



# REVITALIZE PUNA

*A placemaking initiative that brings County of Hawai'i and community members together to support Puna's recovery, readiness, and resilience.*

***Monday, April 11, 2022***  
***Sure Foundation Puna***

*April 11 is the fourth activation in the Revitalize Puna series, which is co-hosted by the Kīlauea Recovery Team and Council District 4. The goal of the quarterly activations is to bring community and County together regularly to share information and perspectives, build relationships, and increase trust and collaboration. Revitalize Puna is made possible through funding from USDA Rural Development.*

# Activation Agenda

3:30 Doors Open

Check-In, Resilience Resource Row, Keiki Crafts

4:30 Welcome, Opening Protocol, Introductions

4:45 Recovery Updates

Voluntary Housing Buyout Program

County Recovery Infrastructure: Roads, Water, Parks

Revitalize Pohoiki

Pohoiki Boat Ramp

County Updates: Environmental Management, Mass Transit

USGS Baseline Water Study

Q&A of Presenters

6:00 Announcements, Evaluation, Closing Protocol

Talk Story, Resilience Resource Row, Food Trucks

7:30 Ho'oku'u

## USDA Cooperative Agreement

In July 2021, Council District 4 and the Disaster Recovery Division collaborated on a proposal for USDA funding to support implementation of the Kīlauea Recovery & Resilience Plan (KRRP). In October 2021, the USDA Rural Development Office announced that County of Hawai'i was one of 13 municipalities selected for the Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC).

RPIC is a two year, \$225,000 cooperative agreement with USDA-RD designed to build capacity and deliver technical assistance. The funds support Revitalize Puna and the work of Resilience Capacity Areas, which is a demonstration of County and community working together to bring aspects of the KRRP to life. The collaboration is being documented and used to create a strategic action roadmap – *a playbook for long-term implementation of the KRRP*.

RPIC is more than a grant; USDA-RD maintains an active partner, connecting County and community with funding resources that make ideas a tangible reality.

# Revitalize Pohoiki

*A planning initiative to restore Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Park and create a vision x stewardship plan for the greater Pohoiki area.*

## Revitalize Pohoiki Process Overview x Timeline

Dec '21- Jan '22	Jan '22 - Feb '22	March '22	April '22	May '22
Consult with 'ohana Consult with Resilience Action Teams	Revitalize Puna 1/11 activation In-person and Zoom planning meetings	Review and analyze input Develop Plan	Report back to 'ohana Present Plan at 4/11 event Finalize Plan	Submit Plan to FEMA for eligible park improvements Begin short- and long-term actions

## Rooted in 'Ohana Outreach

*County Parks & Recreation received \$4.9MM from the federal government for lava inundation and damage to its park facilities. \$3MM is dedicated to restoring Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Park.*

*To inform how these federal dollars could be used, the County met with 'ohana from Pohoiki and neighboring communities to listen, understand, and cultivate relationships to increase trust and collaboration. 'Ohana shared mana'o, concerns, and challenges, as well as opportunities and solutions.*

*The County team reflected on these engagements, and from that, created a set of **Guiding Principles** (Lōkahi, 'Auamo Kuleana, and Kīho'īho'i) that will ground this entire process, from planning and design to construction and stewardship, and **Four Themes** which identify what is needed to support revitalization: Honor Cultural Identities, Safety & Security, Appropriate Amenities, and Support & Partnerships.*

### Community Outreach Overview

- 5 Pop-Up Engagements
  - 4 In-Person x 1 Virtual
- 200+ Participants
- 32 Maps Submitted
  - 129 Comments Included

### Online Engagement Tool

- 55 People Participated
  - 38 Topics to Review
    - 1,068 Opinions Shared
    - 187 Comments Made
- [revitalizepohoiki.consider.it](http://revitalizepohoiki.consider.it)

# Paint Pāhoa Town



*Paint Pāhoa Town is a paint refresh project aimed at revitalizing buildings in Downtown Pāhoa. The goal is to enhance the aesthetic of storefronts with vibrant-colored paints and artwork that incorporates elements of the mele Ke ha'a lā Puna i ka makani (Puna is dancing in the breeze) – a poetic reminder of our relationship with nature, which is at the core of who we are.*

## Painting will take place April - June 2022

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### Who can participate?

