

# UPCOUNTRY MAUI

## COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

### OVERVIEW OF WILDFIRE-RELATED CONCERNS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

#### UPCOUNTRY MAUI PLANNING AREA

The Upcountry Maui planning area includes the upland areas commonly referred to as *Upcountry Maui*, as well as nearby downslope communities. The planning area lies between East Maui, South Maui, and the main city center of Kahului. Steep slopes, rough terrain, strong trade winds, and a large percentage of highly ignitable invasive grasses characterize the Upcountry Maui landscape. This, coupled with warm weather, recurring drought conditions, and a history of human-caused fire starts puts the area at increased risk of wildfire. 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)?

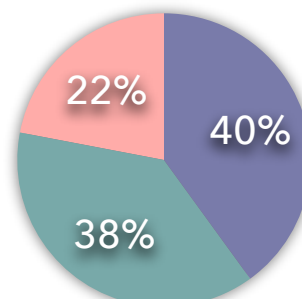
A CWPP is a plan developed by local communities, resource managers, large landowners, city planners, County/State/Federal agencies including emergency responders, state foresters, and other interested parties to clarify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure 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

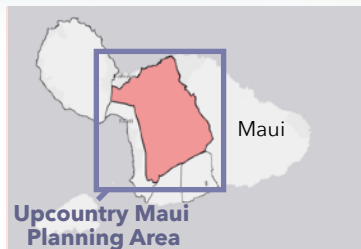
To collect input for the Upcountry Maui CWPP, a foundational component of the CWPP process, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) supported and facilitated individual meetings with decision makers and private landowners and coordinated group meetings with agency representatives, organizations, 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 Upcountry 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:

**Upcountry Maui  
Community Concerns Organized by  
Cohesive Strategy Categories**



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



#### CWPP Area Overview

ISLAND  
**Maui**

DISTRICTS INCLUDED  
**Makawao**

ACRES COVERED  
**119,006**

YEAR COMPLETED  
**2016**

NUMBER OF  
WILDFIRES BETWEEN  
2002-2011\*  
**403**

LARGEST FIRE ON  
RECORD BETWEEN  
2002-2011\*  
**Upper Waiohuli,  
2007, 2,291 acres**

NATIONALLY-  
RECOGNIZED  
FIREWISE  
COMMUNITIES WITHIN  
PLANNING AREA  
**Waiohuli**

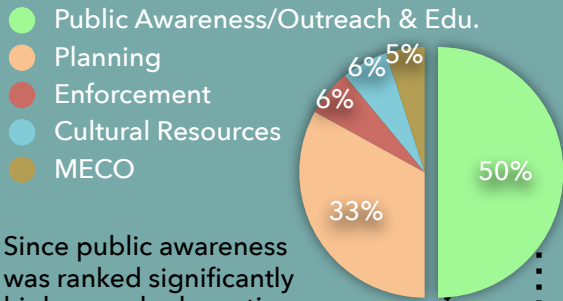
\*Based on available records; update in process

More CWPP input graphs on the back!

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

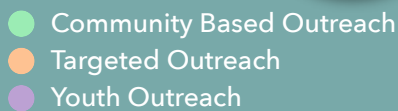
The Cohesive Strategy categories (detailed on front page) were further broken down to reveal the specific concerns and recommended actions proposed by meeting participants.

### Public Concerns Related to Fire-Adapted Communities

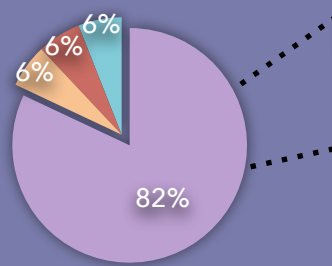


Since public awareness was ranked significantly high, we asked meeting participants to identify outreach strategies they felt would be most effective in their region:

### Recommended Outreach and Education Strategies

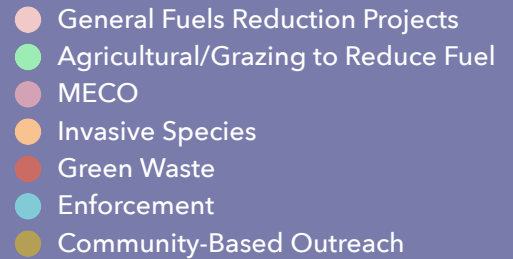


### Public Concerns Related to Resilient Landscapes

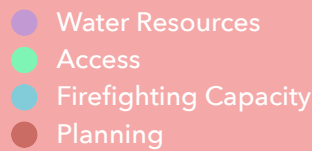


Vegetative fuels management concerns were the highest priority related to fire-related landscape issues. Meeting participants prioritized specific topics to address:

### Fuels Management Recommendations

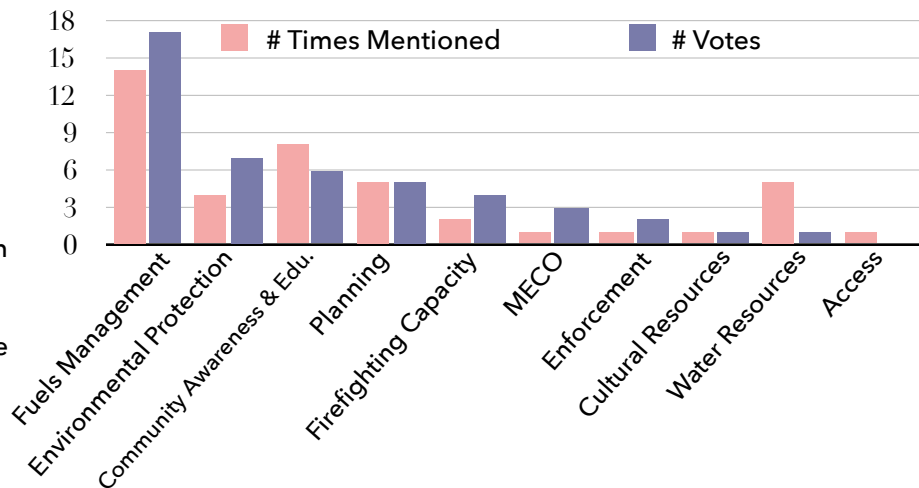


### Public Concerns Related to Safe & Effective Firefighting



### Most Frequently Raised Concerns

While Upcountry 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 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 on the right 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 Upcountry 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 Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The complete Upcountry Maui CWPP is available on the HWMO website (link on the right).

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