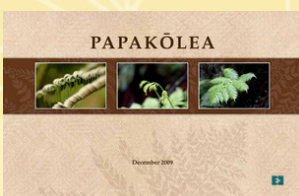
## Background

Since the majority of Papakōlea homes are built against the mountains and only have stairway access, the lack of safe housing conditions is a significant concern. The Kūpuna Supportive Living Center is envisioned as a kauhale or village for kūpuna to age safely in the community. Originally identified as a Priority Project in the 2009 Papakōlea Regional Plan and reaffirmed in the 2020 Papakōlea Regional Plan, this project is for our kūpuna, our community, and our future generations.

Papakōlea 2009  
Regional Plan



Papakōlea 2020  
Regional Plan



## 'Auamo Kuleana

As we embark on the Pilina Pūowaina journey, we invite you to 'Auamo Kuleana. 'Auamo Kuleana (carrying responsibilities) is a widely used call to action that encourages individuals & communities to shoulder responsibilities & place them in balance. 'Auamo is a pole or stick used to carry burdens (heavy loads) across the shoulder. The phrase prompts a reflection of how to best balance the diverse responsibilities we assume & have been entrusted with.

'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia  
No task is too big when done  
together by all



April 2, 2025

### Meeting Takeaways

**Introduction Of Pilina Pūowaina** - *the KULA Team introduced the project and specific elements tied to the project:*

- **2 Year Grant Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)**
  - **Aims:**
    - Understand the cultural, health, and social needs of our kūpuna to safely age in place
    - Explore the current facilitators and barriers to aging in place
    - Gain insights for developing the conceptual design and programming of the Kūpuna Supportive Living Center (KSLC)
    - Guide and inform Policies
  - **How:**
    - Community Based Participatory Research
      - Conduct 24 community conversations
      - Group Model Building sessions
      - Survey Packet

#### Notes:

- Currently there is no budget or secured funding for the construction of the KSLC
- Kūpuna Supportive Living Center
  - Re-affirmed community project in the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) 2020 Papakōlea Regional Plan
  - Originally ideated by Papakōlea Kūpuna in 2007 as an opportunity to create safe and accessible housing for Kūpuna to age safely in place
  - In March 2025 DHHL commission approved acquisition of Limited of Right of Entry Permit to KULA
    - KULA is required to conduct due diligence reporting which requires a submittal of an Environmental Assessment

### Meeting Takeaways

**Project Team Introduction and Responsibilities** - Team and Project Partners introduced their organizations and their responsibilities to this project:

- **Group 70 (G70)**

- Planner: Kawika McKeague; Architect: Jim Stone; Engineer: Ryan Char
- G70's responsibilities include the creation of a conceptual design plan which will be informed by the 'ike and mana'o shared at the community conversations

- **Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL)**

- Planners Andrew Choy and Kiaola Mossman
- DHHL is the landowner of the Pilina Pūowaina site and is actively working with KULA on a long-term disposition
- DHHL will support KULA to navigate through the state level approval process that is required for this project
- DHHL is also open to coordinating meetings between the Department and Beneficiaries

- **Research Team**

- Dr. Adrienne Dillard, Dr. Claire Townsend-Ing, and Brooke Dolin, MPH, MSW
- Conduct and gather qualitative & quantitative research that will inform the design plan and provide policy considerations tied to the RWJF grant requirements
- Gather as many voices as possible to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate and ensure the data that is gathered captures all of the necessary information needed for this project
- Share the research information back to the community

- **Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)**

- Brent Kakesako, Merri Keli'ikuli, and Corin Thornburg
- Provide note taking and synthesis support for the community and home conversations to ensure the information gathered is not lost
- Support to KULA's planning and coordination efforts for this project

April 2, 2025

### Questions & Answers

Questions shared by community members in attendance and answered by project team members

**Q: What kind of information will be shared at the home conversations?**

**A:** There is no set agenda for the home conversations. The community will be given updates on the topics that were discussed at the home conversations and any relevant project information that was shared.

**Q: What is the budget for this project?**

**A:** There is no identified project budget yet. However, KULA is aware there is no current infrastructure to the site and that may cost at least \$30-40 million, based on an estimated cost per square foot shared by a community member.

**Q: What is in store for the next time we meet?**

**A:** The next community conversation will be held on April 16th, from 6-7:30pm, and will cover history and culture.

**Q: What of the 7.25 acres are considered livable?**

**A:** KULA shared that the planning process will allow them to determine the needs of the facilities. KULA hopes to have answers towards the end of this process.

