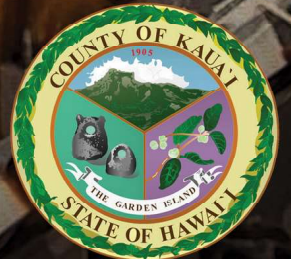


# KAUAIKĀKŌU

KAUAI COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

**2018 FINAL VERSION** APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL





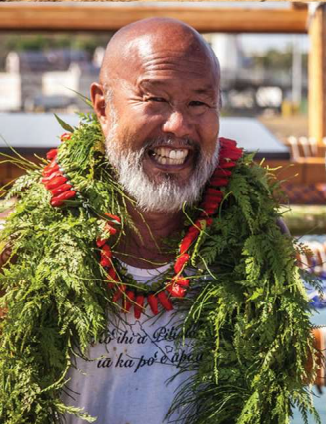


Photo Credit: Imaikalani Aiu



2016 Star Advertiser



**Mālama Honua**—caring for the Earth—extends beyond simply caring for our physical surroundings. Mālama Honua embraces protection and balance in all things that make up our world and keep it prosperous; thus recognizing the connectedness between all things and of people as its stewards.

It is through kākou—working together—that the crews of the Polynesian Voyaging Society successfully circumnavigated the vast oceans of the world, using the wayfinding tools and knowledge of our ancestors, to inspire Mālama Honua throughout communities worldwide. Without kākou, the Voyaging Society’s vision of inspiring a healthy, vibrant, and unified world would be lost; our legacy wa’a—Hōkūle’a, Hikianalia, and Kaua’i’s very own Nāmāhoe—would never have been given Hā (the breath of life) and the continuing stories of hope and triumph shared through the successful journeys of these global voyagers would never be.

As with navigation, a direction may be set, but the path traveled is rarely straight. However, keeping an eye on the horizon and to the heavens has always allowed our Master Navigators to never lose sight of the destination. In the same way our navigators have set a course, our community has crafted the Kaua’i General Plan to guide our actions and provide a direction toward a shared vision of our island-community’s future.

Let us be confident in the course we have set, and courageous in times of storm and trouble, and look to the stories and lessons of our Hawaiian Voyagers—to kākou—in order to Mālama Honua right here on Kaua’i.

*This plan is dedicated in memory of*

**Louie Abrams**

*(1952 - 2016)*

*Former Planning Commissioner and eternal believer in making Kaua’i a great place to live.*



# KAUA'I KĀKŌU

KAUA'I COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

**2018 FINAL VERSION** APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL







## Message from Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.



*Aloha!* The County of Kaua'i is pleased to present Kaua'i Kākou-Kaua'i County General Plan. This document charts the course for our island for the next 20 years, guiding our growth and sustainability for generations to come.

It is the responsibility of us all on Kaua'i—in every industry, moku, and community—to ensure that life here does not only benefit our own individual interests, but the overall shared vision of our island and its people.

Since 2014, when the public process began, this has been an important goal and the driving force behind our Planning Department in its mission to update the Kaua'i County General Plan. Now, after years of research and collaboration, we have a set guide in place to move us one step closer to achieving this goal.

I would like to extend a special *Mahalo* to everyone who contributed to this action-driven plan, and I celebrate this achievement together with you. Mahalo to the County's Planning Department and consultants, the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and our courageous community members for sharing your mana'o with us all.

As we move forward together in aloha, I see the Kaua'i County General Plan shining bright like the North Star which guides us home.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i  
2018



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
Derek S.K. Kawakami  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Līhu‘e, Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i 96766

February 2018

*Aloha!*

On behalf of the Kaua‘i County Council, I would like to express the Council’s appreciation to all who have made possible the completion of the Kaua‘i County General Plan. The theme of the Plan, Kaua‘i Kākou, represents the desires and dreams of our island’s residents, business community, and government leaders, who converged together to define and implement a shared vision for our island. Like the stars that once guided the ancient Polynesian navigators to discover our beautiful islands, the Kaua‘i County General Plan is our map to help us navigate Kaua‘i’s changing landscape and guide us into the future.

During the process, one message was clear. The people of Kaua‘i desire urgency. Urgency for affordable housing, transportation improvements, economic stimulation, and major infrastructure improvements. As leaders, we need to commit to work hand-in-hand, and move forward on developing legislation to support the Plan and its vision.

Special *mahalo* and congratulations goes to the dedicated members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, who crafted the public’s input into defined vision statements. The invaluable leadership by the County Planning Department and Plan Consultants to gather information through a unique, community-engaging approach, were instrumental in producing this living document that will serve as a roadmap for Kaua‘i in the years to come. Lastly, thank you to the Kaua‘i community for your participation in this process.

As we move forward, we extend our best wishes to Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., his Administration, and the future leaders of Kaua‘i for continuing to honor this vision for all of Kaua‘i’s people and future generations.

*Mahalo nui loa* for your participation and collaboration!

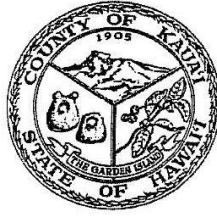


Sincerely,

MEL RAPOZO  
Council Chair, Kaua‘i County Council



**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Michael A. Dahilig**  
Director of Planning

**Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.**  
Managing Director

**Ka'aina S. Hull**  
Deputy Director of Planning

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

4444 Rice Street, Suite A-473, Lihue, Hawai'i 96766  
TEL (808) 241-4050 FAX (808) 241-6699

March 2018

Aloha Kākou,

It was our privilege to collaborate with the community on developing Kaua'i Kākou – the County of Kaua'i's General Plan. The plan contains policies and actions that work together to ultimately achieve the following goals: that Kaua'i will be a sustainable island, a unique and beautiful place, a healthy and resilient people, and an equitable place with opportunity for all.

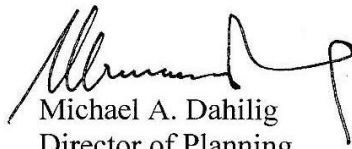
Many hands came together to pull this plan together. Mahalo nui loa to all of you who came out to varying degrees to touch this update for our General Plan. Your dedication and passion will propel the plan forward and help actualize our island's future goals.

I must thank the county hands of Ka'aina Hull, Leanora Kai'aokamālie, Marisa Valenciano, Lee Steinmetz, Alex Wong, Alan Clinton, Jodi Higuchi-Sayegusa, Michael Moule, Lyle Tabata, Jade Fountain-Tanigawa, Scott Sato, Jenelle Agas, Aida Kawamura, and Yvette Mackler who helped to navigate this document through to the destination.

Last but not least, Marie Williams – you are a rock star, and truly the binding behind this document. We all thank you for your blood, sweat, and tears being the leader on this project, and seeing it to what it is today.

It is our hope this document helps move the needle in the direction we collectively want it to go over the next 20 years. Now let the hard work of our community begin.

Aloha nui loa,

  
Michael A. Dahilig  
Director of Planning





**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1,  
KAUAI COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE UPDATE  
OF THE GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUAI**

---

(ZA-2017-3)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII:

**SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose.** The purpose of this ordinance is to revise the General Plan for the County of Kaua'i, in accordance with County zoning authority delegated pursuant to Section 46-4, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and the Charter of the County of Kaua'i. This revision is based on the General Plan Update process conducted by the Planning Department between the years 2013 through 2018.

Further technical amendments reflecting the adoption of regional "Community" and "Town" plans subsequent to the last General Plan update are also included to provide nomenclature consistency throughout the Chapter.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 7, Article 1, Kaua'i County Code 1987, as amended, is hereby amended as follows:

**"Article 1. General Provisions**

**Sec. 7-1.1 Title.**

This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The General Plan for the County of Kaua'i."

**Sec. 7-1.2 Purpose.**

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of the Charter for the County of Kaua'i, the General Plan sets forth in graphics and text, policies to govern the future physical development of the County. The General Plan is intended to improve the physical environment of the County and the health, safety, and general welfare of Kaua'i's people.

(b) The General Plan states the County's vision for Kaua'i and establishes strategies for achieving that vision. The strategies are expressed in terms of policies and implementing actions. They may be augmented and changed as new strategies are developed.



(c) The General Plan is a direction-setting, policy document. It is not intended to be regulatory. It is intended to be a guide for future amendments to land regulations and to be considered in reviewing specific zoning amendment and development applications.

(d) The vision, the maps and text policies, and the implementing actions are intended to guide County actions and decisions. In addition, the maps and text policies are intended to guide the County in specific types of actions: making revisions to land use and land development regulations, deciding on zoning changes, preparing and adopting development plans and public facility plans, and preparing and adopting capital improvement plans.

### **Sec. 7-1.3 Definitions.**

“Charter” means the Charter of the County of Kaua‘i, as amended.

“CIP” means the Capital Improvement Program of the County of Kaua‘i, which is part of the annual budget ordinance and programs appropriations and funding for capital improvements for six (6) years and beyond.

“Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance” means the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the County of Kaua‘i, Chapter 8, Kaua‘i County Code 1987, as amended.

“Council” means the Council of the County of Kaua‘i.

“Development” means any public improvement project, or any public or private project requiring a permit or approval from the Planning Department or Planning Commission.

“Development plan” means a detailed plan for a specific geographic area of the County of Kaua‘i, as defined by Sec. 14.07 of the Charter and as further defined herein. “Community Plans” or “Town Plans” are also considered Development Plans for the purposes of this chapter and other zoning-related ordinances.

“General Plan” means the General Plan for the County of Kaua‘i, including the vision, policies, implementing actions, and Land Use and [Heritage Resources] other maps.

“Implementing action” means a strategy to implement a policy, which may include recommendations for amending ordinances and rules.

“Owner” means the holders of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the equitable and legal title of a lot.



“Planning Commission” means the Planning Commission of the County of Kaua‘i.

“Planning Department” means the Planning Department of the County of Kaua‘i.

“Planning Director” means the Director of the Planning Department of the County of Kaua‘i.

“Policy” means a statement in the General Plan policies sections intended to guide the County in achieving the vision.

“Public facility” means a building, road, pipeline, or other capital improvement that is constructed by the County of Kaua‘i in order to provide a service to the public.

“Special Development Plans” means the Special Development Plans, Chapter 10, Kaua‘i County Code 1987, as amended.

“Special Management Area Rules and Regulations” means the Special Management Area Rules and Regulations of the County of Kaua‘i, as amended.

“Subdivision Ordinance” means the Subdivision Ordinance for the County of Kaua‘i, Chapter 9, Kaua‘i County Code 1987, as amended.

“Vision” means a preferred future as described in [Chapter 2 of] the text of the General Plan.

“Zoning amendment” means a change of the zoning district boundaries in relation to a specific parcel or parcels of land.

#### **Sec. 7-1.4 Applicability.**

(a) All actions and decisions undertaken by the County Council and the County Administration, including all County departments, agencies, boards, and commissions, shall be guided by the vision statement, policies, and the implementing actions of the General Plan.

(b) Ordinances and rules that relate to the following shall be guided by the policies of the General Plan:

(1) Development plans;

(2) Public facility plans;



- (3) Land use policies and regulations, including but not limited to zone changes, zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and SMA rules and regulations;
- (4) Site development and environmental regulations, such as grading and drainage regulations; and
- (5) The six (6) year Capital Improvement Program.

#### **Sec. 7-1.5 Adoption.**

(a) The plan document on file with the County Clerk entitled ["Kaua'i General Plan,"] "Kaua'i Kākou – Kaua'i County General Plan" (Planning Commission Draft approved in 2017, as amended by the Kaua'i County Council and approved in 2018, and as may be subsequently amended), including the maps and text policies, vision, and implementing actions dated as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this Article, is hereby adopted by reference and made a part of this Article."

(b) Upon adoption of the ordinance codified in this Article, prior resolutions and ordinances relating to [the 1984] previous General Plans are superseded; provided that conditions of approval attached to General Plan amendment ordinances adopted prior to the adoption of this General Plan shall remain in effect.

#### **Sec. 7-1.6 Administration.**

The Planning Department shall administer the provisions of this Article and the General Plan in accordance with the provisions of the County Charter.

#### **Sec. 7-1.7 Interpretation.**

The Planning Director shall interpret the General Plan and the consistency of a County action or a proposed development with the General Plan, subject to the review of the Planning Commission.

#### **Sec. 7-1.8 Review of the General Plan.**

The Planning Department shall undertake a comprehensive review of the General Plan within ten (10) years of the date of adoption and shall report its findings and recommended revisions to the Planning Commission and the County Council."



SECTION 3. Severability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 4. New material is underscored and bracketed material is deleted. In printing this Ordinance, the brackets, bracketed material, and underscoring need not be included.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Introduced by: /s/ MASON K. CHOCK  
(By Request)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**September 6, 2017**

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i

V:\BILLS\2016-2018 TERM\General Plan Update ZA Bill No 2666 Draft 2 JA\_ct.doc

CERTIFICATE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

I hereby certify that heretofore attached is a true and correct copy of Bill No. 2666, Draft 2, which was adopted on second and final reading by the Council of the County of Kaua'i at its meeting held on February 7, 2018 by the following vote:

FOR ADOPTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kaneshiro, Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 6,
AGAINST ADOPTION:	Yukimura	TOTAL – 1,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Līhu'e, Hawai'i  
March 12, 2018



Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa  
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i

ATTEST:



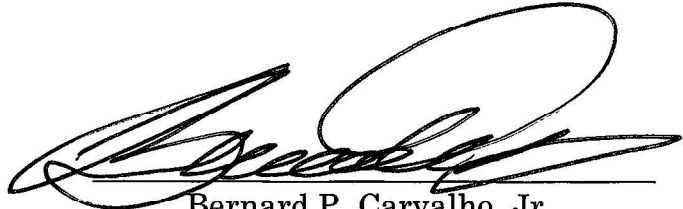
Mel Rapozo  
Chairman & Presiding Officer

DATE OF TRANSMITTAL TO MAYOR:

March 12, 2018

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of

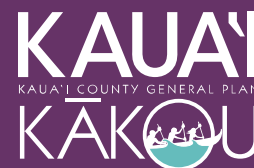
March \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.



Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.,  
Mayor  
County of Kaua'i



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



## **Citizen Advisory Committee**

Bill Arakaki  
Kurt Bosshard  
Bev Brody  
Helen Cox  
Luke Evslin  
Robert Farias, Sr.  
Randall Francisco  
Laurie Ho  
Brenda Jose  
Sue Kanoho  
Cammie Matsumoto  
Mark Oyama  
Gary Pacheco  
Barbara Robeson  
Tom Shigemoto  
Stacy Sproat-Beck  
Susan Tai Kaneko

## **County Council**

Mel Rapozo, Council Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Council Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock, Planning  
Committee Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
Derek S.K. Kawakami  
JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Gary L. Hooser (former)  
KipuKai Kualii (former)

## **Planning Commission**

Kimo Keawe (Chair)  
Louis Abrams  
Kanoë Ahuna  
Donna Apisa  
Roy Ho  
Wayne Katayama  
Wade Lord  
Sean Mahoney  
Glenda Nogami-Streufert

## **Mayor's Office**

Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Managing Director Wallace  
Rezentes, Jr.  
Managing Director Nadine  
Nakamura (former)  
Sarah Blane, Chief of Staff

## **Planning Department**

Michael Dahilig, Director  
Ka'aina Hull, Deputy Planning  
Director  
Marie Williams, Planner  
Leanora Ka'iaokamālie, Planner  
Marisa Valenciano, Planner  
Lee Steinmetz, Transportation  
Planner  
Alex Wong, Planner  
Alan Clinton, Project Assistant

## **Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa,  
County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County  
Clerk  
Jenelle Agas, Legislative  
Assistant  
Council Services Staff

## **County Agency Partners**

Elderly Affairs  
County Attorneys  
Economic Development  
Emergency Management  
(formerly Civil Defense)  
Fire  
Housing  
Liquor Control  
Parks & Recreation

Police  
Public Works  
Engineering  
Building  
Wastewater  
Solid Waste  
Transportation  
Water

## **State Agency Partners**

Department of Land and Natural  
Resources  
Department of Health  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

## **Consultants**

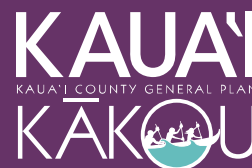
SSFM International, Inc. (Prime)  
Charlier Associates, Inc.  
Collaborative Economics  
Economic & Planning Systems  
Marine & Coastal Solutions  
International, Inc.  
Opticos Design, Inc.  
PBR Hawai'i  
Raimi & Associates  
SMS Research

## **University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program**

Ruby Pap, Coastal Land Use  
Extension Agent

*Unless otherwise noted, all photos provided by Planning Department staff.*

# GLOSSARY OF HAWAIIAN WORDS AND PHRASES



The following list provides Hawaiian words and phrases, and their corresponding definitions, used throughout this document. The translations are taken and adapted as necessary from **Ulukau**, the Hawaiian Electronic Library, available online at <http://wehewehe.org/>.

**Ahupua'a** means a land division usually extending from the uplands to the sea, so called because the boundary was marked by a heap (ahu) of stones surmounted by an image of a pig (pua'a), or because a pig or other tribute was laid on the altar as tax to the Chief. The boundaries of an ahupua'a is based on the region's watersheds.

**Ali'i** means a chief.

**Aloha** means affection, compassion for others.

**'Alaea Pa'akai** means sea salt enriched with minerals.

**'Āina** means land, earth.

**'Āina Ho'opulapula** means homesteading lands.

**Heiau** means a Native Hawaiian place of worship, shrine; some heiau were elaborately constructed stone platforms, others simple earth terraces.

**Hoa 'Āina** means tenant or caretaker, as on a kuleana.

**Iwi** means bone; core (as of a speech). The bones of the dead were considered the most cherished possession and hidden.

**Ka Po'e Kahiko** means People of Old.

**Kākou** means we (inclusive, three or more), ours, promotes synergy when developing solutions and alternatives.

**Kama'āina** means a Native-born, one born in a place, host.

**Kanaka Maoli o Kaua'i** means a Native Hawaiian of Kaua'i.

**Kapu** means forbidden, sacred.

**Keiki** means a child or children.

**Kīpuka** means a variation or change of form (puka, hole), as a calm place in a high sea, deep place in a shoal, opening in a forest, openings in cloud formations, and especially a clear place or oasis within a lava bed where there may be vegetation.

**Konohiki** means the headman of an ahupua'a land division under the chief; land or fishing rights under control of the konohiki; such rights are sometimes called konohiki rights.

**Kuleana** means right, privilege, concern, responsibility.

**Kūpuna** means elders.

**Lo'i** means an irrigated terrace, especially for taro, but also for rice; paddy.

**Lo'i kalo** means a taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) terrace.

**Lōkahi** means collaboration or teamwork, unity, agreement.

**Māhele** means a division, piece, department, category, portion, or land division.

**Maka'āinana** means people that attend the land.

**Makai** means toward the ocean.

**Mālama 'Āina** means caring for the land.

**Mana** means supernatural or divine power; a powerful nation, authority; privilege.

**Mana'o** means a thought or belief.

**Mauka** means inland or toward the upland.

**Moku** means a traditional land division representing a district or section typically encompassing several ahupua'a. Kaua'i's moku include Puna, Kona, Ko'olau, Halele'a, Nāpali, and Ni'ihau.

**Mokupuni** means island.

**Nā Kānaka Maoli o Kaua'i** means Native Hawaiians of Kaua'i and is the plural of Kanaka Maoli o Kaua'i.

**'Ohana** means a family, relative, kin group.

**'Ōlelo** means language or speech.

**Pali** means cliff.

**Paniolo** means cowboy.

**Wahi Pana** means legendary place.



# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS



The following list, in alphabetical order, provides the acronyms, abbreviations, and their corresponding definitions used throughout this document.

- ACS** American Community Survey
- ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADU** Additional Dwelling Unit
- ADVC** Average Daily Visitor Census
- AIS** Archaeological Inventory Study
- APA** Archaeological Planning Association
- B&B** Bed & Breakfast
- BFE** Base Flood Elevation
- BPH** Bike Plan Hawai'i
- CAC** Citizen Advisory Committee
- CDC** Centers for Disease Control
- CDP** Census Designated Place
- CEDS** Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- CHMP** Commercial Harbors Master Plan
- CIP** Capital Improvement Program
- CPTED** Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- CWRM** Commission on Water Resource Management
- CZO** Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance
- DBC** Deposit Beverage Container
- DBEDT** Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
- DHHL** Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
- DLNR** Department of Land and Natural Resources
- DOBOR** Division of Boating and Recreation
- DOCARE** Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
- DOE** Department of Education
- DOFAW** Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- DOH** Department of Health
- DOW** Department of Water
- DPW** Department of Public Works
- DRR** Disaster Risk Reduction
- EA** Environmental Assessment
- EIS** Environmental Impact Statement
- EPA** Environmental Protection Agency
- FEMA** Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FIRM** Flood Insurance Rate Map
- GE** Genetically Engineered
- GET** General Excise Tax
- GP** General Plan
- GHG** Greenhouse Gas
- GIS** Geographic Information System
- GMO** Genetically Modified Organisms
- gpd** Gallons Per Day
- gwh** Gigawatt Hour
- Hazmat** Hazardous Materials
- HEAL** Healthy Eating, Active Living
- HDOT** Hawai'i Department of Transportation
- HHPS** Hawai'i Housing Planning Study
- HHARP** Hawai'i Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program
- HiAP** Health in All Policies
- HOME** Home Investment Partnership Program
- HTA** Hawai'i Tourism Authority
- HUD** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- IAL** Important Agricultural Lands
- ICAC** Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee
- ICAP** Island Climate Adaptation Policy
- IFS** Instream Flow Standards

<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	<b>NAICS</b>	North American Industry Classification System
<b>ISWMP</b>	Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan	<b>NIMS</b>	National Incident Management System
<b>ITS</b>	Intelligent Transportation System	<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>IWS</b>	Individual Wastewater Systems	<b>NSPA</b>	North Shore Path Alternatives
<b>KCC</b>	Kaua'i Community College	<b>OCCL</b>	Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
<b>KCHA</b>	Kaua'i County Housing Agency	<b>OTD</b>	Offer to Dedicate
<b>KCHII</b>	Kaua'i Community Health Improvement Initiative	<b>PASH</b>	Public Access Shoreline Hawai'i
<b>KEDB</b>	Kaua'i Economic Development Board	<b>PDR</b>	Purchase of Development Rights
<b>KEMA</b>	Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (formerly Civil Defense)	<b>PHEV</b>	Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle
<b>KESP</b>	Kaua'i Energy Sustainability Plan	<b>PMRF</b>	Pacific Missile Range Facility
<b>KESRP</b>	Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project	<b>PTSA</b>	Parent Teacher Student Association
<b>KHPRC</b>	Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission	<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research & Development
<b>KIUC</b>	Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative	<b>RPS</b>	Renewable Performance Standards
<b>KPAA</b>	Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance	<b>SHPD</b>	State Historic Preservation Division
<b>KTP</b>	Kīlauea Town Plan	<b>SKCP</b>	South Kaua'i Community Plan
<b>KTS</b>	Kapa'a Transportation Solutions Study	<b>SLR</b>	Sea Level Rise
<b>KTSP</b>	Kaua'i Tourism Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018 Update	<b>SRTS</b>	Safe Routes to School
<b>KVB</b>	Kaua'i Visitors Bureau	<b>SMA</b>	Special Management Area
<b>KWA</b>	Kaua'i Watershed Alliance	<b>SNAP</b>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<b>LCP</b>	Līhu'e Community Plan	<b>SOV</b>	Single Occupancy Vehicle
<b>LESP</b>	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment	<b>SPA</b>	Special Planning Area
<b>LGBTQ</b>	Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer	<b>TAM</b>	Technical Assistance Memorandum
<b>LOS</b>	Length of Stay	<b>TDR</b>	Transfer of Development Rights
<b>LRTP</b>	Long Range Transportation Plan	<b>TVR</b>	Transient Vacation Rental
<b>MGD</b>	Million Gallons per Day	<b>TVU</b>	Transient Vacation Unit
<b>MLTP</b>	Multimodal Land Transportation Plan	<b>UDP</b>	Urban Design Plan
<b>MMA</b>	Major Market Area	<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>MMT CO2EQ</b>	Million Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<b>USGS</b>	United States Geological Survey
		<b>VDA</b>	Visitor Destination Area
		<b>VMT</b>	Vehicle Miles Traveled
		<b>WSPA</b>	West Side Path Alternatives



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS



The following list, in alphabetical order, provides definitions for planning terms used throughout this document.

**Boundary Amendment** means changes to the Hawai'i State Land Use District boundaries. Boundary amendments are approved by the State Land Use Commission.

**Built Environment** means all physical parts of our communities, such as buildings, streets, infrastructure, and parks.

**Community Plan** means a public document that provides specific proposals for future land uses, developments, and public improvements in a given community within the County of Kaua'i. In the 2000 General Plan, community plans were referred to as "Development Plans." Community plans are intended to be region specific and capture the community's vision for the area.

**Cottage Industry** means a business or manufacturing activity carried on in a person's home.

**Design Standards** means specific regulations, such as form base code, within Special Planning Areas. Design Standards are intended to help to achieve the vision and character that is desired by the community.

**Development** means any building, construction, renovation, mining, extraction, dredging, filling, excavation, or drilling activity or operation; any material change in the use or appearance of any structure or in the land itself; the division of land into parcels; any change in the intensity or use of land, such as an increase in the number of dwelling units in a structure or a change to a commercial or industrial use from a less intensive use; any activity that alters a shore, beach, seacoast, river, stream, lake, pond, canal, marsh, dune area, woodlands, wetland, endangered species habitat, aquifer or other resource area, including coastal construction or other activity (APA Website, 2016).

**Development Permits (Land use and building permits collectively)** means any written approval or decision by a local government under its land development regulations that gives authorization to undertake some category of development, including but not limited to a building permit, zoning permit, final subdivision plat, minor subdivision, resubdivision, conditional use, variance, appeal decision, planned unit development, site plan, certificate of appropriateness, and zoning map amendment(s) by the legislative body (APA Website, 2016).

**Development Standards** means specific regulations, such as lot coverage, building height, and setbacks that guide the placement of development per zoning district. For example, Residential Development Section 8-4.4 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) Standards states single family detached dwelling units are subject to density and acreage limitations.

**Entitlement** means an approved permit issued by the County of Kaua'i to use or develop land. Includes subdivision approval, zoning, variance, special use, and PDU permits.

**Food Miles Travelled** means the distance food travels from where it is grown to where it is consumed.

**Good Agricultural Practices** means voluntary audits that verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored as safely as possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards (USDA Website, 2016).

**Houselessness** means lack of housing. Individuals who are houseless lack permanent housing, and may live on the streets, in shelters, in abandoned buildings or vehicles, or any other unstable or non-permanent situation (NHCHC Website, 2017).

