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Collaborative biocultural stewardship is an approach to sustainable development that emphasizes a collaboration and partnership building among stakeholders and integrates natural and cultural resource management strategies to promote conservation, sustainability, and resilience. This framework is foundational to the General Plan as it seeks to balance economic, social, and environmental goals. **native Hawaiian communities, cultural practitioners, homeowners, and government. Review, evaluate and identify from previous years successes or failures of biocultural stewardship. Review all current state and federal laws supporting biocultural stewardship. Evaluate if current laws are succeeding in reaching environmental goals.** Cooperative efforts aimed at achieving **successful** management of ecological systems are crucial **important** for protecting our natural and built environments. Land use planning and management should be **holistic**, inclusive, and adaptive to reflect **the native Hawaiian people, homeowners and** community values, knowledge, and **aspirations**. The General Plan provides key strategies to achieve biocultural stewardship **by including the native Hawaiian people, cultural practitioners homeowners and** community engagement, partnership building, collaborative decision-making, and collective action.

Environmental and social systems are complex and dynamic. These systems will require adaptive management, and continuous learning **research, evaluation, and transparency** as we navigate the future. The policies presented in this section seek to foster partnerships that are based on mutual respect, trust, and shared values. **honesty, transparency, full disclosure, fair and equitable for the native Hawaiian people.** The community engagement process must be inclusive to incorporate diverse perspectives and knowledge systems into conservation and development strategies. Following such practices can promote the co-creation of knowledge, the sharing of resources, and the empowerment of communities. By leveraging the strengths and resources of different stakeholders, we can enhance the capacity of communities to manage natural and cultural resources sustainably. We can also facilitate the creation of new networks and alliances, promoting social cohesion and resilience.

Ultimately, the collaborative biocultural stewardship approach can foster a more integrated, inclusive, and equitable approach to conservation and development that reflects the **aspirations** and needs of local communities.

This fundamental element of the Plan strives to cultivate a sense of place and connection to the environment and recognizes that the management of natural and cultural resources requires native Hawaiian communities, scholars, practitioners, homeowners and government to determine, decide, and implement changes, in accordance with both the US and State of Hawaii Constitutional laws. the participation of diverse actors, including communities, governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities. By promoting collaborative decision-making and collective action, we can enhance the effectiveness, equity, and legitimacy of conservation and development policies. By promoting **native Hawaiian and** community-based conservation and restoration strategies, we can enhance ecological integrity, promote biodiversity, and preserve cultural heritage and scenic landscapes. Biocultural stewardship acknowledges the role of cultural diversity in shaping environmental perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. It recognizes **It is imperative** that cultural practices arising from traditional ecological knowledge are integral to maintaining ecosystem services and biological diversity.

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Challenges: Native Habitat

- Hawai‘i has been known as the extinction capital of the world.
- Climate change and sea level rise **pose threats to existing habitats for native flora and fauna.** (What are the real threats? We know it’s not climate change, yet the Plan continues to market climate change as being the “threat”. It’s evident that Hawaii County is not interested in identifying the actual threats to existing habitats for native flora & fauna. I found an indigenous Hawaiian bird study on the Maui Honeycreeper, the Kiwikiu; 7 died after they were fitted with VHF transmitters, 3 survived because they were found alive & somehow disconnected the VHF transmitters.
- **Longer and/or more severe weather and climate change may increase the likelihood of wildfires.** It is important to ask about the weather machines/modifications that existed from after World War II, developed, tested, implemented and updated. Who owns weather machines? What will Hawaii County do when or if you are responsible

enough to research & learn of these weather machines?

- Invasive species continue to pose a threat to native and endemic species as well economic, environmental, and human health. I want to see the proof of this statement.
- The carrying capacity of our resources is not comprehensively modeled and monitored. Why not? Why is the carrying capacity of our resources? Why is this statement in the Plan?
 - The County lacks specific regulations for wetlands, riparian ecosystems, or other valuable habitats. When did the County realize regulations are lacking? What are considered wetlands, riparian ecosystems & valuable habitats by Hawaii County? I would hope that the people, experts, and government will dialogue on this subject.

