



General Membership Meeting

October 18, 2023

Introduction

Fifty members of the Upcountry community came together to explore and learn from the opportunities, dilemmas, and experiences we faced during the wildfires and the immediate and ongoing recovery efforts.

The KCA facilitated three rounds of dialogue with a focusing question for each round:

- What are the opportunities and dilemmas we faced during the Upcountry wildfires and during the immediate and ongoing recovery efforts?
- What would make the most difference to the future fire and water safety of Upcountry?
- What would it take to create change on how we manage fire and water safety in Upcountry?

At the conclusion of the dialogue rounds, the participants synthesized their conversations into the two most compelling insights from each question then shared those with the entire group.

What follows is a synthesis of the major insights. Also included is a listing of insights by question and photographs of the tabletop templates where participants shared their mana'ō throughout the rounds of dialogue.

Insights: Land Stewardship & Management

Land Stewardship

- Mālama ‘āina
- Create a return to indigenous stewardship and Hawaiian values system
- Activate ‘aha moku/‘ike kupuna/indigenous wisdom for watershed, forest, and hydrologic cycle stewardship
- Undertake care and management of the precious watershed
- Create and access funding and workforce development for land stewardship and watershed restoration

Carry Out Responsible Land Management & Restoration

Land Management

- Lack of proper land management and overgrowth of invasive species leads to drought and watershed decimation.
- Carry out responsible land management including fire breaks, access maintained, lot clearing
- Improve fire prevention: this was a wake-up call
- Create fire breaks before fires
- Develop fire mitigation measures
- Improve tree and yard maintenance

Land Restoration

- Undertake land restoration to mitigate fuel sources and restore native, fire resistant landscapes
- Mulch the gulch/burn areas before ash gets washed down to the wetlands
- Correctly reforest the gulches (mulch)

Insights: Upcountry Infrastructure

Update Upcountry Infrastructure

Update All Infrastructure Systems

- Use tourism money to upgrade and maintain outdated systems
- Update water and electric lines
- Improve infrastructure including water pipes, gravity-fed water, burying power lines and strong power poles

Improve Water Infrastructure

- Improve water systems infrastructure
- Increased water retention and watershed improvements; more water needs to be available
- Improve water infrastructure for drinking and firefighting through a better engineered system
- Improve water availability including water storage/reservoirs for drinking and fire

- Provide adequate water storage and pumping capacity with back-up to fight fires and provide necessary water
- Improve upcountry water systems to have capacity for fighting fires by adding whatever is needed such as tanks, generators, reservoirs, increased water flow capacity, etc.
- Develop high elevation water storage with gravity flow to fight fires
- All houses should have water backflow prevention

Insights: Communications & Community Response

Build a Coordinated, Timely, and Responsive Communications

- Improve communication in emergencies as poor communication occurred throughout the crisis
- Create an overarching communication system
- Develop a centralized digital and analog communication system for emergencies and department communication
- Develop better immediate communication with better emergency planning that includes community input because “they know where the stuff is”
- Create an organized local response with emergency communications teams
- Develop protocols and coordination of government and volunteer organizations with central information and resources
- Improve timeline and timeliness of disaster relief noting the interconnection of health and safety
- Provide access to wifi information on cell phones

Create a Community Response to Crisis

- Coordinate all of the stakeholders so we are all on the same page about how to respond
 - Public Fire to identify stakeholders and coordinate on key tasks: How do we respond? What do we do? How do we handle communication and evacuation? How do we handle school education?
- Train the public on how to respond in an emergency
- Provide better education on escape routes and shelters
- Develop a decentralized community-led permanent Resiliency Network:
 - Education (skills, prevention)
 - Storage of supplies and water (tool library)
 - Communication web
 - Moku-based
- Consider developing a volunteer fire department

Insights: Take Action

Enforcement

- Enforce laws (e.g., clearing lots, property management); policy makers need to make change
- Enforce the laws to control brush growth
- Enforce and update wildfire protection plans and invest in education residents about them
- Enforce laws, especially fuels near electric lines

Create Accountability for Implementing Changes

- Strengthen the will of the electorate to demand tough choices and changes and the political will of the elected to make these choices and changes
- Change tax structure, i.e., people that have properties here need to pay more taxes with people taxed more for empty houses
- Be actively involved in the budget hearing prioritizing safety
- Improve building codes for better fire safety with enforcement of same
- Better stewardship of money and manpower
- Let go of the status quo

