

June 14, 2021

MEMO TO: PSLU-1 File

F R O M: Tamara Paltin, Chair   
Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT RELATING TO  
THE WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN** (PSLU-1)

The attached informational document pertains to Item 1 on the Committee's agenda.

pslu:ltr:001afile05:ans

Attachment

Received at PSLU meeting on 06/14/2021

FROM: Tamara Paltin, Chair

RE: Section 3, West Maui Community Plan

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Subarea 1

The 18,680[-]acre subarea includes Kapalua and Nāpili and has a population of 4,003. Subarea 1 has a number of beautiful beaches, pristine bays, resort communities, and a small resident population in Nāpili. Nāpili means the joinings or the pili grass, which once filled the area. The area also contains nearly the entire 8,600 acre Pu‘u Kukui Watershed Preserve, one of the largest privately-owned nature preserves in the state. It extends from the 480[-]foot elevation at Honokōhau Stream to the 5,788 foot elevation at Pu‘u Kukui summit, and lies between the Kahakuloa and Honokōwai portions of the [S]tate’s West Maui Natural Area Reserve.

Sources: wehewehe wikiwiki (Nāpili) and [www.summitpost.org](http://www.summitpost.org) (pu‘u kukui)

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Subarea 2

Subarea 2 has a population of 7,094 and covers the 13,174 acres that lie just north of Lāhainā. The area contains the communities of Kahana, Honokōwai and Kā‘anapali. Kā‘anapali is the [S]tate’s first master-planned resort community, and a popular tourist destination that includes hotels, shopping and condos. The Kā‘anapali resort area took the name of the moku located north of Lāhainā which starts at Pu‘u Keka‘a. Honokōwai and Kahana are smaller resort areas that also have a limited amount of housing for residents. Honokōwai is an ahupua‘a and the southern most of the six legendary bays of Chief Pi‘ilani, its name means “bay drawing fresh water”; due to the many freshwater springs at the water’s edge. Kahana is just north of Honokōwai and means cutting or turning point. The subarea also contains the small state[-]managed Kapalua Airport.

Source. Ho‘okuleana blogspot (3/9/2013) Peter T Young

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Subarea 3

This 10,376[-]acre subarea has a population of 12,906 and serves as the region’s commercial, service and residential center. The area is rich in history and culture and has two County Historic Districts and one National Historic Landmark District. Lāhainā has a unique character and charm that draws residents and visitors alike. The old name for the Lāhainā district is Lele, so called because of the short stay of chiefs there (Pacific Commercial Advertiser, 1857). [Urban d]Development in this subarea runs primarily along the coastline and also extends mauka along Lahainaluna Road.

Source: wehewehe wikiwiki

Subarea 4

Subarea 4 has a population of 982 and covers 19,217 acres. This subarea has three distinct communities: Launiupoko, Olowalu and Ukumehame. Launiupoko is a sparsely populated area characterized by beaches and agricultural subdivisions. The slopes were once home to groves of native wiliwili, a useful and attractive tree that thrives in dry and rocky areas. Olowalu is the site of a large pre-contact Hawaiian settlement, which is evident given the number of archeological sites found in this area, including petroglyphs, burials, heiau, trails, rock shelters, agriculture and fishing [shrines]ko‘a, house sites, boundary and navigational markers, lo‘i and ‘auwai. Olowalu’s thousand acre coral reef was named a Hope Spot in 2017, it sustains an amazing diversity of rare and unique coral species and acts as a nursery to replenish and populate the reefs of Maui, Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i. It was also home to different sugar growing ventures including West Maui Plantation, Olowalu Company, LTD[,] and Pioneer Mill Company. The community is very small with limited county and commercial services and residential uses. Ukumehame is the southernmost settlement in the region. Ukumehame is known for its gusty winds that blow from the uplands out to the sea. The waters of Ukumehame gulch flow from Mauna Kahalawai down through deep valleys. Here, ancient Hawaiians once maintained fertile green acres of lo‘i kalo.

Sources: mauculturallands.org and mission-blue.org