

Notes from Sixth Hawai'i Dolphin Initiative Meeting held on July 1, 2017 at the New Thought Center of Hawaii

Summary

Following an update from the Steering Committee, the sixth meeting focused on four speakers from very different backgrounds, each with an interest in the initiative. For the first time, DLNR were represented with a very supportive and positive voice. In addition, NOAA had contracted an organization to perform data collection on the economic impact of their proposed regulation. A representative from the contracted company addressed the meeting informing the group on the purpose of her visit. Again, a local Hawaiian voice shared his views on swimming with the dolphins from his perspective. A Canadian visitor to the Big Island shared her story of dolphin-based energy healing several years ago, with a message of hope for the local community on how to proceed in a manner respectful to all parties. This was followed by pupus and community building.

Links to videos are available in the document for three of the four presenters.

As always, all the information gathered at the meetings is made publicly available. Please follow the following link to gain access to all the documents and recordings.

<http://www.hawaiidolphininitiative.org/hdi-meeting-notes.html>

Stakeholders Identified and those Present in the Meeting

Stakeholder	Present at Oct 15, 2016	Present at Nov 30, 2016	Present at Jan 2, 2017	Present at Mar 10, 2017	Present at Apr 14, 2017	Present at July 1, 2017
Total Present	52	37	38	17	27	36
NOAA	0	0	0	0	0	0
DLNR	0	0	0	0	0	1
"Dolphinville"	33	30	29 (+1 by proxy)	12	16	22
Boat/Commercial Operators	5	1	2 (+ 1 by proxy)	0	2	6
Those effected financially by the proposals	23	7?	6 (+1 by proxy)	5	8	10
Local Hawaiians	0 (represented by 1 proxy)	0 (represented by 3 proxy)	1 (+1 by proxy)	0 (+2 by proxy)	0	2
Chamber of Commerce	1	1	1	0	1	0
Captive Dolphin Group	0	0	0	0	0	0
Independent Scientists	2	4	4	0	4	6
Dolphins under care	1	1	1	0	1	0
Other	?	7	10	5	10	15

Feedback from Steering Committee

The steering committee had met twice since the April 14 meeting. All objectives had been met:

1. **Name of Initiative:** The following name has been agreed upon – **Hawai'i Dolphin Initiative (HDI)**
This will appear on all future communications
2. **Web site:** A web site has been built - <http://www.hawaiidolphininitiative.org/>
The site is resource-rich and is intended to be a source for future information. All HDI members are encouraged to submit content for the site.
3. **Email address:** The HDI now has its own email address – HawaiiDolphinInitiative@gmail.com
Emails sent to this address are automatically forwarded to both Nigel Patterson and Heather Reynolds
4. **Outreach:** As agreed, the HDI has expanded its outreach to include other stakeholders. DLNR addressing the meeting is evidence of this. This will continue to extend further to include NOAA as soon as possible.
5. **Funding:** Heather has registered the organization and opened an account. An existing GoFundMe Campaign can now be focused on. This is to cover the costs of the three initiatives under the HDI organization.
6. **Steering Committee Members:** Harlan and Hitomi Miyoshi have chosen to no longer serve on the steering committee. Two vacancies thus opened up.

HDI Organizational Matters

Because of the organization now being registered and the bank account opened, it has become necessary to create a more formal structure to HDI. The organization is moving out of its startup phase and into the “village” phase. The meeting appointed the following office bearers:

- President: Michael Jacobson
- Secretary: Heather Reynolds
- Treasurer: Dianna Tangen

Both Michael and Dianna joined the steering committee, which now include:

1. Michael Jacobson (President)
2. Heather Reynolds (Secretary)
3. Dianna Tangen (Treasurer)
4. Lanny Sinkin (Legal Counsel)
5. Nigel Patterson (Facilitator)
6. Genevieve Brunet (Member)

Additional Announcements

Dr. Laura Moiré

Nigel Patterson announced that Dr. Laura Moiré who headed the “Honor the Hawaiians” sub-committee had been taken ill with a rare form of cancer. Her daughter requested the HDI members be made aware

of the Dr. Laura Moiré Cancer Treatment Fund to support Laura through this difficult time. Members can show their support by contributing at <https://www.youcaring.com/lauramoiremd-843104>

Post-meeting announcement: Asolaria Liberalis

It is with sadness that we announce that on July 15 Asolaria passed away following a brief illness. Asolaria was the initiator of the HDI and a co-founder with Nigel Patterson. She will always be remembered for her selfless caring and unconditional love for the community. Her vision for the Hawai'i Dolphin Initiative was to heal a divided community. She always believed HDI was bigger than any one person. May we hold Asolaria and her vision for the HDI in our hearts as we continue moving forward with this important work.