Downtown Pāhoa businesses and organizations along Pāhoa Village Road – between Post Office Road and Akeakamai Loop – are encouraged to be part of this rejuvenation endeavor.

### Why are you doing this?

A town's appearance reflects the cultural identity, values, and narrative of a community. Research suggests that towns experience an increase in public safety and economic benefits following transformation of the built environment through paint refreshments, art, and landscaping. Paint the Town strives to uplift residents, support businesses, and increase a sense of community pride.

### How is the project funded?

A combination of grants from local foundations and private donations have been secured to purchase paint and other materials needed to support this project. While there is no cost for a business to participate, we encourage everyone to lend a helping hand on designated work days and provide refreshments for volunteer painters.

### Who is organizing Paint Pāhoa Town?

This project is being convened by Council District 4, the Kilauea Disaster Recovery Division, Mainstreet Pāhoa Association, and Pāhoa Rotary Club, in collaboration with Puna-based artists, community-partners and members spanning the Economic x Built x Youth Resilience Capacity Areas.

### Where can one make a donation or volunteer to paint?

Donations can be made online via Pāhoa Lava Zone Museum. Register to volunteer by scanning the QR code or completing this form: [bit.ly/PaintPahoa](https://bit.ly/PaintPahoa)



# Resilience Commitments

Implementation of the Kilauea Recovery & Resilience Plan (KRRP) is organized around collaboration between six Resilience Capacity Areas (RCA): Social, Cultural, Economic, Natural Environment, Built Environment, and Youth. Each RCA is led by co-chairs from the County and community, and are comprised of residents who commit to taking action.

At the onset of launching Revitalize Puna in June 2021, each RCA identified a list of projects sourced from the KRRP to begin working on. By embracing an iterative process in which we ideate, create, and reflect, we are able to promote taking action while holding space to honestly assess collective efforts for what is working and what needs to be improved.

We started out with broad, expansive lists in order to explore what's possible. Actions over the last nine months and a series of evaluative discussions with RCA co-chairs serve as the basis for narrowing down what RCAs will commit to acting upon for the duration of the USDA RPIC.

## Paint Pāhoia Town

*A paint refresh project aimed at revitalizing buildings in Downtown Pāhoia*

## Revitalize Pohoiki

*A planning initiative to restore Isaac Hale Park and create a vision and stewardship plan for the greater Pohoiki area*

## Pāhoia Village Master Plan

*Establishes a design framework that provides a foundation for future evolution of Pāhoia*

## Resilience Hubs & Spaces

*People-driven operations that support ongoing community and climate resiliency, and mobilize in times of disaster to provide emergency support*

## Enhanced Food Systems

*Establish Puna as the island's bread-basket, with a suite of niche-growing operations supported by value-added product development and export*

## Econ-Dev Focus Groups

*Understand challenges Puna businesses face to inform what's needed for a thriving economy*

## Emergency Prep & Response

*Support residents and Puna communities to be prepared for and able to respond to disasters*

## Asset Mapping

*A directory to support project implementation and disaster prep and response*

# Voluntary Housing Buyout

Program launched April 2021

Phase 1  
*Primary Homes*

289  
applications rcvd

Phase 2  
*Secondary Homes*

178  
applications rcvd

Phase 3  
*Undeveloped Parcels*

106  
registrations

With 467 Phase I & II applications received, \$90 million of the \$107.5 million in CDBG-DR funds is committed to serving these households. The County of Hawai'i is proposing a Substantial Amendment to its HUD-approved Action Plan to right-size the program to ensure community's needs are met. Proposed changes include:

- Establishment of a new maximum grant award of \$22,000 specifically for undeveloped properties that would be acquired through the Voluntary Housing Buyout Program, based on pre-disaster value
- Clarification of programmatic policies and procedures for the Voluntary Housing Buyout Program related to program eligibility, exceptions, and duplication of benefits analysis
- Revision of timeframes for Phase 3 to apply for the Voluntary Housing Buyout Program to begin in July 2022 in order to complete this Substantial Amendment process
- Elimination of the Housing Relocation Services Program with background and rationale
- Reallocation of funding from the Housing Relocation Services Program to the Voluntary Housing Buyout Program

The program is not accepting new applications at this time while staff focus on processing offers and escrow for primary home applicants and begin in-take for second home applicants. Applications for all types of property impacted by the 2018 Kilauea eruption will be accepted when Phase 3 of the program opens in July 2022.