Watersheds

- Sea level rise has and will continue to impact freshwater resources through saltwater infiltration. We need to verify this statement. How would I be able to do that?
- The island's coastal waters are affected by an increase in pollution, such as marine debris and plastics, as well as effluents, pollutants, and toxins from nearshore sources such as cesspools, septic systems, and injection wells.
- There is a lack of water quality monitoring on the island.
- Green infrastructure planning has not been institutionalized.
- Watershed protection and management require collaboration and coordination across all levels of government and must include effective homeowners, native Hawaiian people and community engagement.

Stewardship

- The County has a limited budget for its large-scale geographic responsibility for the protection of public trust natural and cultural resources. Who will the County select to finance protection of public trust natural and cultural resources? I am just became aware of this situation by reading the General Plan. Where are the educational resources by the County? Where are the hearings by the Planning Commission and the people?
- Hawai'i Island has a large variation of unique biomes and ecosystems.
 - The difference between traditional and modern practices along with varying mauka

to makai ownership makes it difficult to comprehensively steward natural resources. This statement needs clarification. 2 issues: 1. Difference between traditional and modern practices 2. Varying mauka to makai ownership makes it difficult to steward natural resources - this is confusing!

Cultural & Historic Assets

- The County's role and involvement in cultural and historic resources can be difficult to discern. This is a scary statement, thought and/or fact since we are in 2024 with advance technology, highway of unlimited information, the internet, thousands of experts as resources, the Hawaii County residents/people. Q. Why is it difficult to discern?
- Miscommunication between different stakeholder groups homeowners, communities, the people and government can lead to conflict over community values. This statement is normal & factual with any persons, groups, and governments. Stakeholder groups are detrimental as government should always work for the homeowners, the people and not organizations, companies or corporations.
- Restoration and reformation of cultural and historic resources are complex and incentives for remediation and conservation are limited. Why is it complex? What are the current incentives? What is remediation?
- There is a lack of cultural understanding and 'āina-based identity (e.g., place names) across the general population. Why after years of Hawaii County's existence there continues to be a lack of cultural understanding and aina-based identity? What is considered "aina-based identity"? This statement needs clarification.
- Identification of cultural and historic resources rarely occurs unless triggered by a development permitting application, making it difficult to plan comprehensively. Why does it take development to trigger identification? Living in and calling Hawaii home should suffice to identify cultural and historic resources. This only shows lack of planning, lack of caring for Hawaii's cultural and historic values.

Scenic Character

- The County has not developed a scenic resources protection program, including view impact procedures, criteria, and standards.
- The uncontrollable growth of and inability to eradicate invasive species (e.g.,

Albizia) obstruct viewsheds or can change the character of a scenic resource. Who brought the Albizia to Hawaii island? Can the Planning Commissioners answer that question?

Page 40 Biocultural Stewardship Opportunities:

Native Habitat

- The County can collaborate with the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Successful (or Thriving) Development to create models for monitoring the carrying capacity of natural resources.
- Ongoing conservation work can continue to evolve from species-specific conservation (e.g., Albizia eradication) to focus on ecosystem restoration across multiple land ownership to protect Hawai'i's biodiversity. There are many examples (e.g. Albizia) that prove Hawaii County has not stopped invasive species to Hawaii Island, therefore, it is a concern to see this statement as it shows that Hawaii County cannot protect us from invasive species. What is focus on ecosystem restoration across multiple land ownership to protect Hawai'i's biodiversity? What role do these land owners play?
- Maintaining healthy, native-dominant forests offers immense savings of biocultural and water resources that might otherwise be lost to the impacts of climate change and invasive species. These 2 items 1. Climate change - is false and 2. Invasive species does not have studies to confirm why Albizias arrived on Hawaii Island. Climate change must be verified.
- Conservation lands hold significant value in the water resources they represent. • Incentivizing and developing regenerative land uses, such as agroforestry, can provide sustainable opportunities to ecosystems and communities. What is incentivizing for the people? Sustainable is not a good description - use successful or thriving.
- Hawai'i can become a statewide adaptation and resiliency leader by focusing on its unique strengths and diversity to evolve with changing realities.
- Urban forestry can be prioritized or incentivized in the County Code.

