

# MOLOKA'I COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

## OVERVIEW OF WILDFIRE-RELATED CONCERNS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

### MOLOKA'I PLANNING AREA

The Moloka'i planning area includes the entire island of Moloka'i, which lies in Maui County. Steep slopes, rough terrain, strong winds, and a large percentage of highly ignitable invasive grasses characterize the Moloka'i landscape. This, coupled with warm weather, recurring drought conditions, changes in land use and maintenance, and a history of human-caused fires put the area at increased risk of wildfire. The proximity of development to high hazard fire-prone wildlands present hazardous conditions that now threaten Moloka'i communities and natural resources. Overgrown vegetation close to homes, pockets of open space within subdivisions, and an increase of non-native high fire-intensity plants around developed areas pose increasing threats to commercial, community, environmental, and residential resources.

### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)?

A CWPP is a plan developed by local communities, resource managers, large landowners, city planners, County/State/Federal agencies including emergency responders, state foresters, and other interested parties to clarify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in wildland-urban interface areas. It is intended to create a foundation of collaboration and communication among diverse parties toward achieving wildfire risk reduction goals. Through the CWPP process, communities have a tremendous opportunity to learn more about wildfire issues and impacts, influence where and how vegetation reduction projects and federal hazard reduction funds are applied and to initiate or get involved at the local level.

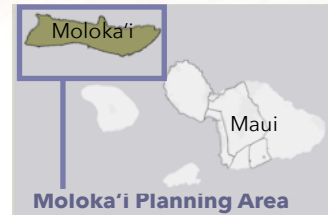
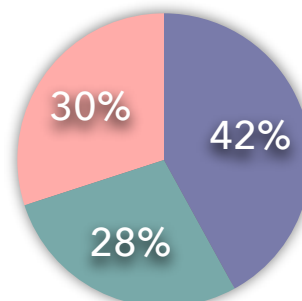
### COMMUNITY INPUT COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

To collect input for the Moloka'i CWPP, a foundational component of the CWPP process, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) supported and facilitated individual meetings with decision makers and private landowners as well as group meetings with agency representatives, organizations, and community members. Participants identified and ranked wildfire concerns and recommended actions, and pinpointed high value resources at risk on a map of the planning area.

The Moloka'i CWPP public and agency input has been organized according to a national framework called The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (dubbed the Cohesive Strategy). The Cohesive Strategy encourages communities to develop a dynamic approach to planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fires. The overarching national strategy is further divided into three regions for tighter collaboration and coordination in each area. Hawai'i falls into the Western Region, which delineates its goals into the following categories:

- Resilient Landscapes
- Fire Adapted Communities
- Safe & Effective Wildfire Response

**Moloka'i  
Community Concerns Organized by  
Cohesive Strategy Categories**



### CWPP Area Overview

ISLAND

**Moloka'i**

DISTRICTS INCLUDED

**Moloka'i**

ACRES COVERED

**166,865**

YEAR COMPLETED

**2016**

NUMBER OF  
WILDFIRES BETWEEN  
2002-2011\*

**107**

LARGEST FIRE ON  
RECORD BETWEEN  
1998-2011\*

**Moloka'i or Kawela  
Flats, 1998,  
12,453 Acres**

NATIONALLY-  
RECOGNIZED  
FIREWISE  
COMMUNITIES WITHIN  
PLANNING AREA

**None**

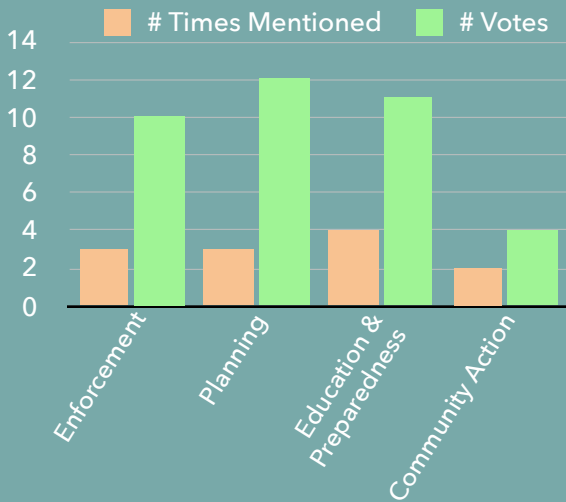
\*Based on available records; update in process