## Virtual Public Meeting

Monday, April 18, 2022 • 3:00-5:00pm

*Register for the meeting via [recovery.hawaiicounty.gov](https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov)*

## Public Comment Period

Monday, April 4 - Tuesday, May 3, 2022

*Email comments to [kilauearecovery@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:kilauearecovery@hawaiicounty.gov)*

# Mass Transit Agency

The County of Hawai'i Mass Transit Agency is proud to provide Hele-On commuter and local fixed routes, Hele-On Kako'o paratransit, HI Bike and senior and persons with disabilities demand response bus service throughout the entire Island of Hawai'i.

You can count on Hele-On to provide fixed route transit services generally seven days a week from 3:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Shared ride taxi service is available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday, in the Hilo urbanized area on selected taxi providers. Demand response bus service is available Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm., island-wide.

All buses are accessible to seniors and persons with disabilities and those with mobility devices. More information about Hele-On Bus is available at [www.heleonbus.org](http://www.heleonbus.org) or call 808.961.8744 option 1.



***Hele-On fixed route bus and paratransit services are now free until December 31, 2022. Just hop on and ride! The following routes serve the Puna District:***

Hele-On Service Plan					
Route #	Route Name	Weekday Service Span	Saturday Service Span	Sunday Service Span	Frequency
40	Hilo to Pahoā	5:30 a.m. to 10:05 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 9:05 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 9:05 p.m.	60 minutes
401	Hawaiian Beaches/Nanawale/Seaview	5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 8:28 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 8:28 p.m.	60 minutes
402	Hawaiian Paradise Park/Orchidland/Hawaiian Acres/Ainaloa	4:35 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	None	120 minutes
403	Fern Acres/Fern Forest/Eden Roc	9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	None	120 minutes
Hele-On Kako'o Paratransit					
Route #	Route Name	Weekday Service Span	Saturday Service Span	Sunday Service Span	Frequency
Puna	1 Mile of Rte 40, 401, 402	5:30 a.m. to 10:05 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 9:05 p.m.	6:30 a.m. to 9:05 p.m.	

An interim hub was launched at Puna Kai Shopping Center on September 5, 2021. The Mass Transit Agency, in partnership with the County's Planning Department and Hawai'i State Libraries, is launching a site selection and environmental assessment to study to placement of a new transit hub with library in the Pāhoā town area.

# Wastewater

The County Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the addition of wastewater services for the Puna District, where presently no wastewater collection or treatment facilities exist.

A PEIS evaluates the effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions that may include a wide range of individual projects; implementation over a long timeframe; and/or implementation across a large geographic range. The level of detail in a PEIS is sufficient to allow informed choice among planning-level alternatives and to develop broad mitigation strategies. The PEIS does not evaluate project-level issues such as precise footprints or specific design details that are not yet ready for decision at the planning level. The PEIS is followed by subsequent project-level environmental reviews such as an EIS (a document that analyzes the potential environmental impacts of a proposed major action and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Exemption Notice, for specific components of the proposal.

DEM is developing an initial scoping document to further define the extent of wastewater services opportunities in Puna. This will include development of possibilities, options, alternatives, and potentials for wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure as it relates to the Kīlauea Eruption Recovery & Resilience planning process. This scoping document, to be completed as a Technical Memorandum, will form the basis for completion of the PEIS as well as a detailed Facility Plan. The Facility Plan is a wastewater system planning document which will provide a road map for implementation. The following will be included: alternatives, population and waste load projections, phasing, implementation plan, and schedule.