**Housing Unit** means a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters (SMS Research, 2016).

**Infill Development** means building within existing communities. Infill development can expand housing inventory without consuming open space.

**Kuleana Rights** means allodial titles to Hoā ‘Āina for their own (fee simple) lands, house lots, and certain privileges, including access from the mountains to the shore to collect resources granted by The Kuleana Act of the Māhele (December 21, 1849) also referred to as the “Kuleana Act of 1850.”<sup>1</sup> In 2012 the Hawai‘i Supreme Court reaffirmed the viability of Kuleana rights in the present day.<sup>2</sup>

**Landscape Guidelines** means design and maintenance guidelines that improve the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of street landscaping. They also can be used to aid design standards to achieve the vision and character that is desired by the community.

**The Māhele** (also referred to as The Great Māhele) means the process, proposed by King Kamehameha III, of redistributing of Hawaiian land to guarantee that Hawaiian people would not lose their tenured land as a result of the Alien Land Ownership Act of 1850, which allowed foreign land ownership in order to motivate capital and labor.<sup>3</sup>

**Makerspaces** means collaborative shared spaces where people gather to create, invent, and learn using technology, hardware, and tools.

**Missing Middle Housing** means housing located within walking distance to shops and amenities, filling the gap between single-family homes and apartment buildings (Opticos Design Website, 2017).

**Multi-Family Housing** means there are two or more housing units within a single building, or there are separate housing units within one housing complex.

**Provisional Area** means an area on the Land Use Map to be defined and designated via a future Community Planning process due to the sensitivity of its potential regional impact. The regional Community Planning policy, once adopted by ordinance, is considered consistent with this plan.

**Single-Family Housing** means a building consisting of only one dwelling unit designed for or occupied exclusively by one family.

**Subdivision** means the division of land or the consolidation and resubdivision into two or more lots or parcels for the purpose of transfer, sale, lease, or building development. The term also includes a building or group of buildings, other than a hotel, containing or divided into two or more dwelling units or lodging units.

**Tsunami Evacuation Zone** means any area that should be evacuated when there is a tsunami warning present, as mandated by the Kaua‘i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA). These areas are typically a minimum of 100 feet away from inland waterways and marinas connected to the ocean.

**Urban Edge Boundary** means a regional boundary intended to limit urban sprawl. It defines where higher density urban development should be contained. Areas outside the Urban Edge Boundary are intended for lower density land uses such as open, conservation, and agriculture.

**Walkshed** means a quarter- to a half-mile radius walking distance or a comfortable walking distance between locations.

**Zoning Amendment** means changes or additions to the County of Kaua‘i CZO. Section 8-3.4 of the CZO states amendments may be made whenever public necessity, convenience, and general welfare require an amendment.

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1 Hoakalei Cultural Foundation Website 2014.

2 *Opinion of the Court by Nakayama, Acting C.J., Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, April 27, 2012; Hawai‘i Reporter April 2012.*

3 Chinen, JJ *The Great Māhele, 1958; HawaiiHistory.org 2017.*



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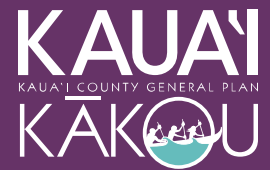


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*The appendices are not controlling and are meant only as a courtesy guide.*



# INTRODUCTION



From top left: Hanalei taro fields, North Shore District; Brennecke's Beach, South Kaua'i District; Kaua'i paddlers; Traffic on Kūhiō Highway near Kapa'a, East Kaua'i District.

## **Kaua'i is at a Crossroads**

Kaua'i's beauty – found in its expansive beaches, striking landscapes, and cultural diversity – enriches the lives of its people and draws visitors from around the world. The spirit of aloha imbues our rural lifestyle and spiritual connection to the land and ocean – making our way of life unique and unhurried in an increasingly fast-paced world.

However, throughout the General Plan's public process, many expressed that "times are tougher than ever" and that quality of life is burdened by Kaua'i's unresolved issues. Voices in the community have expressed frustration towards previous plans that have not been implemented, and towards instances of deferred action on the part of government. Kaua'i remains vulnerable to overdependence on tourism while the challenges of traffic and housing impact everyone. Our rural infrastructure, aging and with limited capacity, appears to be at a tipping point.

There are needs, sometimes competing, in areas like environmental preservation, economic prosperity, traffic congestion, and community health. Concerns brew over agriculture lands, access to education,

water quality, social equity, and invasive species. Looming on the horizon is global climate change and its potential effects on our communities, health, and economy.

These threats have cast pessimism over whether Kaua'i's treasured identity can be preserved. It's clear the island is at a crossroads on an array of issues. Many attribute this sense of vulnerability to a common source: growth.

## **Growth is Happening Whether We Like It or Not**

The need to manage growth is the primary driver behind long range planning. A successful plan relies on the community's ability to accept factual circumstances, assess future challenges, and craft coherent solutions. However, a recurring theme was the desire to limit growth even though recent population growth has exceeded the 2000 General Plan's projections. Our island's growth continues regardless of the desire to see it lessen.

However, under-planning our future leads to inadequate infrastructure, an increase in illegal land

uses, and a community that continues to evolve under the weight of more people. Some have suggested legislating policies like limiting family size or restricting the right to travel to Kaua'i, but such methods of population control are unconstitutional. Growth is projected to continue to increase throughout the next twenty years at an approximate rate of one percent a year. Both natural increase and in-migration cause growth, but the data also reveals a large out-migration of those born and raised here.

Today, Kaua'i is at a juncture where we can either adequately plan for a future that can accommodate those who were born and raised on the island, or we can continue to see the efflux of our kama'aina leaving for a more feasible life away from home.

When faced with this dilemma, the community has shown a strong desire to implement the necessary actions to ensure that the future of Kaua'i will provide opportunities for today's keiki. Therefore, the General Plan accepts this projected growth as a timely opportunity to cultivate collaboration and positive change. In this light, the challenge is to ensure growth benefits local residents and also addresses today's pressing concerns.

One such concern is Kaua'i's housing crisis. Approximately 9,000 homes are needed by the year 2035 (see Appendix C). The ability of our keiki to pursue a livelihood at home will depend on our ability to adequately address and correct the decline of available and affordable housing. To further complicate matters, any home that is built on Kaua'i can be bought and sold on the global market. These competitive forces often outpace the needs of local residents who continue to become increasingly disenfranchised over time.

## **The Urgency of Planning for Kaua'i's Future**

A trend reversal in the type of growth our island sees will largely depend on the outcome and implementation of plans like this one. The General Plan is a call to arms, making the tough decisions to steer us on the right path. But collective agreement to make hard choices relies on accurately representing the community tenor and ensuring solutions have buy-in. Therefore, the public process placed great effort on "listening" rather than "telling."

Democracy relies on diverse views and respectful discourse, and the General Plan follows in that tradition. At the beginning of the process, many

were apprehensive about future change. However, the dissemination of baseline data about current conditions and trends, derived from a series of technical studies, built a common pool of understanding so discourse could occur.

Thousands of residents touched the process in one way or another, through small group meetings, open house events, pop-ups, surveys, visioning workshops, classroom lectures, contests, and internet outreach (see Appendix B). The County Administration convened a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) that helped test presumptions and policies. Keiki, college students, large landowners, and agencies were all engaged. In short, the mana'o of everyone with a stake in Kaua'i's future was sought and welcomed.

Upon this foundation, the General Plan sets in place a vision, policies, objectives and actions to guide County decision-making and partnership efforts over the long term. It describes how we will manage projected growth while preserving our most important resources, places, and qualities.

## **A Vision Grounded in Reality**

Communities concurred that the 2000 General Plan's vision was still relevant. But they also noted where accomplishments fell short of the vision, things that need "fixing," and the failure to work on weaknesses. Faced with this dilemma, updating the General Plan was layered with questions of what is appropriate to change, to emphasize, and to prioritize.

It was agreed upon that the General Plan should create clear policy, measures of progress, and a system for evaluation and accountability. As a result, the General Plan identifies 19 key policies to guide growth and includes a discussion of each policy's rationale and intended outcomes. An actions chapter, tied to the policies, is added along with an expanded implementation chapter. With these changes, the General Plan will continue to serve as the County's premier document in managing growth and providing guideposts for the future.

## **Kaua'i Kākou: Moving Forward Together**

Kaua'i's strengths lie in both the individual and collective sense of independence and kuleana that its people share. We must rely on one another, address challenges directly, become more self-sufficient, and protect the physical environment and culture that make Kaua'i special.



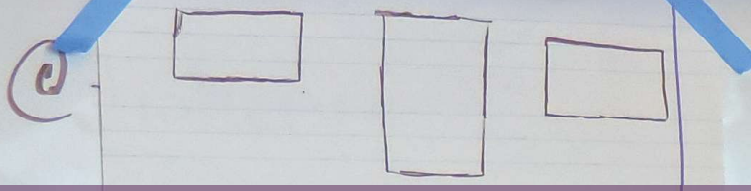


Cliffs along Kaua'i's coastline

**The spirit of aloha imbues our rural lifestyle and spiritual connection to the land and ocean.**



81010



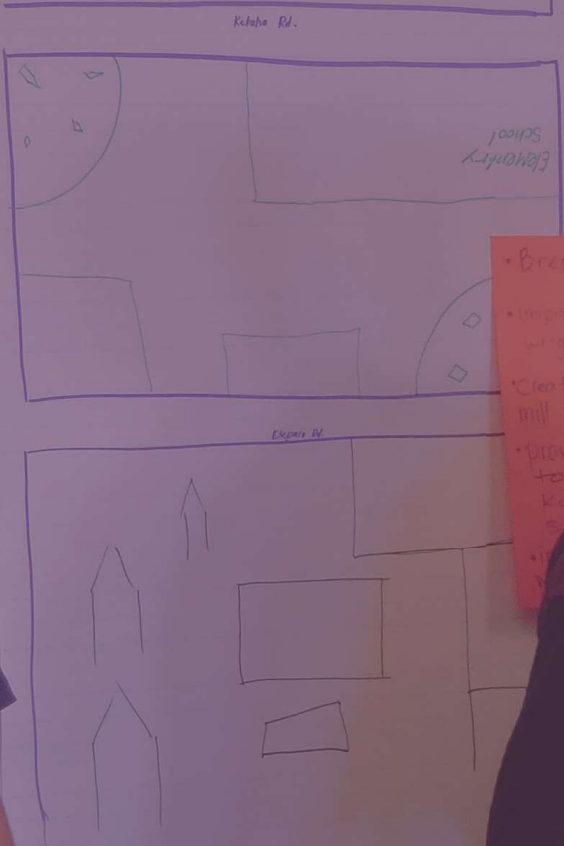
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- Break down / re
- improve fac
- Create civic
- Provide

**KAUAI**  
KAUAI COUNTY GENERAL PLAN  
**KAKOU**

**Country**  
**Menehune**  
2015

**They Should Rebuild the trail from Ekahi to**

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# 1.0 VISION, GOALS, & POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE

**The General Plan Vision & Goals for Kauaʻi are a series of statements that express the community’s values and desired outcomes in the year 2035. Policies and actions flow from the Vision & Goals.**

## 1.1 GENERAL PLAN CONTEXT

### 1.1.1 GENERAL PLAN PURPOSE

The General Plan establishes priorities for managing growth and community development over a 20-year planning timeframe. In addition to being required by State Law, the County Charter instructs that the General Plan guide future action concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal programs, and expenditures for capital improvements. The first General Plan was adopted in 1971. Updates, meant to take place every ten years, last occurred in 1982 and 2000. The update of the General Plan also presents the opportunity to look at the County as a whole and make consensus-based decisions about issues and opportunities pertaining to growth.

As a direction-setting document, the General Plan is not regulatory in the sense of a zoning code or other

land use entitlement. The policies guide County decision-making by mapping land use patterns, describing what type of development is desirable, and by setting high-level priorities for infrastructure and programs. This will impact development code revisions, district and zone amendments, discretionary project approvals, and capital projects planning.

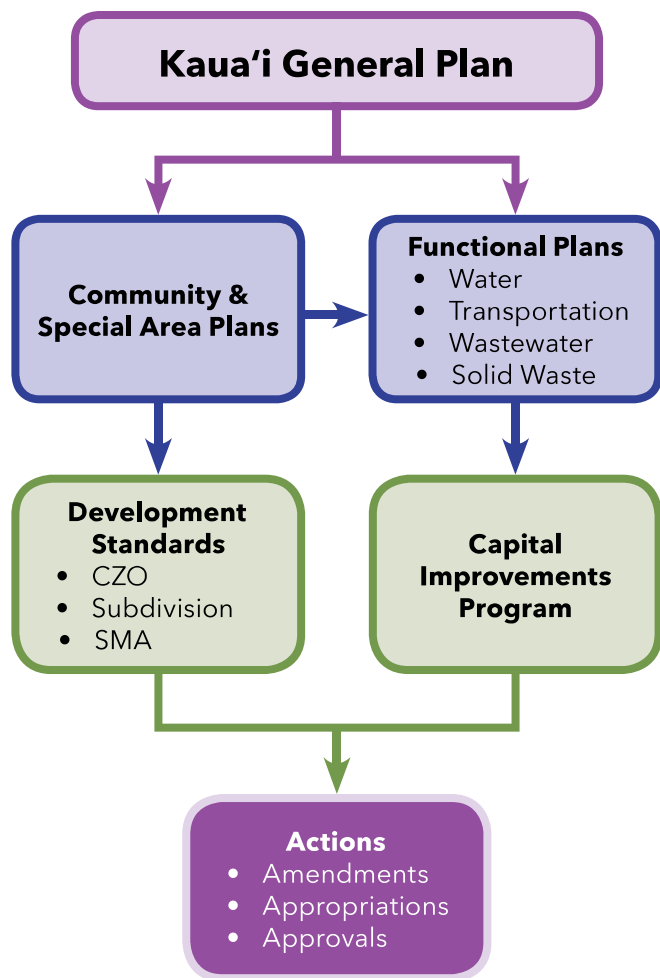
The General Plan covers six planning districts on the Island of Kauaʻi: North Shore, East Kauaʻi, Līhuʻe, South Kauaʻi, Hanapēpē-ʻEleʻele, and Waimea-Kekaha. The Island of Niʻihau is also part of Kauaʻi County, but is not covered by the General Plan due to its predominantly private ownership and management.

