

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



David Kuahiwinui
Ka'ohinani Mokuhalii, Vice Chair
Taylor Spurgeon
Babette Morrow
Jason Masters, Chair
Vacant
Catherine Williams
Kaweni Ibarra
Gary Davis

County of Hawai'i

KA'Ū COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – AMENDED JULY 21, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) in accordance with the provisions of Sections 92-3.7 and 92-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). This meeting will be held in person at the location listed in this notice by Interactive Conference Technology (ICT) through Zoom.

DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2026
TIME: 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Nā'ālehu Community Center
95-5635 Mamalahoa Hwy
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

ZOOM: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/4n2SYDHFREyXRuNi2XJzOw>

INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY (ICT): A meeting held by ICT shall be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication when audiovisual communication cannot be maintained with all members participating in the meeting or with the in-person location identified in this notice. The meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication is restored, or audio-only communication is established after an unsuccessful attempt to restore audiovisual communication. If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting as provided in this subsection within 30 minutes after an interruption to communication, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The public may provide oral testimony at the meeting by joining Zoom or attending in-person at the physical location listed above. Although not required, to register in advance for oral testimony please contact staff at CDP@hawaiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8288. Interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so either at the time the committee takes public statements on the agenda, or at the time the specific agenda item is called. Please note that public testimony may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item. Testimony may be submitted via email to CDP@hawaiicounty.gov or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department. Please specify the agenda item for which the testimony is being submitted. All written testimony will become part of the public record. Hard copy submissions should include one original and nine copies.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The AC will consider approving the draft minutes from May 26, 2026.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Pursuant to Section 92-3, HRS, interested persons may provide oral testimony now, or when the specific agenda item is called.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - Public Meeting Decorum Guidance by Jean Campbell, Office of the Corporation Counsel, regarding Communication 2026-13, CC Memo 2026-3: General Guidance Regarding Unruly or Disruptive Conduct During Public Meetings.
 - The Hawai'i County Department of Public Works has installed new traffic signage along South Point Road to improve roadway safety, including a stop sign at the three-way intersection of South Point Road and Ka Lae Road, as well as two yield signs for vehicles approaching the one lane section of South Point Road. See Communication 2026-16 for photos of the newly installed signage.
 - Bill 147 Update by Chair Masters relating to transient accommodations and short-term vacation rentals, including proposed definitions and potential impacts.
- V. BUSINESS:**

Non-Action Items

 - 1. Ingress and Egress at Green Sands and Mark Twain Subdivisions Regarding Ka'ū CDP Policy 118, Section 5.7.2.** – Report by Committee Members Morrow and Williams regarding status of letter from Hawaii Fire Department to Green Sands and Mark Twain subdivisions property owners requesting permission for an emergency access easement.
 - 2. Information on County of Hawai'i Acquisition of Punalu'u Beach Park through Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC)** – Informational presentation by Chair Masters regarding County acquisition through PONC of 6.622 acres in Punalu'u.

Action Items

 - 3. Ka'ū CDP Section 7.1 Develop and Implement Plans for Punalu'u** – Discussion and deliberation regarding the creation of a Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) to conduct outreach to Punalu'u landowners, gather their perspectives on Councilmember Michelle Galimba's Punalu'u Survey results, and report those findings back to the Action Committee.
 - 4. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Request for CDP Guidance on the Hilea Property PONC Application** – Brief presentation by TNC representative, Shalan Crysdale, followed by Action Committee discussion and deliberation regarding TNC's request for CDP guidance on the protection of Mekanau and adjacent lands.
- VI. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA**

VII. THIRD-PARTY REPORTS; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: The AC may receive and discuss information from third-party reports by any government official not included in a publicly noticed agenda. The AC may only make decisions on matters originally raised by third-party reports from any government official at a later meeting, where the agenda for the meeting gives notice of decision-making on the matter.

VIII. PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS: The AC will discuss potential agenda items for future meetings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository:

<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/1/fol/88959/Row1.aspx>.

These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. The recorded video of this meeting will be uploaded to the Planning Department's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@cohplanningdepartment>

A person desiring to submit oral or written testimony shall indicate their name and whether the testimony is on their behalf or as a representative of an organization or individual. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service, other reasonable modification, or language interpretation to access this meeting please contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 or cdp@hawaiicounty.gov as soon as possible to arrange for accommodations. If a response is received after the five-business days deadline, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled. "Other reasonable modification" refers to communication methods or devices for people with disabilities who are mentally and/or physically challenged. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai'i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai'i County Code). A lobbyist means, "any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials." (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai'i County Code). Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720.

Meeting Packet QR Code:

KA'Ū CDP ACTION COMMITTEE
JASON MASTERS, Chair



KA'Ū COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII
DRAFT MINUTES
May 26, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Jason Masters called the meeting of the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:05 p.m. This meeting was held in person at the Nā'ālehu Community Center and online via the Zoom platform.

The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ-LITlcJ2g>

Roll Call

Members Present (in person):

- Jason Masters, Chair
- Ka'ohinani Mokuhalii, Vice Chair
- David Kuahiwinui
- Taylor Spurgeon
- Gary Davis
- Catherine Williams
- Kaweni Ibarra

Members Present (via Zoom): Babette Morrow

Planning Department Staff Present:

- Maryam Palma (in person)
- Kawelo Kalili (in person)
- Jessica Lahip (Zoom)

Other County Representatives Present (in person):

- Michelle Galimba, Council Member
- Neil Azevedo, Department of Public Works Deputy Director
- Talmadge Magno, Department of Civil Defense Administrator
- Lori Enomoto, Office of Aging Acting Administrative Services Assistant

Other County Representatives Present (via Zoom):

- Ka'uionalani Fukuda, Office of Aging County Executive

There were approximately 15 members of the public in attendance (5 in person and 10 via Zoom).

35 **Approval of Minutes**

36 Committee Member Williams moved to approve the draft minutes of the March 24, 2026,
37 meeting. Vice Chair Mokuhalii seconded the motion. The motion was passed
38 unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:48]

39 **Public Testimony on Agenda Items**

40 Chair Masters called for public testimony on agenda items. No public testimony was
41 provided at this time. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:35]

42 **Business**

43 **Action Items**

- 44 **1. Ingress and Egress at Green Sands and Mark Twain Subdivisions Regarding Ka'ū**
45 **CDP Policy 118, Section 5.7.2.** – Update and discussion by Committee Members
46 Morrow and Williams. The AC may take action, including consideration of drafting a letter
47 to property owners. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:34]

48 Committee Member Williams provided background on the item and summarized
49 information regarding emergency access between the Green Sands and Mark Twain
50 subdivisions. The Committee discussed prior map review, potential access routes, and
51 the need for emergency ingress/egress in the event of wildfire or other emergency
52 conditions.

53 Committee Member Williams reported that the issue had originally been raised by
54 Volunteer Fire Captain, Ron Ebert, who previously identified fire-safety concerns
55 including narrow roads, limited egress to Highway 11, and water-access challenges for
56 firefighters. Captain Ebert has since moved away and is no longer available to assist
57 with the effort.

58 Committee Members Morrow and Williams reached out to the Ocean View Fire Captain,
59 who explained that the Nā'ālehu station is ambulance-only and that the Pāhala Fire
60 Station oversees the Nā'ālehu area. The Ocean View Fire Captain referred them to
61 Pāhala Fire Captain Daniel Dierking, who has knowledge of the issue and indicated a
62 willingness to assist with drafting a letter to affected property owners.

63 The Committee discussed that the goal is to pursue an access easement for emergency
64 access by the Fire Department only, not to open the route for public use. Committee
65 Members Kuahiwinui and Davis encouraged the AC to speak with the affected
66 neighborhoods before making a proposal.

67 Bill Savage, Mark Twain subdivision resident, provided testimony stating that access
68 through private property already exists and had been opened during a previous fire event.
69 He explained that the gate had historically been closed due to liability concerns and said
70 that, if the intent is to formalize emergency-only access, affected property owners and
71 residents should be consulted. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 12:33]

72 The AC discussed options for notifying the subdivisions, including posting notices on
73 community bulletin boards, posting the next meeting agenda, and inviting residents from
74 both Green Sands and Mark Twain to attend the next meeting. Members agreed that
75 the next step should be to notify the affected communities, draft a letter in coordination
76 with the Fire Department, and invite Pāhala Fire Captain Dierking to participate in the
77 next discussion.

78 Vice Chair Mokuhalii moved to authorize Committee Members Morrow and Williams to
79 draft a letter with and from the Fire Department to property owners in both Mark Twain
80 and Green Sands, and to invite the affected communities and the Pāhala Fire Captain
81 to the next meeting for the AC to review the letter. Jason seconded the motion. The
82 motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 23:59]

83 **Non-Action Items**

84 Chair Masters moved Business Items 3 and 4 to Business Item 2 and 3, respectively.

85 **2. Flood Impacts Update** – Report from Civil Defense Director Talmadge Magno
86 regarding the recent storm event, precipitation levels, and contributing factors to the
87 damaging flooding in Ka‘ū. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 28:25]

88 Civil Defense Director Talmadge Magno reported on recent rain and flooding events
89 affecting Ka‘ū, using information from the National Weather Service. He highlighted
90 three major events: the March 2026 Kona low event, the February 2023 storm event,
91 and the November 2000 remnant tropical system that severely damaged bridges and
92 infrastructure.

93 Director Magno explained that the geography of Hawai‘i Island, including Mauna Loa’s
94 elevation and south-wind moisture patterns, can cause heavy rainfall to remain over
95 Ka‘ū and produce extreme localized flooding. He stated that recent storms produced
96 rainfall in the range of approximately 25 to 30 inches in some areas, while the 2000
97 event produced nearly 40 inches in places and caused significant infrastructure
98 damage.

99 Director Magno emphasized personal and community preparedness, including
100 understanding local vulnerabilities, recognizing where flooding occurs, and signing up
101 for Civil Defense alerts through Everbridge (<https://hawaii-county-civil-defense-agency-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/alerts>). He also noted that, following the
102 presidential disaster declaration, a Community Assistance Center opened at the
103 Nā‘ālehu Library and was expected to operate through June 12, 2026, with agencies
104 such as FEMA, the Small Business Administration, Vibrant Hawai‘i, NRCS, and other
105 partners available to assist residents and farmers with claims and recovery resources.
106

107

108 **3. Department of Public Works Update** – Report by Department of Public Works
109 Deputy Director Neil Azevedo regarding South Point Road street signage and storm
110 impacts in Ka‘ū. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 51:56]

111 Department of Public Works Director Neil Azevedo reported on the Kona Low storm-
112 response and recovery work, including removal of debris from flood channels, drone
113 review of flooded areas, repair and maintenance of drainage facilities, and continued
114 work to understand why water moved through particular locations during the event. He
115 stated that approximately 2,600 cubic yards of material remained in one area and that
116 crews had been hauling significant amounts of material daily.

117 Director Azevedo discussed impacts to drainage infrastructure, culverts, and bridges,
118 including a trailer or debris blocking drainage during the storm. He stated that Public
119 Works crews would continue cleaning and maintaining drainage channels, removing
120 debris, and preparing contracts for additional work. He also stated that the department
121 would follow up regarding road/street signs.

122 **4. Punalu‘u Survey** – Report by Councilmember Michelle Galimba regarding Punalu‘u
123 Survey results: [https://www.rd.hawaiicounty.gov/data-information/punalu-u-](https://www.rd.hawaiicounty.gov/data-information/punalu-u-community-survey)
124 [community-survey](https://www.rd.hawaiicounty.gov/data-information/punalu-u-community-survey) [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:00:04]

125 Councilmember Michelle Galimba reported on the Punalu‘u survey results and stated
126 that the full results and comments were available online through a website and QR
127 code. The survey was described as a way to begin a community conversation and allow
128 anonymous input rather than a final decision-making document.

129 She referenced the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan and prior community-based
130 planning work, noting that Punalu‘u has long been recognized as a complicated and
131 important place with many stakeholders, including private landowners, the State of
132 Hawai‘i, the County of Hawai‘i, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, and individual
133 parcel owners. Councilmember Galimba stated that Punalu‘u has often been addressed
134 only in response to development proposals and suggested that a proactive community
135 plan is needed.

136 The committee discussed the possibility of placing a Punalu‘u planning item on a future
137 agenda, potentially beginning with process questions, stakeholder identification, and the
138 role the Action Committee might play. It was noted that the Planning Department was
139 expected to have funding in the upcoming budget for facilitation and related planning
140 support.

141 Committee members and community participants expressed interest in keeping
142 Punalu‘u open and accessible, protecting natural and cultural resources, and creating
143 opportunities for local economic development and community-based businesses.

144 A member of the public asked that landowners and other stakeholders be involved
145 before any plan is developed, noting the importance of including those parties in early
146 discussions.

147 **5. Office of Aging Kūpuna Survey** – Report by the Hawai'i County Office of Aging
148 regarding its four-year Area Plan and community input efforts to help guide future
149 programs and services for Hawai'i Island kūpuna.

150 • Kūpuna/Caregiver survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YK2XGVG>

151 • Provider survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMD9C2V> [SEE

152 YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:14:14]

153 Office of Aging County Executive Ka'uionalani Fukuda reported that the Office of Aging
154 is updating its four-year area plan and is collecting community input through two
155 surveys: a kupuna/caregiver survey and a provider survey. She explained that the state
156 develops and approves the surveys, while each county is responsible for distribution
157 and collecting input from its districts.

158 Ms. Fukuda stated that the surveys will help tailor programs and services for kupuna
159 and support funding requests. Hard-copy surveys were available, and the Office of
160 Aging is planning focus groups in each district. Staff can also assist kupuna with
161 completing surveys at focus groups, senior centers, congregate sites, or by phone
162 through the Office of Aging. The Office of Aging has reached out to Vibrant Hawai'i and
163 expects to coordinate with its community network and hubs as the process continues.

164 **Public Testimony on Matters Not on the Agenda**

165 Pursuant to Hawai'i Senate Bill 869 (2025), signed into law as Act 53, testimony on
166 matters not on the agenda may be limited to three minutes per speaker. No testimony
167 was provided. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:19:45]

168 No public testimony was provided at this time.

169 **Third-Party Reports; Government Officials**

170 Pursuant to Hawai'i Senate Bill 405 (2025), signed into law as Act 72, the AC may receive
171 and discuss information from third-party reports by any government official not included
172 in the publicly noticed agenda, but may not make decisions on matters raised through
173 such reports until a later meeting with proper notice. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP
174 1:20:19]

175 Councilmember Galimba shared information regarding the Council District 6 newsletter
176 and that interested community members may email to be added to the distribution list.
177 The newsletter is expected to include resources, events, and meetings, including
178 information relevant to Ka'ū. Committee members also encouraged residents to sign up
179 for Everbridge Civil Defense alerts by phone, text, and/or email. [SEE YOUTUBE
180 TIMESTAMP: 01:20:49]

181 **Proposed New Business** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:23:32]

- 182 • Green Sands and Mark Twain emergency ingress and egress, including draft letter,
183 Fire Department participation, and community notification.
- 184 • Punalu'u planning and community plan discussion, including discussion
185 regarding the Action Committee's role.

- Bill 147 regarding transient accommodations and short-term vacation rentals, definitions, and potential impacts, subject to timing and agenda capacity.

Announcements [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:31:59]

- The letter to Olson Trust was finalized with corrections and sent to Mr. John Cross on April 2, 2026.
- Ka'ū Transfer Stations Updates effective June 1, 2026:
 - Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station will transition to a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday schedule from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday has been added as a new day of service.
 - Ocean View Transfer Station will transition to a Sunday, Tuesday and Friday schedule from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Saturday service will be discontinued. Scrap metal and appliance collection will be available on Sundays.
- Vice Chair Ka'ohinani Mokuhali'i provided an update on possible DMV kiosk locations in Ka'ū. She said the DMV kiosk company is currently merging with two other companies, so it is not yet clear who will make the final decision on kiosk locations. The company is using a demographic survey to help decide where kiosks should be placed around the island. Vice Chair Mokuhali'i said she discussed Ka'ū's logistics with the company representative, and the company has not said no. There is still a possibility that the project may move forward.

Adjournment

Chair Masters adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's [Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee](#) folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository. These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing CDP@hawaiicounty.gov.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Renee N.C. Schoen
Corporation Counsel

J S. Yoshimoto
Assistant Corporation
Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8251 • Fax (808) 961-8622

MEMORANDUM

Corporation Counsel Numbered Memorandum 2026-3

Sent by email; no hard copy to follow

DATE: June 1, 2026

TO: HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL
ALL COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

FROM: Renee N.C. Schoen
Corporation Counsel

RE: **General Guidance Regarding Unruly or Disruptive Conduct During
Public Meetings**

This memorandum provides general guidance for handling unruly or disruptive behavior during public meetings.

The Chair of the body should first make reasonable efforts to maintain order and deescalate the situation. This may include calmly addressing the disruptive conduct, reminding the individual of applicable meeting rules, and providing a clear opportunity for the individual to comply.

If the disruptive conduct continues and the Chair's efforts to restore order are not successful, the Chair should recess the meeting. Upon recess, all members of the Council, board, or commission should remove themselves from the meeting room or meeting area until order is restored.

No member of the Council, board, commission, or staff should physically interact with or attempt to physically remove a disruptive individual. If the Chair's efforts to deescalate the situation and restore order are unsuccessful, the Chair should recess the meeting and immediately contact the Hawaii Police Department. The meeting should remain in

recess provided that the meeting may continue if the individual leaves the meeting area and order of the meeting is restored.

This guidance is intended to promote safety, preserve public order, and allow the public body to resume its meeting in a lawful and orderly manner when appropriate.

Should you have any questions or need any further guidance, please contact your assigned deputy corporation counsel.

RNS:kki



Ka'ū News's Post



Ka'ū News is at **Punalu'u Beach**.

June 25 at 9:59 AM · Pahala, HI · 🌐



PUNALU'U BEACH FUTURE IN NEGOTIATIONS

The leases of three ocean-front contiguous parcels leased by the County of Hawai'i were set to expire on June 30, 2026. Black Sand Beach LLC and the County of Hawai'i reached an agreement to extend the leases through September 1, 2026 on June 19th.

The County of Hawai'i has leased parcels TMK 9-6-001-006 (5.992 acres), 9-6-001-011 (0.442 acre) & 9-6-001-012 (0.188 acre) for the use as a public beach park from various land owners since 1946 for \$1. The current lease was executed in 1998. The parcels contain multiple pavilions, a paved parking lot and public restrooms totaling approximately 6.622 acres per County tax records.

Ka'ū News contacted Hawai'i County for information about the status of Punalu'u Beach. Executive Assistant to Mayor Aledema (Public Information Officer), Tom Callis, replied with the following:

"During lease negotiations, the County said it was interested in pursuing purchase of the leased parcels through the County's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission[1] (PONC) program. That process requires the property to be appraised, and the County has hired an appraiser in order to continue pursuing this option. Purchases through PONC require a willing seller and the County can't offer more than the maximum purchase price established by the appraisal. That appraisal is expected to be done in July."

For the properties to be eligible for purchase with PONC funds, the properties are required to complete the PONC process. Public records indicate that the properties were nominated, reviewed and ranked by the PONC Commission in 2006[2], in accordance with PONC requirements. Resolution #169-07 to purchase the parcels was introduced and approved in 2007 by the Hawai'i County Council. These 3 parcels have successfully completed the PONC process and are eligible for purchase by Hawai'i County with PONC funds pending successful negotiations with the current owner.

Because the properties have successfully completed the PONC process, please refrain from contacting PONC about the purchase of these parcels.

For more information about the PONC Commission and program, visit

<https://www.openspace.hawaiicounty.gov/>



Comment as Ka'ū Community Development Plan





The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
nature.org/HawaiiPalmyra
hawaii@tnc.org

Shalan Crysdale
Director, Hawai'i Island Terrestrial Program
The Nature Conservancy
5/26/2026

Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee

Subject: Request for Guidance and Support – Protection of Makanau and Adjacent Lands

Dear Members of the Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee,

Aloha and mahalo for your continued leadership in advancing the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CDP) and its vision for mālama 'āina and community stewardship.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is currently pursuing the protection of a 1,916-acre property in Ka'ū that includes Makanau, a prominent hill specifically identified in the CDP as being vulnerable to development and in need of conservation. As noted under Focused Initiative 4.2, Community Action 2, Makanau—along with Pu'u 'Enuhe—is recognized as “relatively unprotected from development” and a priority for securing “in public trust (fee simple or by easement)” to achieve community objectives.

Our effort is directly aligned with the needs and immediate next steps outlined in Initiative 4.2, including:

- Protecting priority lands through acquisition or conservation easements
- Supporting the work of organizations such as TNC and other land trusts
- Advancing nominations and recommendations for conservation through mechanisms such as the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC)
- Engaging landowners in long-term protection strategies

Given this strong alignment, we respectfully seek the Action Committee's mana'o, guidance, and potential support for this effort. Specifically, we would greatly value:

- Affirmation that protection of this property is consistent with CDP priorities under Initiative 4.2
- Any recommendations regarding community engagement, cultural considerations, or stewardship approaches
- Consideration of formal support, such as a letter or resolution, consistent with the Committee's role in advocating for priority lands
- Guidance on coordination with partners and agencies identified in the CDP

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

May 26, 2026

Page 2

We recognize that the CDP calls for the Action Committee to provide leadership by affirming priorities, supporting conservation partnerships, and advocating for protection of critical lands such as Makaanau. We believe this project represents a timely opportunity to advance those objectives in a meaningful and lasting way.

TNC remains committed to working in close partnership with the Ka'ū community to ensure that conservation outcomes reflect local values, cultural significance, and long-term resource stewardship goals.

We would welcome any opportunity to brief the Committee and provide additional details on the project. Mahalo for your consideration, and we look forward to your guidance.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalan Crysdale". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shalan" and last name "Crysdale" clearly legible.

Shalan Crysdale

Director, Hawai'i Island Terrestrial Program

The Nature Conservancy

New Signage Installed on South Point Road





www.AlohaILHawaii.org

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Testimony of Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i

Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee — Agenda Items V.1, V.2, and V.3

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m. · Nā'ālehu Community Center / Zoom

Submitted as written testimony to CDP@hawaiiicounty.gov

Position: Support, with a request that evacuation and shoreline planning account for residents with disabilities and access and functional needs

Aloha Chair Masters, Vice-Chair Mokuhalī'i, and members of the Ka'ū CDP Action Committee.

Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i (AILH) is a Center for Independent Living serving people with disabilities statewide, across all disabilities and ages. We submit this testimony on three related items before the Committee. We work from the Independent Living philosophy and a cross-disability lens grounded in the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504, and the Olmstead decision.

Item V.1 — Emergency access for Green Sands and Mark Twain

We support the Hawai'i Fire Department's effort to secure an emergency-access easement for the Green Sands and Mark Twain subdivisions. These are remote, single-egress communities. When one road is blocked by wildfire or a lava event, everyone inside is at risk, and residents with disabilities are the most endangered, because evacuation takes us longer and often requires accessible transportation and hands-on assistance. Securing a second way out is a life-safety measure for our community.

This effort carries out the Ka'ū Community Development Plan. Policy 118 (Section 5.7.2) directs the County, in collaboration with residents, to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans that include evacuation clearance rates, plans, and routes, and Policy 105 (Section 5.4) calls specifically for an emergency alternative route connecting the Green Sands and Mark Twain subdivisions. We urge the Committee to keep this work moving.



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Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartsock

We respectfully ask that, as the easement and evacuation planning advance, the planning account for residents with disabilities and access and functional needs. Concretely, this means allowing extra evacuation time, arranging accessible transportation for residents who cannot self-evacuate, and ensuring emergency alerts reach people who are Deaf or hard of hearing and people who are blind or have low vision through methods each can receive. Planning that includes us from the start saves lives.

Items V.2 and V.3 — Punalu‘u planning and shoreline access

As the County acquires land at Punalu‘u Beach Park through the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation program and forms a Permitted Interaction Group for landowner outreach under Section 7.1 of the Plan, we respectfully ask that accessible shoreline access be designed in from the beginning — accessible parking, accessible routes to and along the shore, accessible restrooms, and beach access. Land the County plans now is where access for the next several decades is either built in or left out. We also ask that the Permitted Interaction Group's outreach and any resulting plans include residents with disabilities. Hawai‘i's beaches belong to everyone, including residents and visitors with disabilities.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to access and safety in Ka‘ū and welcome the opportunity to work with the County on these plans. Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director