## USGS Groundwater Study

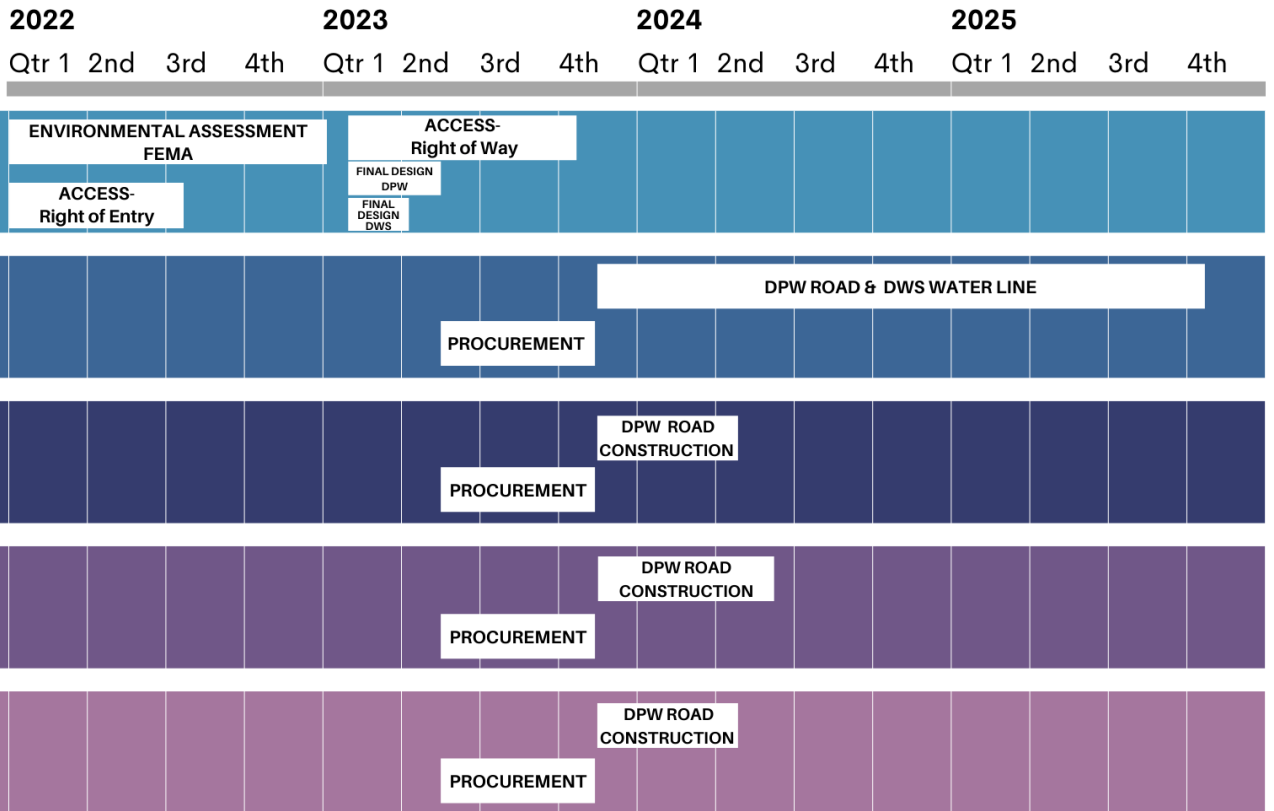
In 2015 and 2020, the USGS collected water samples from deep geothermal wells, public-supply wells, and coastal springs to evaluate whether geothermal operations have affected groundwater quality. Results for both did not indicate that geothermal-plant activities have unequivocally affected groundwater quality.

Because of ongoing concerns related to geothermal energy production in the Puna area, continued monitoring of groundwater resources is needed. Council District 4 has secured a partnership between U.S. Geological Survey and the County of Hawai'i to support ongoing sampling of groundwater resources and coastal ecosystems for geothermal indicators in Puna. For the 2022 project, water samples will be collected and analyzed to produce a Scientific Investigation Report.



# Roads Recovery

## KĪLAUEA RECOVERY ROAD AND WATER LINE PROJECTS



In January 2022, FEMA began the Environmental Assessment for road and waterline restoration along Pohoiki Road and Highway 137. The County is a partner in the Environmental Assessment process, which includes proper consultation with lineal descendants, and assessment and documentation of historic, archaeological, and environmentally sensitive resources, including any impacts and mitigation actions. It is anticipated that the Environmental Assessment will be completed in January 2023.

The Environmental Assessment is a requirement of utilizing federal funds and must be completed before any construction can begin. The County continues to secure necessary rights-of-entry agreements for properties adjacent to construction areas and identify property needed for right-of-way acquisitions.

Findings and conditions of the completed Environmental Assessment will assist Public Works and Water Supply in finalizing engineering and design for road and waterline projects. FEMA will issue a notice-to-proceed after engineering and design is approved, allowing the County to complete right-of-way acquisitions and prepare bids for construction. The construction procurement process is expected to take six months before construction contracts are awarded. Roads recovery is led by the County Department of Public Works.