### 1.1.2 COUNTY PLANNING SYSTEM

The General Plan plays a key role in the County’s planning system, which is composed of a hierarchical set of activities and plans, as shown in Figure 1-1. Together, the General Plan, the community plans, and



**Figure 1-1 County Planning System**



the functional plans set long-term policy directing development of the land use ordinances and the Capital Improvements Program.

**The General Plan** sets forth the policy direction for the County through written policies. Spatial policies are depicted on the Future Land Use Map (Section 5.2) and other maps. Policy is elaborated through the more detailed community plans, zoning, and land use regulations.

**Community & Special Area Plans** establish more detailed policy and maps that are specific to a certain community or geographic area and establish the basis for zoning controls that are unique to the area.

**Functional Plans** analyze alternatives and establish policy regarding the future development of specific systems and facilities. Both community plans and public facility plans are strategic in character. They define and set forth strategies and courses of action, often involving resource commitments and physical improvements.

**The Capital Improvements Program (CIP)** includes County expenditures and action priorities for a rolling six-year period. It also establishes a financial plan and a general schedule for project implementation.

**Regulatory Ordinances and Administrative Rules** including the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO), the Special Management Area (SMA) Rules, and the Subdivision Ordinance, set standards for land uses, as well as procedures and criteria for deciding discretionary permits. The CZO and other land use regulations elaborate on General Plan and community plan policies. The regulations translate policies (both maps and text) into specific terms, such as permissible uses, building heights, and other requirements.

**Zoning Amendments** apply to a particular land parcel or group of parcels. The General Plan Land Use Map in Chapter 5 shows only general land uses for an area. Zone changes translate these to the parcel level on the County Zoning Maps in Chapter 5. At the time of zoning, decisions need to be made concerning a wide range of issues, including but not limited to the following: the potential effects on the use and character of surrounding lands; the specific location of commercial and residential areas; the densities of development; the road system; and the adequacy of infrastructure and community facilities.

**Site development and construction regulations** such as the building code, grading ordinance, and the drainage standards play a significant role in guiding land development and maintaining environmental quality.

### 1.1.3 GENERAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

The theme of the General Plan, *Kaua'i Kākou*, acknowledges that Kaua'i's strength lies in its strong, diverse community and the ability to work together to provide a better future. The plan's framework represents Kaua'i's approach to managing future growth and unifies the vision, goals, policies, objectives, actions, and maps. The General Plan Framework is illustrated in Figure 1-2. The five elements of the framework are described below:

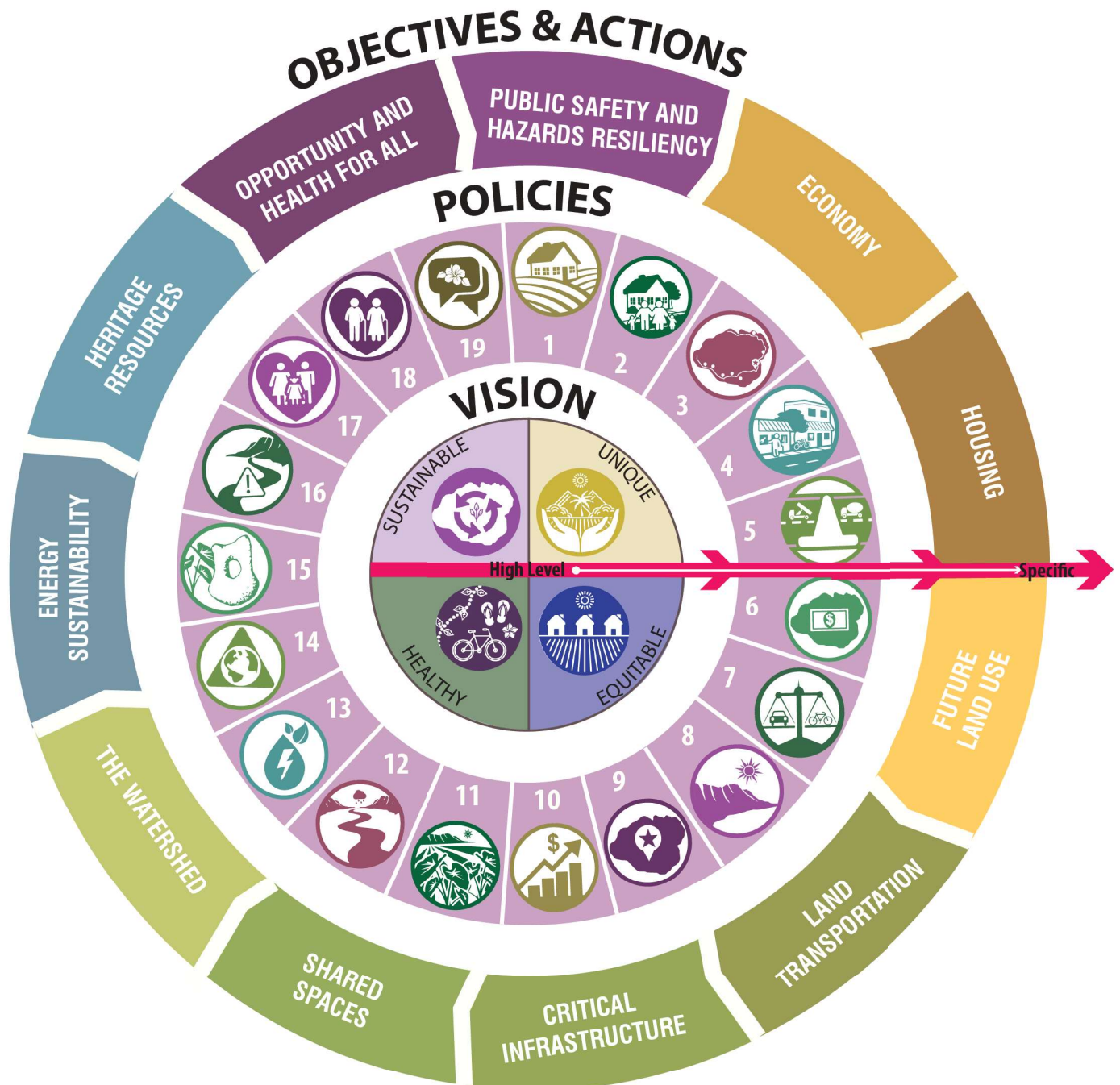
- **Vision and Goals** – The vision and goals are aspirational in nature. They describe Kaua'i's ideal and desired state by the year 2035. The vision for Kaua'i is organized by four overarching goals identified through the community process.



- Policies - The nineteen policies update and streamline the policies in the General Plan 2000, while also accounting for new issues and community concerns. In concert, the policies articulate the County's direction and priorities in accommodating and managing future growth.
- Objectives and Actions by Sector - The ten sectors represent the areas that must be considered in policy implementation. Within

each sector are several subsections which elaborate on more specific topics. Each subsection has an objective that details the policy direction specific to the topic. Actions are forward-looking and are organized by the implementation tool available to the County. Actions represent what is needed to move policy forward. They include code changes, updated or new plans, partnership needs, and projects. This organization allows users to find

**Figure 1-2 General Plan Framework**



topics easily and also communicates how the General Plan should be used. Responsible parties and policy conformance for each action is shown in the action matrix (Appendix G).

- Policy Maps – Six maps illustrate the policy of the General Plan. The Future Land Use Map is the spatial representation of how Kaua’i should accommodate and manage future growth. The other maps support the Future Land Use Map and include Heritage Resources, Hazards, Infrastructure, Public Facilities, and Transportation.
- Implementation Program – By nature, the General Plan is a high-level guidance document and implementation will require moving forward on several levels of the planning system and across many existing programs. The General Plan’s Implementation Program is designed for accountability and transparency, and includes evaluation, monitoring, and reporting elements. Performance measures provide a means of assessing progress in relation to the General Plan vision, goals, and policies. Chapter 4 covers performance measures and monitoring in further detail. Together, the implementation elements create a feedback loop, thus allowing the General Plan to be a living document that can be amended in a timely manner if need be.

## 1.2 PUBLIC PROCESS

### 1.2.1 BACKGROUND DATA AND KEY GROWTH TRENDS

To plan for the future, an assessment of existing conditions and trends must first occur. Phase I of the General Plan Update included the development and integration of six technical reports to serve as the Plan’s data foundation and to inform policy development:

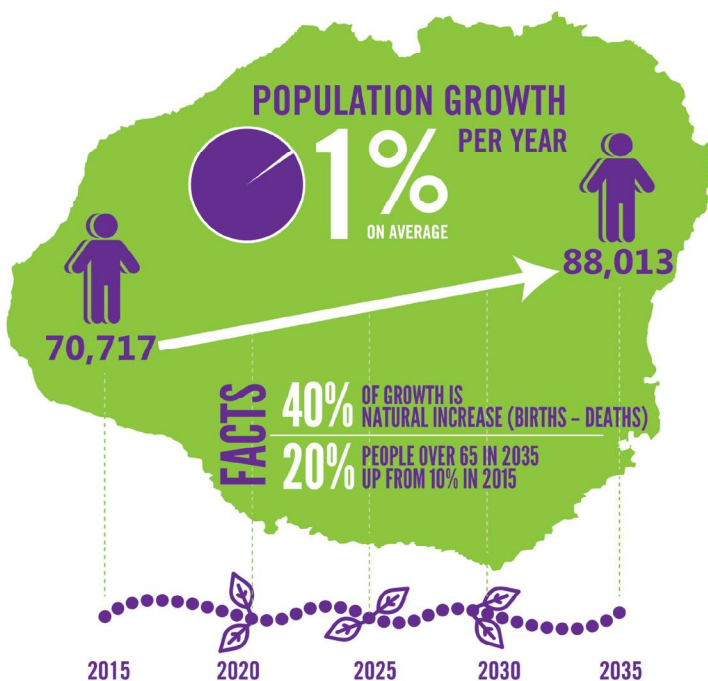
1. Socio-Economic Analysis and Forecast (2014)
2. Land Use Buildout Analysis (2015)
3. Infrastructure Analysis (2015)
4. Climate Change and Coastal Hazards Assessment (2014)
5. Important Agricultural Lands Study (2015)
6. Community Health Improvement Plan (2014)

A summary of the technical reports is provided in Appendix C. Key growth trends related to defacto population, housing, and jobs are described below.

Since 2000, the County grew by over 12,000 residents – from 58,463 residents to 71,000 in 2015. To the year 2035, Kaua’i will continue expanding its resident and visitor population base, thus increasing the demand for new housing and jobs. Total population for the County is projected to increase to 88,013 by 2035 (Table 1-1). This represents an increase of 22 percent between 2015 and 2035, or approximately one percent a year (Figure 1-3). Although growth is spurred by both natural increase and in-migration, the forecasted growth rate is lower and more stable compared to previous decades. Changing demographics suggest an aging population with limited ability to maintain the levels of natural growth experienced in the last two decades.

The housing unit forecast is a function of the total population and assumes that housing production will respond to demand. To accurately determine demand, household size was forecasted on the planning district level. As with population, the Līhu’e Planning District is likely to see a larger increase in total housing units than the other districts (see Figure 1-4). Assuming stable household size, the 2035 total housing unit forecast is 39,676 (see Table 1-2). This represents annual growth of approximately 1.2 percent per year.

**Figure 1-3 Key Growth Trends (2015-2035)**



### Figure 1-4 Growth Allocations by Planning District

(based on housing unit demand from 2010-2035)



Since 1990, a substantial number of jobs have been generated within the visitor industry (arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services). Growth in the visitor industry and other sectors will increase total jobs to 34,000 by 2030 (see Table 1-3). Average annual job growth is expected to equal 0.79 percent until 2020. Between 2020 and 2030, job growth is expected to occur at an average annual rate of 0.66 percent. The rate is expected to dip again to 0.53 percent during the period between 2030 and 2035, resulting in 34,900 jobs by 2035.

The visitor arrivals forecast shows an overall growth of about one percent per annum between 2010 and 2035 (see Table 1-4). It decreases very slightly across that period. If history can be trusted, we can expect some form of disrupting event in the visitor industry every five to ten years. That means the real path that visitor arrival counts will take on Kaua'i is likely to have its significant ups and downs just as it did in the last 25 years.

