Federal Survey of Hawaiian Home Lands - Phase I (Nānākuli, Lualualei, Waiʻanae)
Facts and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

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Who: The U.S. Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In the 1995 Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act, the United States Congress required that the Secretary of the Interior “conduct a survey of all Hawaiian Home Lands based on the report entitled ‘Survey Needs for the Hawaiian Home Lands’” published by the BLM in July 1991. DOI is assisted by local survey contractor ControlPoint Surveying, Inc. and is working with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

What: Federally defensible boundary surveys of parcels of Hawaiian home lands. Exterior boundaries of Hawaiian home lands, and boundaries of in-holdings that are not Hawaiian home lands, as identified and updated on the project website at www.doi.gov/hawaiian/home-lands-survey, will be researched in order to establish and mark the legal boundaries. Individual interior lots of Hawaiian home lands will not be surveyed.

Why: In order to provide boundary assurance, protect the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, and enhance DHHL’s land management tools. Some boundaries may not be adequately marked and older boundary markers may be damaged or missing. Determining and marking the legal boundaries help to identify existing encroachments and prevent potential encroachments. The data and information generated through this Federal Survey will provide a powerful tool for managing the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust.

Where: Phase I has begun with Nānākuli, Lualualei, and Waiʻanae
The Federal Survey is starting with Oʻahu due to the availability and accessibility of property records and resources in State offices and the current available funding. The initial phases will inform later phases and provide updates to the 1991 BLM time, resources, and cost projections. DHHL has identified Nānākuli, Lualualei, and Waiʻanae as priority areas on Oʻahu due to their broad descriptions in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), large land areas, dense populations, and proximity to each other. If funds remain after these three areas are completed or more funds become available, additional areas may be added.

When: October 2018 through approximately December 2020 with advance notice of field activity along the boundaries. ControlPoint field survey crews will be out in the above areas for three sets of activities of varying durations: 1) establishing a control network by setting
control points outside of the exterior boundaries in public areas; 2) collecting data and measurements from existing boundary markers, as well as locating encroachments; and 3) installing additional boundary markers/monuments as necessary.

The Hawaiian Home Lands Trust has been around for almost a century. Why is the Department of the Interior only now conducting a boundary survey of a few parcels?

Limited funding was first made available in FY 2017. Additional funding will likely depend on the outcome of the initial phases which should provide DOI with useful information to update its time, resources, and cost projections for surveying all Trust lands. The timing of additional phases will depend on future appropriations (funding allocations) by Congress.

How could this Federal Survey affect or involve me?

Your lot could be along a boundary to be surveyed. DOI’s research will identify which boundaries need to be surveyed. ControlPoint field survey crews consisting of 3 to 4 individuals wearing safety vests and identification will conduct the field work along the boundaries of Hawaiian home lands in the identified areas.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission authorized the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to issue a Right of Entry Permit to DOI and ControlPoint for the field work in the identified areas. Right of Entry Permit No. 685 is effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

If your lot is along a boundary to be surveyed, DOI and ControlPoint will contact and coordinate with you. DOI and ControlPoint will coordinate with individual Hawaiian homestead lessees and non-homestead tenants on Hawaiian home lands, as well as adjoining land owners and tenants, where ControlPoint needs to enter individual properties for the purposes of recovering existing markers and taking measurements, locating encroachments, and installing new boundary markers/monuments.

If you have been informed, or believe, that your property may be affected, please contact the Project Contact on the front of this information sheet. ONHR is utilizing the owner and parcel information from the county’s on-line records in order to communicate via U.S. postal mail. Your updated or additional contact information, preferred methods of contact, and information relevant to the Federal Survey is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Where can I find more information and updates on this Federal Survey?

www.doi.gov/hawaiian/home-lands-survey
ONHR will provide project updates on its website and will send specific activity updates to affected property owners and tenants.

Who should I contact if I have information for, or questions about, this Federal Survey?

ONHR’s Honolulu office. The Federal Survey project contact in Honolulu is Lisa Oshiro Suganuma whose contact information is on the front and at the top of this information sheet.