***Learn more at [recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/infrastructure/roads](https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/infrastructure/roads)***

# Water Recovery

*The 2018 Kīlauea eruption caused about \$40 million in damage to water infrastructure, including the loss of about 14.5 miles of waterlines in Lower Puna. The County Department of Water Supply will receive about \$30 million, or 75% of the damage assessment, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on a reimbursement basis to support water infrastructure improvements. A local match will be supported by State loans.*

## Approach to Identifying Projects

- Eligible under FEMA 428 Public Assistance Program Guidelines
- Alignment with Kīlauea Recovery and Resilience Plan
- Re-investment in region impacted by 2018 Kīlauea eruption in light of geological conditions and participation in housing buyout program
- Building resiliency and redundancy into existing water systems
- Service to where eruption-impacted households have relocated to
- Benefit to economic development and addressing growth in Puna
- Coordination with other County and State infrastructure investments

## Priority Projects

These proposed projects increase system resilience, improve functionality, provide regional benefits, and extend waterlines into some new areas.

- Waterline replacement to Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Park/Pohoiki - \$6M
- Highway 137 waterline improvements (Pohoiki to Kapoho Kai Drive) - \$2.3MM
- Kea'au well, reservoir improvements - \$19.2MM
- Kalapana waterline remediation - \$150,000
- Nānāwale waterline improvements - \$3MM
- Hawaiian Paradise Park waterline improvements - \$6.5MM
- Pāhoa Village waterline improvements - \$3MM
- Post Office Road waterline improvements - \$1MM

## Alternative Projects

If the priority projects are not fulfilled, and/or there are remaining funds, DWS will use federal recovery funds to support:

- Insertion valve tool and valves to increase system resilience - \$250,000
- Ola'a No. 3 Well B improvements for increased capacity and resilience - \$7MM
- Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition equipment for Keonepoko Nui, Pāhoa, Ola'a wells - \$1MM
- Ola'a No. 6 well generator purchase for emergency backup power and Ola'a No. 3 well emergency transfer switch - \$500,000
- Kea'au Well B-Phase 2 improvements - \$6MM
- Service for boat wash, spigots - \$100,000

# Parks Recovery

*The County of Hawai'i's Department of Parks and Recreation will receive about \$4.9 million in disaster recovery assistance from FEMA and State loans as a result of inundation of 'Ahalanui Beach Park and damage to Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Beach Park.*

## Proposed Projects

### **Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Park - \$3MM**

See Revitalize Pohoiki to understand how funds will be used to support park improvements.

### **Parks & Recreation Equipment - \$1.76MM**

Equipment will ensure safety and proper maintenance at County parks, and will be used to support responses to natural disasters and other emergencies.

#### 2 bucket trucks for tree trimming

- Equipment is essential to address and prevent safety issues at parks and ensure proper, healthy growth of trees. Current inventory reduced from 3 to 1 due to safety issues.

#### Tracked skid steer to address safety concerns at ball fields

- A tracked skid steer is essential to successful and efficient completion of numerous types of park improvement and maintenance projects. County is currently renting this.

#### Rubbish truck for Puna parks

- County currently does not have a rubbish truck to serve parks in Puna

#### 2 dump trucks

- Fleet of four dump trucks are constantly being taken out of commission for necessary, unscheduled repairs. Needed to ensure parks are adequately maintained.

#### 2 flatbed trucks with dump

- Needed to transport aggregate and building materials at County parks.

#### 3 heavy-duty trailers to transport equipment

- P&R has limited (in quantity and rating) trailers to efficiently mobilize heavy equipment.