**Table 1-1 Kaua'i County Population, Island-Wide and By District (1990-2035)**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>
County of Kaua'i	51,676	58,463	67,091	74,693	83,328	88,013
Līhu'e	11,169	12,507	14,683	18,017	21,595	23,456
South Kaua'i	9,600	10,545	11,696	13,623	15,737	16,855
Hanapēpē-'Ele'ele	3,873	4,362	6,157	6,463	6,860	7,094
Waimea-Kekaha	4,698	5,660	5,561	5,901	6,323	6,566
North Shore	5,913	6,605	8,002	8,286	8,686	8,933
East Kaua'i	16,192	18,784	20,992	22,403	24,128	25,110

**Table 1-2 Housing Unit Demand, Forecast to 2035**

	<b>Year</b>					
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>
County of Kaua'i, Total Units	17,613	25,331	29,793	33,553	37,519	39,676
County of Kaua'i, Available Units	16,985	21,398	24,915	28,085	31,379	33,169
County of Kaua'i, Occupied Units	16,253	20,370	23,240	25,902	28,788	30,349
Average annual growth rate		4.4%	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%

**Table 1-3 Job Growth, Forecast to 2035**

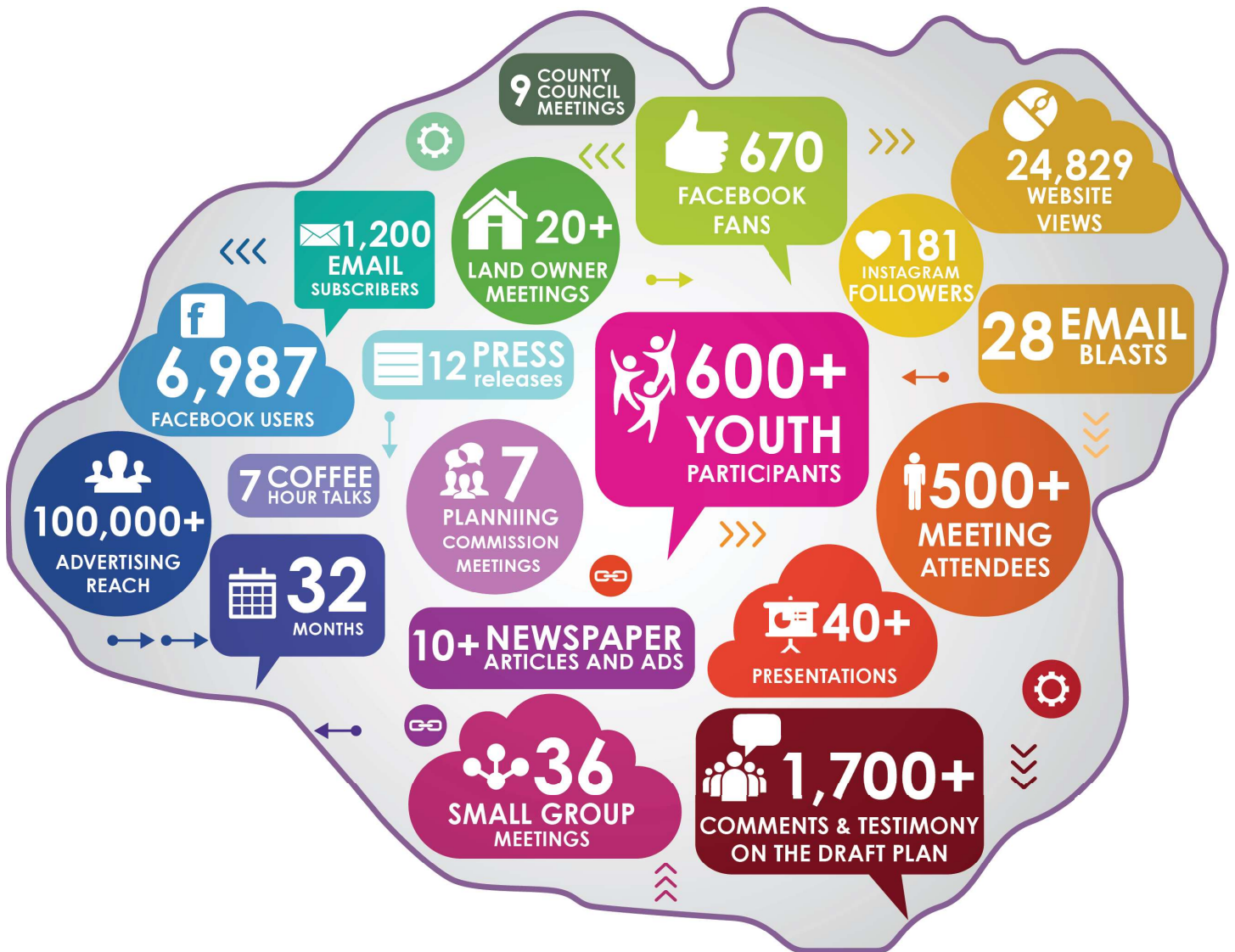
	<b>Year</b>					
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>
County of Kaua'i	25,250	26,550	28,150	31,900	34,000	34,900
Average annual growth rate		0.51%	0.60%	1.33%	0.66%	0.53%



**Table 1-4 Visitor Arrivals, Forecast to 2035**

	Year					
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
County of Kaua'i (x1000)	1,229	1,075	955	1,302	1,418	1,480
Change This Decade		-13%	-11.2 %	26.7 %	8.1%	4.2%
Average Annual Rate of Change		-1.3%	-1.2%	2.7%	.8%	.4%

**Figure 1-5 Reach of the General Plan Public Process**



## 1.2.2 A PLAN DRIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY'S VISION

The General Plan is based on the community's vision for Kaua'i's future. Phase II of the update process utilized a broad and inclusive public engagement program to develop the Plan. Thousands participated through a variety of platforms including open houses, workshops, social media, digital engagement, community and small group meetings, pop-up events, and a survey with more than 1,000 respondents. Input from the public, agencies, and the Citizen Advisory Committee informed the vision, goals, policies, objectives, and actions.

A project website ([www.plankauai.com](http://www.plankauai.com)) served as a clearinghouse for information and updates. The website included records of community input, technical studies, white papers, meeting summaries, and other relevant documents. Figure 1-5 illustrates the reach of the public process as of February 2018. The public process is fully described in Appendix B.

## 1.2.3 BALANCING POLICY AND PLANNING FOR ACTION

The public process garnered positive feedback concerning the 2000 General Plan's well-crafted vision and values. However, many did point out weaknesses in the previous General Plan's ability to identify effective mechanisms for managing growth and to provide the public and decision makers clear implementation guideposts. Further, the tenor and character of public comments tended to congregate around what was wrong with their community, what needed to be fixed, or where government failed them during this process.

The issues raised by the public during this process did not differ significantly from those facing the community before the turn of the millennium. However, the sense of urgency and concern is noticeably different – reflecting a heightened sense of frustration at how many issues have become exacerbated over time. In response, the plan clarifies policy and direction built upon the still-valid foundational community values in the 2000 General Plan:

- Protection, management, and enjoyment of our open spaces, unique natural beauty, rural lifestyle, outdoor recreation and parks.
- Conservation of fishing grounds and other natural resources, so that individuals and

families can support themselves through traditional gathering and agricultural activities.

- Access to and along shorelines, waterways, and mountains for all. However, access should be controlled where necessary to conserve natural resources and to maintain the quality of public sites for fishing, hunting, recreation, and wilderness activities valued by the local community.
- Recognition that our environment is our economy, our natural capital, and the basis of our economic survival and success.
- Balanced management of our built environment, clustering new development around existing communities and maintaining the four-story height limit.
- Diverse job and business opportunities so that people of all skill levels and capabilities can support themselves and their families.
- Government that supports and encourages business.
- Balanced economic growth development that promotes providing good jobs and a strong economy, without sacrificing our environment and or our quality of life.
- Respect and protection for the values and rights of our many cultures, in compliance with our laws and responsibilities as citizens.
- Preservation of our cultural, historical, sacred, and archaeological sites.
- Appreciation and support for the traditions of the Native Hawaiian host culture and the many other cultural traditions and values that make up the Kaua'i community.
- Appreciation and support for the visitor industry's role in preserving and honoring all cultures and their values as Kaua'i's leading source of income and as a supporter of community festivals, recreation, arts, and culture.
- Protection of Kaua'i's unique character.
- Recognition of the uniqueness of our communities, supporting people with roots and history in those communities to continue to live and raise their families there.
- Safety for all citizens and visitors.



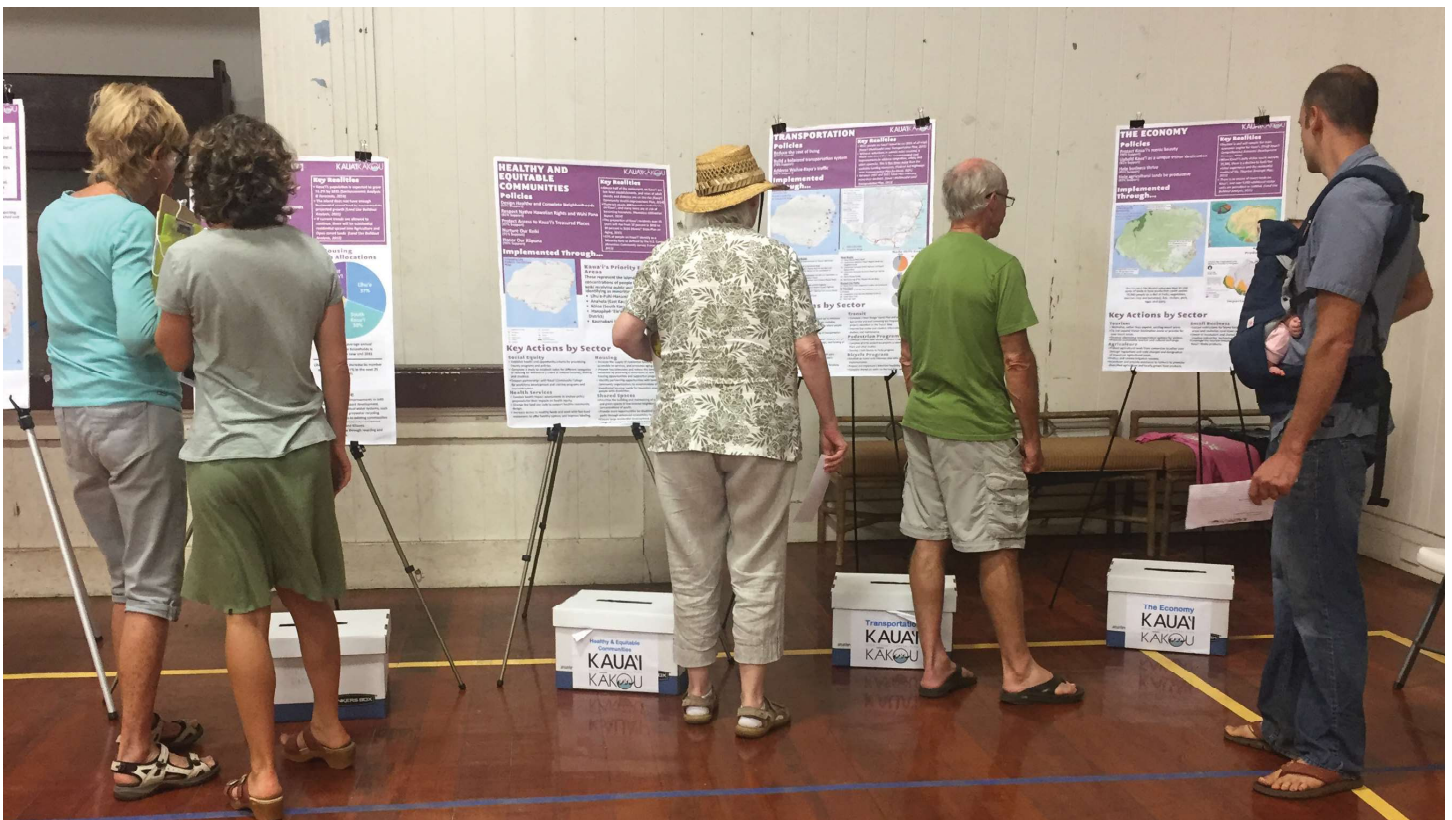
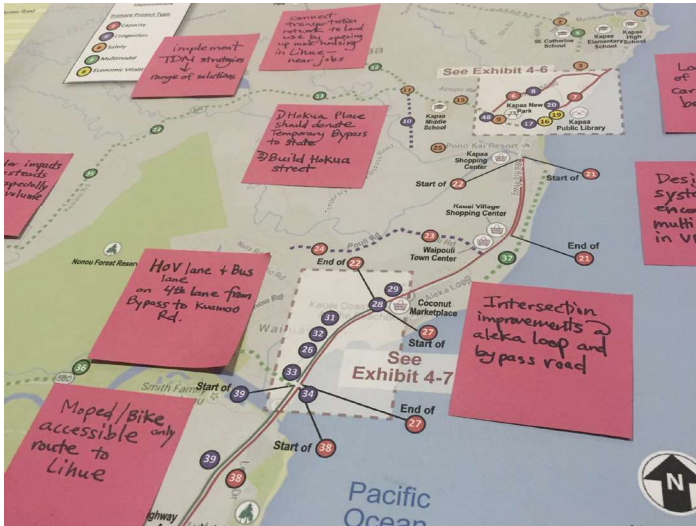
- Support for our youth, educating them to succeed.
- Broad participation in the public process.

The General Plan keeps paramount Kaua'i's values that focus on what we have in common rather than what separates us, threads the values through overarching policies, then implements policy through clear actions.

