

## **2. HERITAGE RESOURCES**

### ***THE PLAN: GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS***



## CULTURAL RESOURCES

*Maui is an island rich in history, culture and traditions. Beginning with the arrival of voyaging Polynesians, and progressing through time to modern day, Maui's communities have remained a multi-cultural tapestry shaped by the convergence of diverse cultures. The historical resources are displayed in the island's archaeological artifacts, folklore, historic buildings, landscapes, people, traditions, languages, and lifestyles. These resources are important to Maui's residents, as well as the State of Hawaii, the nation, and the world at large. This plan supports the recommendations of the Cultural Resource Management Plan for Maui.*

*Cultural resources provide us with a connection to the past and a sense of identity and place. They tell us the history of our ancestors and provide us with an understanding of the diversity of Maui's people, past and present.*

## SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

While State and County programs exist to perpetuate island culture and protect historic and archaeological resources, additional support is needed to enable these programs to be effective. A few cultural resource protection challenges include:

- Retaining the historic character in Maui's small towns and rural areas
- Balancing the priorities of redevelopment and preservation within urban areas
- Financing the cultural preservation
- Bridging traditional cultural values and modern materialistic culture
- Protecting and managing historic and archaeological sites on private property outside of the *Historic Districts* and *Special Management Areas*
- Developing an island-wide inventory of cultural, historic and archaeological sites



## GOAL & POLICIES

### ***2.1 Goal: Maui will have preserved a rich inventory of historic and archaeological sites and artifacts that represent living examples of the island's diverse history.***

**2.1.1** Identify and protect cultural landscapes and resources in East Maui and Northwest Maui and promote their vitality and continued use.

**2.1.2** Cooperate with the State to forecast potential locations on Maui of undiscovered archaeological sites and artifacts and develop predictive maps to identify these resources.



**2.1.3** Periodically update the Cultural Resources Management Plan for Maui.

**2.1.4** Strongly encourage the preservation of buildings and sites of historic significance within the Historic Districts, Country Towns, the Wailuku Redevelopment Area, and other areas throughout Maui.

**2.1.5** Require development within Heritage Areas to be compatible with and supportive of cultural landscapes, native Hawaiian cultural practices, and resident lifestyle.

## ACTION PLAN

The *Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for the State of Hawaii*, November 2001, and the *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Maui County*, 1984, provide numerous recommendations that will strengthen cultural resource management throughout the island as reflected in the following action strategies.

- 2.1-Action-1** Complete a cultural resource inventory
- 2.1-Action-2** Develop archaeological predictive maps and ordinance
- 2.1-Action-3** Provide incentives to encourage voluntary preservation
- 2.1-Action-4** Develop an ordinance that requires cultural impact assessments for development projects located within a Heritage Area.

## SCENIC RESOURCES

*The island of Maui is world famous for its beautiful scenic resources. These resources are diverse and include developed and undeveloped sections of shoreline, tropical rainforests, rugged valleys, vast open spaces, historic towns, pastoral landscapes, and panoramic Pacific Ocean views. However, rapid urbanization has dramatically impacted the island's scenic resources.*



## SUMMARY OF SCENIC RESOURCE ISSUES

The *Scenic Resources Inventory and Mapping Project* (June 2006) identifies and maps the island's scenic resource corridors. Each roadway corridor is rated exceptional, high, medium, or low, based on its overall scenic resource value. Roadways with exceptional or high scenic resource values are typically in areas that consistently convey dramatic and diverse resource values throughout the corridor. These corridors are typically in a natural condition and remain relatively unmarked by development.

