

WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE



Community Engagement Summary Report

June 2020

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I. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the community engagement process and results for the update of the West Maui Community Plan (Plan).

The process to update the West Maui Community Plan spanned over five primary phases as shown in Figure 1.1. Community engagement provided an opportunity for the County of Maui Department of Planning (Department) staff to gain a better understanding of relevant issues that impact the West Maui community. The engagement also allowed staff to provide more technical information on the different issues affecting West Maui. Community engagement was the unifying thread that pulled the entire process and Plan together so that the community’s values and vision for its future are represented.

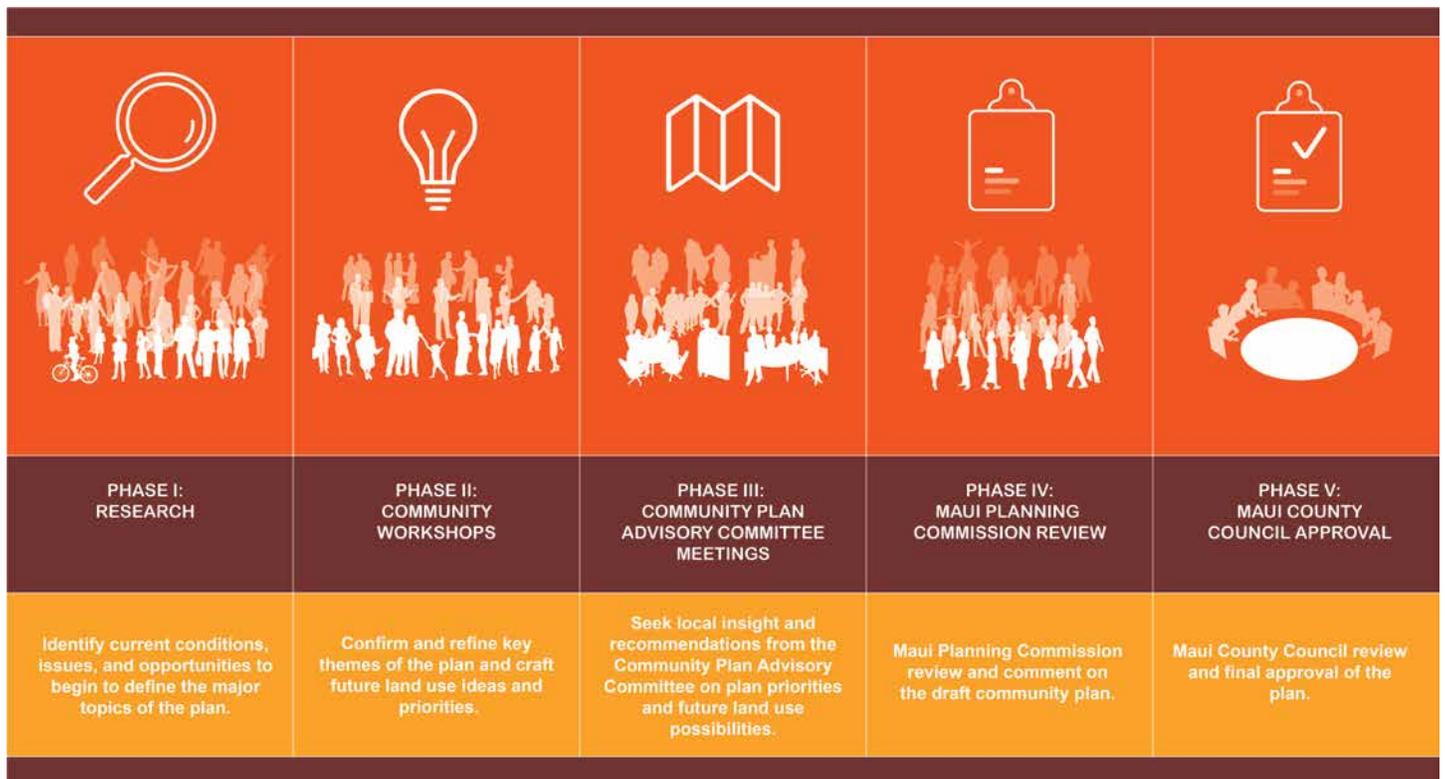


Figure 1.1: West Maui Community Plan Timeline.

