

From: [Kevin Kunz](#)
To: [WPCtestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Hawaii Count Genral Plan 2045
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 1:58:13 PM
Attachments: [WPC General Plan Testimony. K. Kunz 3.5.25.docx](#)

Dear Friends,

Please find attached my testimony related to the proposed Hawaii County General Plan, 2045.

Mahalo for the work you do to preserve our unique community, our cultures and our living environment.

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March 5, 2025

Windward Planning Commission
WPCtestimony@hawaiiicounty.gov

Dear Leadership at the Windward Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the County of Hawaii General Plan 2045, specifically Section 2.0: Collaborative Biocultural Stewardship.

As a resident of Volcano Village in the Puna District, a committed senior, a volunteer member of this community, and a Back Country Volunteer at Hawaii Volcanos National Park, please view me as a serious stakeholder for the ideals and objectives set forth in Section 2.0. Further, my position reflects that of several dozen of my Puna and Volcano Village friends. Although they are less likely to comment on the General Plan, I can assure you that they will support it and work for it as it comes online.

After attention to our families and preservation of our unique Hawaii County community cultures, the absolute necessity of preserving our distinctive, one and only physical environment becomes paramount. Indeed, this environment influences who we are, or may become, and all that we do. For generations to come.

As currently written, Section 2.0 is, in my view, perfect. It covers all bases, and enhances the opportunities for collaboration by any stakeholders, allowing activation of our citizenry. Truth be told, participation of the community is an essential and necessary element. I and I know others as well, do others pledge to support not just this plan, yet also our commitment to step up when our participation is needed. From pulling invasive plants, to teaching others the responsibility we all have together to save our environment, to reaching out to county, state and federal level pullers.

Finally, and emphatically, I wish to comment on Section 2.0, Actions 1.o: Study, develop, and establish Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zones. With Puna and Volcano Village's geographically inclusive and/or adjacent location next to Hawaii Volcanos National Park (HVNP). HVNP is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and we are the buffering community. Let

us step up our game with this General Plan, and preserve all we can in this unique buffer zone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Kunz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kunz".

Kevin Kunz