Watersheds

- Establish more place-based watershed partnerships to create unique management plans that incorporate the generational knowledge of those water systems and protect our island's watersheds. Who are the watershed partnerships? What is generational knowledge of water systems? How are our watersheds being protected for the last 30

yrs.? Identify Hawaii island's watersheds.

- Strengthen the integration of Hawaiian biocultural resource management and traditional ecological knowledge across County government. What is Hawaiian biocultural resource and tradition ecological knowledge?
- Practice an integrated approach to ecosystem-based collaborative management that considers the entire ecosystem. Did this practice used or developing? What is an integrated approach? What is the entire ecosystem in Hawaii Island, Hawaii or the world?
- Watershed protection and management require collaboration and coordination across all levels of government and must include effective community engagement.

Stewardship

- Hawai'i Island has a large variation of its unique natural biomes and ecosystems. • Ongoing interagency coordination, including consultation with place-based land stewards, cultural and historical advisory groups, and other stakeholders. Homeowners, the people, & communities. What are place-based land stewards?
- The County can take a more proactive role in exercising its protective public trust role for natural and cultural resources. What proactive role has the Hawaii County played for the last 25-30 yrs.?
- Maintain and increase involvement with existing partnerships and identify new partners that help promote and enhance biocultural stewardship. Increasing partnerships is a concern because I cannot identify who are the current partners.
- Collaborate to complete additional EPA-approved watershed plans to increase eligibility for future conservation funding. I am concerned because we have many examples of the EPA being exempt when certain companies/corporations need to develop. It sound good "EPA-approved watershed plans", but will a corporation with power & money get an exemption for EPA requirements?

Cultural & Historic Assets

- Preservation of historic properties can enhance the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the island.
- Community Development Plans (CDP) can uplift community values and heritage character. If plans benefit the people and not companies or corporations (e.g. Telecommunications companies 5G infrastructures)

- Consult with place-based culture and history advisory groups as well as other organizations that continue to elevate, protect, and maintain community values, heritage, culture, and history. How many of these groups exist in Hawaii and are they active and who are they?
- The County has a strong policy foundation for scenic resources.

Scenic Character

- Scenic resources include historic buildings that contribute to community character and preserve the history of the area.
- The scenic resources inventory and mapping project can be further developed into a program.

Page 41 - 2.2 Biocultural Stewardship Goal, Objectives, Policies, and Actions

Natural and cultural resources are thriving and sustainably managed, preserved, and restored to maintain our unique and diverse environment.

Objective 1

Increase the biodiversity and resilience of native habitats.

Policies

- . 1.1 Minimize and mitigate significant impacts, such as degradation, incompatible uses, or other threats, to Native Hawaiian habitats and public trust resources.
- . 1.2 Strive to improve the health of the island's forests, rangelands, watersheds, nearshore environments, riparian areas, and reefs.
 - . 1.3 Encourage the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as reefs, beaches and dunes, forests, rangelands, streams, floodplains, wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas that have the inherent capacity to prevent, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- . 1.4 Maintain the shoreline for recreational, cultural, educational, and/or scientific uses in a manner that is protective and respectful of resources and is of the maximum benefit to the general public.
- . 1.5 Increase collaborative efforts to improve coordination to conserve and manage wetlands, streams, and watersheds. What are these collaborative efforts from the past to the present?
- . 1.6 Encourage the preservation of native vegetation and open space during development activities. How will this look like? Who will be giving up lands for preservation? How much lands are required for preservation and why?
- . 1.7 Improve the use of native or non-native plants of cultural or environmental importance.
- . 1.8 Prioritize native landscaping for all County projects.
- . 1.9 Limit the introduction and establishment of invasive species. What are the lessons learned to date? E.g. Albizia
- . 1.10 Maintain a program to identify and protect exceptional trees, groves, or stands of trees.
- . 1.11 Encourage and incentivize green belts, tree plantings, and landscape plans and designs in urban areas. This word incentivize must be defined, clarified and defended.
- . 1.12 Increase collaborative efforts to create and maintain community forests, food forests, silvopasture, and other agroforestry. What are

