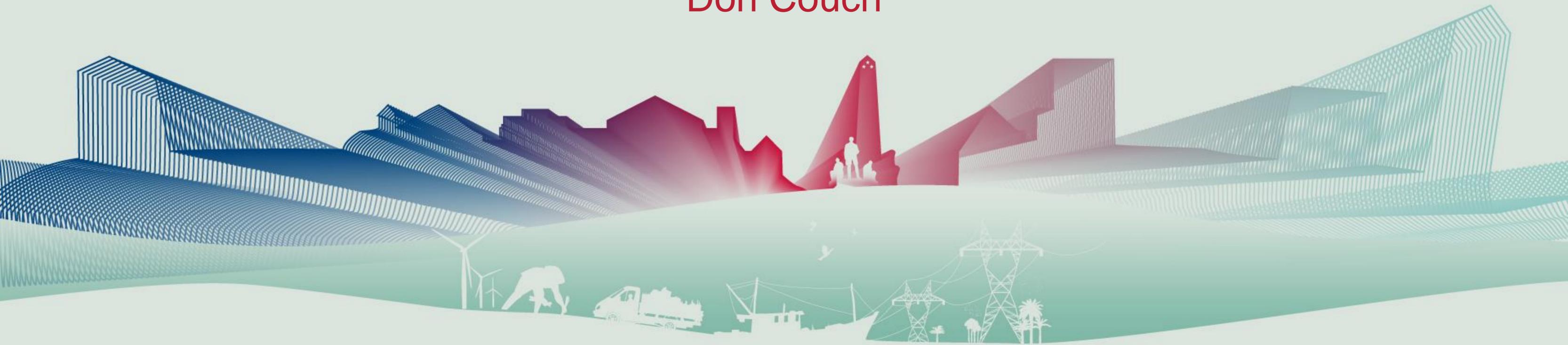


# Cooperative Urban Development in Hawaii

Don Couch

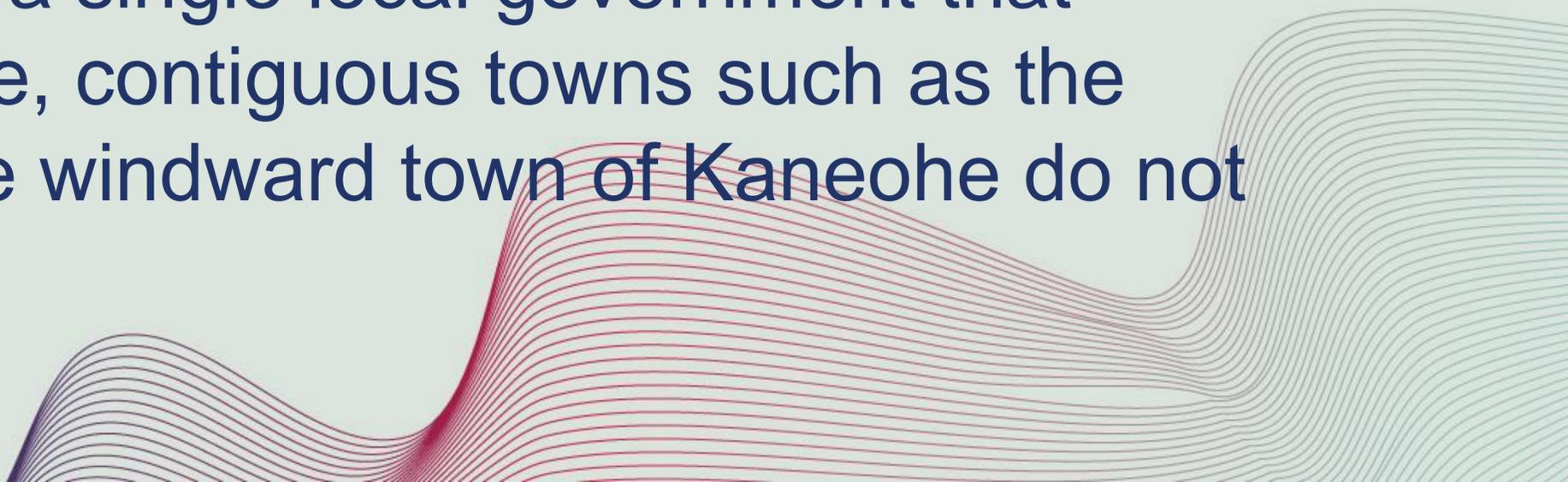


## Trends in Urban Development in Hawaii: Cooperation Among Government Entities to Manage Growth of Cities and Towns

---

Unlike the Philippines, the State of Hawaii does not have a formal system for creating metropolitan arrangements between urbanized cities and the local governments that are contiguous to it.

