

American Planning Association Hawai'i Awards Program 2018

EACH YEAR THE HAWAII CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES PROJECTS THAT EXEMPLIFY THE PLANNING PROFESSION'S HIGHEST GOALS AND IDEALS. APA DESCRIBES THEIR MISSION AS MAKING GREAT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN. THE AWARDS SHOWCASE GREAT PLANNING ON THE ISLANDS AND THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS THE PLANNING COMMUNITY MAKES TO THE STATE OF HAWAII.

SSFM has been honored with 3 of only 8 awards presented in 2018. Professional planners and engineers from SSFM's Strategic Services Group were honored for:

- **Outstanding Planning** for their work with the County of Kaua'i Planning Department in developing the Kaua'i Kākou: Kaua'i County General Plan.
- **Transportation Planning** for their work with the County of Hawai'i Planning Department in developing the Downtown Hilo Multimodal Master Plan.
- **Community-Based Planning** for the Waimānalo Community Values and Priorities for the Future project.

Outstanding Planning Award Kaua'i Kākou: Kaua'i County General Plan



Jury Comment

"The jury was impressed by efforts to engage the broader community in vetting preliminary recommendations, which were based on technical studies, focus group, and input from county agencies. The implementation plan identified potential funding sources, implementing agencies, phasing, and cost estimates that will be pivotal in moving forward."

The Kaua'i County General Plan, prepared by the Kaua'i County Planning Department with a consultant team led by SSFM International's Strategic Services Group, is the culmination of a 3 year planning process.

The General Plan sets the island-wide vision and goals for the County, identifying the Island's unique qualities to be protected and preserved, and directing where and how growth should occur to ensure sustainability, resilience, and opportunity for all over the next twenty years.

The process evolved from a community engagement program that embraced citizen participation. The General Plan Framework defines the vision, overarching goals, key policies, objectives, and implementation actions. The plan is organized by sectors that include The Watershed, Housing, Land Transportation, Critical Infrastructure, Shared Spaces, Economy, Heritage Resources, Energy Sustainability & Climate Change, Public Safety & Hazards Resiliency, and Opportunity & Health for All.



APA Hawai'i with Kaua'i Kākou General Plan team members (from left): APA Hawai'i President Dean Minakami, Lulu Chun (SSFM), Mike Dahilig (COK Planning Director), Ruby Pap (Sea Grant), Marie Williams (COK), Melissa White (SSFM), Nani Sadora (COK), Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. (COK), Marisa Valenciano (COK), Alex Wong (COK), Lea Kaiaokamalie (COK), Lee Steinmetz (COK)

Throughout the process a Citizens Advisory Committee worked to provide input on the development of policies for each sector. An educational and communications campaign was developed to test policies and actions. The effort reached tens of thousands of people across the island through a dedicated website, social media, online survey and pop-up events. More than 1,700 comments were logged and 1,000 survey responses received.

Transportation Planning Award Downtown Hilo Multimodal Master Plan



Jury Comment

"The plan is refreshing in its approach. It clearly addresses implementation through permitting and codes, plans and studies, partnerships, and projects and programs. The jury was impressed by the plan's takeaways for sound planning and its potential to serve as a template."

This multi-year planning effort was led by the County of Hawai'i Planning Department with SSFM International as lead consultant. Its goal is to make Downtown Hilo a more vibrant, walkable and bike friendly community for everyone.

The Master Plan calls for complete streets improvements to elevate Downtown Hilo as a destination and community gathering place. It shifts priorities from a vehicle-dominated paradigm to an inclusionary "transportation hierarchy" prioritizing walking, biking, and public transit over single occupancy vehicles. Six core transportation elements form the organizational structure for the plan: pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, transit, vehicle circulation, parking, and streetscape. The project team conducted technical studies for each component, resulting in 46 specific recommendations with implementation programs that identify potential funding sources, implementing agencies, phasing, and high-level cost estimates for each recommendation.

The Plan was developed through an inclusive communitywide process providing a variety of ways for people to share their input. Hundreds of Hilo organizations, agencies and citizens participated in forums including a project advisory group, six focus groups organized by Downtown user types, stakeholder interviews, communitywide meetings, 'zoom-in zoom-out' workshops, and a public street festival event to demonstrate the features and qualities of a vibrant Downtown Hilo.

Historic town centers throughout the Islands can emulate the Hilo Plan. The project also sets the groundwork for the County of Hawaii's initiative to adopt complete streets design standards island-wide.



APA Hawai'i with DHMMP Team Members (from left): APA Hawai'i President Dean Minakami, April Surprenant (COH), Michael Yee (COH Planning Director), Hans Santiago (COH), Michael Packard (SSFM), Melissa White (SSFM)

Community Based Planning Award Keeping Waimānalo, Waimānalo: Community Values & Priorities for the Future



Jury Comment

"This process and the resulting Exploratory Document clearly inspire a sense of pride in the community assets that make Waimānalo special. They provide a road map that represents the interests of the Waimānalo community that will guide future planning and projects."

The Waimānalo Community Values & Priorities Project was a community-driven planning process with the goals of preserving and restoring the resources within Waimānalo's ahupua'a; maintaining the community's character over time; expressing the community's kuleana to Waimānalo; mobilizing local and outside resources to implement projects and address community priorities; providing guidance for Neighborhood Board and community organization decision-making; communicating local priorities to city and state decision-makers; and communicating the fundamental values of Waimānalo.

The project team engaged a community leaders working group and conducted interviews with community members and organizations to document the resources and community values within Waimānalo. Public agencies and land owners were also consulted to ensure that the plan accurately reflected their objectives and programs. A series of community meetings were held to confirm and refine the values and develop priority actions important to Waimānalo. Community volunteers assisted with outreach to kūpuna and hard to reach members of the community to ensure their mana'o was included.

A vision for Waimānalo was developed based on the community values, which are defined by culture, history and connections to the 'āina; strengthening the people; protecting agricultural lands; valuing 'ohana; enhancing health and safety; promoting local jobs and businesses; and managing and preserving resources and community character.

The plan describes priority actions with potential partners and implementation recommendations and is rich in photographs, anecdotes, and stories about the people and organizations shaping Waimānalo. Designed to inspire a sense of community pride and capture what makes the community special, this project can be used to support future efforts to gather resources for community-driven projects and develop a roadmap for Waimānalo's future.



APA Hawai'i with Waimānalo Team Members
(from left): APA Hawai'i President Dean Minakami,
Abbey Seitz (SSFM), Melissa White (SSFM),
Carlos Kelton (SSFM)