



Taking Back Our Moku Community Meeting Summary Report

Wai'anae Cares

**Held on March 26, 2024
At Wai'anae High School**

Introduction

On February 21st, 2024, driven by the increasing concerns on the rising violence, a group of local residents came together to discuss thoughts on potential actions that could bring hope and support to our Wai'anae Coast community. Over 35 individuals from multiple organizations, unified by a shared commitment to positive change, contributed to a very productive discussion that gave birth to the Wai'anae Cares initiative.

The group wanted to hold an event to engage the community in generating solutions to the issue of violence and other issues and factors related to it. After several meetings, the **Taking Back Our Moku** event was created and held on Prince Kūhiō Day at Wai'anae High School, from 10am to 1pm. The agenda included introducing the Wai'anae Cares initiative, time for community organizations and community members to share their work and care for the moku, speakers on conflict resolution, uplifting entertainment, lunch, and group work on issues and short-term solutions. Many groups and hands contributed to the planning, preparation, food, and other aspects of the event. We mahalo and recognize all contributors for their efforts:

Wai'anae Moku Navigators, Suzuki Family Foundation, OHA, Kamehameha Schools, Nā Kama Kai, Ma'o Farms, Wai'anae Moku Kupuna Council, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, E Ala Voyaging Academy, Mākaha Canoe Club, Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club, Wai'anae Coast Rotary Club, Wai'anae High School, Ka'ala Farm Inc., Hālau Hula O Kekaikuihala, Hālau Nā Mamo o Tulipa, Ka Waihona O Ka Na'auao, Kamaile Academy, DOE, Senator Shimabukuro, Representative Cedric Gates, Cross Crabbe, Tiana Wilbur, Samantha DeCorte, Lili'uokalani Trust, Teri Savaiinaea, Kalehua Krug, Dana Newman, Nani Peterson, BK - Stephen, King Kai Kainoa, Gail and Dan Gomes

Highlights

- There were approximately **90 people** in attendance at the event. Although only 54 people registered through the online registration form, many people registered in person.
- **Over 20 community groups and community members** stood up to share their work, contribution to the community, and thoughts of the issues our moku is facing. These speakers included nonprofit groups, educational organizations both public and private, and hālau hula.
- Invited speakers emphasized the importance of **individual and community healing through connection to 'ōlelo Hawai'i, culture, and 'āina**.
- All in attendance stood up and recited a **Pledge of Aloha**, which highlighted individual beliefs and values that embody aloha, honor, and respect for all.
- Kalehua Kreug shared about **emotional (dys)regulation** and how the disconnection to culture, land, and identity relates to our emotional intelligence and ability to manage and regulate our feelings and emotions. He offered **cultural education** as the solution to change our community and Hawai'i. Cultural education is not just a hobby but a way to embrace a different worldview that changes the ways we relate to land and each other.

- **8 groups** worked together to discuss and share issues that resonated with them that day and think of short-term solutions (3, 6, 9 months) to those issues.
- All in attendance agreed to **hold another meeting in 1 month** to continue this work

Issues and Solutions Summary

Participants broke up into groups to answer the following prompt: “Try to think for a short-term solution (3, 6, 9 months). Decide which issues resonated with you and offer solutions.”

Issues

- Disconnect: Between people and culture, people and place, people and values or morals, youth and community and community organizations, between generations (kupuna and ‘ōpio), and within ‘ohana
- Emotional dysregulation
- Chronic absenteeism
- Conflict, crime, and violence
- Safe places for youth
- Trauma

Solutions

- A

Priorities

Group Notes for Short-Term Solutions

There were 9 groups that recorded notes to answer the prompts. Team members are named when that information was shared. Bolded text represents the priorities for the groups.

Hui 1

1. Looking at cultural activities as hobbies
 - Providing cultural leadership training for po'ō of the groups
 - Providing community activities that are consistent and sustainable
 - Classes and/or distribution of 'ōlelo no'eau
2. Disconnect with the 'ohana (multiple)
 - Communication - intentional and follow up
 - Challenging values - kōkua ke kahi i ke kahi
 - Civic/cultural engagement - starts in the home

Hui 2

Reawakening of cultural practices

- Awareness/Access to knowledge and resources
- Developing/reconnecting/grounding to the 'āina
- Social emotional learning programs, cultural emotional learning
- Legal/cultural barriers
- Bridging the gap
- **Kupuna bring/influence 'ōpio**
 - Expose 'ōpio to opportunities. Create opportunities to train 'ōpio and makua. Ex. Hale Mua trains men in values. We have to train generations and break down barriers.