Corridors with medium or low scenic resource values are generally in areas where the scenery is less dramatic and urban encroachment is more significant. However, even within highly urbanized corridors with relatively low scenic resource values, there are exceptional and important scenic views. These views are especially important since they provide visual relief, enhance the quality of the built environment, and thereby make urban areas more livable. The greatest threats to these scenic resources include:

- Inappropriate *building massing*, architecture, *siting* and landscape design
- Loss of agricultural and open lands to development

## GOAL & POLICIES

**2.2 Goal:** *Maui County's natural environment and distinctive open spaces will be preserved, managed and cared for in perpetuity.*

- 2.2.1** Ensure the protection of scenic resources along Maui island's scenic roadway corridors.
- 2.2.2** Minimize, to the extent practicable, all *visual clutter* along State and County roadways throughout Maui.
- 2.2.3** Protect public views of Haleakala, Iao Valley, the West Maui Mountains, the Pacific Ocean and other significant water features, ridgelines and landforms.
- 2.2.4** Promote the *siting* and design of telecommunication facilities and infrastructure to avoid visual impacts on the landscape.
- 2.2.5** Establish limits for development on the slopes of the West Maui Mountains.
- 2.2.6** Protect scenic resources along Maui's scenic roadway corridors as identified on the Heritage Resource Policy Map.



## ACTION PLAN

The current network of laws established to protect scenic resources is focused on coastal lands. Areas outside coastal lands also possess significant scenic resources that could benefit from regulatory controls and preservation strategies:

- 2.2-Action-1** Create and implement a scenic corridor overlay district
- 2.2-Action-2** Create design guidelines appropriate to the specific corridors to correspond with an overlay district
- 2.2-Action-3** Develop a Scenic Resources Management Plan
- 2.2-Action-4** Develop an ordinance that requires Scenic Resource Impact Assessments for projects along scenic corridors, as identified on the Heritage Policy Map.

## SHORELINE, REEFS AND NEARSHORE WATERS

*Maui's shoreline, beaches, and coastal waters are vital ecological, social, and economic resources. Even with the existing regulatory framework established to protect coastal lands and nearshore waters, development on the island poses a threat to the integrity of these resources. The health of shoreline and beach areas is a key factor in sustaining dunes, coral reefs, and marine wildlife. Maui's economy depends heavily on shoreline resource protection. These lands are also highly susceptible to damage from coastal hazards. The Plan supports the recommendations of the Beach Management Plan, Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program Management Plan, and the Implementation Plan for Polluted Run-off Control.*

### SUMMARY OF SHORELINE, REEF, AND NEARSHORE WATERS ISSUES

Maui's comprehensive regulatory framework is designed to protect the shoreline and abutting waters; however, human activities such as non-point source pollution, shoreline hardening, increasing development, and beach crowding are among the major threats that have the potential to destroy the integrity of beaches and coastal waters. With the dynamic nature of Maui's coastal areas, the County will continually face challenges in its resource management programs. A few shoreline protection issues include:

- Run-off and non-point source pollution degrading nearshore water quality
- Hardening of the shoreline
- Development of nearshore wetlands, dunes and beaches
- Dramatic and irreversible nearshore reef loss
- Development occurring within the tsunami hazard zone



## GOAL & POLICIES

**2.3 Goal:** *Maui will have an intact system of coastal resources that are protected for the benefit of natural communities and the enjoyment and safety of residents and visitors.*

- 2.3.1** Discourage artificial hardening of Maui Island's shoreline even as the sea level rises and the shore retreats inland.
- 2.3.2** Limit extraction of the island's sand from beaches and nearby dunes and promote beach nourishment activities.
- 2.3.3** Phase out cesspools wherever possible and convert to sewer or septic systems.
- 2.3.4** Seek to reduce contaminants from impervious surfaces, runoff, and all injection wells entering marine ecosystems.
- 2.3.5** Identify adversely impacted reef areas and mitigate the negative effects of upland uses on coastal wetlands and coral reefs.
- 2.3.6** Coordinate with appropriate agencies to implement reef restoration activities.
- 2.3.7** Work with appropriate agencies to protect Ahihi-Kinau, Honolua Bay, and Makena State Park from overuse.
- 2.3.8** Support the realignment of North Kihei Road, mauka of Kealia Pond Sanctuary, to protect and enhance the habitats.

## ACTION PLAN

Many departments and agencies will need to work together to implement shoreline management, including Parks, Planning, Civil Defense, and Environmental Management.