Build a Bold Plan & Act

- Put in place education, fire training, evacuation plans and fire safe/prevention
- Improve plans for evacuation and better communication
- Create an action plan for fire and water disaster management and communication
- Build a bold plan and take action

Insights: Heal Our Community

Heal Our Community

Create community

- Knowing and organizing neighbors in a social ecology/economy

Appreciate our community

- Appreciate the heroic hard work done by multiple agencies, governments, and many local groups

Respond to the trauma within our community

- There is trauma, angst, and anger just below the surface and it needs to be dealt with to become stronger as a community



Insights by Question

Insights: Question 1

What are the opportunities and dilemmas we faced during the Upcountry wildfires and during the immediate and ongoing recovery efforts?

Update Infrastructure

- Update water and electric lines
- We need improved infrastructure maintenance (water, power, clearing gulch debris, repairs) to ensure safety during disasters and allow for clear communication
- We need improved infrastructure maintenance (water, power, clearing gulch debris, repairs) to ensure safety during disasters and allow for clear communication
- Water availability

Land Management & Restoration

- Wake-up call to improve fire prevention
- Create fire breaks before fires
- Fire mitigation measures
- Lack of proper land management and overgrowth of invasive species leads to drought and watershed decimation.
- Mulch the gulch/burn area before ash gets washed down to the wetlands

Communications & Management

- Communication improvement in emergencies
- Creating an overarching communication system
- Poor communication occurred throughout the crisis
- Digital and analog centralized communication system for emergencies and department communication
- Access to wifi information on cell phones
- Better immediate communication with better emergency planning with community input, i.e., “they know where the stuff is”
- Organized local response with emergency communications teams
- Develop protocols and coordination of government and volunteer organizations with central information and resources
- Improve timeline and timeliness of disaster relief noting the interconnection of health and safety

Create Community

- Knowing and organizing neighbors in a social ecology/economy

Training/Response

- Training public on how to respond in an emergency
- Better education on escape routes and shelters

Insights: Question 2

What would make the most difference to the future fire and water safety of Upcountry?

Land Stewardship

- Mālama 'āina
- Care and management of precious watershed

Update Infrastructure

- Improve infrastructure including water pipes, gravity-fed water, burying power lines and strong power poles

Improve Water Infrastructure

- Improve upcountry water systems to have capacity for fighting fires by adding whatever is needed such as tanks, generators, reservoirs, increased water flow capacity, etc.
- Provide adequate water storage and pumping capacity with back-up to fight fires and provide necessary water
- Improved water infrastructure for drinking and firefighting through a better engineered system
- Improve water systems infrastructure
- High elevation water storage with gravity flow to fight fires

Communication & Management

- Communication improvement in emergencies

Training/Response

- Volunteer fire department

Land Management & Restoration

- Tree and yard maintenance
- Responsible land management including fire breaks, access maintained, lot clearing
- Land restoration to mitigate fuel sources and restore native, fire resistant landscapes

Build a Bold Plan & Act

- Put in place education, fire training, evacuation plans and fire safe/prevention
- Improve plans for evacuation and better communication; many places/neighborhoods have only one ingress and egress creating danger if the road is cut off
- Create action plan for fire and water disaster management and communication

Create Community

- Create community

Political Will

- Improve building codes for better fire safety with enforcement of same

Enforcement

- Enforce laws, especially fuels near electric lines

Insights: Question 3

What would it take to create change on how we manage fire and water safety in Upcountry?

Land Stewardship

- A return to indigenous stewardship and Hawaiian values system
- Funding and workforce development for land stewardship and watershed restoration
- Activation of ahamoku/'ike kupuna/indigenous wisdom for watershed, forest, and hydrologic cycle stewardship

Update Infrastructure

- Use tourism money to upgrade and maintain outdated systems
- Updating infrastructure through increased funding

Improve Water Infrastructure

- Water storage/reservoirs for drinking and fire
- Increased water retention and watershed improvements; more water
- All houses should have water backflow prevention

Land Management & Restoration

- Correctly reforest the gulches (mulch)

Build a Bold Plan & Act

- Build a bold plan and take action

Create Community

- Decentralized community-led permanent Resiliency Network:
 - Education (skills, prevention), Storage of supplies and water (tool library), Communication web, Moku-based