With a resolve to plan with the community rather than for the community, the Department strove to involve a diverse representation of the community throughout all phases of the process to update the Plan. An emphasis was made on working with the community and bringing the process to the people in a meaningful and open way that promoted inclusivity, collaboration and transparency. The Department provided many diverse options for community participation such as meetings, interviews, “talk story” sessions, online activities, presentations to community groups, and workshops.

Over the course of two years, more than 1,535 people participated in 57 meetings, workshops, open houses, interviews, and online activities.



Figure 1.2: Community Engagement at a Glance.

To support the Department’s goal of a transparent and inclusive process, the Department launched a website, wearemaui.org, in 2017 dedicated to the update of the Plan. The website serves as the go-to online resource for updates, meeting information, reviewing the Plan, and participating in online workshops and activities. Notices through email, press releases, and social and print media provided the public with up-to-date information and opportunities to engage in the process.

II. Research

The Research phase included identifying current conditions, issues, and opportunities. The Department conducted a series of interviews and small group “talk story” sessions with individuals, community groups, and organizations to gather information on key issues, opportunities, and their vision for West Maui. A list of interviews and stakeholder outreach completed by the Department as well as highlights of the outreach are included in Appendix A.

A product of the Research phase included Technical Resource Papers on major topics identified by the community as important to them. These papers include:

- Community Profile
- Wastewater
- Water
- Housing
- Drainage and Stormwater
- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- Historic Preservation
- Economic Prosperity
- Recreation Network
- Mobility
- Land Use



The Technical Resource Papers are accessible on the We Are Maui website:

www.wearemaui.org/technical-resource-papers-home

III. Community Workshops

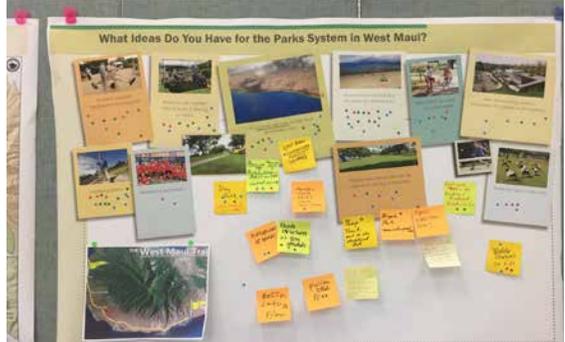
The Community Workshops phase overlapped with the Research phase and included valuable insights into the issues, concerns, and values of the community. The Department hosted dozens of public meetings, workshops, and open houses to provide an opportunity for all members of the public to learn about and provide feedback on housing, infrastructure, and many more topics. The Department worked with the community to create a draft vision statement to guide development of the Plan. Community design and land use workshops also gave the public a chance to weigh in on priorities for preservation and change. Questionnaires and online activities were made available to the public at in-person meetings and online to get direct community feedback. Brief summaries of the community meetings and workshops are included in the following pages. Results of the community engagement can be found in the appendices.

The Department also coordinated with a group of West Maui leaders or, in Hawaiian language, Alaka'i. The group served as a focus group and sounding board to help the Department connect with the community during the Community Workshops phase. The Alaka'i helped to ensure the Department was in touch with the community and that methods of engaging the public were working. The Department made changes to outreach approaches, timing and materials used based on feedback from the Alaka'i. Meetings with the Alaka'i included:

- September 19, 2018
- October 10, 2018
- November 14, 2018
- January 16, 2019
- January 23, 2019
- March 27, 2019
- May 14, 2019

Community Meetings and Workshops dates included:

- Community Plan Open House
August 26, 2017
- Transportation Meeting
September 12, 2017
- Community Design Open House
September 30, 2017
- Infrastructure Meeting
October 11, 2017
- Coastal Resilience Meeting
October 18, 2017
- Housing Meeting
November 7, 2017
- Cultural and Historic Resources Meeting
December 5, 2017
- Public Input Review Open House
January 20, 2018
- Permitting and Land Entitlements Meeting
February 21, 2018
- Vision Workshop
December 5, 2018
- Community Design Workshops – Lahaina, Kā'anapali, Ukumehame and Kapalua
February 4-7, 2019
- Community Design Open Houses
April 3 & 6, 2019



Community Plan Open House | August 26, 2017

The Community Plan Open House kicked-off a series of community engagement meetings, open houses, and workshops focused on providing information to the public and gathering input on issues affecting the West Maui community. Staff planners were present to explain the process to update the West Maui Community Plan and answer questions.

Highlights of the open house included:

- Information on Maui County's General Plan and the process to update the community plan.
- Information on West Maui's population, economic, income, and housing.
- A Junior Planner Scavenger Hunt for keiki.
- Maui Island Plan Directed Growth Maps, Development Projects Maps, and other related information.
- Community Survey: Introduction questionnaire was available at the open house and on the website.



Transportation Meeting | September 12, 2017

Leaders from the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Maui Hotel & Lodging Association, and the County Department of Transportation (Maui Bus) presented on topics including transportation funding, planned projects, long range planning, traffic challenges, and public transit.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Presentations by:
 - HDOT on current funding levels and planned projects for West Maui
 - Maui MPO on Federal transportation funding
 - Maui Hotel & Lodging Association on West Maui traffic challenges
 - Maui County Department of Transportation on an overview of the Maui Bus System
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists and public
- A transportation questionnaire was available at the meeting as well as on the website.

Community Design Open House | September 30, 2017

At this open house, members of the community had the opportunity to view informational boards and participate in activities focused on the design of our community. The Planning Department partnered and coordinated with other County departments and organizations for this event.

Highlights of the open house included:

- The Maui MPO provided information and answered questions related to mobility.
- The Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation provided information on the existing County parks and facilities system.
- The Maui County Department of Public Works provided informational materials on the West Maui Greenway and the Kuhua Street Extension Project.
- The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coalition partnered with the Planning Department to promote healthier communities through improving community design.

The public had the opportunity to give their input on:

- infill and redevelopment opportunities
- development projects
- housing options and what “livability” means to them
- complete streets improvement opportunities
- walking and biking
- ideas for the park system in West Maui



Infrastructure Meeting | October 11, 2017

The public had the opportunity to view informational boards and learn about the County’s infrastructure in West Maui.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The County Department of Water Supply presented on the Lahaina Water System, including water mains, wells, and treatment facilities as well as water source, supply and demand.
- The County Department of Environmental Management presented on the Lahaina wastewater collection system and options for potential recycled water expansion.
- The County Department of Public Works reviewed the County’s roads and drainage systems, including the status of projects in West Maui.
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists and public
- A questionnaire on infrastructure was available at the meeting as well as on the website.

Coastal Resilience Meeting | October 18, 2017

The University of Hawaii (UH) Sea Grant partnered with the Department on this event to provide the latest information on coastal resilience, sea level rise, and climate adaptation.

Highlights of this meeting included:

- Draft coastal erosion and sea level rise potential exposure area maps from the draft statewide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report.
- UH Sea Grant provided an overview of coastal hazards with a focus on shoreline issues for West Maui and the results of the draft Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report for West Maui.
- The Department spoke on ways the County is bringing smarter planning and efficiency into the post planning process for disaster reconstruction.
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists and public.
- The County Emergency Management Agency also joined the panel to answer questions.



Housing Meeting | November 7, 2017

At this meeting the public had the opportunity to learn about housing issues affecting West Maui, such as the housing shortage and lack of affordable and workforce housing, and what the County and some of the development community are working on to meet the growing housing needs.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The County Department of Housing and Human Concerns presented on housing programs and projects.
- Stanford Carr Development LLC presented on their Kahoma Village project.
- Aina Lani Pacific LLC presented on their affordable workforce housing projects including Kaiaulu in Kā`anapali.
- West Maui Land Company, Inc. presented on their Kahoma Residential project.
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists, including the Department, and the public.

