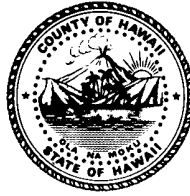


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Kona Action Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 92-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

NOTE: Pursuant to Act 220, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which amended the Sunshine Law to allow meetings to be remotely conducted online, effective January 1, 2022, Action Committee Meetings will be held online, and the location listed below for the public to provide testimony on agenda items. The Action Committee meeting can be viewed live online or at a location listed below. Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Proclamation Related to COVID-19 (Omicron Variant) dated January 26, 2022, the requirement to have at least one in-person meeting location has been suspended through March 25, 2022. No in-person meeting location will be provided during this time period, unless the suspension is earlier terminated or superseded by a separate proclamation.

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: This meeting will be held by Interactive Conference Technology (ICT) through Zoom. The public may provide verbal testimony at the meeting by joining online or calling into the Zoom meeting. Members of the public may also attend via Zoom or watch the live stream on the Planning Department's YouTube channel.

To register for verbal testimony please use this online fillable form: <https://tinyurl.com/yckkdzms> or contact staff at cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov or (808)961-8188.

Zoom registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p85jdxs>

To view the live stream on YouTube click the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/CountyofHawaiiPlanningDepartment>

REVISED AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the November 10, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Written testimony may be submitted via email at cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior (Tuesday, March 8, 2022) to the meeting (see the Notice Section below). In addition, members of the public may provide oral testimony at the meeting on any of the agenda items. To register for access to the Zoom meeting please email cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov. With discretion of the Chair of the CDP Action Committee, comments may be made either during the public comment portion of the agenda or just prior to the relevant business item and may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item.

BUSINESS:

1. **Information Sharing:** Sharon Hirota from the County Office of Housing and Community Development will present several programs, including: Emergency Rent Assistance, Homeowner Assistance, Landlord/Tenant Mediation Center, Financial Empowerment Services and the recently launched Coordination Center. Action Committee members are encouraged to share these programs with their networks.
2. **January 19, 2022 Joint AC Meeting Report - Communication No. 2022-05:** Action Committee members who attended the January 19, 2022 Joint AC meeting will report back to the Action Committee and discuss Communication No. 2022-05.
3. **Action Committee Support of Hawai'i Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (Communication No. 2022-7):** Chair Charles Young will introduce a draft letter to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council outlining Action Committee support for the Hawai'i Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (see Communication No. 2022-06 for program information). Committee Members will discuss and take action to finalize and transmit the letter.
4. **Action Committee Priority Setting Exercise:** Action Committee members will engage in an exercise to establish priority implementation projects and interests for 2022. Discussion will include exploring mutual interests between Action Committee members to create investigatory subcommittees and community liaison groups, as applicable. Joint initiatives with community members or partner organizations are encouraged.
5. **Framework for Action Committee Run Meetings:** As part of the 2022 Roadmapping discussions, some Action Committees have expressed interest in hosting their own official meetings. This discussion is to clarify the framework for that option, establish the general roles/responsibilities, and ensure proper measures are taken to adhere to the State Sunshine Law.

6. **Election of Action Committee Officers:** The Action Committee will nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve during the 2022 calendar year. Nomination and election to be facilitated by Planning Staff.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Agenda item suggestions from the Action Committee and Planning Staff for the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee meeting on May 12, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/fol/9059/Row1.aspx>. These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

NOTICE: The purpose of the public hearings is to afford all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the above items. 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. Written testimony can be submitted via email or hard copy. Hard copies should include an original and nine copies and be submitted no later than 4:30pm two days prior to the hearing date.

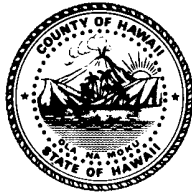
Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service, other reasonable modification, or language interpretation to access this meeting please contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 as soon as possible, but no later than five working days prior to the meeting date, to arrange for accommodations. "Other reasonable modification" refers to communication methods or devices for people with disabilities who are mentally and/or physically challenged.

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.

KONA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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Phone (808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (KCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:11 P.M. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via the Zoom interactive video platform.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Marisa Bankston, Shirley David (Vice-Chair), David Huerta, Kari Kimura, Janice Palma-Glennie [came in at 5:23 P.M.], Charles Young (Chair)

AC Members Absent-Excused: Roselyn Molina, Shane Palacat-Nelsen, Franz Weber

County Staff: Planners – Heather Bartlett, Alexis Ching, Keiko Mercado, Natasha Soriano

County Officials: Council Member Holeka Inaba

3 members of the public attended the meeting via Zoom. The meeting was also available for synchronous viewing via the [COH Planning Department YouTube Livestream](#). The livestream is available at [Kona CDP Action Committee Meeting November 11, 2021 - YouTube](#).