Honolulu, Hawaii's largest metropolitan area, is located entirely on the island of Oahu which has a single local government that covers the entire island. Large, contiguous towns such as the "second city" of Kapolei or the windward town of Kaneohe do not have their own governments.



# Trends in Urban Development in Hawaii: Cooperation Among Government Entities to Manage Growth of Cities and Towns

---

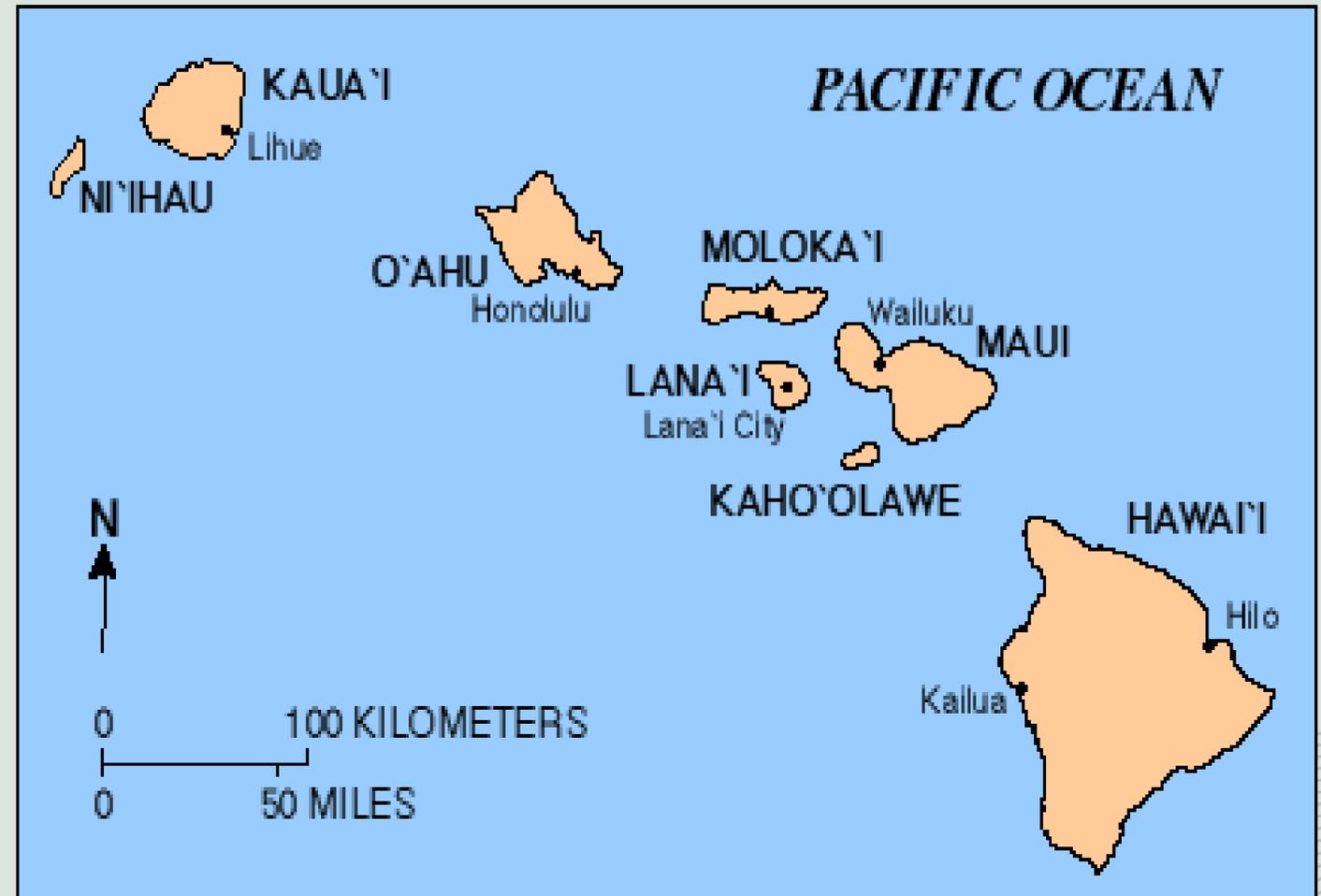
Smaller urbanized areas are located on neighbor islands and not contiguous to Honolulu. The State of Hawaii has jurisdiction over matters such as education which are more typically managed at the local level. The federal government has a large presence in Hawaii, too.