Cultural and Historic Resources Meeting | December 5, 2017

The public was invited to hear from a panel of individuals focusing on community-based preservation and stewardship efforts and discuss cultural and historic resource issues affecting West Maui. Kaleo Manuel, Acting Planning Program Manager with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, served as moderator.

Highlights from this meeting included:

- Maui County Cultural Resources Commission Chair Lori Sablas shared of her work at Kaanapali Beach Hotel and in the community.
- Maui Cultural Lands presented on its mission and work both mauka and makai.
- Aha Moku o Maui presented on the Aha Moku system and their strategic plan.
- Lahaina Restoration Foundation presented on the history of its organization and projects they have worked on in Lahaina town.
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists and public.

Public Input Review Open House | January 20, 2018

At this open house, informational boards and summaries were on display showcasing the public's input received during the community workshops phase. The public also had the opportunity to give additional input on the summaries.

Highlights from the open house included:

- Summary of interviews on issues and opportunities, vision for West Maui, and specific ideas.
- Summary of community questionnaires and idea wall activities.
- Summary of topical presentations and input from the community

Permitting and Land Entitlements Meeting | February 21, 2018

The public was invited to learn about the role of the Planning Department, the permitting and land use approval process for development projects, and the distinction between this process and the community planning process. During the open house portion of the meeting, community members could view informational boards of development projects in West Maui and talk with County planners.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The Department provided an overview of the key land use-related approvals needed for a development project to begin construction.
- The Department also explained the role of the Current Planning Division in reviewing permit applications, the layers of land use regulation in Hawaii, the general permit approval process, and when the public can provide testimony.
- A Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the panelists and public.

Vision Workshop

The Vision Workshop was completed over two parts. The in-person Vision Workshop Part 1 took place on December 5, 2018. The purpose of Part 1 of the Vision Workshop was to gather community input for creating a vision for the update of the West Maui Community Plan. For Part 2 of the Vision Workshop, the Department shared four draft vision options with the community through an online workshop January 11, 2019 through January 21, 2019 and invited the community to provide their feedback. The Department created a single draft vision statement based on community feedback and included it in the Draft West Maui Community Plan that was provided to the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee. Appendix B includes the results of the Vision Workshop.

Community Design Workshops

- Lahaina | February 4, 2019w
- Kā'anapali | February 5, 2019
- Ukumehame | February 6, 2019
- Kapalua | February 7, 2019

The Community Design Workshops provided the public an opportunity to examine the four subareas of West Maui and discuss areas that should change during the planning period and areas that should stay the same. The workshops included a welcome presentation, small group work and report out by groups. Participants were asked to identify on a map and describe areas they wanted to stay the same and areas they wanted to change. Each participant group reported the results from their discussion, often highlighting places of agreement with other groups. The Department also made the workshop available online to those who could not attend the workshop in-person. Information gathered at the in-person and online workshops were used to develop planning alternatives which were presented to the public at the Community Design Open House. Appendix C includes the results of the Community Design Workshops.



Community Design Open House

Two open houses were held on April 3 and 6, 2019 to introduce the updated Community Plan Designations to the public, as well as give the public the opportunity to view and provide input on four possible planning alternatives for West Maui. At the open houses, informational boards of the updated Community Plan Designations were on display, allowing attendees to familiarize themselves with the colors, descriptions and example imagery of each designation. A guidebook to the designations as well as other helpful information was also provided at the event.

The main portion of the open house consisted of an Existing Conditions Map, followed by maps of four planning alternatives. The alternatives are based on public input received over the past two years and guidance from the Maui Island Plan. The public had the opportunity to review the alternatives and provide feedback on what they liked and disliked about each alternative. An online version of the open house was also available on the website. Results of the Community Design Open House can be found in Appendix D.

