

KEY STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Focus Maui Nui participants were thoughtful and innovative in how they formulated **strategies for action...** resulting in a series of integrated strategies that can shape the future we envision.

- 1** To foster the development of young people, to create more economic options down the road, and to strengthen the ability of local residents to take control over the islands' future, the first priority is to **improve education**. Maui Nui must ensure its schools are performing and that young people are being well prepared for the challenges ahead. While the creation of the infrastructure and innovation to bring about K-12 reform is of the utmost importance, it is also essential to have a public university with strong academic programs, particularly in areas logical for research and job creation in Maui Nui.
- 2** To ensure that precious resources exist for future generations, to preserve the beauty that brings visitors to our islands, and to maintain the distinct rural identity and traditions of Maui Nui, the second priority is to **protect the natural environment** through carefully managed, thoughtful development and other means, including special attention to **addressing water needs**. Residents, industry, and visitors – all of us – must be educated about their role in preserving resources and, as necessary, provided with laws and incentives that will help them conserve water and the land, as well as other natural resources. By rewarding environmentally conscious practices by businesses and individuals, Maui Nui can support efforts to move toward a sustainable water supply, as well as efforts to adopt alternative energy resources, to expand and diversify locally grown food, to protect native species, and to promote responsible transportation alternatives.
- 3** To maintain the quality of life on our islands and to ensure local residents have the chance to own their own homes and to travel safely, the next priority is to **address infrastructure challenges, particularly housing and transportation**. Efforts to tackle these challenges should take into account the realities of local people's needs and should maintain a sensitivity to the natural environment. Maui Nui should adhere to community planning principles that are forward-thinking and that put the needs of residents first.
- 4** To supply rewarding and quality jobs for local people, to broaden the tax base, and to provide Maui Nui with financial resources to accomplish its other goals, a fourth priority is to **adopt targeted economic development strategies**. We believe Maui Nui can create jobs and strengthen the economy in ways that limit harm to our delicate ecosystem and that capitalize on our local assets and the world's growing interest in ecology and sustainability. Cultural and ecological tourism; research and development around alternative energy; support for small and locally-owned businesses; oceanic research; agriculture (particularly diversified and organic agriculture); aquaculture; high tech; and other environmentally clean areas of focus are recommended, as is the creation of learning and research institutes that can support the community's interest in sustainability and cultural traditions.
- 5** To pass on our history and culture to future generations and to ensure a healthy community in years ahead, Maui Nui must take steps to **preserve local culture and traditions** and to **address human needs**, particularly the epidemic of substance abuse that threatens too many of our young people. Our communities must adhere to native traditions of respect, community, and *aloha* and must care for their people, working to ensure all residents have opportunities to succeed and to recognize alternatives to drugs and alcohol. Substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, job creation, youth development, law enforcement, population control, and health care are all factors in the quality of life in local communities and in whether we will be able to maintain our distinctive identity as residents of Maui Nui. All residents will play a role in addressing these issues and in protecting our culture and people from harm.