Although Hawaii's geography and political structure don't support formal metropolitan arrangements, cooperation between government is widespread and other arrangements are used to provide common benefits.



# Regional Challenges and Issues Require Inter-Governmental Cooperation

- Today, I will focus on a few regional challenges and how they are being addressed cooperatively by local, state and federal government.
- These issues include: Hawaii's growing population and its shift to smaller urban areas; the need for economic diversity; the housing shortage; transportation management; and the need for improved water and wastewater infrastructure.





Honolulu is Hawaii's Largest Metropolitan Area on the Island of Oahu

# Hawaii's Growing Population

- Hawaii's total population in 2015 was 1.431 million.
- Working age population (18 to 64) was 884,358.
- Maui's total population was 164,637.
- Maui's working age population was 101,746.



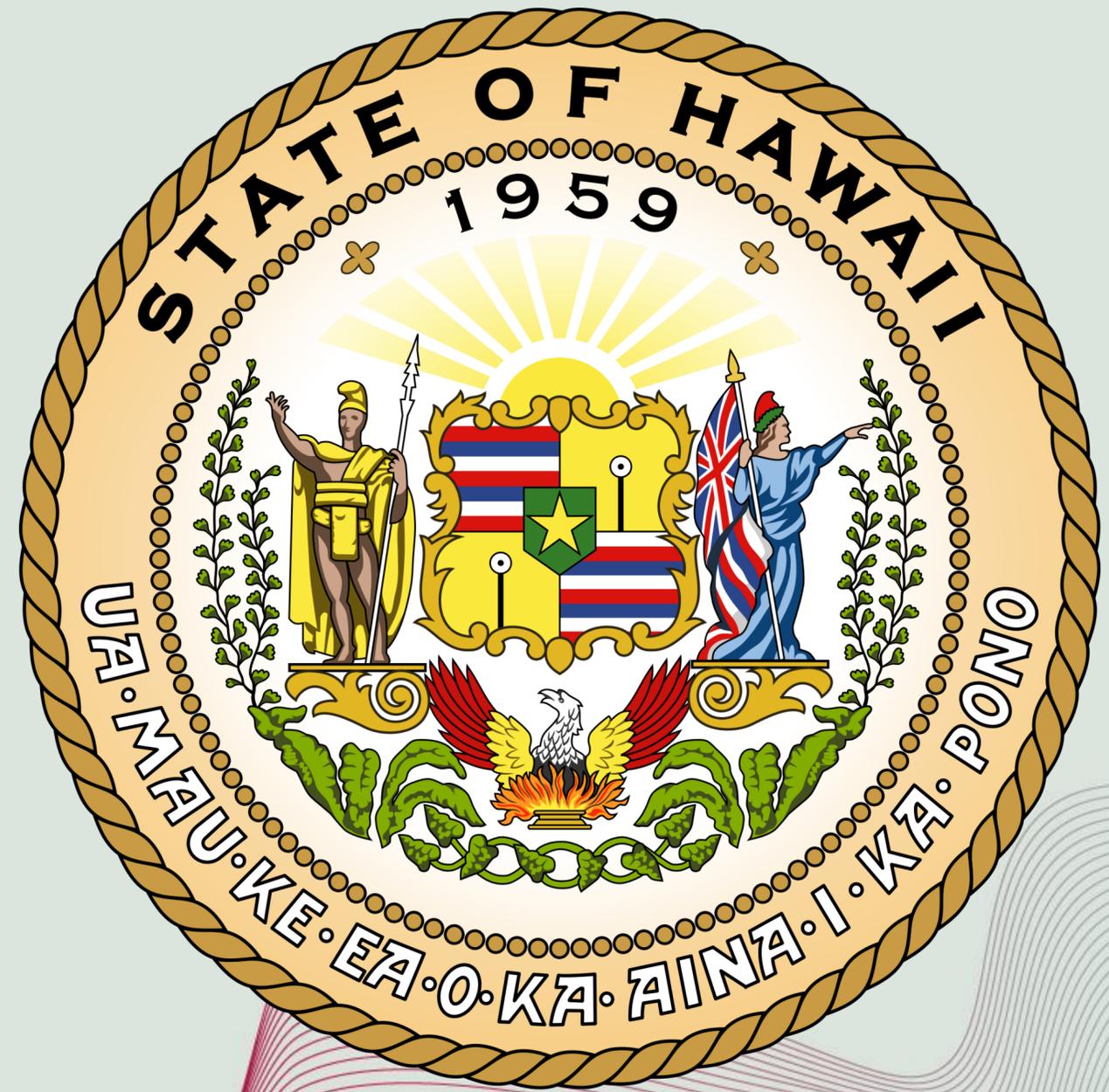
# Hawaii of the Past – Centralized Government & Population

- Historically, the bulk of Hawaii's population concentrated in Honolulu urban core.
- Government very centralized with State control of transportation, water, land use, education and economic development.
- Rural areas had plantation economies of pineapple and sugar cane production.



# Today, Government is Hawaii's Largest Employer

- The State of Hawaii employs more than 52,000 people with an additional 20,000 working part-time.
- The Department of Education has the most employees.
- The U.S. military employs 4% of the state's population, or 47,000 people.
- The University of Hawaii has 8,000 employees.



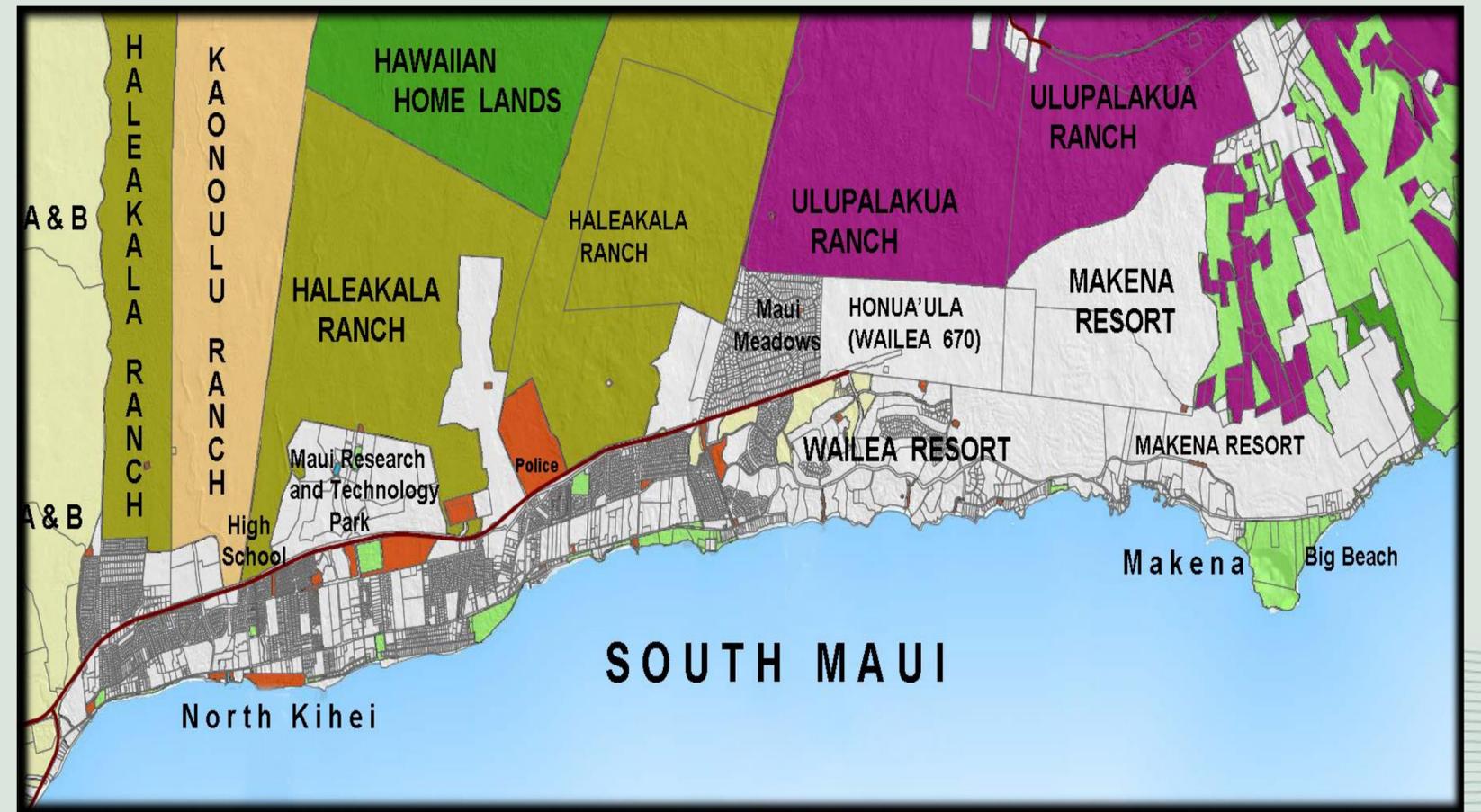
# Government Support of Diversified Economic Development

- Maui has had some success in emerging energy sectors such as wind and solar power.
- Examples are the Kaheawa Wind Farm in Maalaea and the Auwahi Wind Farm at Ulupalakua Ranch.
- The state and county land use plans include policies favoring the high-technology and knowledge-based sectors.
- Maui is home to the Maui Research and Technology Park – which has one of the worlds biggest super computers.
- Maui's Haleakala Observatories house advanced solar telescopes.
- Support through tax incentives and direct financial support have come from the federal and state.
- The state and county have assisted with land use planning and laws.



# Urbanization of Rural Maui

- Resident population of Hawaii projected to increase from 1,363,621 in 2010 to 1,708,900 in 2040, or 0.8% per year.
- Highest population growth outside of Honolulu is on neighbor islands.
- Maui expected to grow at 1.4% per year.
- One of fastest growing cities is Kihei on Maui's south shore.



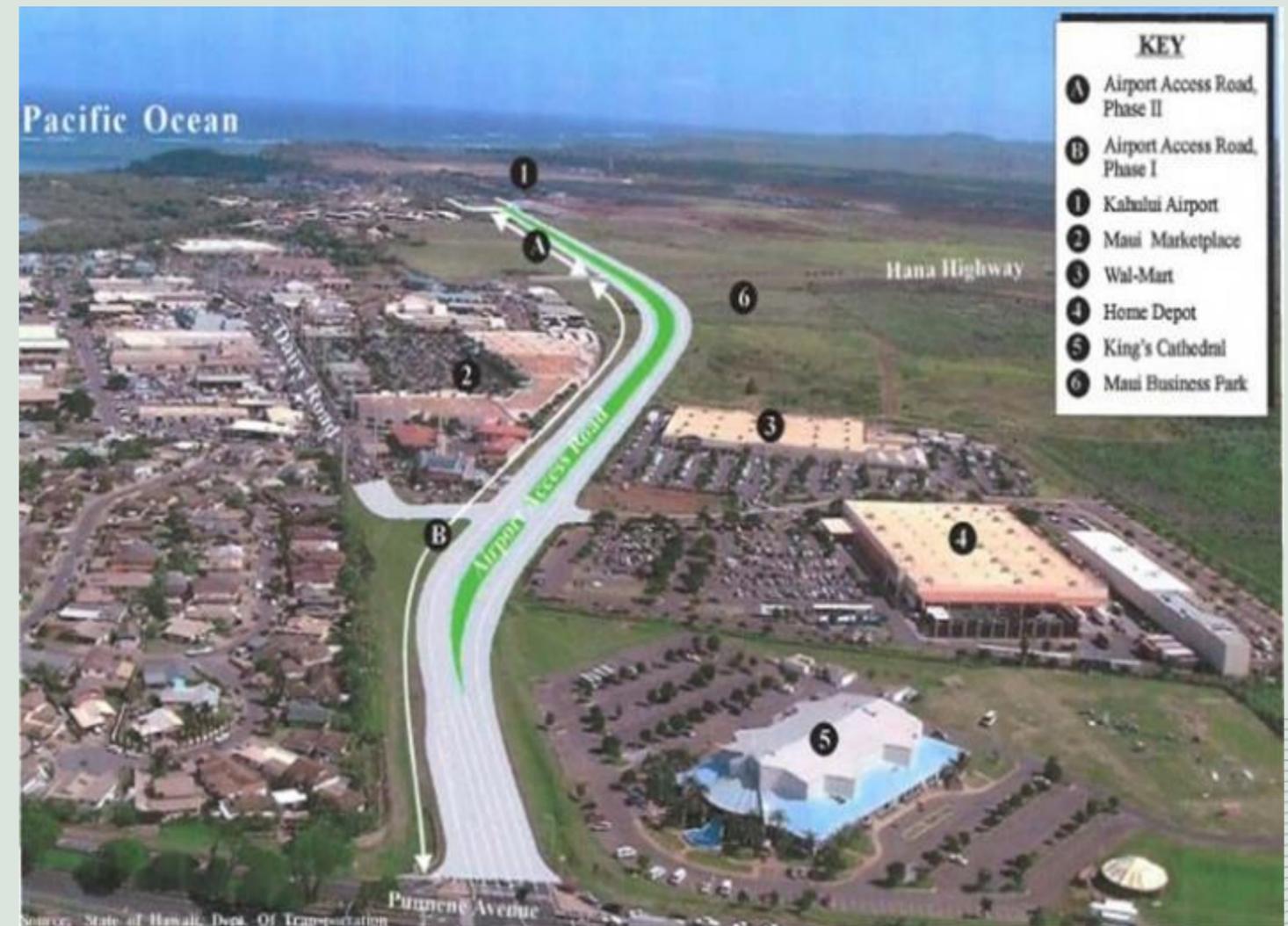
# Affordable Housing Initiatives- Programs for the Homeless

- The Governor of the State of Hawaii has issued an emergency order to relax many laws for the purpose of supporting homeless initiatives.
- For fiscal year 2017, the Maui County Council appropriated more than \$1 million for homeless programs, funded two homeless specialist positions, and provided \$4 million in aid to social services agencies for programs for the homeless.
- The federal government contributes through housing subsidies for low income residents.



# Public Facilities - Transportation

- Streets and roadways are the primary infrastructure supporting the island's transportation system.
- Jurisdiction shared between the State of Hawaii and the County of Maui.
- Major highways and corridors are generally under the State's jurisdiction.
- Although there are some private roads, most of the remaining roadways are under the County's control.
- The condition of the roadway system impacts safety, the movement of goods and products, the efficiency of emergency public services and quality of life.
- The objective of the County is to provide for a more integrated island-wide transportation and land use planning program that reduces congestion and promotes more efficient (transit-friendly) land use patterns.
- County policies support public transportation (bus system), pathways, sidewalks and bikeways and amending County regulations to incorporate improved design standards.



