

PCDP Subcommittee on Connectivity and Emergency Response
Meeting – July 28, 2015 Keaau Community Center
5:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Call for Approval of Minutes as Circulated (June 23, 2015): Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- **Update on Ad hoc Committee initiated by Gregor Ilagan**

Ilagan to present formation of Ad Hoc Committee on Connectivity at August 18, 2015 meeting in Kona. Hilo will be connected via videoconferencing for testimony and participation. Focus is the implementation phase of prioritized recommendations for connectivity locations in our 2015 annual CERS report.

Testimonies needed:

PCDP – Patti Pinto

CERS – Marlene Hapai

Others: HICAC (Hawaii Island Citizens Action Committee)

Hannah Hedrick

- **Report on Meetings with the following:**

- o **Representative Joy San Buenaventura – June 29, 2015 –**

Representative San Buenaventura highly in favor of connectivity between Puna and Hilo for emergency and everyday use. Will support our efforts and work with us.

- o **Representative Richard Onishi – June 29, 2015 –** Representative Onishi in favor of connectivity. Mentioned the following: 1) State can help County if there is a plan to support. 2) Consider converting Puna into an Improvement District which includes improvements made through property tax funding of approximately \$1800 over a period of 30 years. This would need to be approved by the County Council and Community Associations. 3) Associations need to work with landowners to agree on property used for connections when necessary. 4) Need to do a count of residents driving onto Highway 11 to show impact of subdivision use and need for inter-subdivision connectivity to decrease traffic on Highway 11. 5) Need for Social Connectivity Services via inter-subdivision connectivity locations was also shared with Representative Onishi for doing business, visiting family and friends, school bus service and creating spirit of community.

- o **Senator Russel Ruderman – June 24, 2015 –** Senator Ruderman is in favor of connectivity throughout the Puna District and asked that we specifically present to him the exact support we want from the State. This

will be specified as we work with the Ad hoc committee formed by Councilman Ilagan.

- **Need to schedule meetings with the following:**
 - **Representative Gabbard**
 - **Senator Schatz**
 - **Senator Lorraine Inouye, State Senate Transportation Chair**

New Business:

- **Open Discussion on Topics of Concern to CERS members and others in attendance:**
 - Fern Acres is willing to sponsor/host a meeting with Representative Onishi.
 - Further discussion resulted in a suggestion to plan a Legislative Forum to include all Puna-related Council members, State Legislators and Congressional Representatives. This may be scheduled once the Ad hoc committee is formed and specific roles of county, state and federal government are outlined.
 - A second draft of the organizational Citizens Action Committee to Improve East Hawaii Transportation was presented. The committee is now working island-wide and has been renamed the Hawaii Island Citizen's Action Committee to Improve Transportation.

Next Meeting: August 25, 2015 Location: Keaau Community Center

Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.