Guest Presenters

The main purpose of the meeting was to introduce and listen to a broad cross-section of speakers, these representing the diverse range of stakeholder groups. It is hoped in the future additional stakeholder groups will engage and participate in the community meetings.

Leila Madge

Leila is a social scientist subcontracted to a firm called ERM whom have been charged by NOAA to do the Economic Impact Study in connection with their proposed regulations. Leila had already interviewed a number of members of our community and was be on the Big Island for a few more days connecting in with other businesses who may be impacted by NOAA's proposed regulations. Leila explained the types of information she was gathering and the purpose of her work.

Leila explained that her role was simply data collection, most of which occurred during private interviews with those affected by the NOAA proposals. She would be collating the data and most likely in the September to October time frame presenting this to NOAA. Leila was not in a position to discuss what would happen to the data after it was handed over to NOAA.

Leila welcomed as many diverse views as possible, recognizing that a strong informal sector was also at play on the Big Island. Furthermore, she was also made aware that knock-on economic affects will be felt by support industry should the NOAA proposals be implemented.

Keoki Cortez



Keoki has previously spoken at our HDI gatherings. Keoki is the custodian of Pu'uhonua o Honaunau. This ties him intimately to Kealakekua and the spinner dolphins. Keoki's gentle and respectful nature supports our mission of creating sustainable harmony within the community.

Keoki once again reiterated his view that it is the dolphin's kuleana should they wish to approach and swim with the humans. It is not our kuleana to approach them as we are guests in their home. The dolphins are regarded as part of ohana to the Native Hawaiians and they respect them as such. However, Keoki also reiterated that it was not up to him to tell others how they should behave or whether they should or should not swim with the dolphins.

Keoki's presentation may be viewed here - <https://youtu.be/T8W1NHv4fGc>

Lino Kamekau



Lino is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for DLNR, the government office chartered with upholding the current and any future regulations concerning the bays and swimming with dolphins. Lino stressed that DLNR's preferred route was based on education. Enforcement should be the last option. This is why Lino is a strong supporter of the HDI's education plan. The two complement each other.

He also suggested the HDI become involved in the Makai Watch, a neighborhood initiative to help educate tourists and locals on appropriate behavior around the bays and swimming with dolphins. Lino suggested we contact Suzanne Case, the chairperson of DLNR. (Contact has since been initiated).

Lino took many questions from the floor.

Lino's address may be viewed here - https://youtu.be/-_ZhVsTxru0

Mahalia Michael



- 1) OPENING + UPDATE
- 2) HDI ORGANIZATION
- 3) LEIKA MARGE - ~~(X)~~
- 4) KEAKI CORT
- 5) LINO V
- 6) MA

Mahalia of Brain-Bliss (<http://brain-bliss.com/>) was the last presenter. Mahalia was visiting the Big Island from Vancouver, Canada. Many years ago she suffered significant trauma to the head and brain. It was through her immersion with the dolphins in Hawaii on the Big Island that her healing took place. Mahalia thus has a very deep connection with the dolphins. She also has a deep reverence for the indigenous cultures of the world.

Mahalia shared a vision of hope for the future merging of the Hawaiian culture with the healing experience of being connected with the dolphins. Since her own healing, followed by years of personal experience and through conducting workshops, Mahalia has come to the understanding that the resonance of the dolphins with humans takes place within the neo-cortex, the higher brain. This results in the feelings of bliss people experience when they connect with the dolphins at this level. Mahalia suggested that this experience was not limited to being physically in the presence of the dolphins, her ongoing client healing work in Canada being testimony to this.

In her talk, Mahalia shared her belief that as we are connected with the dolphins at a higher level it may *thus* be possible to both respect the Hawaiian's wish we do not harass the dolphins in the water whilst at the same time being connected to their healing energies.

Mahalia's fascinating talk may be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/xfEZpoSDexs>

Next Meeting Date

It was agreed by the group that one month was too soon for the next meeting and two months was too far away. The meeting agreed upon a six-week recess before the next meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for:

Date: August 19, 2017

Time: 5 – 8 pm

Venue: New Thought Center of Hawaii

The meeting wrapped up with community building over shared pupus and refreshments.