

## The Importance of Community Leadership and Vision:

Community leadership is essential to community-based natural resource management efforts. Leadership can inspire and motivate or discourage and alienate. Most communities already have members with the leadership qualities to support a healthy and productive community. Whether a community has people who are identifiable leaders or not building leadership qualities in a community are essential for success.

Identifying the skills needed and providing a solid structure of support can help communities develop and support effective and successful leadership

*“There have been many good leaders throughout history who, despite their human imperfections, had a depth of experience and strength of character that helped them to succeed.” (Marshall 14)*

In Hawai‘i, certain qualities re-occur among those seen as leaders. Experience is one of these. They have immersed themselves in the lifestyle and in the work in which they influence.

*E ho‘ā‘o no i pau kuhihewa.  
Try it and rid yourself of illusions (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 283)*

**Presence and leading by example** are also important leadership qualities. A community needs to see that their leaders are engaged, care for and are involved in the community . whether physical labor, listening and contributing to discussion, and/or celebrating the life and successes of others.

*Kū i ka mana.  
Like the one from whom he received what he learned. (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1875)*

Responsibility to embody and understand the values of their community are important . “Most understand responsibility in terms of demand on our time, effort, and financial resources, but what we sometimes overlook is that responsibility also draws on our values.” (Marshall) The culture of a community and of a people are built on a set of values we must be responsible for and include in our journeys.

Other Characteristics of a good leaders include **Selflessness, Integrity, Morality, Honesty and Vision.**

**‘O KA ‘I‘INI: (VISION):** A good leader helps articulate a community’s vision (or dream) of the future. Effective leaders will certainly have their own vision for the future, but more importantly they encourage community members to develop a collective vision that everyone can work toward. They listen to what people want for the future and ultimately their own vision is shaped by the words of their community members and a shared vision is ultimately created.

It is very important that a community is encouraged to build their dream and be very clear about what that dream is. This is equivalent to the vision of an organization and the destination in which all decisions are being made to move toward.

**“Where, at the end of all the blood, sweat, and tears, do we want our community to be?”**

This is when a community turns their concerns and frustrations into visions of hope. This is NOT a conversation about rules and regulations or designations. It's a conversation where communities are very clear about what access means to them, about the importance of subsistence living and a sustainable community, about wahi pana and the expectations of that community in caring for these places, and any other topics that are becoming harder to participate in or contribute to within their community.

*“kupuna quote”*

*“With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed” (Abraham Lincoln)*

DRAFT