

SOUTH MAUI

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

OVERVIEW OF WILDFIRE-RELATED CONCERNS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

SOUTH MAUI PLANNING AREA

The South Maui planning area covers the central-southwestern coastal area of Maui commonly referred to as South Maui. The planning area spans the community and landscape areas from Mā'alaea to Ahihi-Kinau. The South Maui landscape is characterized by residential areas surrounded by highly ignitable fire prone grasses on its upland side and the Pacific Ocean on its coastal boundary. Overgrown vegetation close to homes, pockets of open space within subdivisions, and an increase of non-native high-intensity plants around developed areas pose increasing threats to commercial, community, environmental, and residential resources. Unmanaged fire-prone vegetation, periods of high winds, warm weather, recurring drought conditions, and a history of human-caused fires create the fire environment that puts South Maui at risk of wildfire.

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.

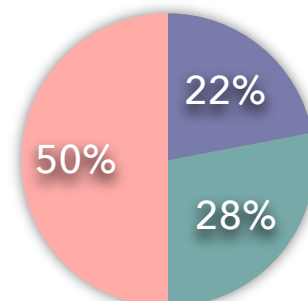
COMMUNITY INPUT COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

To collect input for the South Maui 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 and 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 South Maui 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

South Maui
Community Concerns Organized by
Cohesive Strategy Categories



South Maui Planning Area



CWPP Area Overview

ISLAND

Maui

DISTRICTS INCLUDED

Makawao

Wailuku

ACRES COVERED

27,444

YEAR COMPLETED

2016

NUMBER OF
WILDFIRES BETWEEN
2002-2011*

349

LARGEST FIRE ON
RECORD BETWEEN
2002-2011*

Mā'alaea Powerline
2010, 6,200 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

Many of the community, economic, natural, and cultural resources in South Maui are exposed to wildfire impacts. These impacts are compounded by the fact that land-based, aquatic, and marine-based natural and cultural resources all lie within close proximity across the region. Wildfires threaten lives, homes, and human health in several ways. Many neighborhoods have unmanaged/untended fire fuels interspersed within developed areas, promoting fire spread through communities and into surrounding areas. This creates an increased hazard to lives and homes in the area.

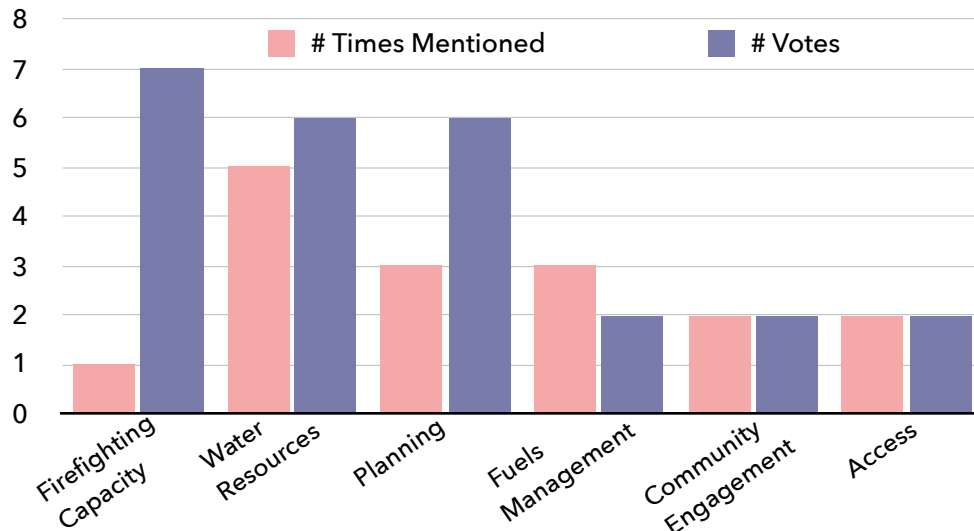
Most Frequently Raised Concerns

While South Maui 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 overall votes it received once participants were asked to vote on priorities from the full list of concerns generated by all groups at the meeting.

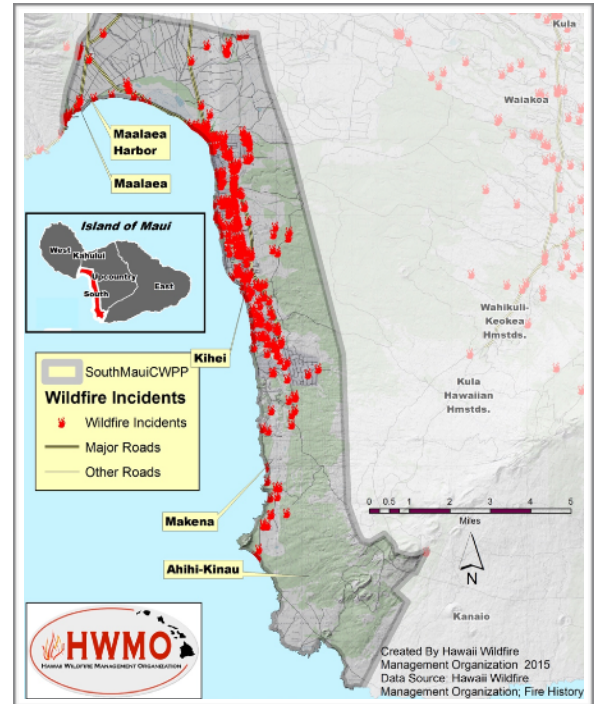
The figure below displays both.



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 South Maui 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 South Maui CWPP is available on the HWMO website (link on the right).

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The above map depicts wildfire ignitions in South Maui between 2000-2012. In line with statewide trends, the majority of wildfire incidents in the area started along roads and human-access areas.



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