community forests, food forests, silvopasture, agroforestry? Who are the current collaborators?

- . 1.13 Incentivize private land management practices that protect and enhance natural resource values and, when appropriate, pursue the acquisition of lands for the protection of natural resources.

Absolutely - no. We must protect homeowners, private land owners from any monetary penalties assessed to them as it will erode their rights and ownership. Absolutely - no incentivizing of private lands. Acquisition of lands will cancel private land ownership especially to homeowners. This is detrimental and may lead to creating more homeless population.

- . 1.14 Partner with government, private and nonprofit agencies, communities, and other stakeholders homeowners. to:

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- . a) **Implement the Hawai‘i State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)** What is this SWAP about? Is SWAP pro homeowners, private native Hawaiian land trusts?
- . b) Better understand and model carrying capacities of the island’s habitats and resources
- . c) **Improve the inventory of forested lands and associated ecosystem services.** What are the inventories at this time and how will improvement be done?
- . d) **Encourage** the continued identification and inclusion of unique wildlife habitat areas of Native Hawaiian habitat within the Natural Area Reserve System. Why the word encourage? What has been done or implemented to insure identification and inclusion of unique wildlife habitat areas....? How can the public be educated on researching and learning about these actions?

- . e) Anticipate future habitat migration, especially wetlands and coastal ecosystems.
 - . f) Prioritize quantitative **wetland** assessment to identify **wetlands**.
Define “wetland” as used in the General Plan 2045.
 - . g) **Expand native and/or endemic forest cover**. What does that look like on a map and how will expansion be accomplished?
 - . h) **Improve enforcement for illegal activities that harm or degrade endemic habitats**. How will enforcement change from now to the future? What are the illegal activities past & present? How are illegal activities defined?
- . 1.15 Any development will not adversely impact the following resource asset(s):
- . a) Rivers, streams, springs, and other naturally flowing surface water bodies
 - . b) **Anchialine pools and estuaries**. What are anchialine pools and estuaries?
 - . c) Shoreline setback areas, beaches, and dunes
- . 1.16 Maintain shoreline setbacks to protect:
- . a) Natural shoreline vegetation;
 - . b) Marine turtle nesting beaches/areas;
 - . c) Nearshore water quality;

- . d) Structures from the effects of long-term sea level rise; and -
Please identify what are long-term sea level rise and what are the causes of that?
- . e) Beaches and shorelines from erosion. What are the causes of this erosion?
- . 1.17 Allow the redevelopment of existing waterfront commercial structures consistent with the community character to preserve overwater views.
- . 1.18 Landscaping and irrigation shall be designed to maximize water use efficiency and native plants.

Actions

- . 1.a Seek partnership opportunities to support wetland identification and assessments. What exists in the past and the present to accomplish wetland identification and assessments? In other words what has been done to date?
- . 1.b Review tree survey requirements and amend the Code to incorporate as part of site planning.
- . 1.c Consider the establishment of clearing limits within the Code and increase tree removal mitigation requirements, limiting the clearing of native vegetation during development. How is the environment, the land and landowners affected by increase tree removal mitigation requirements
- . 1.d Revise floodplain management requirements to require consideration of

nature-based solutions as alternatives for all projects that have the potential to affect floodplains or wetlands. What are the current information to support why it is necessary to “revise floodplain management requirements”?

