

Harry Kim
Mayor



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September 10, 2003

Honorable James Y. Arakaki, Chairman
and Members of the County Council
County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo HI 96720

Dear Chairman Arakaki and Members:

- Arborist Advisory Committee
Recommendations for Exceptional Tree Designation
- 1) Monkeypod Tree – TMK: 2-6-12:10 (Alae Cemetery)
 - 2) 'Ōhi'a Lehua – TMK: 1-5-1:56 (Ka'ohe Homesteads, Pahoa)

By letter dated August 28, 2003, the Arborist Advisory Committee transmitted an ordinance amending Section 14-65, of the Hawaii County Code which would provide Exceptional Tree status for these trees.

For your information, we are enclosing a copy of the minutes of the February 20, 2003 meeting which includes public and government agency comments on these trees.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN
Planning Director

ETI:

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Comm. No. 343.1
Ref. To: Presented PC
Ref. Date SEP 16 2003

**ARBORIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII
Minutes
Meeting on February 20, 2003
Planning Department Conference Room, Aupuni Center**

PRESENT: AAC members: Leonard Bisel, Janet Anderson, Michael Kraus, Michael Isanhart & Roy Takemoto, Deputy Planning Director (designee)

State and County Agency Representatives:
Craig Masuda, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Earl Lucero, Planning Department
Jeff Darrow, Planning Department
Pam Mizuno, Parks & Recreation
Bert Mukai, Parks & Recreation (Maintenance)
Wendall Hatada, Mayor's Office

Public:
Rene Siracusa, Malama O Puna
Elfie Wilkins, Leleiwi Assn.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by Leonard Bisel, Committee Chair.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. Minutes from the November 14, 2002 and January 16, 2003 meetings
Action: Motion made by Chair Bisel and seconded by Michael Kraus to accept minutes as submitted and revised. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. & 10. Status of signage for exceptional trees, wooden sign for mango groves, specifications for signs for all exceptional trees, and draft letter to Kulani.

Motion made by Michael Kraus and passed to leave language of signage as represented. Chair Bisel will be contacting INA Signs for cost estimate. Chair Bisel stated that plastic signage is approx. \$20 to \$20 for a 10"X10" piece.

3. Status of mapping and photographs of exceptional trees

Roy Takemoto will present a report at the next meeting.

4. Status of request to create a County arborist position

Michael Kraus presented a draft letter and the Minimum Qualifications from Maui County. Roy Takemoto: Stated that the County has the MQ's from Maui and requested that comments and suggestions be made for next meeting. (Passed)

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Public Hearing (10:30 a.m.): Nomination of monkeypod tree at Alae Cemetery (TMK: 2-6-12: 10, County-owned) for exceptional tree status

Elfie Wilkins: Requested that the tree be nominated as an exceptional tree because she wants it protected and because it is large and gorgeous.

Pam Mizuno: She requested that the nomination be pulled. She said that the tree was nominated on 09-20-02 (Bill 220) but was withdrawn by the prior administration. She said that the roots do damage to the surrounding graves and headstones.

Rene Siracusa: She said that she would like to see the tree nominated as an exceptional tree.

Chair Bisel: Requested for a decision after an inspection of the site.

Michael Kraus: Said that he wants the tree to be exceptional and that the problems associated with the damage to the surrounding gravesites can be resolved by simple maintenance.

Janet Anderson: She wants to see the tree nominated as an exceptional tree.

Craig Masuda (Corp Counsel): Said that there will need to be a public hearing.

Bert Mukai: Asked if tree is healthy. Michael Kraus stated that he has examined the tree and it is healthy.

Motion made by Michael Kraus to accept monkeypod tree at Alae Cemetery as an exceptional tree. Janet Anderson seconded the motion. Passed.

6. Public Hearing: Nomination of ohia lehua tree on the private land of Robert E. O'Neill (TMK: 1-5-001:056, Ka'ohe Homesteads, Paho, Hawaii Island)

Rene Siracusa: Explained the history of area and the lack of similar large trees in the area.

Janet Anderson: Concerned about the new owners of the property. Suggested it be a part of the deed and disclosed to new owners.

Michael Kraus: Stated that tree should be nominated as an exceptional tree.

Motion made by Michael Kraus to accept ohia lehua tree in Ka'ohe Homesteads as an exceptional tree. Janet Anderson seconded the motion. Passed.

Public Hearing closed- 11:00 a.m.

7. Requests from agencies

Parks and Recreation: no

Hawaii County Planning Department- Earl Lucero: Informed of gifts disclosure requirement.

8. Letter to Editor by Phyllis Bezona

Letter to Editor about trees being cut down at Kona Safeway parking lot. Advised not to advise on the situation and that the issue should be forwarded to the Planning Department for a possible violation of a condition of Plan Approval.

Michael Kraus: He is aware of the history of these trees and recommended to the owners how to save the trees, yet they cut them down anyway.

9. Nominations to fill current committee member vacancy (Susan Loewenhardt)

Rene Siracusa: Put in her name but is still waiting for reply.

Wendall Hatada: Chris Yuen stated support for Rene.

Chair Bisel: Stated he would call and check on status.

11. Remembrance of Craig Smith

Moment of silence for Craig Smith who recently passed away. Acknowledgement of his efforts to the AAC.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be held on April 17, 2003 at the Planning Department Conference Room at 10:00AM. Chair Bisel adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

APPROVED August 28, 2003