

WESTERN O'AHU COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

OVERVIEW OF WILDFIRE-RELATED CONCERNS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

WESTERN O'AHU PLANNING AREA

The Western O'ahu planning area lies on the Island of O'ahu and encompasses the Wai'anae and 'Ewa watershed management districts as defined by the Board of Water Supply. This includes the lands that lie between Ka'ena Point in the north and 'Ewa Beach in the south. For most of its length, the planning area is bounded by the Wai'anae Mountain Ridge on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The southeastern corner of the planning areas is bounded by Pearl Harbor. Steep slopes, rough terrain, strong winds, and a large percentage of highly ignitable invasive grasses characterize the Western O'ahu 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.

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.

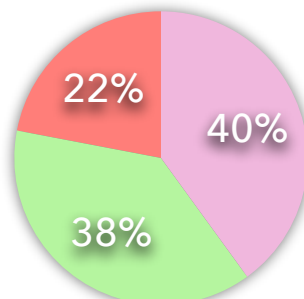
COMMUNITY INPUT COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

To collect input for the Western O'ahu 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. Six public meetings with agency representatives, organizations, and community members were also held. Participants identified and ranked wildfire concerns and recommended actions, and pinpointed high value resources at risk on a map of the planning area.

The Western O'ahu 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

**Western O'ahu
Community Concerns Organized by
Cohesive Strategy Categories**



Western O'ahu Planning Area



CWPP Area Overview

ISLAND

O'ahu

DISTRICTS INCLUDED

Wai'anae

'Ewa

ACRES COVERED

72,864

YEAR COMPLETED

2016

NUMBER OF
WILDFIRES BETWEEN
2002-2011*

3,508

LARGEST FIRE ON
RECORD BETWEEN
2000-2011*

**Makua Valley, 2005,
2,820 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 (detailed on front page) were further broken down to reveal the specific concerns and recommended actions proposed by meeting participants.

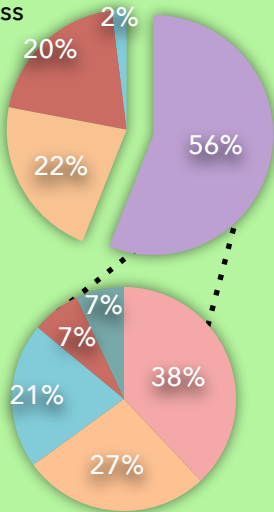
Input Related to Fire-Adapted Communities

- Community Awareness
- Enforcement
- Planning
- Military Participation

Community awareness was a very high priority for Western O'ahu. Meeting participants prioritized the strategies they felt would be most effective in Western O'ahu, depicted here.

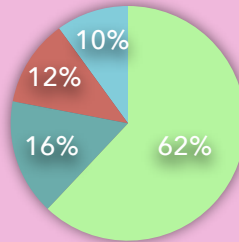
Recommended Community Awareness Strategies

- Youth Outreach
- Outreach Targeting Specific Interests/Issues
- Community-Focused Outreach
- Public Service Announcements
- Social Media



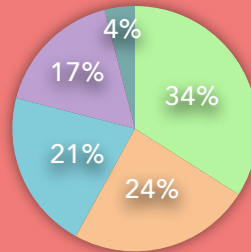
Input Related to Resilient Landscapes

- Vegetative Fuel Management
- Environmental Protection
- Improved Planning
- Other: Enforcement, Cultural Resources, Capacity, Access, Public Awareness, Water



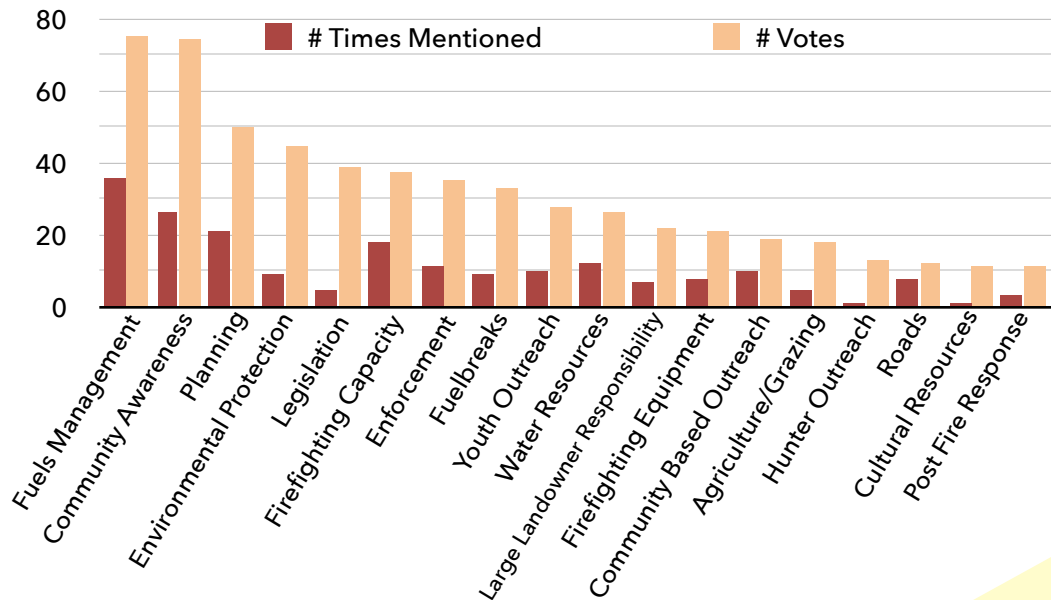
Input Related to Safe & Effective Firefighting

- Capacity
- Water
- Access
- Planning
- Other: Collaboration, Environmental Protection, Federal Burns



Most Frequently Raised Concerns

While Western O'ahu 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 Western O'ahu 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 Honolulu Fire Department, City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, and State of Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The complete Western O'ahu CWPP is available on the HWMO website (link on the right).

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Banner photo Credit: Lito Bacalla



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