

2020: A Clear Vision: group goal setting for koa forests in the year 2020.

Facilitated by Mike Robinson and Peter Simons at the 2012 Koa Symposium 'Growing Koa in Hawaii Nei' November 16th & 17th, 2012.

Transcribed on 1.27.13 by: Julie Gaertner, HFIA Intern, UH-Hilo, TCBES Graduate Program.

(Mike Robinson): What can be done? A continuation of what we're doing, or something new?

(Paul Scowcroft): Putting Kahuku area back into native forest.

(Peter Simmons): Reforest with native plants. We're in abundance mode at Kahuku.

(Sheri Mann): Hawaii Forest Industry Associations (HFIA) role – funding sources will be improved by HFIA's help. Focus on public/private partnerships. There is money available for industry development. Get certification so wood can be used for construction.

(Peter Simmons): The biggest missing component is the economics. Is the industry really big enough to carry conservation? I think not. HFIA was designed by middle people. Who has the political will? Ernie Pung, a retired forester, wanted State to get involved in koa industry. The 1996 koa conference was to see if koa had a chance. We are lacking people in the 'higher-up' leadership role. We need to push to say 'healthy forest industry'.

(Mike Robinson): Public/Private industry has been out of sync. Public is largely koa artisans & woodworkers. HFIA set a great example, but maybe hasn't focused on outside koa industry and maybe alienated the public sector. I would like younger people to step-up and fill roles that influence.

(Orlo Steele): Try to get back to a more sustainable island crop: koa is a very good wood for this. WW1 lesson: Hawaii needs to be self-sustaining with enough seedlings in the ground. We need self-sufficiency with native species.

(Audience): We need to get state forestry to grow trees.

(Christian Giardina; USFS): We are lacking the intellectual data to share information with landowners to 'sell' this koa idea. We need commercial and tree improvement research.

(Mike Robinson): So landowners have less risk.

(J.B. Friday): A greater unknown: what is the koa going to be worth?

(Tai Lake): We need to increase land base of koa manager vs. trying to see how much/how fast we can grow koa. Think longer term, like 200 yrs vs. 20 yrs. Take fence lines. Enclosures on existing leases. Can we direct the discussion back to how can we get more acreage into koa vs.

focusing on price. Focus on moving land, for example, 170,000 acres in Kau was purchased by Kamehameha Schools recently.

(Audience): Small private landowners do not want lots of regulation. Give landowners more favorable tax rates to plant koa, with tax incentives. I do not want to submit a 'plan'. Please keep it simple. State tax breaks**.

(Mike Robinson): You can get state tax rate immediately.

(Peter Simmons): The risk is the biggest thing. We need to take risk out from government, leadership and regulation side (DLNR/DOFAW).

(Audience): Koa that is not 'perfect' for harvest has lots of value, for example, rare bird habitat.

(Jorma Winkler): We need more public awareness.

(Audience): Public sector lands going into forestry. Is their access for the public since public funds are paying for this?

(Mike Robinson): Koa has many values. Can we improve access to public lands? Areas that are strictly conservation, could we open up the lands so that public can understand more?

(Christian Giardina): A commercial industry bottleneck? How do we turn this into conservation? Is it linking to carbon credits? We need a conservation focus action item.

(Cheyenne Perry): Community. No one is more invested than community. Get schools involved. We need to integrate community into forest.