- . 1.e **Develop priorities for the management of fire-prone invasive species.** What is fire-prone invasive species? Is it e.g. Albizia? Rather than guessing, can the Planning Commission provide that information?
- . 1.f Amend the Code to include an appropriate list of invasive species to be removed during development activities, to the extent feasible.
- . 1.g **Support programs designed to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species and the control and eradication of invasive species; particularly those that serve as disease vectors.** Support must not be solicited by government when government has failed to “prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species and the control and eradication of invasive species” e.g. Albizia, Mongoose, Little Fire Ants, & much, much more.
- . 1.h **Develop buffer policies** to protect native forests, wildlife, rivers, streams, coastal waters, and other native habitats. What are buffer policies?

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- . 1.i Create incentives for landowners to retain and re-establish forest cover in upland watershed areas with an emphasis on native forest species.
- . 1.j Identify partners and support a public awareness and education campaign to elevate recognition of the value of urban trees as essential

infrastructure.

- . 1.k Amend the landscape standards in Rule or Code to require the use of native plants for screening or landscaping.
- . 1.l Amend the Code to incentivize the establishment of threatened and endangered endemic plant species within their habitable ranges during development approvals. Important to know & understand the effects of and who will be affected in positive or negative ways as the word incentivize can be destruction to homeowners & landowners.
- . 1.m Review the Code and consider amendments to encourage site clustering of development in order to avoid critical environmental areas and assets. What is site clustering? How does site clustering protect environmental areas and assets?
- . 1.n Develop and establish Open Space Network Overlay for natural landscape features, such as beaches and dunes, forests, streams, floodplains, wetlands, estuaries, or recharge areas that have the inherent capacity to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of climate change. This must be examined, discussed, researched as the word climate change is used throughout the General Plan 2045. Climate change must be proven without a doubt IF it is used in any government documents, plans, laws, rules, regulations, policies, instructions, etc.
- . 1.o Study, develop, and establish Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zones, either separately or as an overlay district, to guide development within native forests through regulatory measures and economic incentives. Must know more about Buffer Zones.
- . 1.p Maintain a program for acquiring and/or restoring wetlands, estuaries, and anchialine pools. Need to know what these are by

definitions and/or examples.

- . 1.q Develop comprehensive programs and policies and provide resources for enhancing **urban forestry canopy cover**. **What is urban forestry canopy cover?**
- . 1.r Improve urban and community forest management, maintenance, and arboricultural practices.
 - . 1.s **Increase funding and grants** for urban and community forestry. **The United States of America's national debt is now \$35 trillion dollars, therefore, how is it that State of Hawaii and Hawaii County can continue to ask for grants? Why are US governments at all levels not making efforts to reduce the national debt? If government refuses to admit we have a \$35 trillion dollars debt. - than you don't belong in government!**
- . 1.t **Support programs** to prevent harmful invasive species from becoming established. **What are the past & present programs and have they been successful? Are there new programs?**
- . 1.u Partner with government, private and nonprofit agencies, communities, and other stakeholders **homeowners, native Hawaiian communities and native Hawaiian cultural practitioners** to develop a program for the identification and protection of plant species of special status, including plants significant for cultural practitioners.
- . 1.v Support seedbanks of native and endemic plant species, especially species that are threatened or endangered.
- . 1.w Partner with community groups to apply for **funding** to restore native habitats including marine, wetland, shoreline, and native upland systems on County-owned or managed lands. **Funding should be an important topic to discuss because of the national debt and there may be**

creative ways to accomplish goals with less funding. Again, funding should be important to discuss.

- . 1.x Prioritize removal of invasive species during maintenance of County-owned or maintained properties.
- . 1.y Assess and prioritize County-owned areas for restoration in collaboration with government, private and nonprofit agencies, communities, **native Hawaiian communities, native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and homeowners**. and other stakeholders.
- . 1.z Review and update the exceptional tree code and inventory to support the **protection of native species and habitats**. What are the statistics on how much native species and habitats have been protected, saved, nurtured, preserved & promulgated to date?