



KINGDOM
PATHWAYS
ALOHA 'ĀINA

Project Title:

Pili Nā Moku Wai'anae Coastal Mapping

Prepared By:

Carmen Guzman-Simplliciano

Co-founder of Kingdom Pathways

Carmengs@kphui.info

Date:

May 30, 2026



Introduction

Pili Nā Moku is a multi-year initiative led by the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and in collaboration with a number of agency and community partners. As a Pili Nā Moku project partner, the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) is working to strengthen moku-based coastal resilience and stewardship across Hawai'i. In Wai'anae Moku, Kingdom Pathways serves as the Coastal Mapping Regional Facilitator, helping to ensure that community voices, 'ike kūpuna, and place-based knowledge inform shoreline adaptation planning and future stewardship efforts.

HISTORY

Kingdom Pathways is a Native Hawaiian 501(c)(3) nonprofit rooted in Wai‘anae and grounded in aloha ‘āina, cultural restoration, environmental justice, and community-led planning. Kingdom Pathways came into this work through a shared commitment to ensuring that community voice leads decision-making, especially in places where planning has historically happened without direct input from those most impacted.

Over the years, Kingdom Pathways has utilized community engagement and conversation mapping approaches to better understand local priorities related to water quality, wastewater and cesspool conversion, environmental health, coastal stewardship, and community resilience. These efforts have included community talk story sessions, environmental health assessments, wastewater outreach, and collaborative planning discussions that documented local knowledge, identified recurring concerns, and elevated community-driven solutions. Kingdom Pathways also participated in learning exchanges with communities on Moloka‘i, where conversation mapping and place-based planning approaches provided valuable insight into how community knowledge can inform long-term stewardship and resilience efforts.

Serving as the Wai‘anae Regional Facilitator for Pili Nā Moku is a natural extension of this work. Through Conversation Mapping, we created space for ‘ike kūpuna, lived experience, and collective mana‘o to inform coastal resilience and adaptation planning, ensuring that community priorities remain at the center of future decision-making.

MAPPING EVENT

Pili Nā Moku Coastal Mapping at the Ma’ili Community Learning Center

Purpose & Objective

The purpose of this report is to:

- Identify community-defined priorities across Wai’anae Moku
- Document environmental, cultural, shoreline, and infrastructure concerns
- Inform future coastal adaptation planning and resilience efforts
- Elevate ‘ike kūpuna and place-based knowledge in decision-making

This effort centers the understanding that those closest to the challenges must be leading the solutions.

HOW WE WORK

‘Āina-Based Approach	Technical Approach	Community Engagement
<p>Kingdom Pathways grounds all research in the principle of <i>ma ka hana ka ‘ike</i> through direct experience, we gain understanding.</p> <p>Engagement is rooted in kilo (observation), talk story, and relationship-building with the community.</p>	<p>Community input is documented, transcribed, and organized into key themes to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coastal planning and adaptation Coastal ecosystem restoration ● Resource allocation ● Policy and advocacy alignment 	<p>Conversation Mapping was used to gather mana’o across one key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Concerns <p>This method ensures that every voice is captured, not just the loudest in the room</p>

Pili Nā Moku Partners and Leads

Name	Title	Contact information
Ciera McQuaid	Hawaii CZM, Project Lead	ciera.b.mcquiad@hawaii.gov
Sarah Chang	Hawaii CZM, Project Lead	sarah.m.chang@hawaii.gov
Miranda Foley	EcoLOGIC, Statewide Facilitator	miranda@ecologichawaii.com
Terra Farron	UH Sea Grant, Pili Nā Moku Wai ' anae Moku Coordinator	
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano	Regional Facilitator, Program Director	Kingdom Pathways Co-Founder and Liaison Wai'anae HI, 96792
Joseph Simpliciano	Assistant Facilitator, Tech	Kingdom Pathways Founder Wai'anae HI, 96792
Kale Hoyle-Kamakahi	Assistant Facilitator, Transcriptionist	Kingdom Pathways Interim Manager Wai'anae HI, 96792
Poki'i Magallanes	Cultural Advisor	Kingdom Pathways Waianae HI, 96792
Georgiana Navarro	Cultural Advisor	Kingdom Pathways Waianae HI, 96792

Meeting Attendance Record

All registered participants, including those unable to attend, will receive the meeting summary and final research report via email. The report will also be available on our website to ensure equitable access to project information and opportunities for input.