Concerns were raised that a focus on problems created in the past would leave aside detailed and

deep discussion on the policies needed to move us forward. Another concern was that an emphasis on actions may draw away attention from a firm policy foundation to guide decision-making.

In response, the "Policies to Guide Growth" section discusses the rationale behind the policies and provides insight toward how each item is meant to move us forward. Further, the actions by sector contain objectives that are clearly tied for consistency to the policies.



Kaua'i Kākou public participation events

# 1.3 VISION AND GOALS

The vision sets the desired long range outcome through a series of statements organized by the following over-arching goals:



## A Sustainable Island

*Growing responsibly to meet the needs of current and future generations without depleting resources.*

- Kaua'i is a sustainable island, rooted in principles of aloha and mālama 'āina, and remarkable in its thriving ecosystems.
- Kaua'i is a place where conservation and restoration of land and water resources provide the foundation of sustainable policies for land use, energy, infrastructure, society, and economy.



## A Healthy and Resilient People

*Increasing health, vitality, and resilience of communities through improving the natural, built, and social environment and responding to impacts from climate change.*

- Kaua'i is a place with healthy people and vibrant community life, safe facilities for walking and biking, places to gather and socialize, and venues for arts and culture.
- Kaua'i is a resilient community that shares kuleana in planning for the future, proactively responding to and preparing for changes, and providing for the needs of people from keiki to kūpuna.
- Kaua'i is a place that supports agriculture and a diversity of farming practices and produces food and other products that contribute to Kaua'i's self-sufficiency.



## A Unique and Beautiful Place

*Stewardship and protection of the natural, cultural, social, and built environment assets that are of value to the community.*

- Kaua'i is a place of distinctive natural beauty that honors its Native Hawaiian heritage, values historic places, and is shaped by diverse languages and cultural traditions.
- Kaua'i is an island of unique communities that are united in a common vision and in care for their neighbors and 'ohana
- Kaua'i is a place where rural character and natural landscapes are preserved through compact, walkable communities separated by scenic and functional open spaces.
- Kaua'i is a place that welcomes visitors, providing adequate facilities and a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities while maintaining the principles of aloha and mālama 'āina.



## An Equitable Place, with Opportunity for All

*Fostering diverse and equitable communities with vibrant economies, access to jobs and housing, and a high quality of life.*

- Kaua'i is an island of economic opportunity where businesses, cottage industries, and entrepreneurs thrive, and where youth have broad access to education, enrichment, and economic opportunity.
- Kaua'i is a place where housing for all ages and income levels is integrated into the fabric of each community, and where people can live close to work and services.



## GOAL #1: A SUSTAINABLE ISLAND

Sustainability means growing responsibly to meet the needs of current and future generations without depleting important resources.



Kaua'i residents widely agree that sustainability should drive planning for the future. This recognizes that Kaua'i's natural environment provides the foundation for a sustainable and equitable society, which in turn creates and supports a sustainable economy. The 2000 General Plan broke ground toward recognizing sustainability goals for the County, but this General Plan is the first to adopt it as an overarching goal.

Sustainable development does not endanger the natural systems that support life: air, water, soil, and living organisms. It means meeting the basic needs of society and extending to all people the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life. It means integrating economic and environmental considerations in policy and decision-making.<sup>1</sup> A key concept related to sustainability is managing growth without depleting the natural environment.

Many feel the island is near or at carrying capacity with regard to resources, such as parks, roads, and public infrastructure. There is also concern that Kaua'i's natural resources and ecosystems are being irreversibly stressed or depleted. Addressing these issues sustainably means frankly assessing the existing conditions and identifying the tools and resources available to provide for their sustainable use and protection into the future.

There is a common desire to manage or limit growth, visitor traffic, and development on Kaua'i. There is agreement that growth should be concentrated around existing centers to promote efficiencies in

infrastructure while preserving open space and contributing to health. Adequate infrastructure should be provided to support current and anticipated needs.

A sustainable society is one with a strong and diverse community fabric, where people of all ages, origins, economic statuses, and abilities co-exist and thrive. They share a desire to strengthen communities to withstand economic and environmental pressures and provide for needs from keiki to kūpuna. A sustainable economy requires increased self-reliance for food, energy, and other resources. This means each individual taking the responsibility, or kuleana, to reduce their ecological footprint in their own lifestyle and land use.

Sustainability also means recognizing the County's role in the larger world. For example, sustainability is threatened by global climate change, and Kaua'i must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and adapt in ways that are sensitive to the environment. Local sustainability efforts are strengthened by statewide initiatives and partnerships. In 2008, the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan was finalized. In 2014, the County became a signatory of the Aloha+ Challenge, a statewide commitment to achieve integrated sustainability goals by 2030. The program's priorities include clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, smart sustainable communities, and green workforce and education. The General Plan's sectors and performance measures align with and support these priority areas.

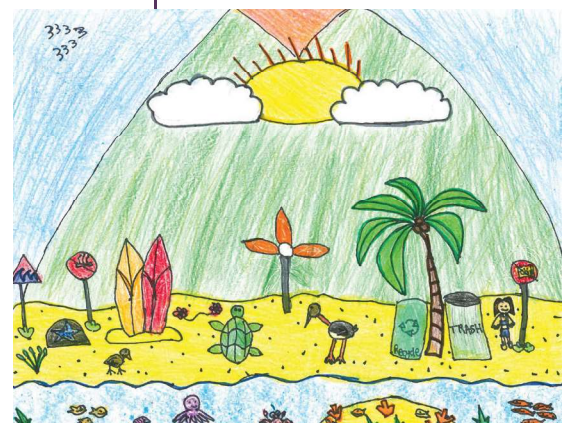
*The United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

*- United Nations, 1987*

### Community Voices

*"In the words of Edward R. Murrow, American journalist, 1908-1965: 'The obscure we see eventually. The completely obvious, it seems, takes a little longer.'"*

*"Well, we have waited too long already, so let's design and build a 'Self-sufficient and Sustainable Kaua'i for the people of Kaua'i.' And yes, we not only can be a model for the rest of the state, country, and world, we SHOULD BE, we owe it to our children and future generations!"*



Kaua'i Kakou art contest entry by Aaliyah Cadiente-Nu-mazawa of Wilcox Elementary School.

<sup>1</sup> *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987*

## GOAL #2: A UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Kaua'i's people share responsibility, or kuleana, to care for and protect treasured resources, traditions, and qualities of the natural, built, and human environment.



Kaua'i's natural ecosystems, coupled with its multi-ethnic culture, are what make Kaua'i truly unique. These qualities and features are irreplaceable and exist nowhere else in the world, and therefore deserve protection in perpetuity. Specific examples include endemic and endangered species, historic structures, archaeological sites, cultural traditions, beliefs, practices, stories, and legendary places (wahi pana).

There is a legendary belief that applying traditional Hawaiian concepts of resource management, such as the ahupua'a system, can help to develop and support a culture of stewardship on Kaua'i. In addition, there is a recognition of the need to protect the public trust resources provided special protection in Article 11.1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, which states:

"For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."

Many of these resources are under private or shared management between different levels of government. The General Plan identifies those resources and qualities in need of stewardship, identifies issues and challenges, and sets forth policies that strengthen, uphold, or support their protection. The Heritage Resources Sector identifies special resources in need of protection.

### Community Voices

*"The land is chief. We are but stewards of the land. If we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. All in the community must take into consideration how important it is to take only what one needs; to share, if there is abundance; to combine resources whenever possible; to contribute one's talents and capabilities in the spirit of shared kuleana (responsibility)."*



Waimea Canyon, Waimea-Kekaha District



## GOAL #3: A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT PEOPLE

We seek to increase the resilience and vitality of Kaua'i's communities and promote better health outcomes through improving the natural, built, and social environment.



*Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*

*Source: World Health Organization, 1946*

Health is influenced by the built environment, including the quality and affordability of housing; ability to walk or bicycle to key destinations; access to education, health care, and public services; availability of healthy foods; and access to the recreational areas that support active lifestyles.

Healthy communities are also multi-generational, supporting the needs of all from keiki to kūpuna. Community health is strengthened by locally grown food, compact walkable communities, preservation of natural areas, and access to jobs that support a high quality of life.

*Resilience refers to the ability of a system to absorb disturbance and still maintain its basic function and structure.*

*Source: Walker and Salt (2006)*

Resilient communities understand their strengths and vulnerabilities, and have resources and networks that enable self-sufficiency in responding to changes. Having weathered multiple disasters, Kaua'i's residents have a heightened awareness of the need to prepare for and recover quickly from disruptive events. This awareness is an asset that can be employed in planning for other hardships due to climate change or economic fluctuations.

Self-sufficiency is another aspect of resiliency. This includes increasing local food production and crops for fuel and fiber. It means transitioning

to renewable energy sources rather than relying on imported fossil fuels. It means hardening key infrastructure and siting it and other development away from vulnerable areas over time.

Resiliency also requires strong community fabric. Factors that erode community fabric include: the high cost of living; loss of opportunities for youth; residents priced out of the housing market; lack of common gathering areas; and sprawling development which weakens our town centers. The General Plan addresses these concerns through policies and actions for revitalizing towns and encouraging affordable housing.

Finally, resilience needs a strong and diverse economy. Workers must have access to living-wage employment and opportunities for advancement. Kaua'i's heavy reliance on the visitor industry – from the number of jobs supported by visitor spending to the percentage of real property revenue generated from resort uses – is considered a threat to resilience. The General Plan's policies and actions support renewal, rather than expansion, in the visitor industry, strengthening of the agricultural sector, and economic diversification.

### Community Voices

*"The plantation camps should be used as a community model where safety, health, and welfare can be provided in a planned community:*

- *Community rules are formed and adhered to.*
- *Dispensaries and child caring centers can be established.*
- *Yurts or tiny homes on decks can be used and when more room is needed, smaller units.*
- *Porta potties are used and water must be brought in by residents or catchment systems used.*
- *On demand water heaters are used if there is water provided by county. Solar if not."*

*"Emphasize the relevance between the importance of being self-reliant and self-sustaining, along with the ways in which the essence of aloha becomes possible - to take care of ourselves, each other and our environment for generations to come!"*



Kaua'i Kakou art contest winner Zixin He of Kapa'a Elementary School.

## GOAL #4: AN EQUITABLE PLACE, WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

We aim to foster diverse and equitable communities with vibrant economies, access to jobs and housing, and a high quality of life.



Opportunity is about equal access to a high quality of life, which includes adequate housing, employment, and pathways to upward mobility. Perhaps the greatest challenge to opportunity is Kaua'i's high cost of living, often called the "Price of Paradise." There is great concern that the cost of living has pushed local families away from Kaua'i, and keeps many families in or near poverty.

The majority of new and available housing is not affordable to the average working household. This has also led to a sense that development contributes to inequality by serving off-island interests. When transportation and electricity costs are factored in, the average Kaua'i household spends more than 60 percent of its income on housing and transportation.

Some residents manage the high cost of living through supplemental backyard food production, hunting, fishing, and multiple jobs. Others turn living rooms or garages into bedrooms for long-term guests and extended family. Still, the number of houseless individuals and families on the island is increasing, and many more are at risk of becoming houseless. Those unable to manage the costs become the working poor, continually in "survival mode" – or they abandon Kaua'i and seek opportunity elsewhere.

Reversing this trend means ensuring that Kaua'i residents, regardless of factors such as geographic location, age, race, gender, and economic status, have access to housing that is adequate, employment that can sustain their needs, essential services, transportation options,

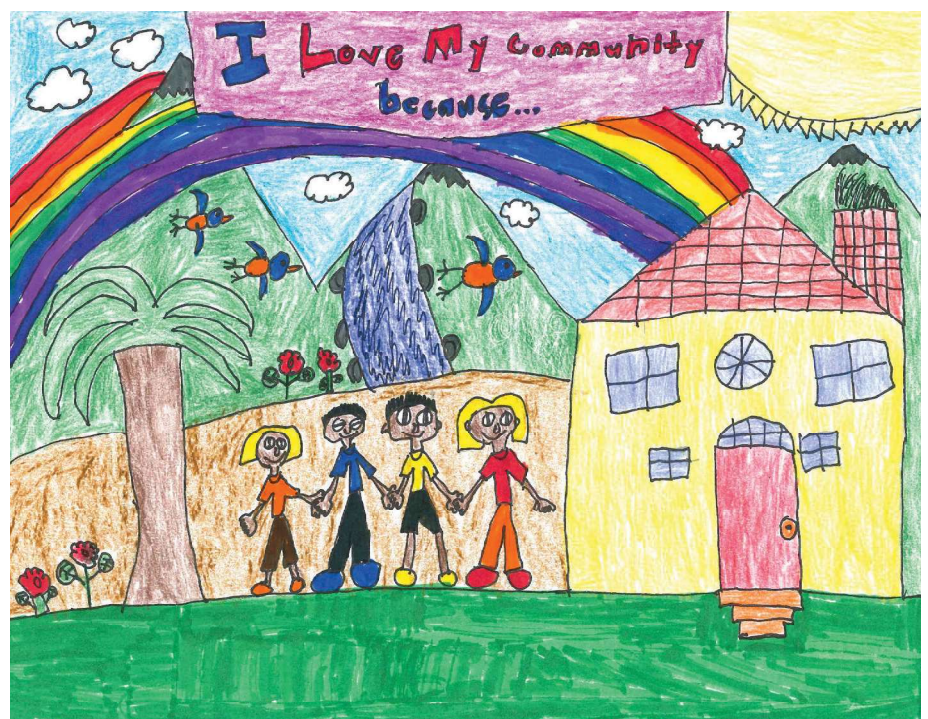
and opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of shared spaces. It means making sure that planning and land development decisions do not unfairly burden disadvantaged groups. It means encouraging and celebrating diverse, mixed income neighborhoods. It means providing for workforce housing in new growth areas and areas to be redeveloped. It means providing access to services and opportunities in rural communities so that the people there can maintain their desired lifestyle while meeting their needs.

This General Plan includes policies that will help Kaua'i provide opportunity for its people from keiki to kūpuna. This will require creative thinking, collaboration, and collective action in the spirit of Kaua'i Kākou.

### Community Voices

*"I believe that most of the long-term Kaua'i residents are more concerned with the issues of opportunity and challenges faced by their children, resolving infrastructure issues, housing opportunities for the less affluent local community, cost of living, etc. In other words, survival.*

*If the only house you can afford is a black and grey apartment in Princeville, yet your job is in Līhu'e – you're stuck wasting four hours per day in traffic. It's our development patterns that guide our addiction to cars, not the other way around."*



Kaua'i Kākou art contest entry by Aljhay Flores of King Kaumuali'i Elementary School.



# 1.4 POLICIES TO GUIDE GROWTH

Nineteen policies address the issues most important to Kaua'i residents in the face of existing issues and future growth. The policies guide objectives and actions and inform the Future Land Use Map.

 <p><b>1</b> Manage Growth to Preserve Rural Character</p>	 <p><b>2</b> Provide Local Housing</p>	 <p><b>3</b> Recognize the Identity of Kaua'i's Individual Towns and Districts</p>	 <p><b>4</b> Design Healthy and Complete Neighborhoods</p>	
 <p><b>5</b> Make Strategic Infrastructure Investments</p>	 <p><b>6</b> Reduce the Cost of Living</p>	 <p><b>7</b> Build a Balanced Multimodal Transportation System</p>	 <p><b>8</b> Protect Kaua'i's Scenic Beauty</p>	
 <p><b>9</b> Uphold Kaua'i as a Unique Visitor Destination</p>	 <p><b>10</b> Help Business Thrive</p>	 <p><b>11</b> Help Agricultural Lands Be Productive</p>	 <p><b>12</b> Protect Our Watersheds</p>	
 <p><b>13</b> Complete Kaua'i's Shift to Clean Energy</p>	 <p><b>14</b> Prepare for Climate Change</p>	 <p><b>15</b> Respect Native Hawaiian Rights and Wahi Pana</p>	 <p><b>16</b> Protect Access to Kaua'i's Treasured Places</p>	
 <p><b>17</b> Nurture Our Keiki</p>		 <p><b>18</b> Honor Our Kūpuna</p>		 <p><b>19</b> Communicate with Aloha</p>

# GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

**Nineteen policies articulate the County's path forward toward meeting the community's vision and goals of sustainability, unique character, resilience, and equity. The policies address the critical issues and opportunities identified through the community process. They are not listed in order of priority, as all are important. These policies were the subject of a community-wide survey that was completed by more than 1,000 respondents across Kaua'i, and indicated widespread agreement with the policy direction. Results of the survey are summarized in Appendix B.**

*Each policy statement is numbered and accompanied by a heading and icon. The icons are used in Chapter 3 to illustrate policy consistency.*



## **POLICY #1:** MANAGE GROWTH TO PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER

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*Preserve Kaua'i's rural character by limiting the supply of developable land to an amount adequate for future needs. Prohibit development not adjacent to towns. Ensure new development occurs inside growth boundaries and is compact and walkable.*

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Rural character is what makes Kaua'i a unique and beautiful place valued by residents and visitors alike. However, this character is threatened by low-density development occurring on agricultural lands that are non-adjacent to existing towns. This development pattern also increases traffic—another threat to Kaua'i's rural character. Because our population will grow, we need to manage growth in a way that is sustainable and preserves our character. By concentrating growth within or adjacent to existing towns, we designate where urban uses belong in order to better preserve agricultural lands and open space. Infill and compact growth in existing towns will minimize infrastructure costs and help maintain separation between towns. When combined with transportation improvements, compact growth can reduce traffic congestion by reducing the need for long trips in single occupancy vehicles, increasing walking and biking within towns, and improving access to transit.

*This policy is implemented spatially through the Land Use Map in Chapter 5 (Urban Edge Boundaries and amount of new urban district allocated to districts) and through actions for Housing, Land Use, and the Economy.*



## **POLICY #2:** PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING WHILE FACILITATING A DIVERSITY OF PRIVATELY-DEVELOPED HOUSING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

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*Recognizing the extraordinary urgency, the County needs to plan for and help facilitate the building of approximately 9,000 housing units by 2035. Factors to consider include establishing: (1) a fair and effective housing ordinance; (2) adequate capital; (3) effective partnerships; (4) clear policy guidelines ensuring cost-effective and energy-efficient homes by design and location; (5) a strategy for providing adequate infrastructure for affordable housing; (6) a “housing first” approach to ending homelessness; and (7) a timetable for action, including a short-term strategy for developing 2000 affordable housing units in the first five years.*

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The average price of a single family house on Kaua’i exceeds \$700,000.<sup>2</sup> A large majority of our population, especially low- and moderate-income working families, seniors, and the houseless population, cannot afford such costs. Our current housing deficit is approximately 1,400 units,<sup>3</sup> and demand is projected to increase by approximately 9,000 units by 2035.<sup>4</sup> Over 80 percent of the housing demand on Kaua’i comes from families making 120 percent of median income or less, with the largest need coming from families with income equal to or less than 50 percent of median income.<sup>5</sup> The median income for a 4-person household is presently \$79,200.<sup>6</sup>

Currently the average cost to build a basic house or dwelling unit is \$450,000.<sup>7</sup> Whether by private or public developer, the construction of a housing unit must therefore be subsidized by approximately \$200,000. At that level of subsidy, it will take \$1.62 billion of private and public capital over the next 20 years to build 8,100 affordable housing units (80% of the 9,000 units needed by 2035). Besides finding capital and partners to provide some of the capital, efforts must be made to reduce housing costs with design and other innovative solutions such as tiny homes and reducing the environmental footprint.

It is presently best practice to consider household transportation costs with housing costs. A house may be affordable, but if it is located far from jobs, requiring extensive (and expensive) commuting, a family is not well served, while traffic is worsened. Locating affordable housing near job centers will allow families to manage their cost of living, while easing traffic congestion.

The housing crisis is compounded by the fact that 44 percent of all households are already cost-burdened, meaning that housing costs exceeds 30 percent of income.<sup>8</sup> Slow inventory growth, regulatory barriers, predominantly single-family residential construction, fierce off-island demand for second homes, vacation rentals, and investment properties, the rising high cost of building a dwelling unit, and a lack of infrastructure also all contribute to a severe lack of housing.

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2 Kaua’i Board of REALTORS®, 2015

3 Kaua’i Rental Housing Study, 2014

4 *Socioeconomic Analysis & Forecasts*

5 Hawai’i Housing Planning Study, 2016

6 County of Kaua’i 2017 Annual Income Limits

7 09/13/2016 and 09/20/2016 Minutes of the Kaua’i County Council Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (authorized by Resolution No. 2013-57, Draft 1 on 06/12/2013, amended by Resolution No. 2014-34 on 05/28/2014)

8 ACS *Housing Snapshot*, 2014



There is no simple, single solution; rather, several essential strategies need to be deployed concurrently and quickly. Affordable housing is a pivotal issue that will define life on Kauaʻi over the next 20 years. Kauaʻi will not be Kauaʻi if those born and raised on the island must move away. If not effectively addressed, there will be enormous suffering, with consequences for the economy and the social fabric of Kauaʻi County. If the County is committed to achieving its vision of an equitable society with opportunity for all, it is imperative that the County find a way to address this basic need.

*This policy is implemented spatially through the Land Use Map, and through actions for Housing, Transportation, Opportunities and Health, and Infrastructure and Services.*



### **POLICY #3: RECOGNIZE THE IDENTITY OF KAUAʻI'S INDIVIDUAL TOWNS AND DISTRICTS**

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*Kauaʻi's towns and planning districts are distinct, each with its own character, opportunities, and needs. This uniqueness must be celebrated, protected in Community Plans, and reinforced in development standards.*

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An overriding theme from community input is the appreciation of Kauaʻi's distinct towns separated by open space. This physical attribute contributes to the rural character so valued by residents and visitors. Communities also expressed that their towns and districts are unique: for example, Kōloa is not Hanalei and Waimea is not Kapaʻa. Directing growth and community planning in this manner protects the identity of towns and districts, and preserves the open space between towns.

*This policy is implemented spatially in the Land Use Map, and through actions for Energy Sustainability & Climate Change Mitigation, Transportation, and each planning district.*



## **POLICY #4:** DESIGN HEALTHY AND COMPLETE NEIGHBORHOODS

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*Ensure new and existing neighborhoods have safe roads and functional parks, as well as access to jobs, commerce, transit, and public services.*

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Nationwide, and in Hawai'i, health problems such as obesity and diabetes have increased significantly for adults and children. If not reversed, for the first time in history in the United States, the lifespan of children may be shorter than the lifespan of their parents. These health outcomes can be attributed in part to increasing levels of sedentary lifestyles.<sup>9</sup> Recent plans confirm the relationship between health and community design. Creating neighborhoods where it is safe and convenient to walk, bike, or take transit allows residents to increase physical activity on a daily basis, thereby reducing health risks. Designing in this manner improves access to education, jobs, and services for those who are unable to drive and reduces the cost of transportation for families. Compact, walkable neighborhoods, when compared to patterns of low-density sprawl, reduce the need for costly expansion and maintenance of services and roads and protect the environment through reduced emissions.

*The policy is implemented through actions for Housing, Transportation, and Shared Spaces.*



## **POLICY #5:** MAKE STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

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*New government investment should support growth areas and include priority projects as identified in Community Plans.*

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Funding at all levels of government (Local, State, and Federal) is becoming increasingly limited. Just like a family on a budget, government must live within its means. With this in mind, difficult decisions must be made as to how limited funds are spent. Infrastructure needs include parks, water, wastewater, solid waste, and transportation. Recognizing reduced funding, we must direct infrastructure investment as a means to direct growth to the areas most suitable for development. With economics as a key aspect of sustainability, establishing infrastructure investment priorities in alignment with our vision is essential.

*This policy is addressed in the Implementation and Monitoring Chapter of the General Plan, and actions for each district.*

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<sup>9</sup> Community Health Needs Assessment, 2013; Community Health Improvement Initiative, 2014



## **POLICY #6:** REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING

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*Reduce the combined costs of housing and transportation, which consume more than 60 percent of Kaua'i's average household income. Do this by connecting housing to jobs and by providing a diversity of housing types and affordable transportation options.*

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Whether it is reflected in the cost of housing, food, or transportation, our community continues to struggle with the "Price of Paradise." For example, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2014) American Community Survey (ACS), 44 percent of all households are cost-burdened and the average Kaua'i household spends 36 percent of their income on housing costs and 26 percent on transportation costs. With employment wages relatively stagnant, coupled with the increasing price of basic necessities, housing and transportation actions must be aligned to improve equity and accessibility to these primary needs.

*This policy is implemented spatially in the Land Use Map and through actions for Housing, Transportation, and the Economy, and Opportunity and Health.*



## **POLICY #7:** BUILD A BALANCED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

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*Reduce congestion conditions through strategic infrastructure improvements and increase multimodal transportation options.*

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Community members have repeatedly highlighted congestion as the County's top transportation concern and express that transportation infrastructure has not kept pace with development.

Past studies and efforts have demonstrated that trying to "build our way" out of congestion through a focus solely on road widening and new roads is neither feasible nor sustainable, and threatens our unique rural sense of place. For example, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) has identified \$3.1 billion in roadway projects for Kaua'i, but anticipated funding of \$630 million over the same timeframe.<sup>10</sup> In other words, only 20 percent of the funding needed to complete these projects is anticipated to be available. The County's Multimodal Land Transportation Plan, adopted in 2013, provides a balanced solution that addresses the needs of all transportation users, including freight, cars, transit users, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

County and State cooperation is needed to implement the highest priority projects that contribute most to managing congestion.

*This policy is implemented through the Transportation Map and Actions for Land Transportation, and the Lihu'e and South Kaua'i districts.*

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<sup>10</sup> Federal Aid Highways 2035 Transportation Plan for the District of Kaua'i, 2014





## **POLICY #8:** PROTECT KAUA'I'S SCENIC BEAUTY

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*Protect the island's natural beauty by preserving the open space and views between towns.*

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Kaua'i is home to distinctive natural views and landmarks that define Kaua'i's sense of place for residents and visitors. Mauka and makai scenic views of places such as Wai'ale'ale, Kawaikini, Kē'ē Beach, and Waimea Canyon need to be protected regardless of population growth, development, and other changes. Many of our natural landmarks also serve as important physical cues to help orient people at sea. Protecting our scenic beauty and natural landmarks will ensure that our island's historical significance and unique identity will be preserved over time.