Communications & Management

- Public Fire advising all of the stakeholders being on the same page about how to respond.
 - Identify stakeholders.
 - How do we respond? What do we do? How do we handle communication and evacuation? How do we handle school education

Improve Water Infrastructure

- Water storage/reservoirs for drinking and fire
- Increased water retention and watershed improvements; more water
- All houses should have water backflow prevention

Enforcement

- Enforce laws (e.g., clearing lots, property management); policy makers need to make change
- Enforce the laws to control brush growth
- Enforce and update wildfire protection plans and invest in education residents about them

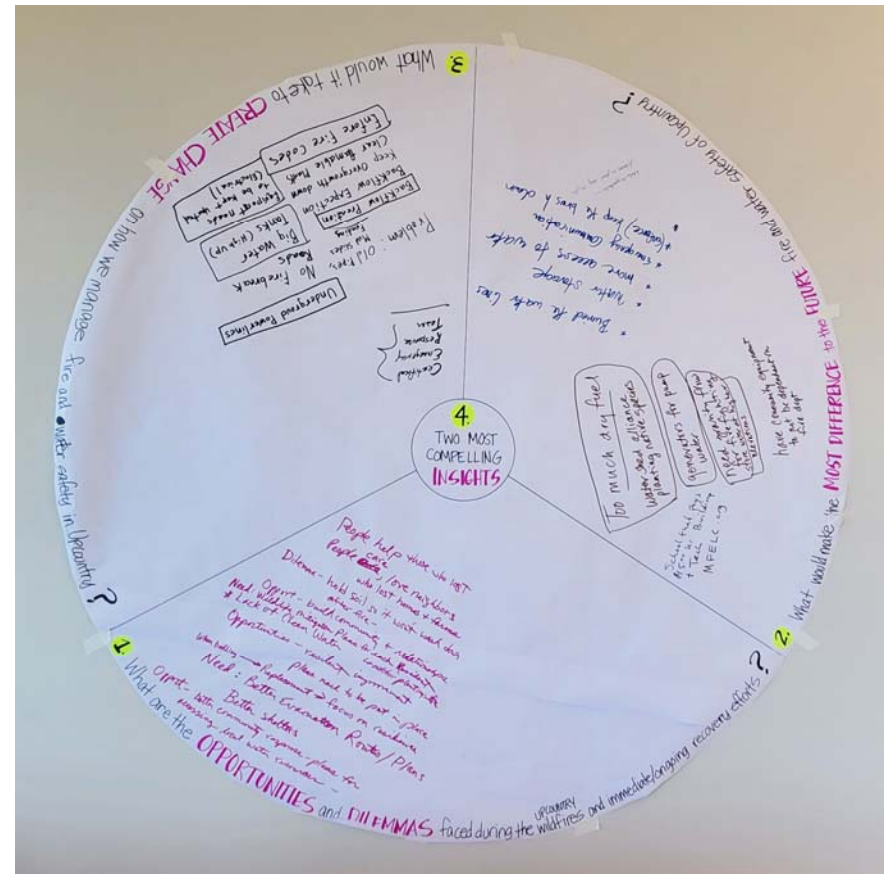
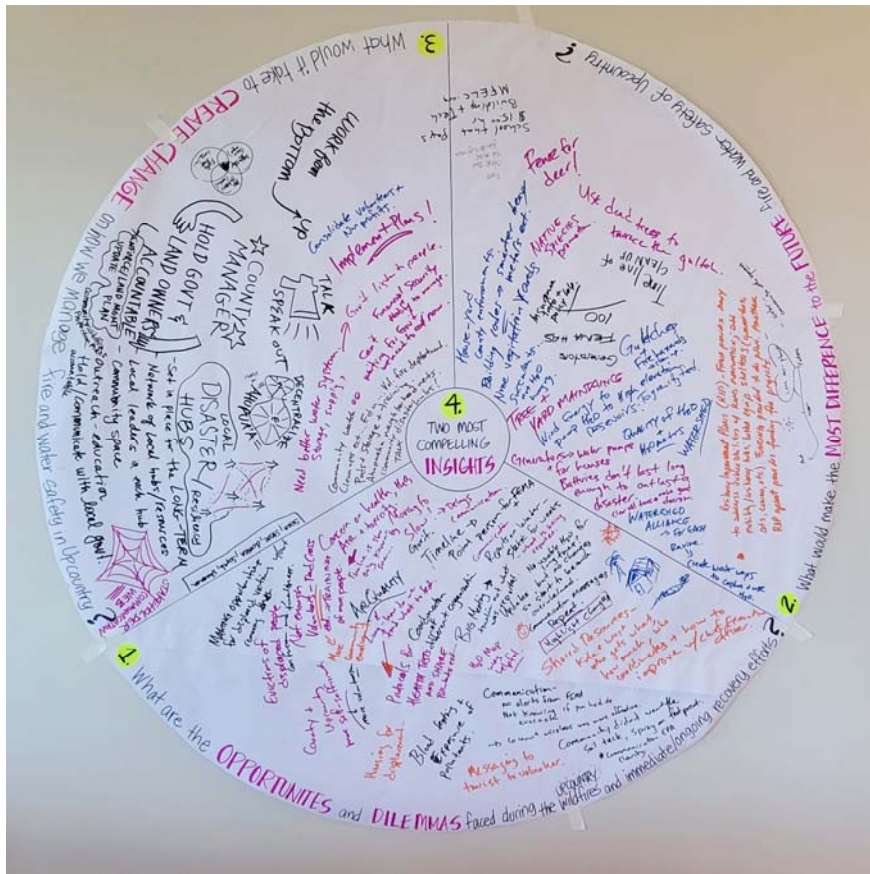
Political Will

