

Living Westside Community Development Summit SUMMIT SUMMARY

Saturday, August 27, 2016
Waianae Mall

PLANNING TEAM:

The 2016 Community Development Summit was planned and presented by the Waianae Moku 2030 Navigators, a project of the Waianae Economic Development Council. Partners included:

- Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
- Waianae Coast Hawaiian Civic Clubs
- Waianae Olelo Community Media Center
- Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24
- Nanakuli/Maili Neighborhood Board No. 36
- Liliuokalani Trust – Waianae Unit

GOALS:

The goal of this event was to engage community stakeholders in a dialogue to establish a consensus on needed community projects and their priority. These projects will be presented to both state and federal agencies for consideration of funding assistance and guidance.

ATTENDANCE:

Over 90 people attended the event. The group was a diverse cross section in age, professions and backgrounds. Although the majority resided on the Waianae Coast, a number of attendees came from other areas. The methods used to inform participants of the event included word of mouth, various social media sites, Eventbrite, community meetings, and the Westside Stories Community Newspaper.

RESULTS:

The event opened with customary protocols from the Royal Order of Kamehameha and welcoming remarks by the Waianae Economic Development Council.

The Keynote Speaker was Kaimi Pelekai, resident and successful entrepreneur who shared his personal experiences of building his business amidst social, educational and financial challenges. His closing remarks included his support of a tax free zone to build economic development in the region. Key points in his presentation included:

- Know what you want and be specific.
- Know why you want it. If your why is big enough, you will find the how.
- Take MASSIVE action. GO FOR IT! All in. No dabbling, give all you got.
- Notice your results and adjust your course as needed.
- In marketing, find out what people want and give it to them.
- A powerful why is a great motivator.
- Regarding beliefs – Do you believe Waianae can be a thriving community?
- Take inventory of your beliefs and understand how your beliefs impact you.
- Be mindful of your thoughts.

A brainstorming session followed to allow attendees an opportunity to share their responses to the question: “What kinds of industry, businesses, jobs, and projects do we need in our community?” There were over 100 ideas and responses which were categorized into similar topics.

Six major topics were named “Hui” also known as a Hub. Each grouping was placed into six (6) major themes including:

- Families/Keiki & Education
- Systems Change
- Business Development
- Community Development
- Aina
- Transportation

Summit participants dispersed and gathered in separate meeting rooms to discuss and determine priorities for their hui (or hub). Criteria for groups to consider when meeting in their topic hui included determining if the project was catalytic, did it have a champion or enough group support to develop after the summit, and were there are funding opportunities.

When done, they gave presentations of their discussions, the priorities they decided upon, and a drawing or poster for each of their priorities. These are summaries of their presentations:

Business Development

A business development center would assist interested business owners with resources to start their businesses and help them become successful. The Center would work with government agencies and with volunteers in the community, who could serve as mentors. Two specific projects were recommended: a commercial kitchen and a food co-op, which would include projects to create backyard gardens and aquaponics.

Transportation

Traffic issues continue to be problematic. It is the most controversial issue. It has negative impacts on economic opportunities, public safety and quality of life. This group discussed traffic solutions for the Waianae Coast.

Three ideas were suggested: 1) synchronize traffic lights, 2) create turning lanes, and 3) create more bus pull outs. The group also recommended the use of waterways (with hovercraft), alternative roads, and a secondary access. Re-activating the train on the coast was also suggested. A train would help the Waianae Moku get to Koolina, Campbell Industrial Park and Kapolei. Eventually the train could connect to rail. Another idea is to go over the Waianae range with an H-4 type of project.

Aina

This group looked at the value of land from the perspectives of Hawaiian cultural and western views. They shared the importance of farming and sustainable resource management. This group looked at the value and role of aina and what it is to our community. To some people, aina is looked at only as a financial asset.

There were three major points:

- (1) Waianae community and ohana. This included activities and recreational areas to learn; practice and preserve culture. This supports the historical value of what and who we are, and honor those who sustained this community before us.

- (2) Farming practices. We have always produced for the people. Farm to school programs would help our schools and businesses. Our community needs to learn about sustainability and self-sufficiency. Farming can be done on land and in the sea.
- (3) Sustainable resource management. This is the land management system from the mountain to the sea. Each area practices its own traditions. Equally important is the restoration and conservation of water. Renewable energy and solar farms also need to be explored.

Families/Keiki & Education

The education group discussed a three-part approach – economic paradigm shift, cultural education, and building partnerships. We need to create a support group to help “the cause” of improving education.

Time and energy is important to invest in our communities. It may not have a financial cost, but a significant effort will be needed to change ideas and practices. Youth spoke about the importance of empowerment and values of students.

There needs to be a paradigm shift in how we look at our economy. Right now the populous serves the economy. The economy needs to serve the people. We are here to generate money and resources. What needs to be done is to determine the needs in our society and establish goals for what success will look like. If we take care of food sustainability, renewable energy, water, and education, we will be able to improve the lifestyles of everyone in our communities.

Systems Change

We need to come together as a community so we can plan what we want and our political candidates and representatives can help us get there. Communications are important at the ahupuaa and moku level – the right message needs to be shared. For projects to flourish, we need to present plans to the government agencies and our elected officials where policies may need to be implemented or changed.

We need a foundation that creates synergy for the coast, regardless of the project. We need to have a basic structure to build a system on. A key place to start would be using the ahupuaa system. It was recommended that this work could be done in partnership with the Hawaiian Civic Clubs who are already in each ahupuaa.

Community Development

The Community Development group discussed three main areas: recreational facilities, working coalitions and community hubs and facilities.

PRIORITIZING:

After all presentations were done, attendees were provided with an equal amount of “fun money” to invest in the project ideas of their choice. The priorities identified in this process include:

- 1) Family and Education
- 2) Community Recreation Complex – Pool
- 3) Community Center
- 4) Business Development Center
- 5) Commercial Kitchen
- 6) Addressing Traffic Issues
- 7) Developing a Food Co-Op

NEXT STEPS:

The summit ended with WEDC sharing the next steps which included:

- Discussing the summit and the results in the Waianae Moku 2030 Navigators' Meetings
- Identifying “champions” to help assume responsibility to “lead” each project's development.
- Building coalitions to develop the projects.

Waianae Moku 2030 Navigators
Planning Team Members
(alphabetical)

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