**More CWPP input graphs  
on the back!**

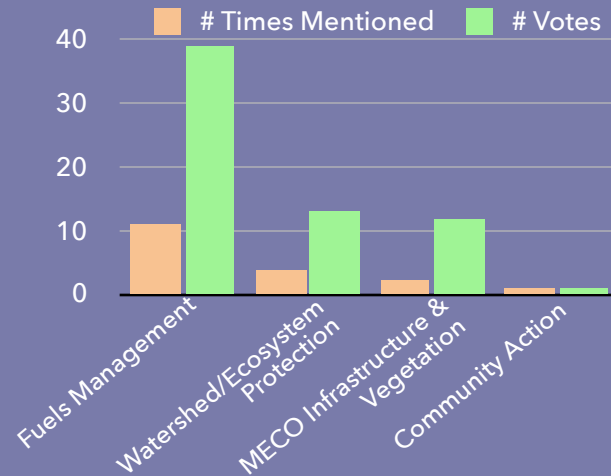
## COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Cohesive Strategy categories (refer to front page) were further broken down by priority concerns. While Moloka'i CWPP participant input yielded diverse and broad concerns and recommended actions, certain topics came up with greater frequency. All input was aggregated and analyzed to capture an overview of the most frequently raised concerns. Concerns were recorded two ways: 1) number of times it was mentioned as an issue by small separate discussion groups during meetings, and 2) number of votes it received once participants were asked to vote on priorities from the full list of concerns generated by all groups at the meeting. The figures below display both.

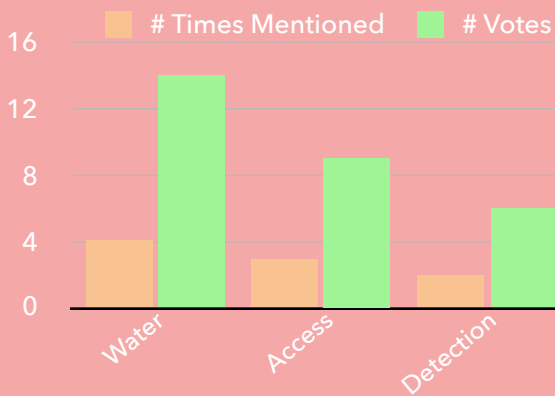
### Public Concerns Related to Fire-Adapted Communities



### Public Concerns Related to Resilient Landscapes

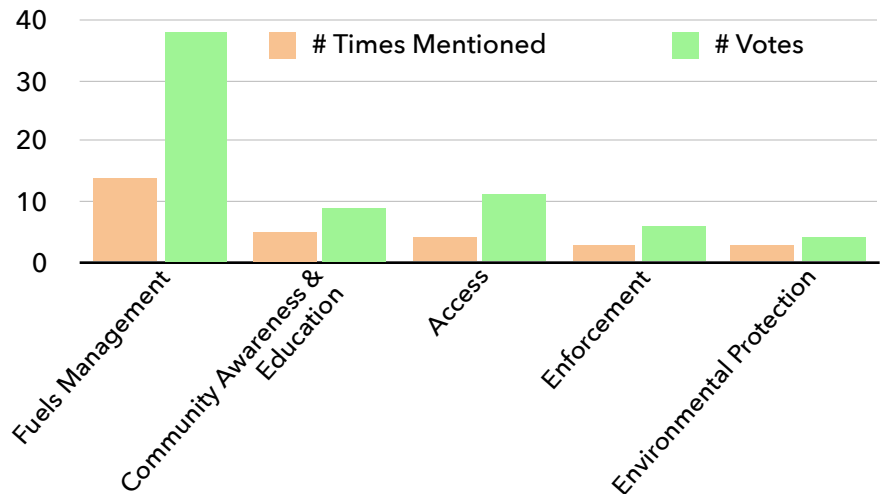


### Public Concerns Related to Safe & Effective Firefighting



### Most Frequently Raised Concerns

The figure below displays the top five most frequently raised concerns by participants in the Moloka'i CWPP process.



This info sheet was created by Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been providing the Hawaiian Islands with nationally-recognized wildfire protection services since 2000. HWMO worked collaboratively with numerous partners on the Moloka'i CWPP with the goal of bringing residents and forestry and fire/emergency professionals together to identify next steps for wildfire protection in the planning area. The plan is compliant with the national framework for CWPPs and is signed by Maui Fire Department, Maui County Civil Defense Agency, and State of Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The complete Moloka'i CWPP is available on the HWMO website (link on the right).

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