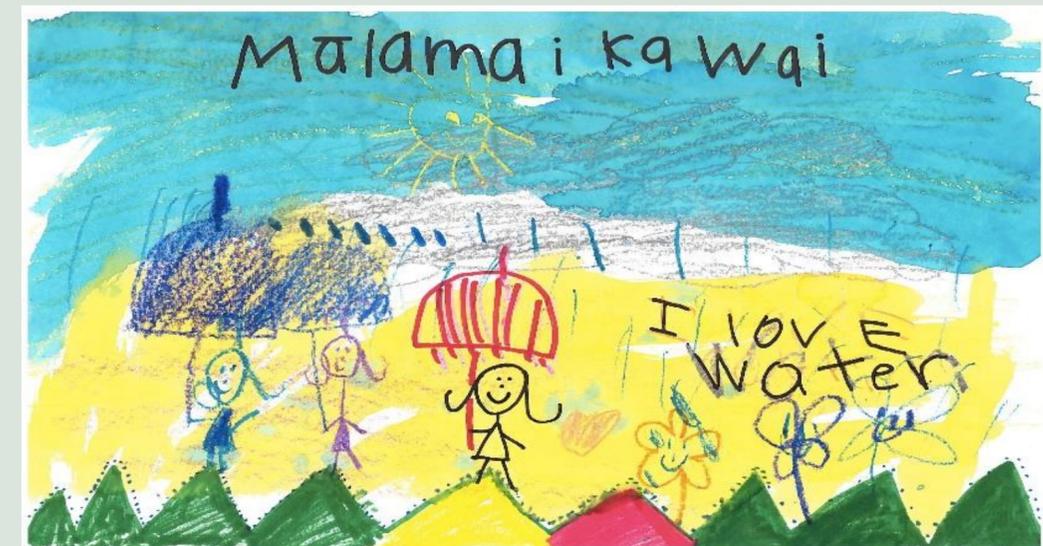
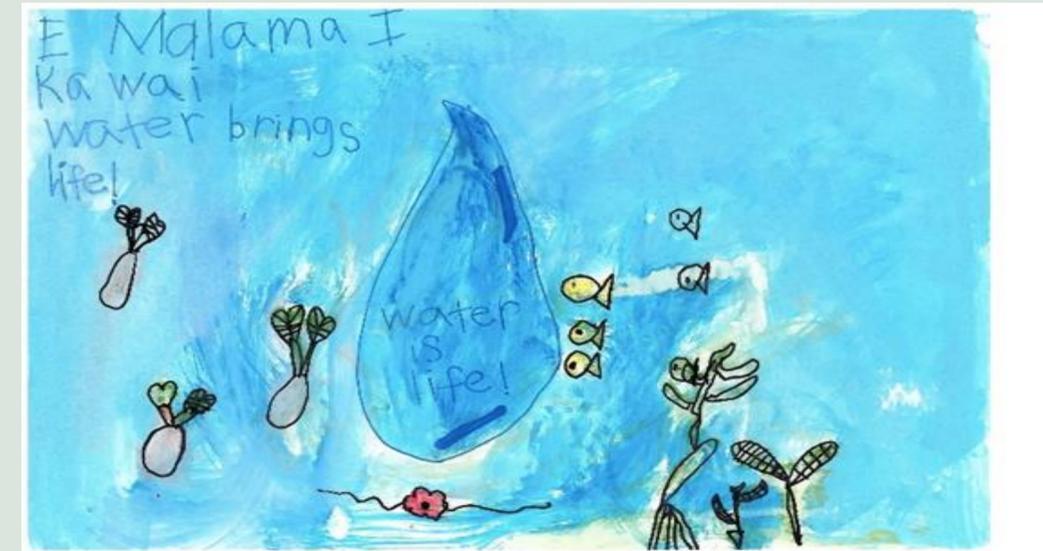
# New Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization

- The Maui MPO was formed by the State of Hawaii and County of Maui to facilitate comprehensive planning for the use of federally funded transportation projects.
- The Maui MPO policy board consists of state Transportation Director Ford Fuchigami, Maui County Councilmembers Elle Cochran, Don Couch and Stacy Crivello, county Planning Director Will Spence, county Transportation Director Don Medeiros and county Public Works Director David Goode.



# Infrastructure - Water

- The State of Hawaii regulates water through the Commission on Water Resource Management.
- Water plans are developed at both the state and county levels.
- At the County level, all water in the public, potable water system is regulated by the County.
- The County Council annually budgets for capital improvements and sets water rates and fees.



# Infrastructure - Wastewater

- Maui plans address the need for and support of wastewater facilities on the island.
- Wastewater management is important because it protects the water supply from contamination, protects the public health and environment and aids in water conservation through production of reclaimed water for nonpotable purposes.
- Millions of gallons of wastewater are produced annually on Maui.
- There are three wastewater plants, located in Kahului, Kihei and Lahaina.



# THANK YOU!

## Any questions?

**Councilmember Don Couch**  
**County of Maui**

**200 South High Street, 8th Floor**  
**Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793**

**(808) 270-7108**

**[mauicounty.us/couch](http://mauicounty.us/couch)**

**[don.couch@mauicounty.us](mailto:don.couch@mauicounty.us)**