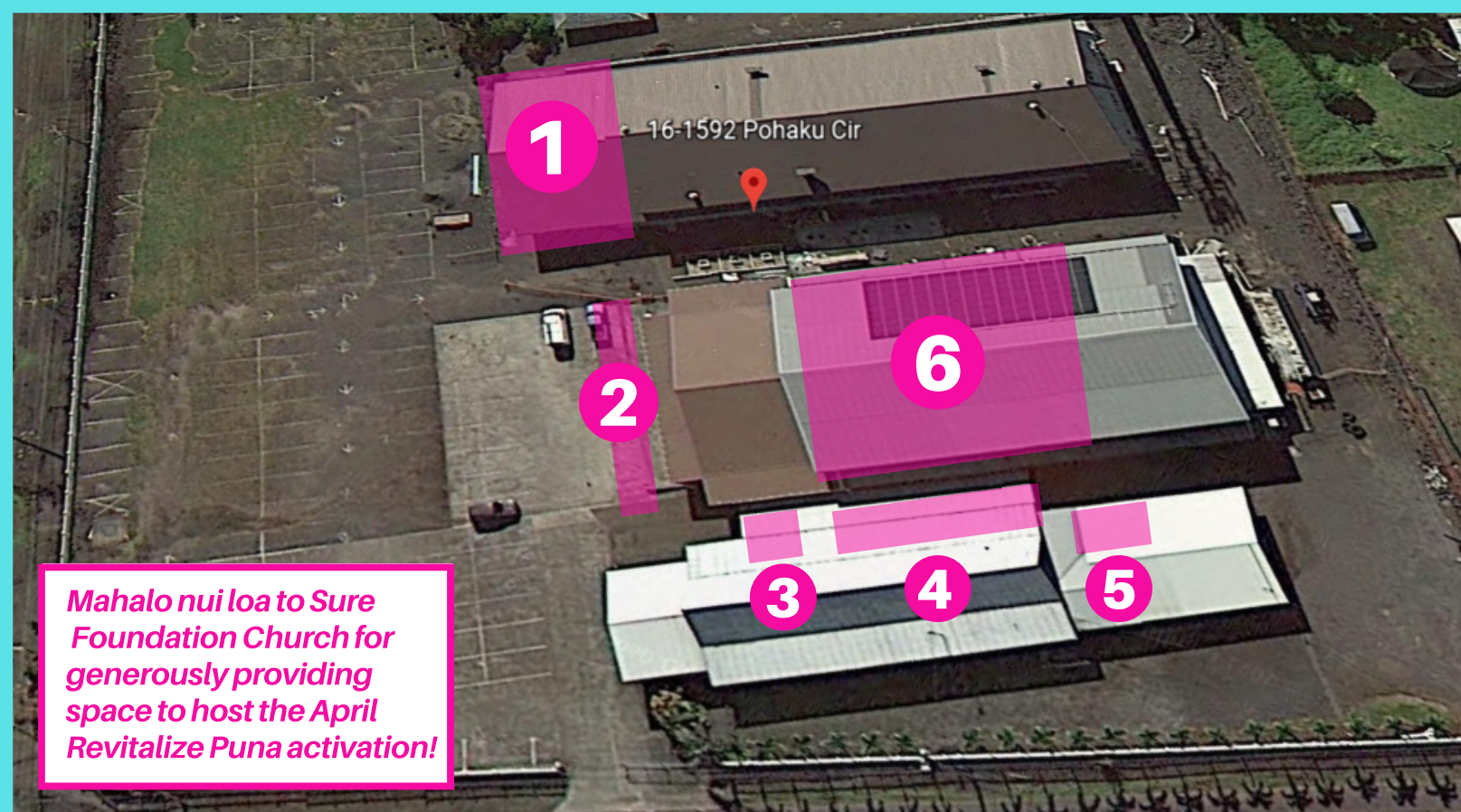
#### 3 excavators

- The mid-size excavator with dozer blade is an important component of heavy equipment that is currently absent from the department's inventory. County currently rents this.

#### 1 Backhoe to replace existing backhoe that is at the end of its life

#### 2 auto scrubbers for indoor courts

- As the County transitions from outdoor bare concrete and asphalt play surfaces to indoor courts with specialized athletic surfacing, the need to properly clean and maintain these large floor areas is dependent on auto scrubber equipment.



**Mahalo nui loa to Sure Foundation Church for generously providing space to host the April Revitalize Puna activation!**

- 1** Dining Area
- 2** Food Trucks
- 3** Check in
- 4** Resilience Resource Row
- 5** Keiki Crafts\*
- 6** Main Event (Gym)

\*The County of Hawai'i and community volunteers are providing art tools and instruction and do not offer childcare services or supervision.

## Fill out this short event reflection for your free food voucher!



or visit  
[bit.ly/Apr11Reflect](https://bit.ly/Apr11Reflect)

## Let's Connect!

@revitalizepuna  
 @revitalizepuna

[aloha@revitalizepuna.org](mailto:aloha@revitalizepuna.org)  
 [recovery.hawaiiicounty.gov/revitalizepuna](https://recovery.hawaiiicounty.gov/revitalizepuna)