Chair Young's 'Ōlelo No'eau:

Ua mau ke ea o 'āina i ka pono

The life of the land is preserved in righteousness.

[The perpetuation, health and future of our land is dependent on righteous acts and people.]

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. General Plan Update:

Ms. Mercado shared that the administration has been working to launch and implement the new Electronic Processing & Information Center (EPIC) permit system. As EPIC is now up and running, more time will shift to the priority of reviewing and evaluating the General Plan Comprehensive Review. This will include an updated timeline, additional public input, and an outline of the adoption process. The website will be updated and action committees will be notified when information is available.

29 **2. Community First Health Care Initiative:**

30 Ms. Mercado shared that they received a notice from Community First informing that they are
31 conducting a health care assessment. They are reaching out for help in distributing their survey
32 across Hawai'i Island. Community First and its partners are serving Hawai'i Island residents
33 during the month of November to better understand what communities need to improve their
34 health. The survey is a part of Access to Care, a collaborative that's working to transform health
35 care on Hawai'i Island. Information regarding this and a link to their survey will be sent to AC
36 members via email.

37 *Committee Member David Huerta made a motion to move the approval of the September 9, 2021*
38 *meeting minutes to the end of the meeting. Motion seconded by Committee Member Shirley*
39 *David. Motion passed with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

40 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** One (1) member of the public provided oral testimony.
41 Oral Testimony:

42 Charles "Chuck" Flaherty, representing himself, testified on the General Plan update
43 announcement and business item 3. Mr. Flaherty felt that the proposed draft of the General
44 Plan was "gutted and replaced" in the sense that it makes no reference to the prior General
45 Plans that were done in the past. It was unclear to him what the possible impacts will be on
46 the various County departments, the Kona CDP, and the CDP's implementation. Mr. Flaherty
47 shared he did not understand why the Planning Department decided to proceed in a
48 different way than had been done in 1989 and 2005. He would like staff to create a matrix
49 that shows what protections and measures within the existing General Plan would still be
50 covered by the proposed General Plan, and what changes were proposed.

51 Mr. Flaherty shared that the Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) map should be
52 adjusted to remove the resort node designation at Hōkūle'a. He stated that this was ruled to
53 be invalid by the Third Circuit Court and in addition to that, the issue should have gone to
54 Land Use Commission to have it re-designed as rural. He hoped that the General Plan will be
55 amended to include that.

56 Mr. Flaherty informed that he possesses documentation related to the Chapter 27 Flood
57 Control and Chapter 10 Soil and Erosion Control from several years ago and would like to
58 share the information with the AC.

59 **BUSINESS:**

- 60 1. **Kona Open Space Network (KOSN) Update:** Long Range Planner Natasha Soriano updated the
61 AC on the status of the KOSN Plan. Ms. Soriano will be managing this project along with Long
62 Range Planner Rob Leasure. Ms. Soriano stated that an updated scope of work was shared
63 with members of the KOSN subcommittee and requested that they provide their comments
64 by November 20, 2021. She advised subcommittee members to reach out if they wish to
65 meet to further discuss the scope and direction.

66 The CDP calls for the establishment of the KOSN program to enhance the opportunities of
67 residents and visitors to engage in recreational, educational, subsistence and gathering
68 activities. The Network would consist of managed hubs of natural, cultural, and developed
69 resources that are interlinked by trails and corridors. Through discussions it was recognized

70 that the departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works are necessary partners to
71 ensure implementation of the project. Ms. Soriano informed that consultants will be
72 reviewed and evaluated to find the most suited relative to the project scope. The consultant
73 review is expected to take place in December with the final selection being completed by the
74 end of January.

75 Committee Member Kimura acknowledged that the beginning stages of the project will
76 require a lot of outreach and she wanted the AC to be aware of the limitations of hosting
77 effective working meetings given Covid-19. She was skeptical about an online meeting
78 format for the kind of communication and information gathering that the project will require.

79 Committee Member Palma-Glennie questioned if there will be a time in the near future
80 where in-person meetings can happen with the public while still abiding by COVID protocols.

81 With the rise in vaccinations, it is possible that more restrictions may be lifted for public
82 meetings. Ms. Soriano acknowledged the benefits of Zoom meetings where she has seen
83 creative strategies to engage with community. She advised subcommittee members to
84 include different options/strategies around engagement in their comments relative to the
85 contract scope. Ms. Bartlett requested that the subcommittee also include ideas for the
86 website presence for the KOSN in their comments.

- 87 2. **2018 Action Committee Priorities:** Chair Young provided updates on some of the items listed
88 in the Kona CDP Action Committee Priorities and Recommendations for FY 2019-2020 Capital
89 Improvement Program letter that was drafted in 2018.

90 *For reference see the 2018 Kona CDP Priorities Letter ([communication number 2018-21.1](#))*

91 Chair Young expressed that the purpose of this discussion was to challenge the AC to reflect
92 on their former list of priorities so they can focus on those issues and keep them in front of
93 the Planning Department.