Attendees	Ahupua'a
William Aila	Lualualei
Melva Aila	Lualualei
Nohea Stevens	Lualualei
Nani Peterson	Lualualei
Kaena Lein	Wai'anae
Angie Desforge	Wai'anae
Kaukaohu Wahilani	Wai'anae
Kapua Keli'ikoa Kamai	Wai'anae
Macalum Araneta	Wai'anae
Isaiah Pule	Wai'anae
Chris Muraoka	Mākaha
Kalani Puaoi	Nānākuli

WHAT IS CONVERSATION MAPPING?



Conversation Mapping is a hands-on, visual engagement tool used to gather community input in a way that is inclusive, accessible, and grounded in ‘ike.

Participants responded to a central “**topic**” which prompts questions and documented their thoughts through writing and drawing, allowing every voice kūpuna, homestead leaders, practitioners, and families to be captured and honored. This process ensures that input is not limited to verbal discussion, but reflects deeper reflection and lived experience.

All maps were photographed and transcribed to identify recurring themes, priorities, and areas of alignment. These insights will guide ongoing collaboration with community leaders, partner organizations, and agencies to support community-driven planning, resource alignment, and implementation of solutions rooted in Molokai’s values and needs.

Topic: Environmental Concerns

Project Identification

A conversation mapping activity was conducted to identify environmental concerns, community priorities, and stewardship opportunities affecting the streams, coastlines, watersheds, and natural resources of Wai ‘anae Moku.

1. Coral reef fishing off Makua ridge, contaminated.
 - 1.1 People should be educated on how leaving plastic debris affects us and provide alternate options like wood hood and kapa line.
 - 1.2 Biodegradable tools
 - 1.3 A ‘ole-Stop it!
 - 1.4 Disagree, no one has fished anywhere on O ‘ahu for 3 yrs. Makua is not a significant fishing area.
 - 1.5 Disagree, lots of younger generations fish and dive. But they don't clean up trash afterwards.

2. PVT Runoff
 - 2.1 PVT run-off to Kahakai
 - 2.2 Is there documented proof?
 - 2.3 Yes, no we're working on this "KP"
3. Redirection of wai, and filling in wai during construction.
 - 3.1. Where would this concern be?
4. Geothermal in Lualualei? Impact not limited to HHCA beneficiaries also to Wai 'anae moku, W.M meeting needed!
5. Nooooo landfill
 - 5.1 Share opala kuleana with other mokus
 - 5.2 Yes, we need to gather and work on this
6. Waikomo 's to the ranch about the pollution of water and how to help it.
7. Poka 'i wall needs opening to have water flow through, this water is pilau.
 - 7.1 Why is the UIC line far inland on the westside, is the criteria consistent on the island?
8. Keeping Ulehawa stream clean & open
 - 8.1 Ulehawa stream has a foul smell, brown water discharge, trash, stagnant, the canal system is a problem.
 - 8.2 Must clean and prevent
 - 8.3 Create a google form asking for volunteers to help.
 - 8.4 Agree, no circulation of the stream, mouth was open with trade winds, it would be cleaner.
9. Silica dust in sand when replacing beaches.
 - 9.1. I agree.
10. Kaupuni stream, how can we have a clean/non polluted stream?
 - 10.1. How can we ensure the safety and life of the streams? Natives to reduce erosion: aims that could seed lo 'i, the health of the river mouth.
 - 10.2. CRWM and DPP inform property owners of responsibility to maintain streams, drains, etc. This would help when we have storms/flooding because we know we are ready instead of reacting and putting people and homes at risk.
 - 10.3. 100% Agree, everyone needs to be responsible. The blame game is old!!!



10.4. Affecting water quality in Poka'i

10.5. Opening up the flow of Kaupuni stream into the Wai'anae Homestead.

10.5.a. Agree, dredge it and soil deposits.

10.5.b. Tell friends and family not to dump, it is not the visitors.