**Q: Will a site plan or design be given at the end of the project?**

**A:** Yes, G70 is contracted to provide a site plan for this project to KULA.

April 2, 2025

### Questions & Answers

Questions shared by community members in attendance  
and answered by project team members

**Q: Will water availability for this project be an issue and if so, how will DHHL's water rights play a role in securing water for this project?**

**A:** DHHL shared that O'ahu's Board of Water Supply's (BWS) robust water infrastructure should be able to provide water for this project and not require the development of a new water source (well). The BWS on O'ahu is the only County department of water supply that has not required DHHL to create a water source for new development on DHHL's O'ahu lands. Therefore, all DHHL homesteads are reliant on BWS. O'ahu's abundant infrastructure and ability to move water through the system would be able to provide water to Kula for this project.

**A:** DHHL will not know how much water is required until the planning process is completed. However, because of the BWS's robust water system, DHHL does not foresee the need to develop a new water source for this project and does not anticipate having to seek approval from the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). CWRM approval would be needed if the project required the development of a new well as a new well would take water out of its natural state. The project will need approval from BWS to connect to the BWS system.

**Q: Will this project be sensitive to the needs of all homesteaders, not just kūpuna?**

**A:** KULA encourages everyone to share the mana'o on what they envision for this project. KULA is aware that there may be policy implications tied to this project, specifically for homesteading.

April 2, 2025

### Next Steps

- ***Scheduling Home Conversations***

- In the weeks between the scheduled Community Conversations. Invitation to the Home Conversations will be at the discretion of the host
- KULA will provide updates on the topics discussed at the home conversations to keep the community informed
- If you would like to host a home conversation, please contact KULA at: 808-649-3725

### Meeting Takeaways

#### **G70's Presentation Tied to Pilina Pūowaina Project**

##### ***G70's Work To Date:***

- ***Site Analysis Findings***

- Conducted archaeological surveys in 2013 and identified potential historical and cultural findings on the Prospect side of the street, outside of the project boundaries
- The Auwaiolimu side of the property was also surveyed and proper protocol was done to ensure alignment with kūpuna

##### ***G70's Kuleana:***

- ***Site Analysis and Planning***

- Responsible for conducting land suitability analysis and incorporating physical and regulatory constraints (e.g., slope, infrastructure, flood zones, etc.) to determine where development can happen

- ***Design with Cultural Sensitivity***

- Ensure cultural 'ike and mo'olelo describing various elements relating to the area, along with personal memories shared by community members inform design decisions.
- Requested community input on the emotional and sensory experiences they want the space to evoke. This may include family memories, memories from growing up in Papakōlea, and other stories shared by community members that evoke emotion

- ***Potential Cultural Findings on Site and the Creation of an Advisory Council***

- G70 and KULA highlighted the potential creation of an advisory council to create a process that will address the potential finding of any cultural sites on the Pūowaina property, such as iwi kupuna, wahi pana and holua slides.

- ***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

- Ensure the project complies with Ka Pa'akai Analysis, NAGPRA, state statutes, and administrative rules to which DHHL must adhere in relation to the management of cultural and historical resources, while upholding a sense of kuleana to the land and people

### Meeting Takeaways

#### DHHL's Presentation Tied to Pilina Pūowaina Project

- **Honuaiakea as DHHL's Planning Framework**
  - Utilizes Honuaiakea as a community planning framework to gather information from a variety of experts to analyze data and observations that were pulled into mele from kūpuna
  - Uses kilo (observations) and makawalu to break down oli and mele and understand the teachings of kūpuna
- **Prioritizing Papakōlea as a Cultural Kīpuka**
  - Papakōlea community members can see Papakōlea as a cultural kīpuka, with its important cultural elements such as the water and wind
  - Knowing this can support the community in making decisions tied to Papakōlea's people, environment, and sustainability
- **Consider Community Driven Processes In Decision Making**
  - Decisions tied to the planning and implementation of the project can be driven by community insights and intergenerational learning and not solely rely on conventional western frameworks
- **Creating Community-Based Foundations**
  - Creating rules and regulations driven by the community can support communities to have accountability over their space
  - Creating boundaries within a space can allow the community to hold DHHL and other agencies accountable when entering a community's space

### Stories & Memories

Stories and Memories Shared of Papakōlea by Community and Project Team members

#### ***Akualele***

Three people mentioned a memory and a story from their kūpuna about the akualele. Stories included seeing akualele flying in the sky from Pūowaina mountain side, Waikīkī, Kapahulu and other angles. It was noted that this may have come out of jealousy due to Papakōlea homestead being the first homestead on O'ahu