94 Committee Member Palma-Glennie expressed the importance of getting the community
95 reinvolved with this process. Finding a way to show the community how the CDP can
96 improve their lives will help the AC to move forward and work with the Planning Department
97 more efficiently. She feels that more connection to the public will help to reiterate and clarify
98 what their priorities are.

99 Committee Member Kimura stressed the necessity for affordable housing. She shared that
100 through her service on the Kealakehe High School Community Council, she has seen issues of
101 equity and student transportation. She suggested that the AC analyze where the CDP helps
102 or hinders that kind of activity and address the issues that are preventing affordable housing
103 from happening.

104 Committee Member David agreed and expressed the need for a comprehensive housing
105 plan. She suggested that the AC review the Housing plan that Maui adopted. She questioned
106 if the Office of Housing or planning have a place where they can see all the affordable
107 housing projects that are ongoing right now. It would be helpful for the public to see reports
108 on roadblocks and how to overcome them.

More information about the Maui Housing Plan can be found on their website here
(sites.google.com/view/mauihousingplan)

Mr. Flaherty said he would provide the working group papers and information that he has on the CDP housing background reports to the AC.

Chair Young suggested the possibility of using funds that are coming out of Congress for consulting services to assist with developing a comprehensive plan. He questioned if the AC would be able to provide input on how they would want to see those monies utilized.

Ms. Mercado offered to find out more information on what the different roles are relative to the infrastructure funding from Congress. She suggested that Mr. Flaherty provide his working papers to the Planning Department so the documents may be scanned and made electronically accessible to AC members and the public.

Council Member Inaba confirmed that Council passed Resolution 241 which encourages and urges the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) to pursue a study on how inclusionary zoning policies have affected the development of affordable housing. OHCD is in the process of seeking out a consultant for this project. At the same time, Council Members Inaba and Villegas are working to provide some changes to the current Chapter 11 affordable housing chapter.

Mr. Flaherty brought attention to the big effort among community members in the county with regard to wastewater treatment. The County was fined for the Pāhala wastewater treatment plant, and EPA is now looking at the Hilo and Kealahou plants. Director Ramzi Mansour, who oversees the Wastewater Division, estimated a billion dollars worth of infrastructure would be needed for wastewater treatment. Mr. Flaherty suggested that this be a priority to address as well.

Committee Member Palma-Glennie shared that people are really interested in solid waste solutions (like recycling) and would like to find a way to incorporate this issue into the CDP or relate it to land use.

Mr. Flaherty informed that Christine Kubat and other people working with her have put together a solid waste plan. He would reach out to see if she can do a presentation on the matter or update the AC on current efforts.

Committee Member Kimura noted that solid waste and recycling are island-wide issues. She emphasized that this topic is not specific to the Kona CDP and is more appropriate for the all-island AC meetings.

3. Implementation Updates from Action Committee Members:

- a. Affordable Housing: Per the previous discussions, the AC agreed that affordable housing is a priority. There was confirmed interest around a presentation by OHCD relative to an affordable housing plan and the status of existing projects and overall capacity.
- b. Flood Mitigation and Erosion Control: An investigatory subcommittee was formed at the previous Kona AC meeting to address the issues related to flood mitigation and erosion control. Committee Member Kimura informed that the subcommittee had not yet convened.

- 149 4. **Review Current Action Committee Member Terms and Ideate Around 2022 AC Proceedings:**
150 Ms. Mercado explained that they would be reaching out to all AC members to set up time for
151 an open and honest conversation to check-in about how they are feeling relative to their
152 terms and discuss strategies for engaging in a more fruitful way during 2022.

153 Ms. Bartlett presented a spreadsheet outlining the Kona AC members' term durations and
154 timelines. Discussions were had regarding holdover status through which Chair Young and
155 Committee Members Huerta and Palma-Glennie expressed that they would like to continue
156 to stay on as holdovers.

157 Ms. Mercado informed that as the terms are defined by code, there is no guarantee about
158 how long anyone would be able to stay on as holdovers and acknowledged that continuity is
159 important to the success of the AC. Staff would like to find a way to implement a mentorship
160 between out-going members and in-coming members to aid the transfer of knowledge and
161 experience.

162 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

163 *Committee Member Shirley David made a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting*
164 *minutes. Seconded by Committee Member David Huerta. Motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes*
165 *nay.*

166 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- 167 1. Kona Action Committee Priorities
168 2. General Plan Update
169 3. Presentation by OHCD (Joint AC meeting)

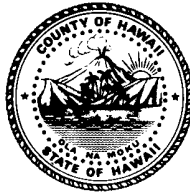
170 **ADJOURNMENT:** *Committee Member Janice Palma-Glennie moved to adjourn. Seconded by*
171 *Committee Member Shirley David. Motion passed with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

172 The meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm.

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

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Wednesday, January 19, 2022

DRAFT Meeting Report

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was attended by members of all Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committees (AC) in the County of Hawai'i. Long-Range Planner, Keiko Mercado serving as a non-voting Chairperson for the island-wide convening of CDP ACs, called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting to order at 5:11 P.M. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via the Zoom interactive video platform.

