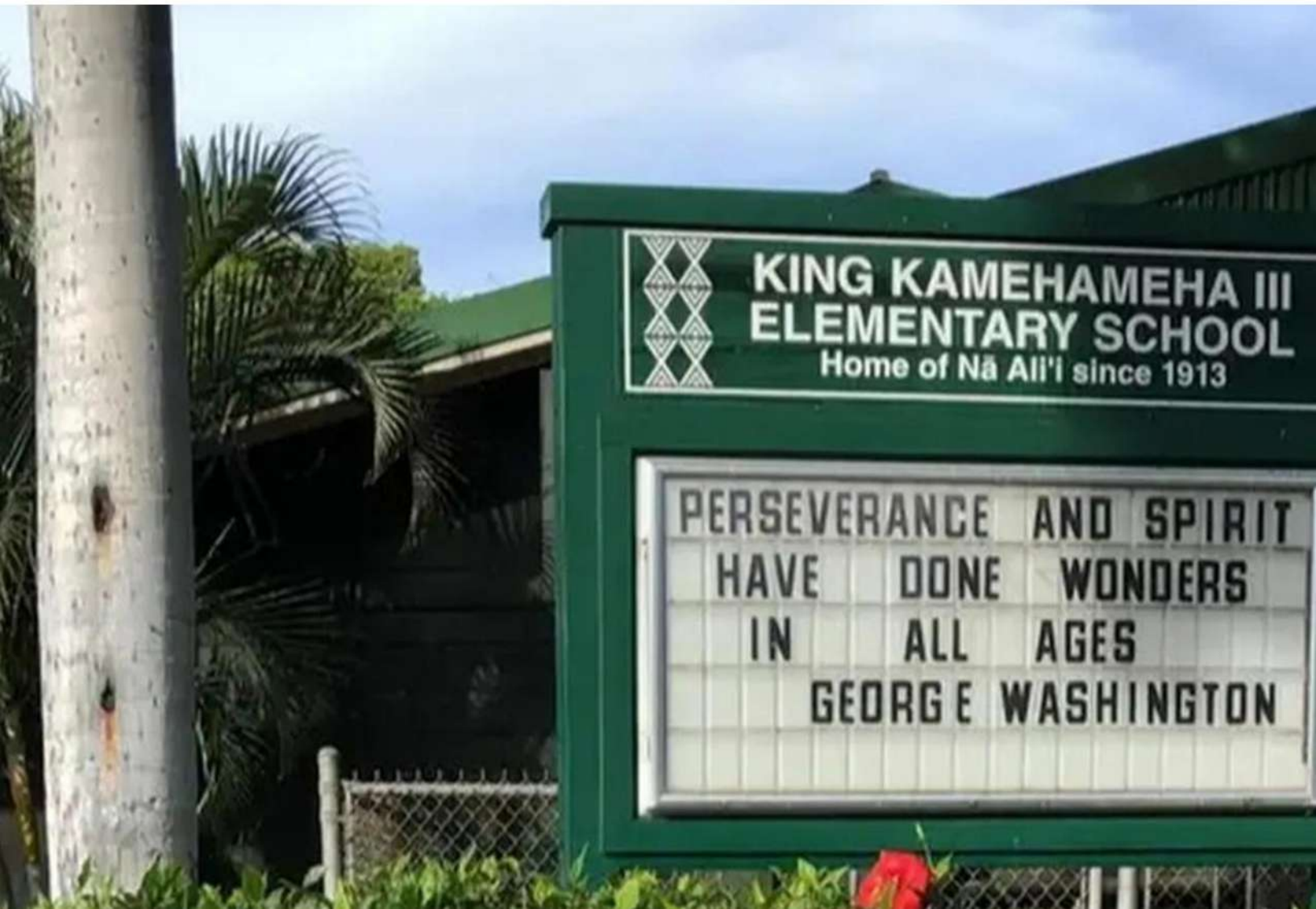




King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Site Selection:

Community Feedback Report December 2024

Prepared by Pa'akai Communications for the
Hawai'i Department of Education





King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Site Selection: Community Feedback Report

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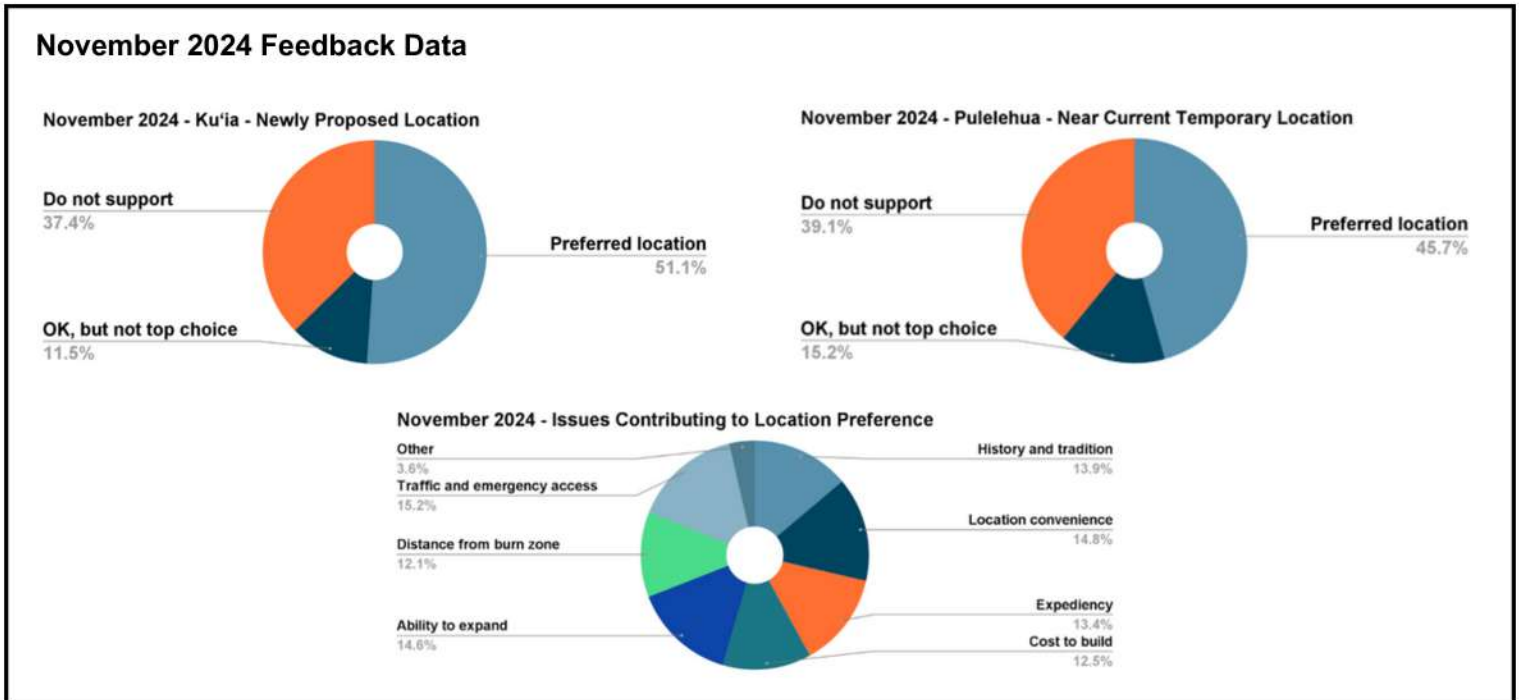
Executive Summary

The Hawai'i Department of Education, with the support of Pa'akai Communications, engaged in collecting community feedback as part of the location selection process for the rebuilding of King Kamehameha III Elementary School. The DOE solicited feedback from the school and local community by holding three meetings. Two meetings took place on May 21, 2024 – one meeting for faculty and staff and a second meeting for school families and the public, followed by sharing out video recording of the meetings and an online survey for community members to provide feedback even if they were unable to attend the in-person events.

A third community meeting was held on November 19, 2024, to solicit feedback on an additional rebuild site option and provide updates on viable sites. This meeting was again followed by sharing an online survey for community members to provide feedback, including those who were unable to attend in person.

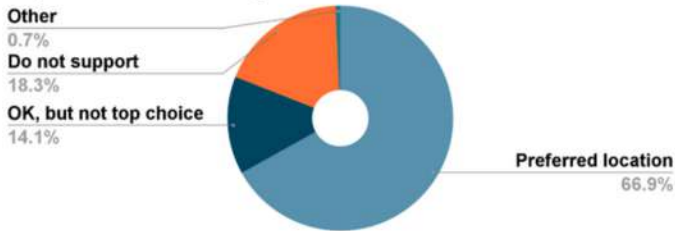
Quantitative Feedback

From May 21, 2024, to May 31, 2024, a total of 291 community members including faculty/staff, current school family members, alumni, and interested community members completed feedback surveys. From November 19, 2024, to December 3, 2024, 194 community members completed feedback surveys. Based on the location options and contributing issues provided in the survey, the results were as follows, organized by meeting:

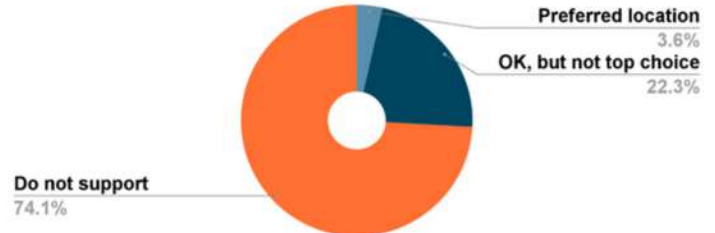


May 2024 Feedback Data

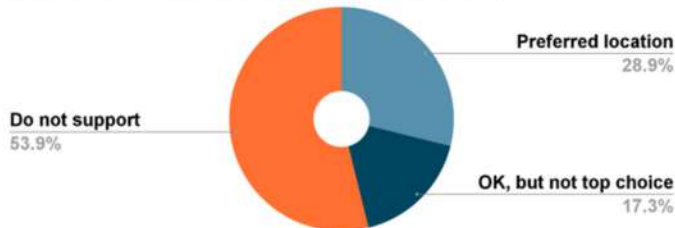
May 2024 - Front Street - Original Location



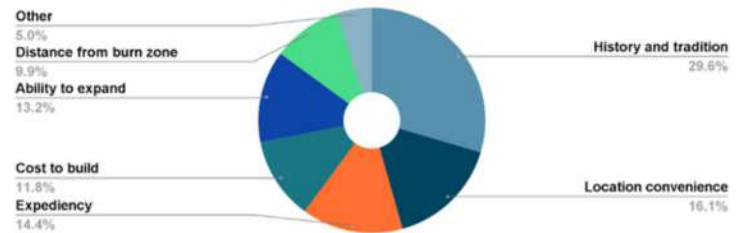
May 2024 - Ka'anapali 2020 - Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka



May 2024 - Pulelehua - Near Current Temporary Location



May 2024 - Issues Contributing to Location Preference



Qualitative Feedback

Qualitative feedback was collected at both in-person meetings, as well as through hard copy and online feedback surveys. The three categories of sentiment below emerged as the most prevalent across all feedback channels.

- Cultural and historical concerns – the desire to keep the original location or at least choose a location within Lahaina town for the school; concern about what will happen to the Front Street location if the school is not rebuilt there; and consideration for the historical significance of the name and location of King Kamehameha III Elementary. These concerns were more prevalent in the May 2024 feedback, however, they were still voiced in the November 2024 feedback.
- Concern about DOE's decision-making process – bias towards the Pulelehua location; requests to slow down the process to include community voice and community members in the decision-making process; and requests to put students and community over expediency and finances. These concerns became more pronounced in the November 2024 feedback.
- Planning for future rebuilding and growth is important – building two schools instead of one; traffic considerations; keeping Lahaina's culture and character; teacher and general housing concurrently; zoning and permitting issues; and providing educational and extracurricular opportunities for students. These concerns became more pronounced in the November 2024 feedback.

Key Takeaways

The following ideas emerged as key concerns raised by the community that were not necessarily part of the DOE's original criteria or plan for selecting a location for the school.

Community Voice: School and community members place a high value on having the opportunity to share their perspectives and wishes, and want the DOE to sincerely take them into account in the decision-making process. Survey respondents emphasized their need for a complete set of facts about the sites before making a decision and are interested in having more than one person make the final decision.

Student Wellbeing: Safety and well-being are the top priority and sit at the forefront of the community's concerns, whether related to evacuation and disaster response plans, environmental exposure, traffic safety, or having a sense of cultural and community grounding for students.

Cultural Awareness: In May, the school's history and tradition, and by extension its name and connection to the Front Street location, were ranked as the top issue by survey respondents by a significant margin who wanted to see these factors honored over expediency or cost. As of November, respondents expressed those same sentiments but now find it to be of equal importance to other issues.

Meeting Present and Future Needs: The community initially expressed an interest in developing two new schools – one at Pulelehua and one within Lahaina town – to meet present and future needs as well as honor the role the school plays in Lahaina's culture and community. In November, this sentiment was echoed, with additional questions about the capacity of Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary, the temporary campus at Pulelehua, and the potential permanent locations.

Introduction

King Kamehameha III Elementary School (KK III) was one of the sites destroyed in the wildfire that swept through Lahaina in August 2023, displacing students, families, faculty, and staff from a learning environment that had operated on Front Street for over a century. The Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) is now in the process of identifying a permanent location to rebuild the school, which currently operates out of a temporary location at 100 Akahahele St, Lahaina, HI 96761.

A statement from the DOE providing context explains, "The Department has been in discussions with the county on the needed infrastructure for the sites being considered for a permanent campus for King Kamehameha III Elementary. We are encouraged by the collective commitment from partner agencies to work together to provide a permanent replacement campus for King Kamehameha III as soon as possible to serve the Lahaina community." The four choices presented over the course of three meetings were:

Front Street - Original location

Initial analysis:

- Involves different building requirements than original construction (setback of 45 feet & 9 ft minimum height of structure above sea level)
- Still in the recovery process (need debris removal, sewage clearance, water clearance, etc.)
- Future growth is limited; property is landlocked and limited in size

Current status: No longer under consideration; land returned to DLNR.

Pulelehua - Near current temporary location

Initial analysis:

- DOE has an existing agreement with the developer to provide a site
- Permitting process can be expedited for this site
- Convenient location is closer than Front Street for many families and students who attend KK III

Current status: Under consideration.

Ka'anapali 2020 - Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka

Initial analysis:

- No existing infrastructure
- Convenient location is closer to the families and students who attend KK III
- Based on master plan modifications to the larger development site, construction on the school could be 10 years away

Current status: no longer under consideration; development paused.

Ku'ia - New proposed location

Initial analysis:

- No developer agreement in place
- Up to 16 acres available for the school site
- Close to the original school location, outside the Historic District and Special Management Area
- Potential for multiple access routes to and from campus
- Close to existing schools (Princess Nāhi'ena'ena ES, Lahainaluna HS, Lahaina Intermediate)
- State Land Use District is Agricultural
- Coordination with land owner is ongoing to understand cost and development timeline

Current status: Under consideration.

As part of the location selection process, the DOE solicited feedback from the school and local community by holding two meetings on May 21, 2024 – one for faculty and staff and a second meeting for school families and the public – and a third community meeting on November 19, 2024. Each of these meetings was followed by sharing out a video recording of the meetings and an online survey for community members to provide feedback even if they were unable to attend the in-person events. The department engaged Pa'akai Communications to facilitate the meetings as a neutral third party and assist in feedback collection and analysis.

The report below summarizes the process and results of the community outreach effort and requests for feedback on the future location of KK III. It is *not* an exhaustive transcript of what was shared, but rather a record of the common themes and key ideas that emerged from all channels of feedback received.

Process

Promotion of In-Person Meetings

A variety of promotional channels were used to encourage feedback and participation in meetings. Promotional materials and posting channels differed between May and November because the promotion in May circulated information about two meetings with different audiences compared to one community meeting in November.

Beginning on May 17, 2024, in-person meetings were promoted leading up to May 21, 2024, to encourage as much faculty, staff, and community participation as possible through the following channels:

- Pa‘akai Communications Social Media: The event was posted and boosted to reach 3,006 people with 22 interactions and 9 shares leading up to the meetings.
- Hawai‘i DOE Social Media: The event was posted on and boosted on all DOE channels to reach a total of 3,455 views and 32 clicks.
- KK III School Website: The event was posted on the announcement pop-up when people navigate to the website with a link to RSVP.
- Faculty/staff meeting flier was circulated on May 15, 2024, to all staff distribution email lists.
- Community meeting flier was circulated on May 15, 2024, to all family distribution lists, known community leaders and influencers, and the Mayor’s advisory council.

Beginning on October 29, 2024, the third community meeting was promoted on DOE and Pa‘akai Communications social media channels leading up to November 19, 2024, to encourage as much participation as possible.

- Mayor’s Community Meeting: Rebecca Winkie and Jadine Urasaki presented at the Mayor’s Community Meeting on September 25, 2024, indicating that an additional community meeting would be scheduled soon. Pa‘akai Communications Social Media: The event was posted on Instagram and Facebook and boosted to reach a combined total of 17,687 people with 46 interactions and 15 shares.
- KK III Social Media: The event was posted to Facebook on October 22, 2024, and gained five likes and three shares. A second post announcing the new date was made on October 29, 2024, which gained one like and two shares.
- Hawai‘i DOE Social Media: The event was posted on Instagram and Facebook on November 15, 2024, and received 22 likes.

In-Person Meeting Facilitation

Two in-person meetings were held to gather community feedback on the potential locations to rebuild King Kamehameha III Elementary School; one meeting for school faculty and staff was held on May 21, 2024, at 2:30 pm and a second meeting was held for students, families, and community members on May 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Both meetings were held at the cafeteria of King Kamehameha III Elementary School’s temporary campus located at 100 Akahahele Street, Lahaina, HI 96761.

Following these two meetings, an additional in-person meeting was hosted to update the community on which sites are still under consideration and to introduce a new potential rebuild site. This meeting was held on November 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm at the cafeteria of King Kamehameha III Elementary School’s temporary campus located at 100 Akahahele Street, Lahaina, HI 96761.

The meetings were facilitated by a neutral third party: Christine Matsuda, Pa‘akai Communications principal with the support of Pa‘akai staff Aerinne Morisoli, Diana Hahn, and Nā‘ālehu Anthony, with CAS Rebecca Winkie speaking on behalf of the Department of Education. At each meeting, attendees signed in with their names and zip codes to track attendance and received a paper version of the feedback form to complete during the meeting.

Opening protocol (pule) was offered by Lahaina resident and Advisory Council member Kaliko Storer at the May 21 meetings and by Uncle Earl Kukahiko at the November 19 meeting. Refreshments were provided to create a respectful and welcoming environment before the commencement of the meeting.

Meeting facilitation was designed to provide information and ensure that as many community voices as possible were heard. Instead of doing testimonial-style feedback with one microphone, meeting participants were broken into small groups so that everyone would have the opportunity to speak within the available time frame. Small group discussions and the option to provide written feedback via feedback surveys or post-it notes also allowed those who preferred written communication over public speaking the opportunity to still contribute. The meetings ran according to the agendas below.

May 2024 Meeting Agenda (used for faculty/staff and general community meetings)

Introduction and overview: 10 minutes

- Introduction of meeting goal: *to get feedback on which site is best for our school community when it's time to rebuild a permanent King Kamehameha III Elementary.*
- Introduction of facilitation and documentation team
- Explanation of post-meeting sharing of video and feedback forms online
- Explanation of meeting agenda:
 - *We will hear from CAS Winkie about the three possible site options - their pros and cons - and the DOE's current recommendation for a preferred path forward.*
 - *We will break into small groups to hear your thoughts. We are doing it this way, instead of lining up behind a microphone, because we want to make sure that anyone who would like to talk through their ideas has a chance to have their voice heard.*
 - *We will close with an overview from CAS Winkie about next steps in this process.*
- Introduction of CAS Winkie

CAS Winkie Presentation of DOE selection criteria and three location options - 10-minute presentation followed by 20-minute Q&A

- [Click here](#) to view the presentation deck

Mana‘o: 30 minutes

- Meeting participants are invited to share their feedback by:
 - Completing the feedback form;
 - Participating in facilitated small group discussions; and/or
 - Adding their ideas to the Post-it boards placed around the room

CAS Winkie presentation of DOE next steps: 10 minutes

- [Click here](#) to view the presentation deck

Closing: 5 minutes

- Thanking community members for their participation
- Explanation of how to access and encouraging community members to share meeting video and online feedback forms between now and May 31, 2024
- Explanation that report will be publicly available after the feedback period ends

November 2024 Meeting Agenda (used for general community meetings)

Introduction and overview: 10 minutes

- Introduction of meeting goal: *to get feedback on which site is best for our school community when it's time to rebuild a permanent King Kamehameha III Elementary.*
- Introduction of facilitation and documentation team
- Explanation of post-meeting sharing of video and feedback forms online
- Explanation of meeting agenda:
 - *We will hear from CAS Winkie about updates on potential locations, including the introduction of a new possible site - locations deemed unviable and the pros and cons of possible locations.*
 - *We will break into small groups to hear your thoughts. We are doing it this way, instead of lining up behind a microphone, because we want to make sure that anyone who would like to talk through their ideas has a chance to have their voice heard.*
 - *We will close with an overview from CAS Winkie about next steps in this process.*
- Introduction of CAS Winkie

CAS Winkie Presentation of DOE selection criteria and updated location options - 10-minute presentation followed by 20-minute Q&A

- [Click here](#) to view the presentation deck

Mana'o: 30 minutes

- Meeting participants are invited to share their feedback by:
 - Completing the feedback form;
 - Participating in facilitated small group discussions; and/or
 - Adding their ideas to the Post-it boards placed around the room

Closing: 5 minutes

- Thanking community members for their participation
- Explanation of how to access and encouraging community members to share meeting video and online feedback forms between now and December 3, 2024
- Explanation that report will be publicly available after the feedback period ends

Feedback Collection

Feedback was collected through a variety of in-person and online channels including:

- Hard copy surveys were distributed and completed at the May 21 faculty/staff and community meetings and the November 19 community meeting.
 - Documentation of comments made by community members at the in-person meetings
 - Documentation of feedback provided during the facilitated small group sessions at the in-person meetings
- Online surveys were available from May 21 to May 31, 2024, and November 19 to December 3, 2024.

Post-Meeting Outreach

Additional outreach was done to engage community members who were unable to attend the in-person meetings with the intention of providing as many community members as possible with information about the process and the option to provide feedback if they felt compelled to do so. Pa'akai Communications and the DOE coordinated outreach through the following channels:

- King Kamehameha III School Website:
 - The online feedback form and a link to a page housing the meeting video were featured in the pop-up notices that appear when people first navigate to the school’s website from May 21 to May 31, 2024. The video recordings were posted and made accessible for community viewing within 24 hours of the meeting via the school’s website.
 - The online feedback form was featured in the pop-up notice that appears when people first navigate to the school’s website from November 21 to December 3, 2024.
 - On November 19, 2024, Kamehameha Schools posted an article about the Kamehameha III Elementary School rebuild sites along with a link to provide feedback. To view the article, [click here](#).
- King Kamehameha III School Social Media:
 - On November 21, 2024, a call for feedback was posted on Instagram and Facebook and received 5 likes.
- Pa’akai Social Media:
 - Boosted post about the availability of the meeting video and online feedback forms on May 22, 2024, reached 4,299 people with 56 interactions and 15 shares.
 - On November 20, 2024, a call for feedback was posted on Instagram and Facebook and boosted to reach a combined total of 17,492 people with 37 interactions and 21 shares.
- DOE Website:
 - The DOE posted a blog article summarizing the May community meetings along with a link to the online feedback form on May 22, 2024. To view the post, [click here](#).
 - The DOE posted a blog article summarizing the November community meeting along with a link to the online feedback form on November 19, 2024. To view the post, [click here](#).
- Mayor Richard Bissen's Weekly Disaster Recovery Community Update Meeting: An announcement was made and flyers were handed out to invite the community to participate in the feedback survey at the Mayor's meeting on May 22, 2024.
- Flyer Distribution on Campus: Flyers were made available at the temporary campus school office from May 23 to May 31, 2024 and from November 12 to November 19, 2024.

Analysis

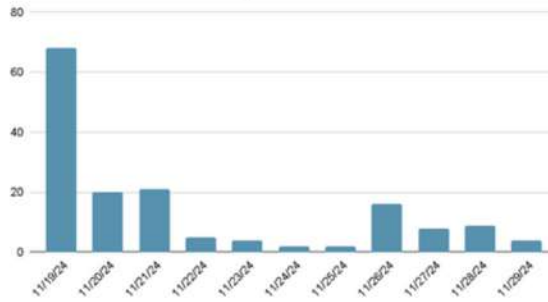
All feedback, from the in-person meetings and the online survey, was reviewed, discussed, and analyzed by the Pa’akai Communications team to produce this report. Impressions from community members and anecdotal sharing from community members were also documented and taken into account. Qualitative feedback was coded and categorized to identify key points of community interest and concern.

Survey Results

Feedback Survey Participation

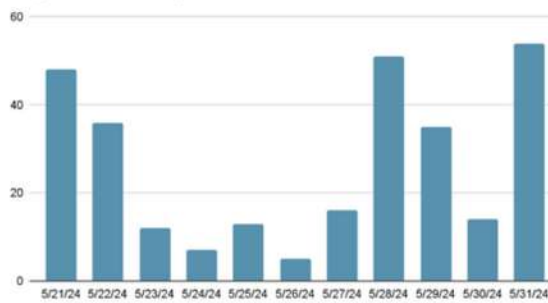
A total of 194 community members completed surveys from November 19, 2024, to December 3, 2024. A majority of responses were received within 48 hours of the meeting, with 66 surveys having been completed in person.

November 2024 - Response Timeline



A total of 291 community members completed feedback surveys From May 21, 2024, to May 31, 2024. A significant number of responses were received within 48 hours of the meetings, with 48 surveys (including 3 student surveys) completed in person and 36 online surveys completed on May 22, 2024. There was also an increase of survey responses at the end of the feedback window with 54 online surveys completed on the final day.

May 2024 - Response Timeline



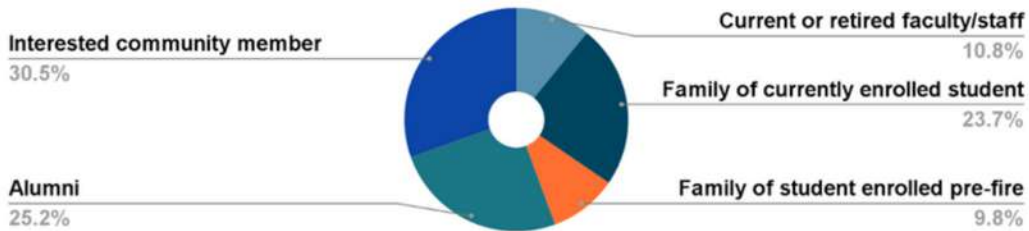
About 100 fewer people submitted feedback following the November meeting compared to the May meetings. In May, there was a more sustained rate of submissions throughout the feedback period. In November, there was a slight increase in responses one week after the meeting, but most responses were received immediately following the event.

Respondents included current or retired faculty/staff, families of currently enrolled students, families of students who were enrolled prior to the wildfires, school alumni, and interested community members. In both May and November, the majority of those who attended the in-person meetings and completed hard-copy surveys had current affiliations with the school, while the majority of online surveys were completed by interested community members and alumni.

November 2024 - Respondents



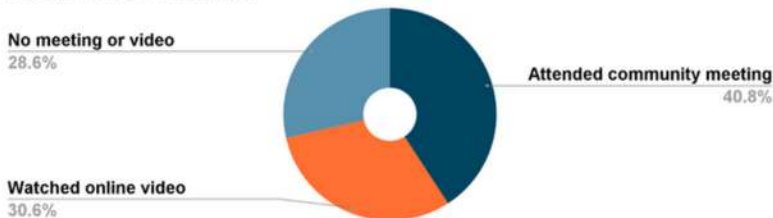
May 2024 - Respondents



Although most respondents either participated in an in-person meeting or watched the video online, a significant number of respondents did not attend the meeting or watch the video. The surveys did, however, include a summary of the three locations' pros and cons to provide context for respondents.

In November, a staff meeting was not held and the category was removed from the data. Accounting for this change, there was an increase of about 12% in in-person attendance. The about 12% decrease in respondents who watched online suggests that people who previously watched the meeting online in May instead chose to attend in person in November. There was a slight increase of 0.8% in respondents who did not watch the meeting or video, showing very little change from May. Again, the surveys included a summary of the three locations' pros and cons to provide context for those respondents.

November 2024 - Participation



May 2024 - Participation



In addition to the general survey, a student survey was also offered. At the May meetings, three students responded to this survey with the results below. Of the three students, two preferred the Front St. location, and one preferred Pulelehua. When asked what was important about their school and what they would like to share, their responses were:

- Friends, teachers, culture, and diversity.
- A great playground.
- History.
- Everyone feels at home like 'ohana.
- Wanting it to feel like a (normal) school.

In November, a student survey was again offered and one response was received. This student was asked to indicate their preference between the Pulelehua and Ku'ia sites by checking "Yes", "Maybe", or "No". The student checked "Maybe" for Pulelehua and said that they believe Pulelehua is the safest place to build a permanent school. To this student, the most important thing about the school is that they and the future generation are able to learn and be friends.

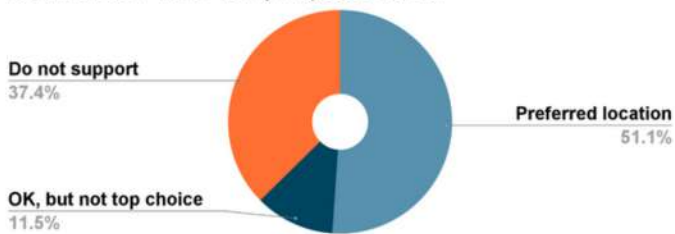
Location Preference

November 2024

A majority of the 128 people who completed the survey online preferred the Ku'ia location. There were similar levels of opposition to both locations, but slightly more online respondents were opposed to the Pulelehua site. 66 people completed the survey at the in-person meeting and in contrast to the online respondents, they strongly preferred the Pulelehua location over Ku'ia. The Ku'ia location had about the same amount of support and opposition, but respondents were much more opposed to the site than to Pulelehua. Between online and in-person survey results, there was no major change in the percentage of people who would be okay with either site.

When combining both digital and in-person survey responses, the Ku'ia location was preferred over the Pulelehua location. The Ku'ia location also had slightly fewer "do not support" responses than the Pulelehua location.

November 2024 - Ku'ia - Newly Proposed Location



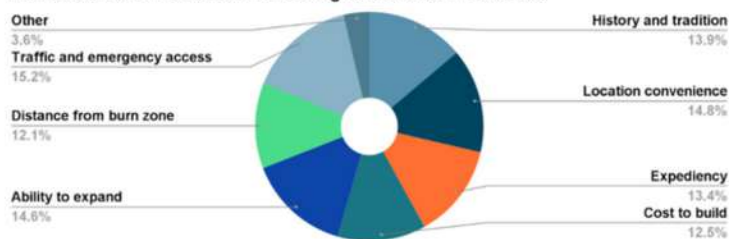
November 2024 - Pulelehua - Near Current Temporary Location



November - Issues Contributing to Location Preference

Again, respondents were asked to rank the importance of issues that influence their location preference on a scale of 1 (most important) to 3 (least important). While most issues had similar levels of importance to respondents, "Traffic and emergency access" was the highest-ranking issue. The nearly equal importance placed on each issue is a deviation from the survey results of the May meetings which showed "History and tradition" as the highest-ranking issue by a significant margin.

November 2024 - Issues Contributing to Location Preference

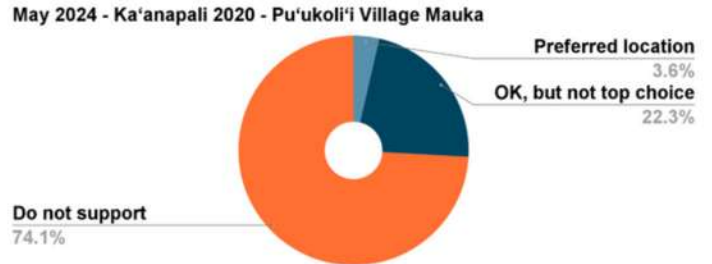
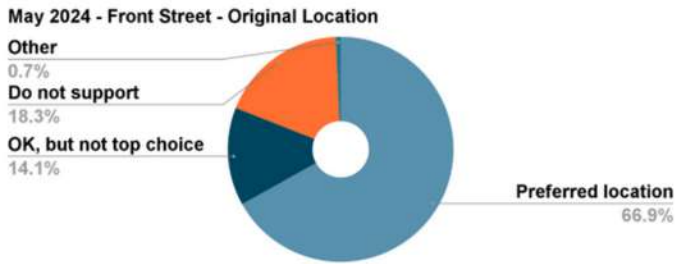


In addition to the issues presented in the feedback survey, respondents were also invited to add other issues that may not have been listed. Other issues raised by the community included:

- Student and family safety
- Weather
- Cultural significance
- Honoring staff, students past and present, and ali'i, including King Kamehameha III
- Lahaina needing its own school
- Building two schools instead of one
- Future uses of Front St. location if not to rebuild the school
- More space for bigger, better, and safer area for students
- Traffic and parking

May 2024

A clear majority of respondents chose Front St. as their preferred location, however, there was not a consensus. The Ka'anapali location had the least support with a clear majority stating that they do not support this option. Pulelehua was a slightly more preferable location for those who attended the in-person meetings (primarily current faculty, staff, and families) than those who completed online surveys (primarily alumni and interested community members). There was also discussion about finding an alternative site within Lahaina town for the school, aside from the three options presented, as well as the possibility of creating an alternative educational or community facility on the Front Street location or at another location within Lahaina town. These options were raised by the community, as they were not initially presented as an option in the DOE's presentation materials or the feedback surveys.



May 2024 - Issues Contributing to Location Preference

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of issues that influence their location preference on a scale of 1 (most important) to 3 (least important). "History and tradition of the school site" emerged as the highest-ranking issue, with a clear majority of respondents ranking it as most important. The issues are listed below in order of most to least important based on respondent rankings.



In addition to the issues presented in the feedback survey, respondents were again invited to add other issues that may not have been listed. Other issues raised by the community included:

- A desire to build schools in both locations
- Proximity to where the student population is located
- Serving and supporting the community
- Commute and traffic
- Closeness to the original site
- Water access and fire safety

Qualitative Feedback

November Community In-Person Meeting Feedback

Meeting participants were invited to share feedback by participating in small group discussions and/or adding their ideas to post-it note boards placed around the meeting space. The summary of sentiments below provides insight into how prevalent an idea was, along with an example(s) of how it was expressed in the meeting. The top four topics were:

- Concerns about the safety, accessibility, infrastructure, and zoning of the potential Ku'ia site: 15 mentions
 - “The Ku'ia site is in a known fire-prone area. Moving from a tsunami zone to a fire area is still keeping our kids in a danger area.”
 - “Any access in/out of Ku'ia needs to be multi-modal and lessen impacts on our roads.”
- Concerns about traffic and accessibility of the school in relation to where students live, where it is needed, and in the case of an emergency: 13 mentions
 - “Already 3 schools at top of mountain - concerned about safety of 3 schools won't another one cause more congestion & safety concerns”
 - “The Ku'ia site is too close to Princess Nāhi'ena'ena. If there is already an elementary school in our Lahaina, make education more accessible and put the new campus in Pulelehua.”
- Concerns about the final decision-making process and a desire for more information from the developers, DOE, and Kamehameha Schools before a decision is reached: 12 mentions
 - “Kamehameha School should let people know what their plans are. The developers should be at the next meeting so we may ask the questions and get the right answers.”
 - “If the Supt. is making the decision he should be present at the community mtg!”
 - “We need to redesign the process to include more community input. Not enough info now to make decisions.”
 - “There should be a panel to make the final decision. Need more of Hawaiian immersion institution!”
- Interest in building multiple schools to plan for future rebuilding and growth: 4 mentions
 - “Why hasn't a 2nd/3rd elementary already been built? This has been in the “talks” since I was a kid.”
 - “The DOE has promised the community a school in Kā'anapali for years, now they say they'll build another one if they see the #s. But the #s existed for a long time!!”

May Faculty and Staff In-Person Meeting Feedback

Meeting participants were invited to share feedback by participating in small group discussions and/or adding their ideas to post-it note boards placed around the meeting space. Discussions were documented by facilitators by adding post-its to the boards and marking how many people agreed with each idea, as well as by participants adding their own post-its to the boards. The summary of sentiments below provides insight into how prevalent an idea was, along with an example(s) of how it was expressed in the meeting. The top four topics were:

- Cultural and historical concerns, and the desire to keep the original location or at least choose a location within Lahaina town: 20 mentions
 - “Lahaina is different than central Maui and Oahu. Our community needs to be treated differently.”
 - “Smaller Schools- Pulelehua room to grow. Kamehameha @ original site in time. DON'T WIPE IT OFF THE FACE OF THE MAP. Too much History!!!”

- Interest in building two schools, for a total of 3 schools in the area – potentially building Pulelehua now and another school on Front St. or in Lahaina town in the future: 11 mentions
 - “Kamehameha III needs to be rebuilt in Lahaina. 3rd elementary should be built as planned. Lahaina community will wait out the rebuilding of Kamehameha III regardless of time and money because it carries sentimental value and history.”
- Concern about DOE bias, decision-making process, and inclusion of community voice and community members in the decision-making process: 6 mentions
 - “We need a Kamehameha III staff or at the very least someone from Maui - regular citizen- on the board to decide the placement of the school.”
 - “Presentation of options is extremely biased towards Pulelehua. Other two options shot nothing but negative points while Pulelehua shows positive.”
- Planning for future rebuilding and growth is important: 4 mentions
 - “Remember the town kids will be coming back. Especially new neighborhoods coming up.”

May Community In-Person Meeting Feedback

Meeting participants were invited to share feedback by participating in small group discussions and/or adding their ideas to post-it note boards placed around the meeting space. Discussions were documented by facilitators by adding post-its to the boards and marking how many people agreed with each idea, as well as by participants adding their own post-its to the boards. The summary of sentiments below provides insight into how prevalent an idea was, along with an example(s) of how it was expressed in the meeting. The top four topics were:

- Interest in building multiple schools to plan for future rebuilding and growth: 14 mentions
 - “Two would make more sense: one relatively quickly - Pulelehua. Another one at a place that's reasonable and allows careful rebuilding of the original location (and keep the name).”
- Concern about the Front St. location – wanting the school to be rebuilt there, or concern about what will happen to that location if the school is not rebuilt there: 14 mentions
 - “Original site will ground the community.”
 - “If KK III is not at the original site, what will happen with that space?”
- Concerns about permits, zoning, infrastructure, and new school development in relation to broader rebuilding of Lahaina: 12 mentions
 - “Why not build permanent housing and school at the same time?”
- Concern about DOE bias, decision-making process, and inclusion of community voice and community members in the decision-making process: 11 mentions
 - “DOE giving a “selling point”. It seems like the DOE made up their minds based on how the information was presented.”
 - “Community needs more time to exercise their voices and make appropriate recommendations.”

Survey Qualitative Feedback

The hard copy and online survey forms included space for respondents to provide qualitative feedback by answering two optional open-ended questions:

1. What would you like the DOE to take into consideration when selecting the permanent site for the school to rebuild?
2. Is there anything else you would like to share with the DOE about site selection?

In May, of the 291 surveys completed, 156 answered the first question and 95 answered the second question above, suggesting that respondents were actively engaged in the feedback process and had put thought and effort into completing the survey. The most mentioned topics* in the open-ended questions reflected related interests and concerns highlighted in other areas of the survey including:

- Tradition, history, culture, and legacy of the original location, school name, and Lahaina town: 98 mentions
 - “Lahaina is so special because of its people and history, and we need our school to be rebuilt where it belongs to revive the heartbeat of the community. Also, it would be disgraceful to move the school and still name [it] King Kamehameha III. That name belongs with that location. It would be like relocating Lahainaluna and calling it Lahainaluna.”
- Listening to community feedback and honoring what Lahaina wants/needs for healing, including having someone from Lahaina involved in the location selection process: 46 mentions
 - “Lahaina Residents, parent/student/teacher feedback should be considered and respected.”
- Health, safety, well-being, and convenience for students and families: 32 mentions
 - “Safety of course is number one. They need to rebuild the school with thought and precaution.”
 - “Put [the school] up higher where it’s safer and the water and soil [and] air is clean.”
- Concerns about DOE bias and location selection process: 24 mentions
 - “My feedback doesn’t matter based on your presentation.”
 - “Do the right thing. Communicate with the public. Don’t continue to lose their trust and support.”
- Consideration of other possible sites and/or building more than one school: 23 mentions
 - “Build at Pulelehua and rebuild [a] second [school] back on Front Street further down the line.”
 - “It would be great if the school were near the aquatic center and the ball fields so the school could utilize those facilities easily. Kids could go from school to the Boys and Girls Club without having to bus or cross the highway on foot.”

Other topics with multiple mentions included:

- Keeping future growth in mind
- Teacher housing
- Expediency of rebuilding
- Cost to rebuild
- Traffic and parking
- Pulelehua litigation concerns

**Some comments mentioned more than one topic.*

In November, of the 194 surveys completed, 141 answered the first question and 85 answered the second question, again suggesting that respondents were actively engaged in the feedback process and had put thought and effort into completing the survey. The most mentioned topics* in the open-ended questions reflected related interests and concerns highlighted in other areas of the survey including:

- Health, safety, well-being, and convenience for students and families, including considerations for traffic, congestion, and student population centers: 85 mentions
 - “Where the demographic that is currently enrolled in temp KAM III are located. Spread the schools out. Don't make people North of Kaanapali stuck clogging Lahaina in case of another emergency”
 - “Traffic congestion in Lahaina if we need to evacuate all 4 campuses. As a teacher, parent, and fire victim our lives and safety is my biggest concern.”
- Tradition, history, culture, and legacy of the original location, school name, and Lahaina town: 29 mentions
 - “A school bearing the name King Kamehameha III belongs in Lahaina not in Mahinahina. There is no pilina to wahi. It's unfortunate that the school can no longer be on the 'āina once belonging to our Mo'i, but I understand why. But it can still be in Lahaina in Ku'ia on 'āina belonging to other nobility.”
 - “If location is NOT in Lahaina town, will the name change?”
 - “Kam III should stay in Lahaina, build a different school in Pulelehua. Kam III was in Lahaina for 110 years, does history and tradition mean nothing??”
- Listening to community feedback, needs, interests, and values: 26 mentions
 - “Listen to the community. There is a reason the people do not want to leave their home land of Lahaina.”
 - “Take into heavy consideration that the new location needs to resonate the importance of Kamehameha III vision to why this area was important because it was the capital of the Kingdom.”
- Consideration of building more than one school to address existing needs or prepare for future growth: 25 mentions
 - “Reminder that Pulelehua was planned to have an additional new school not as a replacement for King Kamehameha III.”
 - “I also feel that once the building of homes start in Pulelehua there will be a need for another school out there. That the DOE should consider having both schools not either one or the other. That's only fair. Because pre fire the two Lahaina elementary schools were already bursting at the seams.”
- Concerns about the final decision-making process and a desire for more information: 23 mentions
 - “There is not enough information from future developers about the spaces - need more info before a decision can be made”
 - “Why is the superintendent the ONE PERSON who gets to make the ultimate decision on the location of the school? Why is it not a committee or a democratic vote?”
- Supporting the restoration of Lahaina and honoring what Lahaina wants/needs for healing: 20 mentions
 - “The DOE should think about how so many of us lost everything, we don't want to lose having our school in our neighborhood.”
 - “The new school can serve as an important starting point for re-construction of Lahaina. We need re-construction we do not want to abandon Lahaina Town and build elsewhere because the initial step is deemed "easier.”

Other topics with multiple mentions included:

- Expediency of rebuilding
- Focusing less on the cost of rebuilding
- Consideration of staff wants and needs

**Some comments mentioned more than one topic.*

Social Media Feedback

In addition to the planned channels for feedback in May, the online survey gained organic traction on social media with 25+ shares. The comments on these threads generally reflected the sentiments expressed above. The social media comments generally were short and reflected a desire to rebuild at the original Front Street location, although some also expressed concern about rebuilding on Front Street. Comments included:

- “Back to its original location!”
- “How about where it has always been?”
- “Original place, on front street.”

In November, posts about the online survey gained organic traction on Pa‘akai Communications’ social media with 21 shares. Three social media comments were left on these posts:

- “Lahaina will never be the same after Aug 8 but we can hope and pray as Lahaina is healing into a rebuild that our school kam3 will be rebuilt in Lahaina”
- “Why are they moving it from where it was-- downtown near the banyan tree?”
- “Would be good if King Kamehameha III ES remain at the Honolua side of the Honokowai Stream. The solar farm should be relocated somewhere appropriate. Princess Nahi'ena'ena ES could come out on the Ku'ia land. Lahaina old folks could utilize the Princess Nahi'ena'ena complex as a senior center, senior daycare, etc. Nothing is impossible.”

Additionally, the Hawai‘i Public Schools Instagram account posted an event announcement on November 15, 2024, which received the following comment:

- “I support kuia because kam3 always has been in Lahaina.”

Conclusion

May community feedback collected in regard to the future permanent location of KK III provided insight into community sentiment about each of the three potential locations, and also raised several concerns and potential solutions that were not initially part of the DOE's site selection criteria and process. Feedback in May showed that this is a nuanced issue that goes beyond logistical and financial concerns and is deeply embedded in the fabric of history, culture, community, and Lahaina's longer-term healing and recovery process post-wildfire. After an additional meeting in November, community feedback showed some changes in opinion, preference, and priorities regarding an updated list of rebuild site options. Community sentiment shifted toward prioritizing safety, convenience, and infrastructure. The key insights gleaned from the community, which were not explicitly part of the DOE's presentation of site options, follow.

Community Voice

In May, it was made clear that the school and Lahaina community value having a voice in the decision-making process, and feel the significance and impact of the decision not only for those currently and directly connected to the school but for the community at large and the future of the area. Sensitivity to "outsiders" making decisions for Lahaina without understanding or including local perspectives was expressed, and as such it appears that moving forward with community support would require integrating community feedback into the decision-making process, and transparent communication around how this was being done.

Additional concerns about community involvement in the decision-making process were brought up in November. Many in-person respondents feel they were not given enough information from the developers and DOE about the sites to make an informed decision and did not feel their questions were adequately answered. Community members also expressed concern about the State Superintendent having responsibility for the final site selection decision. It was made clear that community members would like a greater level of transparency, more information about each site, and dedicated time to ask the developers and DOE questions.

Student Wellbeing

In May feedback, there were 24 mentions of safety in the qualitative survey responses. Although the safety of students should be taken as a given within the context of a school, community members felt that it was important enough to explicitly mention. Concerns about health and safety were expressed in a variety of ways, including questions about evacuation and disaster response plans (fire and tsunami); environmental exposure; and traffic safety. Community members were interested in the DOE putting student welfare, whether in terms of health and safety or cultural/community grounding, above all else.

In November feedback, safety was the highest-ranking issue and was mentioned 85 times in qualitative survey responses. Many of the respondents' concerns were consistent with those expressed in May, including questions about evacuation and disaster response plans (fire and tsunami); environmental exposure; and traffic safety. An additional point that community members repeatedly brought up is the convenience of the location for students and families. Community members asked that the proximity to students' homes, traffic congestion, and the location of other schools in the area be taken into consideration.

Cultural Awareness

Lahaina's unique and deep connection to culture and history was prominent in the feedback received in May. The school's history and tradition, and by extension its name and connection to the Front Street location, were ranked as the top issue by survey respondents by a significant margin. While the majority of respondents were open to building a school at Pulelehua, many felt it would not be appropriate to associate the "King Kamehameha III Elementary" name with the new school as this name is culturally and historically bound to Lahaina town.

The same sentiments about the school's history, tradition, and name were expressed in November feedback, but it is no longer the top issue for respondents. In this round of feedback, both in-person and online respondents assigned nearly equal importance to each issue, including "History and tradition." Additionally, while a majority of respondents are still open to building a school at Pulelehua, they now prefer the Ku'ia location, often because of its proximity to Lahaina and the original Front Street Location. If a school were to be built at the Pulelehua location, many still feel that it would be inappropriate to associate the "King Kamehameha III Elementary" name with the new school.

Meeting Present and Future Needs

In May, the idea of working toward building two new schools, with the understanding that Pulelehua could be built first followed by another school (or facility that supported student learning and wellbeing, e.g. library, recreation center, etc.) at the original Front Street location or another location within Lahaina town, garnered significant support in the community meetings and was also mentioned multiple times in the online survey qualitative feedback. This option would address both the need to plan for future growth, as well as honor King Kamehameha III Elementary's history and the role it plays in Lahaina's culture and community.

With the original Front Street location ruled out as an option, opinion and sentiment about building two schools is now more nuanced. The community requested additional information about the capacity of the existing schools, Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary and the temporary campus at Pulelehua, as well as the current student population of West Maui. Concerns were raised about timelines, and the potential for overcrowding at schools if development of a third location was not started early enough. Some community members asked if it was possible to move forward with both the Ku'ia and Pulelehua locations, as well as an inquiry into the possibility of redistricting. With student population growth and geography dependent on a number of factors including economic recovery, housing availability, and family location preference, at this time there is no clear preference on location or timeline based on future needs.

The decision of selecting a location and building a new school has significant implications for the Lahaina community that will potentially affect generations to come. As Lahaina rebuilds, this decision is just one of many that will have this level of impact on a community and place that is still recovering not only in terms of rebuilding infrastructure, but coming to terms with personal and collective tragedy. As such, pragmatism, planning for the future, and sensitivity to the community's wishes all need to be balanced in order to move forward with the community's support.

Appendix

Presentation from November 19, 2024 Presentation


Title Slide



**King Kamehameha III Elementary School
Rebuild Site Selection Community Meeting
November 19, 2024**

Slide 1


**Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary:
Meeting Agenda**



1. Presentation by the DOE on the status of potential locations, including the newly identified Ku'ia location near Lahaina Town
2. Q&A session
3. Community feedback

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 1

Slide 2




Rebecca Winkie
Complex Area Superintendent
for the Hawai'i State Department
of Education's (HIDOE) Hāna-
Lahainaluna-Lāna'i-Moloka'i
Complex

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 2

Slide 3

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Department of Education Updates



After receiving community feedback in May and additional information over the summer/fall, HIDOE has determined the Front Street and Ka'anapali sites are not feasible. HIDOE has continued to search for other options and do its due diligence in evaluating potential sites.

CURRENT STATUS:
HIDOE has identified a new potential site on land in Ku'ia owned by Kamehameha Schools. HIDOE seeks your feedback on Pulelehua and this new site.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 3

Slide 4

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Key Considerations: Time and Cost




We are still committed to our original goals:

- Getting students into a permanent school with better facilities and a **better learning environment as soon as possible.**
- Moving to a permanent location before the temporary school location lease increases significantly in 3 years to **save taxpayer dollars.**
- Completing construction in **3-5 years.**


King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 4

Slide 5

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Key Considerations: Location




- KK III's students are **spread across West Maui.**
- It would be preferable to rebuild the school in an area **close to where the majority of students and families live.**
- Some students and families have expressed they would like the school to be relocated **outside of the area impacted by 2023 fire**; some have expressed the desire to be **within Lahaina Town.**
- The ideal location would offer the **potential for future expansion** of the school.
- HIDOE is considering where to **rebuild KKIII**, and is **still also considering the development of an additional new school**, if and when population growth supports the development of a new school.



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 5

Slide 6


Front Street Location: No Longer Being Considered



Location is not viable because:

- New building requirements (set back and height requirements) are unable to be met
- Burial sites with 'iwi kūpuna found on site


This land will be returned to the County of Maui and Department of Land and Natural Resources.



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 6

Slide 7

Ka'anapali 2020, Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka: No Longer Being Considered



Location is not viable because:

- Developer is not moving forward at this time; therefore there are no plans to build the infrastructure that would be needed for a school.


If and when development begins, this site could be reconsidered.



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 7


Slide 8

Pulelehua: Under Consideration



FACTORS:

- DOE has an existing agreement with the developer to provide a site for a new school
- 13 acres designated for the school
- Close to current temporary school site
- Reduced commute time for some families living near Napili/Kahana
- Not located in Lahaina Town, further from original school location
- Traffic flow on Akahale St.
- State Land Use District is Urban
- Coordination with developer is on-going to understand cost and development timeline




King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 8

Slide 9

Ku'ia: New Location Under Consideration

The Ku'ia location is located on Kamehameha Schools lands between the Lahaina Bypass and the tsunami zone.

HIDOE is in discussions with KS about the option to rebuild on up to 16 acres of Ku'ia land.




King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 9

Slide 10

Ku'ia: New Potential Location

FACTORS

- No developer agreement in place
- Up to 16 acres available for the school site
- Close to the original school location, outside the Historic District and Special Management Area
- Potential for multiple access routes to and from campus
- Close to existing schools (Princess Nāhi'ena'ena ES, Lahainaluna HS, Lahaina Intermediate)
- State Land Use District is Agricultural
- Coordination with land owner is on-going to understand cost and development timeline



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 10

Slide 11

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: What We Know


	Ku'ia	Pulelehua
Timeline	Unknown, further discussions needed	Unknown, but likely shorter than Ku'ia as this site is farthest along in terms of planning and permitting
Price	Unknown: HIDOE is conducting due diligence on costs and available funding sources for both sites	
Location	Closer to Lahaina Town and original school location	Closer to some families in Napili/Kahana

HIDOE is studying the changing demographics of West Maui as new housing is constructed and homes are being rebuilt.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 11

Slide 12

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Community Feedback We Have Heard So Far




	Ku'ia	Pulelehua
Concerns We've Heard from Community Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water availability Traffic/road congestion Ku'ia is too far from where some families live in upper West Maui Evacuation routes and fire risk in Ku'ia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water availability Traffic/road congestion Site is far from Lahaina Town and cultural significance of original site Windy/dusty conditions near Kapalua airport

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 12

Slide 13

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: HIDOE's Site Selection Process




- HIDOE Facilities Development Branch **presents due diligence findings and site evaluations** to the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent
- Decision-making will consider **timeline, cost, availability of infrastructure, physical and historical characteristics of the site, fire safety, community sentiment**, among other factors
- Final decision is made by **the Superintendent**

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 13

Slide 14

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: What We Know




	Ku'ia	Pulelehua
Timeline	Unknown, further discussions needed	Unknown, but likely shorter than Ku'ia as this site is farthest along in terms of planning and permitting
Price	Unknown: HIDOE is conducting due diligence on costs and available funding sources for both sites	
Location	Closer to Lahaina Town and original school location	Closer to some families in Napili/Kahana

HIDOE is studying the changing demographics of West Maui as new housing is constructed and homes are being rebuilt.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 14

Slide 15

**Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary:
What do you think?**



Option 1 - Quiet and Independent feedback

- Fill out a feedback form. If you would like to add more thoughts to your form, you may also use the large post-its around the room and stick them to your paper.

Option 2 - Group feedback

- If you would like to speak about your reaction to the options, please look for one of the scribes around the perimeter of the room and join a small group there.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 15

Slide 16

**Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary:
Use the Digital Feedback Form**




 bit.ly/KKIII-site-feedback

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 16

Slide 17

**Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary:
Next Steps**



1. **Community feedback** - HIDOE will continue to collect feedback through December 3, 2024, then review all community feedback.
2. **Next Steps** - HIDOE will review feedback from community, continue to do due diligence, and report back when there is more complete information.
3. **Goal** - A brand new school for Lahaina.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 17



**Mahalo nui for joining us and sharing your mana'o.
Please check <https://www.kkiii.org/> for updates.**

Presentation from May 21, 2024 Meetings


Title Slide



**King Kamehameha III Elementary School
Rebuild Site Selection Community Meeting
May 21, 2024**

Slide 1


Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Meeting Agenda



1. Update on selection criteria and the current status of site options by CAS Winkie
2. Share your perspective in small groups and/or through the feedback form
3. Overview from CAS Winkie about next steps in the site selection and rebuilding process

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 1

Slide 2




Rebecca Winkie

Complex Area Superintendent
for the Hawai'i State Department
of Education's (HIDOE) Hāna-
Lahainaluna-Lāna'i-Moloka'i
Complex

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 2

Slide 3

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Department of Education Updates




The Office of Facilities within HIDOE is responsible for looking at properties and assessing infrastructure, readiness to build, and overall viability of each potential location to relocate the school.

CURRENT STATUS:
HIDOE has identified potential locations and is now seeking community input.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 3

Slide 4

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Key Considerations: Time and Cost




- We want to get students into a permanent school with better facilities and a **better learning environment as soon as possible.**
- The lease on the temporary school location will increase significantly in 3 years and continue to increase moving forward, motivating us to move to a permanent location **rather than spending taxpayer dollars on rent at a temporary location.**
- HIDOE would like to **complete construction in 3-5 years.**


King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 4

Slide 5

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Key Considerations: Location




- KK III's students are **spread across West Maui.**
- It would be preferable to relocate the school to an area **closer to where the majority of students and families live.**
- Some students and families have expressed that they would like the school to be relocated **outside of the burn zone.**
- The ideal location would offer the **potential for future expansion** of the school.



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 5


Slide 6

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: 3 Potential Locations



HIDOE has considered three potential locations for the school:

1. Original site on Front Street in Lahaina
2. Pulelehua
3. Kaanapali 2020, Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 6

Slide 7

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Front Street



PROS

- Same location, convenient
- Sentimental value, historical importance

CONS

- In burn zone
- New building requirements (set back and height req's)
- Still in recovery process
- 4 burial sites with significant historical value and culture
- No potential for future expansion



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 7

Slide 8

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Pulelehua



PROS

- DOE has an existing agreement with the developer to provide a site for a new school
- 13 acres designated for the school
- Reduced commute time for many families
- Only location that meets the 3-5 year timeline
- Easier transition from temporary to permanent site

CONS

- Distance from original school location
- Traffic flow on Akahele St.
- Continued development may cause noise/dust



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 8

Slide 9

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Ka'anapali 2020, Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka



PROS

- Kaanapali Land Development drafted a master plan that designated land for a school
- Convenient location closer to families

CONS


- No infrastructure, longer timeline
- County may have other plans after the wildfire
- Developer master plan modifications may push the start date by 10 years



King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 9

Slide 10

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: Option Comparison




	Front St	Pulelehua	Ka'anapali
Timeline	Long - no infrastructure	Shorter - farthest along in terms of planning and permitting	Long - no infrastructure
Price	Requires significant investment to meet new building requirements	Developer obligations and FEMA funding will help minimize cost	Unknown
Location	Original location, in burn zone, no room for growth	Potentially closer to other families, room for growth	Potentially closer to other families, room for growth

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 10

Slide 11

Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary: What do you think?



Option 1 - Quiet and Independent feedback

- Fill out a feedback form. If you would like to add more thoughts to your form, you may also use the large post-its around the room and stick them to your paper.


Option 2 - Group feedback

- If you would like to speak about your reaction to the options, please look for one of the scribes around the perimeter of the room and join a small group there.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 11

Slide 12

**Rebuilding King Kamehameha III Elementary:
Next Steps**



1. **Community feedback** - HIDOE will continue to collect feedback through May 31, 2024, then review all community feedback.
2. **Next Steps** - HIDOE's Office of Facilities will be initiating a series of Open House Meetings held from summer to fall to gather community input. Each date in the series will include meetings at 3 different locations across Maui.
3. **Goal** - A brand new school for Lahaina.

King Kamehameha III Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting | 12

Slide 13



**Mahalo nui for joining us and sharing your mana'o.
Please check <https://www.kkiii.org/> for updates.**