*This policy is implemented through the Land Use Map and actions for Heritage Resources.*



## **POLICY #9:** UPHOLD KAUA'I AS A UNIQUE VISITOR DESTINATION

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*Protect the identity of Kaua'i's visitor industry by focusing on revitalization and limiting new resort growth only to existing Visitor Destination Areas. Reduce visitors' impacts on infrastructure and communities.*

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Growth in the Average Daily Visitor Count leads to economic activity. However, with the advent of disruptive forces in our traditional notion of visitor accommodations (e.g., transient vacation rentals, house sharing), and the inability to restrict travel due to federal constitutional rights, any permitted growth in the visitor industry needs to consider the negative impact it can have on our infrastructure and our communities. Many areas like Hā'ena, Wainiha, and Hanalei have had their community character dramatically altered as a consequence of non-traditional visitor industry operations encroaching on their way of life. This impact has left Kaua'i with a clear increase in traffic – an impact not sustainable to our island. With the tools that the county has at its disposal, legal methods of limiting the physical footprint of transient accommodation uses should be encouraged.

*This policy is implemented through the Land Use Map, and actions for the Economy, Housing and Shared Spaces.*



## **POLICY #10: HELP BUSINESS THRIVE**

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*Create and foster thriving commercial areas in Town Centers through improved infrastructure, civic space, streetscapes, updated zoning standards, and streamlined approval processes.*

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In order to provide equity and opportunity for all, a focus on job creation and economic growth is necessary. Historically, economic growth has centered on the tourism industry, leading to overuse of the rural and natural areas that make Kaua'i a unique and beautiful place. Future economic growth should support existing town centers to become more vibrant hubs of commerce and promote opportunities for small businesses and cottage industries. Infrastructure, investment, and community-building efforts should be directed toward existing town center areas and provide ease of regulation for nascent enterprise.

*This policy is implemented through the Land Use Map and actions for Shared Spaces, Heritage Resources, and Economy.*



## **POLICY #11: HELP AGRICULTURAL LANDS BE PRODUCTIVE**

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*Support economic diversification and access to locally produced food by increasing the productivity and profitability of all forms of agriculture. Nurture small-scale farms, promote crop diversity, and form stronger public/private partnerships with farmers.*

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The *Hawai'i Baseline Agricultural Study*<sup>11</sup> reported that only 21,494 acres of land on Kaua'i are being used for agriculture (out of approximately 136,908 acres within the State Land Use Agricultural District). Less than 1,000 acres of the lands in production are used to grow food crops, not including coffee.

Having a productive agricultural system not only involves having lands available for farming, but creating the mechanisms necessary to support vibrant agriculture. While Kaua'i's people may have different opinions on what type of agriculture should be allowed, increasing agricultural production is crucial for food, resources, and economic sustainability, as well as to the cultural heritage and identity of the island.

*This policy is implemented through the Actions for Economy, and Opportunity and Health.*



## **POLICY #12:** PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS

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*Act with the understanding that forests, biodiversity, and water resources are fragile and interconnected. Restore and protect our watershed from mauka to makai.*

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The health of our island is the health of our community, and it starts with protecting our watersheds. The public has called the health of our watersheds into question, and the increasing threats of pollution and overuse are apparent. Recognition of our environment as a living system transcending land boundaries and physical walls should always be woven into our actions moving forward. Emphasis should be placed on actions that address the disproportional impacts of growth on our watersheds. Traditional approaches of land use and resource management, including the understanding of water and watershed resources as public trust resources, promote our sense of place and make environmental sense when seeking options that balance our growing community and the need to maintain healthy watersheds. Though current estimates show water withdrawals under maximum sustainable yield for much of the county, and though Kaua'i is not a regulated groundwater area, there are increasing concerns and questions regarding future availability of both surface and groundwater. This plan will need to be adapted to reflect updated projections in light of climate change and increasing evidence that groundwater withdrawals may reduce stream flow and vice versa. Water conservation and reuse, and stream restoration are key measures to ensure sustainable water supply on our island in future.

*This policy is reflected spatially on the Land Use Map and implemented through Actions for the Watershed.*



## **POLICY #13:** COMPLETE KAUA'I'S SHIFT TO CLEAN ENERGY

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*Mitigate climate change and reduce system-wide carbon emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050 through deep reductions in energy use and by transforming electricity, transportation, and infrastructure systems toward the use of clean energy.*

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Kaua'i's shift to clean energy is in line with the goals of being a sustainable and resilient island. By doing our part to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we will help to prevent global average temperatures from rising. In 2007, Kaua'i contributed 1.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide gases, which primarily came from the combustion of fossil fuels for electricity, ground transportation, and air transportation.<sup>12</sup> Although Kaua'i is leading the State in generating local renewable energy production (approximately 40% of our electrical demand), there is still much work to do in reducing the GHG emissions generated from the transportation sector.

*This policy is reflected in the Actions for Energy Sustainability & Climate Change Mitigation and Public Safety and Hazards Resilience.*

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12 Hawaii Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 2007





## **POLICY #14:** PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

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*Prepare for impacts to the island economy, food systems, and infrastructure that will be caused by climate change.*

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Climate change and resulting sea level rise (SLR) are evidenced and documented on global, national, as well as local levels. While data forecasts are in flux, the best available science for our island indicates we should plan for at least three feet of sea level rise. As an island with the majority of residences and activities located on or close to the coastline, it is important to provide direction to prepare our island for increased coastal hazards and their impacts to business, homes, roadways, drinking water, and ultimately health and safety.

*This policy is implemented through the Land Use Map and Actions for Public Safety and Hazards Resilience.*



## **POLICY #15:** RESPECT NATIVE HAWAIIAN RIGHTS AND WAHI PANA

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*Perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian rights and protect public trust resources and cultural sites in all land use development and activities.*

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Native Hawaiians have refined systems for sustainable stewardship and collaboration that honor the island's beauty and bounty as well as one another. These principles are still alive today through the language, stories, dance, and ceremonies of our native people. Mālama 'Āina, or caring for the land, is ingrained within the fabric and language of Hawaiian culture. Also rooted within stories and traditions are the struggles and accomplishments of the Ka Po'e Kahiko, or the People of Old, valuing significance of place, the origins of things, safety, health, and cooperation. Our Kanaka Maoli o Kaua'i are a vibrant and integral foundation of our community, and their ancestral knowledge about the land and resources, how to care for one another, and customary gathering rights and traditions must be passed on to future generations. It is understood as a resident, native or not, that Nā Kanaka o Kaua'i are treasures to be respected and that lands and resources must be protected for perpetuation of cultural practice.

*This policy is implemented in the Heritage Resources Map and Actions for Heritage Resources.*



## **POLICY #16:** PROTECT ACCESS TO KAUAI'S TREASURED PLACES

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*Protect access to and customary use of shoreline areas, trails, and places for religious and cultural observances, fishing, gathering, hunting, and recreational activities, such as hiking and surfing.*

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The beaches, mountains, and other natural areas of Kaua'i are cherished by its people for recreation, physical, mental, and spiritual rejuvenation, and family and cultural connections. In addition, many community members continue to provide for themselves and their families through subsistence practices – fishing, hunting, or gathering of foods, materials, and medicines – that have been perpetuated for generations. Development pressures mauka and makai, as well as emergencies caused by visitors getting hurt in some of the places our residents otherwise know as kapu, threaten continued access to Kaua'i's most treasured places for fear of liability. Promoting collaboration, providing for local and visitor education, enforcing rules protecting access, and providing signage and wayfinding where appropriate, perpetuate the protection of natural resources and the Hawaiian value system of mālama 'āina.

*This policy is reflected in the Heritage Resources Map and implemented through actions for Shared Spaces and Heritage Resources.*



## **POLICY #17:** NURTURE OUR KEIKI

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*Value youth as Kaua'i's most treasured resource. Provide them with safe communities, great schools and facilities, and financially sustainable jobs, housing, and transportation opportunities so they are able to seek livelihoods on Kaua'i.*

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Kaua'i continues to see more births than deaths. However, the statistics also show the exodus of young people for greater opportunities. The loss of our next generation creates an unsustainable trend of population aging that could disproportionately cause economic and social issues over the long-term. Actions to promote education, housing, and economic opportunity are necessary to keep our keiki from permanently moving away from home.

*This policy is implemented through Actions for Health and Opportunity, Economy, and Shared Spaces.*



## **POLICY #18: HONOR OUR KŪPUNA**

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*Prepare for the aging of Kauaʻi’s population through housing, services, and facility improvements that meet the needs of elderly households.*

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Kauaʻi’s population is aging. About one third of Kauaʻi’s population will be 65 and over in 2035. In comparison to the other counties, Kauaʻi has a relatively high median age and a higher percentage of older adults.

Here on Kauaʻi, kūpuna are honored and cared for as they are the foundation of our families and communities. By supporting kūpuna-friendly communities, kūpuna will be able to age in place and live an active and independent lifestyle as long as possible. Many of our communities today are not conducive to an aging population because of zoning regulations that have separated neighborhoods and commercial uses to be accessible only by car. In preparing for an aging population, we must rethink our community design by including the needs of our kūpuna.

*This policy is implemented through the Actions for Housing, Shared Spaces, Health and Opportunity, and Transportation.*



## **POLICY #19: COMMUNICATE WITH ALOHA**

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*Kauaʻi’s residents care about planning and decision-making. Government must share information, encourage input, improve public processes, and be responsive.*

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During the update process, community members and agencies asked how implementation of the 2000 General Plan was monitored in order to determine accomplishments and challenges. Although there were many successes, feedback mechanisms and metrics were absent or not consistent.

Tracking the many actions that support the policies that help us to attain our goals will take a thoughtfully crafted system with room to evolve. Establishing performance measures, monitoring progress, reinforcing accountability, and involving the community in the future of the island are integral to our success.

*This policy is implemented through the Implementation & Monitoring Chapter of the General Plan.*

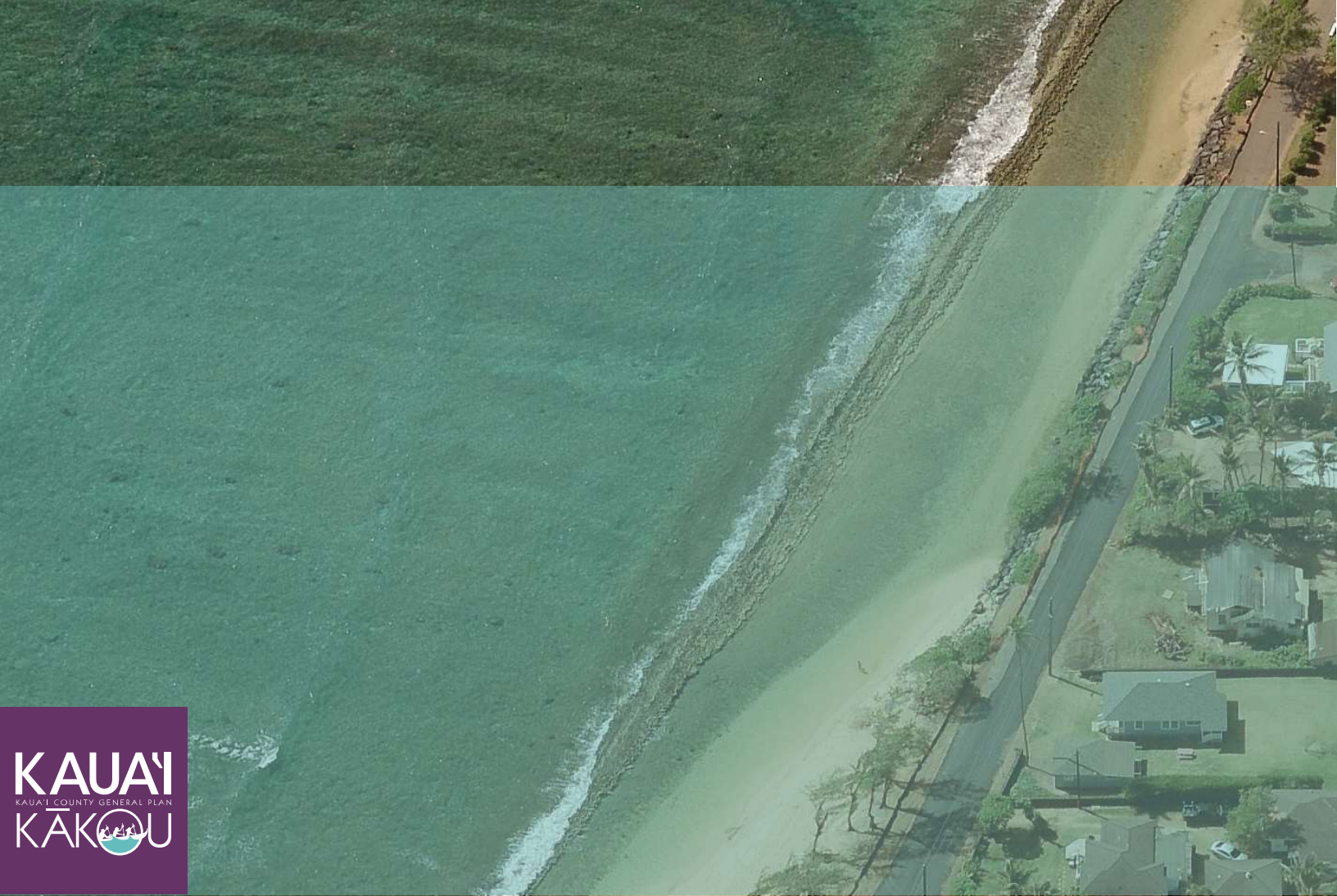




East Kaua'i Community Visioning Workshop in Kapa'a

**The theme of the General Plan, Kaua'i Kākou, acknowledges that Kaua'i's strength lies in its strong, diverse community and ability to work together to provide for a better future.**





**KAUAI**  
KAUAI COUNTY GENERAL PLAN  
**KAKOU**