Hui 3

Team: Samantha DeCorte

Issues and solutions

- Emotional dysregulation- **Kalehua Road Show** with community partnership. Follow up is a sign up to go to community partners like Ka'ala or E Ala Voyaging
 - 3 months-Touring Wai'anae moku with message
 - 6 months- Mentoring haumāna
- Chronic absenteeism for students
 - 3 months- Ask parents why
- Conflict resolution, crime
 - 3 months Involving kupuna to ho'oponopono
- Lack of connection to community
 - 3 months- Create hub of resources
 - 6 months- Bring a friend
- Safe place for youth to gather and socialize after hours

Hui 4

Team: Roland K., Marcie, Vanessa, Kenny, Angela

Issue

- This violence has got to stop
- “I”, how do we get to “we”
- Youth lost connection to morals. Youth are not being nurtured and we are not nurturing them, so create opportunities to nurture them.
- Turn off the telephone, watching funny kine
- WIS parent and children no more empty promises

Solutions

- Whole family advisory at the garden. Reintegrating culture into DOE
- Talk more: will our youth sit down and listen to us?
- **Get Lit: Literacy is our legacy: Talk story session at / with our kupuna at Nanakuli public library, May 2nd**
- More concerts
- Waianaecares.org
- **Youth mental health- collect stories with WCCHC, June/July**

Hui 5

Team: Rocky N., Stacilyn E., Tiana W., Teri S., Phiip G., Kekai N.

Short-term solution

- **Culture and culture education**
- Sustainability
- Community giveback
- Community gardens
- Job opportunities
- **More community opportunities to give back, do so through community service and organizations. Community engagement as a solution.**
 - Start at the community level
 - More ohana days
 - Cultural classes
 - Keiki to kupuna
 - Culture can lead to economic/entrepreneurial opportunities
 - Niu, Ulu, Maili learning center through Aloha ‘āina program

Hui 6

Team: Nani

Hawaiian Cultural Healing Center

- First Priority: Healing all trauma - oli, ho‘oponopono
- Second Priority: Identify natural sites to practice - Ka‘ala, Makua, etc. Appropriate ceremonial practices
- Third Priority: Mala regeneration; Nursery at Ma‘ili ‘āina

Hui 7

Team: Taylor, Josh, Verna, Cassandra

Commitment to community service/cultural service

- Ka'ala
- Ma'o farms
- Mālama Learning Center
- School require community service
- Wai'anae Coast Clean up

Talk story sessions with kupuna, keiki

- Cultural activities

Hui 8

Team: Isaiah, Paul, Nikki, Kanaka, Leinani

3 month solutions

- Transparency and community resource - **Address disconnect of youth to community strength and organizations** - Continue to have community events like this and include the 'ōpio
- **Address kupuna and 'ōpio disconnect**
- Mo'olelo
- Private business sponsorships

Hui 9

Team: Kauai A., Penina H., Cedric G., Ariel P., Kainoa R.

3 months

- Huaka'i opportunities
- Peer to peer influence- swag, hashtags
- Student engaged
- Posters- positive reinforcement
- Wristbands, silly bands
- **Social media campaign with hashtags**
- Connecting with DOE cultural workshops during school hours
- **Host event April 27th 10am Fun Fest**
- Pilina with haumāna
- **Ho'oponopono in schools**, training for kumu

6 months

- **Serving the 'ohana as a whole (kupuna, makua, keiki)**
- Family invite into space
- Peer-to-peer support, training peer leaders
- Access to transportation for huaka'i
- Getting into schools to teach cultural learning

9 months

- **Embed cultural in DOE goals and curriculum** - decolonize DOE curriculum and place culture at the forefront.
 - Outdoor classroom space - Option to come to garden during advisory
- Access to mentor/kupuna
- Outreach from different organizations
- One place to promote everyone's work- stop working in silos
- Family invite

Event flyer:

RSVP FOR THE BIT.LY LINK OR
THE BELOW QR CODE BY SUNDAY MARCH 24TH
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/WAIANAECARES](https://bit.ly/waianaecares)

Wai'anae **FREE** CARES

TAKING BACK OUR MOKU

*JOIN US TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AND MĀLAMA EACH OTHER!
A CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS TO KAPOLEI CONSOLIDATED THEATER*

10:00AM - 1:00PM HST
@WAI'ANAE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

TUESDAY **26** **MARCH**

RSVP