- 2.3-Action-1** Implement the Pali to Puamana Plan and expansion of Kanaha Beach Park.
- 2.3-Action-2** Implement the *Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program Management Plan* (June 1996), the *Implementation Plan for Polluted Runoff Control* (July 2000), and the *Beach Management Plan* for Maui.
- 2.3-Action-3** Identify and acquire key shoreline parcels and easement rights to enhance beach access and shoreline recreation.
- 2.3-Action-4** Provide sufficient setbacks and other mitigation measures to protect life and property in areas susceptible to inundation.
- 2.3-Action-5** Develop a master plan and feasibility study for the preservation and enhancement of the Maalaea beach recreation area and Kealia Pond to include the possible realignment of North Kihei Road.

## WATERSHEDS AND STREAMS

*Fresh water is critical for an island. It serves as an important resource for agriculture, ecological integrity, and population growth. Watersheds and streams provide numerous functions and benefits that are vital to protect when considering a small land mass located in a large sea. Within a watershed, wetlands and riparian areas serve as natural pollutant filters that capture and stabilize sediment and contaminants that would otherwise impair downstream water quality. Healthy watersheds also buffer the adverse effects of flooding by enhancing percolation and infiltration of storm waters and moderating the velocity and volume of water that erodes channels and flows overland. The retention of coastal wetlands facilitates groundwater recharge and ensures that salt water does not intrude into the lens of our underwater aquifers.*



## SUMMARY OF WATERSHED AND STREAM ISSUES

Many of Maui's streams and watersheds are privately controlled. While the water resource is held in public trust for the people of Maui, the land over which surface water passes is privately held, and the activities that take place on that land can negatively affect the water resource itself such as:

- Proliferation of *impervious surfaces* alters the natural water cycle
- Alteration of the natural flow of streams through diversion and damming
- Loss of forested lands decreases precipitation at higher elevations
- Invasive species destabilize watersheds

## GOAL & POLICIES

### ***2.4 Goal: Maui's watersheds and streams will be healthy and supportive of native wildlife.***

- 2.4.1** Encourage private property owners to preserve native forests and reforest where appropriate.
- 2.4.2** Encourage private developers to utilize *ahupua`a* management practices as site design considerations.



## ACTION PLAN

Each County department that reviews development proposals and permits can assist in educating the public about the importance of the island's watersheds.

- 2.4-Action-1** *Conservation Subdivision Design Plans* and the incorporation of *Low Impact Development Techniques* may be required of new subdivisions and developments that are proximate to environmentally sensitive watershed resources.
- 2.4-Action-2** Watershed partnerships should be encouraged to maintain long-term resource inventories and management plans for their respective watersheds.
- 2.4-Action-3** Work with private and non-profit entities to educate the public about the connection between upland activities within the watershed and the impacts on coral reefs.
- 2.4-Action-4** Work with private landowners to set voluntary goals for the total amount of nutrients that enter watersheds and encourage the reduction of landscape fertilizers and pesticides.

## **NATIVE WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS**

*Maui's natural and wildland area resources are a key component of the island's identity. These resources, including watersheds, streams, wetlands, endangered species, rainforests, and natural areas are important for both human and ecological purposes. With the ongoing development of the island, Maui's natural and wildland area resources face increased challenges and require strong management and protection measures.*

Maui's natural and wildland areas include a mix of designated State and National Parks, nature preserves, forest reserves, natural area reserves, as well as private lands. These areas provide numerous amenities and services that contribute to the quality of life on Maui, attract visitors, provide habitat for native species, and are closely tied to the Hawaiian culture. Many traditional gathering grounds for food, medicine, and materials are found in Maui's natural and wildland areas.

### **SUMMARY OF NATIVE WILDLIFE AND WILDLAND ISSUES**

Interconnected natural scapes and wildland areas, and the species for which they provide sanctuary, are threatened by many of the same issues mentioned previously. In addition, a few activities reduce the habitat value of these lands.