#### ***Original Name of Papakōlea***

One person shared that Papakōlea is not the original name of this homestead, one person shared it was Kapapakōlea

#### ***Caves and Sand On Mountain***

Looking out from the Stevenson side of the mountain and seeing what appeared to be black sand, caves, or maybe volcanic pumice

#### ***Learning Respect***

A story of learning respect by being scolded by kūpuna when playing in the grass and riding down the hill at Pūowaina

#### ***Smells and Beauty of the Forest***

Recalling the smells of the forest that would come from the mountain and the beauty of the hill

#### ***Memories of Gathering Food From the Mountain***

A story was told remembering the turkeys and other mea'ai that were gathered from the mountain to feed their families

### Questions & Answers

Questions shared by community members in attendance  
and answered by project team members

**Q:** *I used to live right across from Punchbowl and remember the houses that were right by the bridge which had pigs and chickens, who lived there?*

**A:** (Community member): The Mahi'ai 'ohana.

**Q:** *How does this project benefit everyone and is it exclusive to the kūpuna of Papakōlea?*

**A:** (Auntie Puni): This is all to be discussed and the community conversations are a space to have these discussions.

**Q:** *How can the community prioritize what was heard today in the planning of our projects? What are the next steps out of this project and how can the community educate people who are interested in this project?*

**A:** (Auntie Puni): As a community we need to look at setting our framework. There will be other community conversations to set the framework. KULA wants to ensure they have the protocol and procedures in place.

**Q:** *When a kupuna goes into the Piliina Pūowaina space, what will happen to their lease?*

**A:** (Auntie Puni): This question will be discussed at the policy conversation as it is related to DHHL's policies and procedures.

### Questions & Answers

Questions shared by community members in attendance  
and answered by project team members

**Q:** *There was a survey taken a few years ago to ask the community and kūpuna if this is a project they want. Do kupuna still have the same sentiments to move this forward in our community?*

**A:** (Auntie Puni): This project was reaffirmed in the 2020 DHHL Regional Plan as it was named as a priority project. KULA will take temperature checks throughout this process to see how everyone is feeling and if this project should continue. Many kūpuna who are no longer with us expressed that this was a project they wanted to see in Pūowaina.

**A:** (Community member): My presence at this community meeting is affirmation that I see value for this project. I am seeing the challenges my children might have to face and I want to share the 'ike and vision because I know what my children will have to go through.

**Q:** *At the kickoff meeting I was under the impression that we're creating some sort of facility to bring in money and would have a specific hale for Papakōlea kūpuna, is that true?*

**A:** (Auntie Puni): It is open. In our mind it is a single kūpuna apartment or unit, but it will be determined by us if it will be a combination of hale, care home, respite or adult day care. The creation of a care home in Papakōlea was identified as a separate project in 2020.

### Next Steps

#### ***Additional Concerns***

- ***Aging In Place At Home***
  - Sharing the care that someone may receive at home versus the care received at a Pilina Pūowaina facility
- ***Hawaiian Home Lands Concerns***
  - Questions and concerns regarding this project and whether it will only benefit individuals with the DHHL blood quantum qualifications
  - Others requested that the community approach DHHL to identify how community problems might be addressed

# Community Conversations

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm  
Papakōlea Park  
*Light Refreshments Served*

# Project Team



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS



- April 2 Project Introduction - Open Community
- April 16 History & Culture
- April 30 Aging in Place & Health Services
- May 14 Aging in Place & Research
- May 28 Land Use and Policy
- June 4 Site Lay Out & Design
- June 18 Fund Development

\*Subject to Change

**Please RSVP to attend  
any of the above meetings.  
Call 808-649-3725 or by QR code.**



# Acknowledgements

**Mahalo Ke Akua for His many blessings. By His love and guidance --we serve.  
We are humbled and honored that He has joined our lives with yours.**



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Evidence for Action (E4A), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), funds research that expands the evidence needed to build a Culture of Health. A Culture of Health is broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourish across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; public and private decision-making is guided by the goal of fostering equitable communities; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles.

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# Pilina Pūowaina

## Community Conversations

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Papakōlea Park

*Light Refreshments Served*

- May 14 Aging in Place & Research
- May 28 Land Use and Policy
- June 4 Site Lay Out & Design
- June 18 Fund Development

Please RSVP to  
808-649-3725  
or by QR code:

