

SECTION III: KEY STRATEGIES

Participants throughout the planning process were thoughtful, reflective, and insightful as they formulated key strategies that will help the residents of Maui County realize their vision and uphold their core principles. The following key strategies identify the concerns over conditions and patterns of Maui County today and help to define a path for goal setting.

A. Protect the Natural Environment

One of Maui County's greatest assets is its natural beauty. From the upland forests to the coral reefs, the islands of Maui County are a portrait of a rare and amazing natural world. Protection of the natural environment—including the ecological systems therein—is of vital importance.

B. Preserve Local Cultures and Traditions

The cultures and traditions of Maui County's people make the lifestyle of the islands unique and special. Preserving cultural resources and perpetuating the Aloha Spirit are important to maintaining our quality of life and sense of place.

C. Improve Education

Education is the foundation upon which the future health and happiness of Maui County's residents depend. As such, residents will have to invest significant resources into working with the State to improve public K-12 education and establishing a public university and other educational institutions with strong academic programs.

D. Strengthen Social and Healthcare Services

Ensuring the health and safety of each resident is one of the most basic obligations of County, State, and Federal government. To achieve this, it is important for the different levels of government to work together to provide a wide variety of social and healthcare services that meet the challenges and needs of each community.

E. Expand Housing Opportunities for Residents

Maui County's attractive environment has increased the demand for housing not only for local residents, but for off-shore owners as well, which has contributed to the challenges of obtaining affordable housing for many Maui County families. To achieve balance in the housing market, it is important to work cooperatively with developers to ensure a range of housing options is available for varying income levels and demographic groups.

F. Strengthen the Local Economy

Recognize the important economic contributions that the visitor industry makes to Maui County, and support a healthy and vibrant visitor industry. Maui County's economy has been largely dependent upon the visitor industry, and residents recognize the need to diversify with environmentally and ethically positive businesses that align with local values. This requires an economic environment that supports innovation and nurtures small and locally owned businesses, and a society that rewards industries that honor the County's cultural heritage and natural environment. The County's economic strength may also

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be enhanced by growing our own food, producing our own goods, and generating our own energy resources.

G. Improve Parks and Public Facilities

Because our species is social by nature, we all require places to relax and congregate together in safe public spaces. Maui County's parks and public facilities are not just used by residents, but also by a vast number of visitors. The opportunity to experience the abundance of social and recreational activities that are available in Maui County will depend on the ability of the public and private sectors to fund, plan, maintain, and develop adequate facilities.

H. Diversify Transportation Options

Diversification of the County's transportation network is essential to building capacity within the existing overtaxed transportation systems. Maui County should work with the State and Federal governments to provide equal access and many options, including bikeways and pedestrian corridors, to move safely around the islands.

I. Improve Physical Infrastructure

New and old sustainable approaches for the delivery, use, and conservation of water and energy resources, along with new ways of thinking about the recycling and disposal of waste, are among the opportunities upon which Maui County can capitalize.

J. Promote Sustainable Land Use and Growth Management

Loss of open space, increasing infrastructure costs, and a desire for more housing options suggest that alternative methods of land use and growth management are necessary for Maui County. Mixing land uses, utilizing environmentally sensitive design, and developing neighborhoods that are walkable and conducive to transit in Maui County could create sustainable communities that are great places to live, work, and play.

K. Strive for Good Governance

Like many municipalities, Maui County has at times struggled to see its planning efforts carried through to implementation. To realize the goals and objectives of this Countywide Policy Plan, it will be essential for the residents of the County to inspire resolve among their leaders and collectively contribute their resources and skills to making this Plan a reality.

These key strategies are designated as goals in Section IV of this Plan.