- The health of natural and wildland areas is threatened when invasive species become established and disrupt the balance of the ecosystem by out-competing natives, spreading disease, and altering the landscape.
- Dirt bikes and other recreational vehicle activities on lands not designated for these activities damage the integrity of Maui's natural areas.
- Fragmentation of natural and wildland areas minimizes the resource value of these lands as habitat.



## GOAL & POLICIES

**2.5 Goal:** *Maui's native wildlife and the diverse habitats that support it will be protected.*

- 2.5.1** Support the implementation of key recommendations from the *Hawaii Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* (October 2005).
- 2.5.2** Encourage and support the designation of additional natural areas throughout the island while furthering the protection of wildland areas in Northwest and East Maui.
- 2.5.3** Encourage the reforestation of mid and upper-elevation habitat with native species.
- 2.5.4** Protect Maui's network of Sensitive Lands as identified on the Heritage Resources Policy Map.



## ACTION PLAN

Each County department that reviews development proposals and permits can assist in educating the public about the importance of the wildlife and wildlands on the island. Implementing activities would likely be initiated by Planning Department.

- 2.5-Action-1** Require *flora and fauna* assessments for development in areas with medium, high, and very high concentrations of threatened and endangered species.
- 2.5-Action-2** Utilize the Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) and other programs to protect natural lands in perpetuity through *transfer of fee* title or a *conservation easement* to the State or a cooperating entity.
- 2.5-Action-3** Utilize grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire property that has value as a conservation resource to Hawaii.
- 2.5-Action-4** Require the Zoning Ordinance to require site plan review of any development located on land that is identified I the Heritage Policy Map as Sensitive Lands.

### NATURAL HAZARDS

*Maui is susceptible to a plethora of natural hazards. Shoreline, beaches, and near shore coastal waters are highly vulnerable to damage from coastal hazards, particularly tsunami storm surge, and erosion. Inland areas are susceptible to wind damage, flooding, fires, and drought. These dangers pose a significant threat to life and property that must be taken into account when planning development.*

Mitigation, risk and vulnerability should be addressed for the following hazards while planning for the long term:

- Tsunamis
- Hurricanes
- Flooding (dam breaks, rain, etc)
- Earthquakes and Volcanic activity
- Severe storms – high surf/winds
- Fires
- Drought
- Sea Level Rise

### SUMMARY OF NATURAL HAZARD ISSUES

The Pacific Disaster Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have worked in conjunction to model the likely impact of a typical tsunami event on the island of Maui. Depending upon the origin of a tsunami, Maui has many populated areas that may be susceptible to dramatic impacts of these powerful waves. These same areas are in danger of periodic hazards such as high surf and storm surge. For the horizon of this plan, it will also be important to understand that the sea level is likely to rise and the shoreline could move inland in all low lying areas.



There are several challenges to mitigating the risks natural hazard events:

- Currently there are hundreds of acres and millions of dollars of investment within the flood, storm surge and tsunami inundation areas.
- In several areas of the island there is only one access point to get into or out of a region. For years this has been a problem for Lahaina travelers when there is a wildfire or a rockslide, and could certainly be problematic if a tsunami impacted the south facing shores. Likewise Hana and East Maui are prone to being cut off from the rest of the island in the event of earthquakes or rockslides.
- Property owners, businesses, service providers and government have a tendency to put off their preparation for natural dangers until disaster is eminent. This lack of preparation puts both life and property at risk.

### GOAL & POLICIES

#### ***2.6 Goal: Maui will be well prepared for natural hazards and disaster resilient.***

- 2.6.1** Encourage strategic retreat from the shoreline and provide incentives for the relocation of structures.
- 2.6.2** Encourage the use of construction techniques that allow buildings to be easily relocated inland and away from the areas of risk.
- 2.6.3** Expand opportunities and routes for evacuation.



### ACTION PLAN

Most natural disasters can not be prevented; however, the extent of the impact to life and property can be minimized through hazard mitigation. All departments and agencies should work with Civil Defense to improve our disaster preparedness.

- 2.6-Action-1** Implement *The Maui County Hazard Mitigation Strategy* and the concepts of disaster resilient and sustainable communities.

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