- Political will of the electorate
- Money and manpower
- People that have properties here need to pay more taxes with people taxed more for empty houses
- We should be actively involved in the budget hearing prioritizing safety
- Let go of the status quo



Tabletop Templates

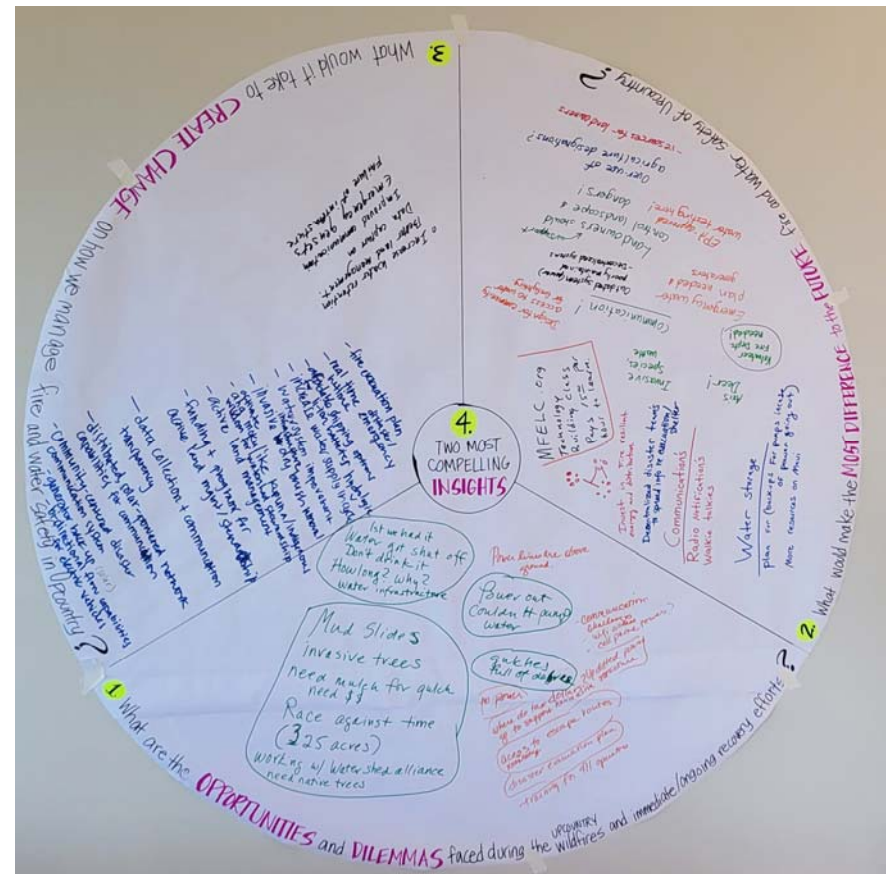
Tabletop Templates



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10/18/2023



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Tabletop Templates