11. Huliawa beach, the flushing of the water.

12. DESN plant in barbers point, plant run off into ocean.

13. Offshore impacts need data to understand. I believe higher water temperatures and ocean acidification, but we need monitoring data to confirm.

14. Zablan muliwai continues to improve.

14.1 Who can help to find the springs?

14.2 Springs reduced due to lower rainfall rates, understand causes.

Closing Summary

The Pili Nā Moku Environmental Concerns Mapping Session documented collective *mana'o*, observations, and community-led recommendations regarding environmental conditions affecting Wai'anae and our precious coastal resources.

Highest-Priority Community Issues

Based on frequency and level of discussion, the top priorities appear to be:

1. Stream restoration and maintenance
2. Water quality monitoring
3. Marine and fisheries protection
4. Landfill and waste management concerns
5. Community education and stewardship
6. Watershed runoff management
7. Environmental data collection and transparency

Recommendations

Develop a Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program

A recurring theme throughout the Conversation Mapping exercise was the community's desire for better environmental data, particularly regarding stream health, water quality, runoff, fisheries, and potential environmental impacts from development. Participants repeatedly expressed concerns regarding Kaupuni Stream, Ulehawa Stream, Pōka 'ī Bay, watershed runoff, and the overall health of nearshore waters.

To address these concerns, a community-based environmental monitoring program should be established that combines community observations, traditional ecological knowledge, and scientific monitoring. Priority locations identified by participants include Kaupuni Stream, Ulehawa Stream, Pōka 'ī Bay, Zablan Muliwai, and other culturally significant coastal areas. Monitoring data should be publicly available and shared regularly with the community to support transparency and informed decision-making.

Strengthen Stream Restoration and Watershed Stewardship Efforts

Concerns regarding stream blockages, sediment accumulation, stagnant water, pollution, and reduced water flow appeared repeatedly throughout the mapping exercise. Participants identified stream restoration as one of the highest environmental priorities for Wai 'anae.

Partnerships should be pursued with community organizations, government agencies, and landowners to evaluate stream maintenance needs, watershed restoration opportunities, invasive species management, native habitat restoration, and long-term stewardship efforts. Community members should continue to play an active role in identifying problem areas and helping to implement solutions.

Expand Community Education and Stewardship Opportunities

Participants frequently emphasized the importance of education regarding marine debris, responsible fishing practices, stream stewardship, and watershed protection. Many comments reflected a desire to build greater community awareness and shared responsibility for environmental resources.

Future efforts should include educational workshops, volunteer restoration events, youth engagement opportunities, and community stewardship campaigns that encourage residents to actively participate in protecting Wai 'anae's natural and cultural resources.

Improve Environmental Transparency and Public Communication

Several comments reflected concerns regarding access to information, environmental decision-making, and understanding potential impacts from projects affecting the community. Participants expressed a desire for greater transparency regarding environmental conditions, monitoring results, and future planning efforts.

A centralized reporting and information-sharing system should be developed to provide regular updates on environmental monitoring results, restoration projects, community concerns, and ongoing planning initiatives. This could include public dashboards, community meetings, online reporting tools, and periodic project updates.

Support Community-Led Planning and Decision-Making

One of the strongest themes emerging from the Conversation Mapping process was the desire for community voices, 'ike kūpuna, and lived experiences to be incorporated into future planning efforts. Participants consistently emphasized the importance of protecting cultural resources, maintaining access to traditional gathering areas, and ensuring that future decisions reflect community priorities.

Future planning initiatives should continue utilizing community engagement tools such as Conversation Mapping, talk story sessions, surveys, and community workshops to ensure that Wai'anae residents remain active participants in identifying priorities and developing solutions.

Continue Evaluating Emerging Environmental Concerns

Several environmental concerns identified during the session, including geothermal development, landfill expansion, beach restoration practices, watershed alterations, and offshore ecosystem impacts, require additional information, research, and community discussion.

Future Pili Nā Moku meetings should continue documenting these concerns and provide opportunities for residents, cultural practitioners, scientists, and agency representatives to share information, identify knowledge gaps, and collaboratively evaluate potential impacts and solutions.

Mahalo nui loa for trusting us with this work,

Kingdom Pathways Ohana