Kona AC Chair Charles Young shared an 'Ōlelo No'eau:

E kanu mea 'ai o nana keiki i ka ha'i

Plant edible food plants lest your children look with longing at someone else's.

ROLL CALL

Action Committee Members Present: Charles Young (Chair), Kari Kimura, Franz Weber.

Planning Department Staff: Zendo Kern (Planning Director); Grant Nagata (Admin Services Officer); Keiko Mercado, Heather Bartlett, and Jaslyn Nathaniel (Long Range Division Planners); Courtney Costa (Long Range Div. Staff).

Members of the public: 9 members of the public attended the meeting via Zoom. Members of the public also observed the meeting via the Livestream on YouTube. The Livestream is available at: <https://youtu.be/eEv32s28l4g>

STATE SUNSHINE LAW UPDATE BY CORPORATION COUNSEL

Deputy Corporation Counsel Jean Campbell presented the basic tenets of the State Sunshine Law and its new changes.

Click here for the Presentation slides (Communication No 2022-01):

<http://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/113992/Page1.aspx>

Hāmākua Committee Member Keeney asked for clarification from Ms. Campbell on Sunshine Law restrictions for contacting members of other Action Committees. Ms. Campbell responded that discussing business with members of your own Action Committee is a breach of Sunshine

29 Law and that caution should be taken when discussing business with other AC members,
30 especially if there is potential for applicability across multiple Action Committees.
31 Kona Committee Chair Young questioned amending an agenda and whether rearranging items
32 would be applicable. Ms. Campbell clarified that agenda items may be re-ordered or postponed.
33 She added that boards are generally discouraged from adding agenda items during a meeting as
34 it does not give the public advanced notice.

35 Hāmākua Committee Member Kua asked if there were any plans to switch to in-person meetings
36 and, if so, how much notice would the Planning Department provide. Ms. Campbell responded
37 that the Governor’s current Emergency Proclamation lifts the requirement of in-person meetings
38 until the end of February and that the proclamation could be extended/canceled depending on
39 the COVID-19 emergency. Remote meetings may resume after the proclamation is lifted but will
40 require at least one in-person site (usually at a County facility).

41 Hāmākua Committee Member Keeney inquired further on communication with other members
42 through email on recommendations for agenda items. Ms. Campbell responded with a
43 suggestion that communications outside of meetings should generally be discouraged and
44 recommended that Action Committee members share their agenda item suggestions with staff.

45 Ms. Mercado reminded Committee Member Keeney that staff contacts AC members about three
46 weeks before each meeting to request input for the upcoming agenda. She requested that any
47 additional questions and/or feedback be included in the post-meeting feedback form.

48 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

49 Two (2) members of the public and one (1) Action Committee member (representing
50 themselves) provided testimony.

51 1. Community member Cory Harden provided testimony on the Planning Director’s message
52 and on item (3) 2022 RoadMap. She contended that the North Kohala Action Committee “fell
53 apart” a while back due to what the Kohala Mountain News quoted as “Tight rules [that]
54 made it impossible to respond to issues in a timely manner and to allow discussions on items
55 that are not in the agenda.” Ms. Harden expressed concern with the AC meetings moving
56 from once a month to once every three months. She also described long delays in filling
57 vacant Action Committee and Kailua Village Design Commission seats. She mentioned that
58 the multi-meeting process for taking action combined with the limited number of meetings
59 severely slows progress. She also conveyed frustration with Planning Staff that an agenda
60 item request to discuss a large 201H housing development on agricultural land, was not
61 honored. Ms. Harden shared her concern that Action Committees were changing from being
62 place-based to issue-based. Lastly, she expressed concern that the draft General Plan is
63 formatted so differently from previous General Plans that it is too difficult to differentiate the
64 changes.

65 2. South Kohala Committee Chair Smith, representing herself, testified on the Planning
66 Director’s message. She read her written testimony to Director Kern regarding incoming
67 Federal infrastructure funding. She asked the Director to advocate for the CDP
68 Infrastructure/ Emergency preparedness priorities. Ms. Smith expressed that each Action

Committee has worked thoroughly, investing time to research and find the infrastructure needs for each community to meet favorable selection criteria.

Click here for Ruth Smith's written testimony (Communication No 2022-04):

[Communication No. 2022-04 -R. Smith Testimony to PD Dir. Kern](#)

3. Community Member Meizhu Lui, representing herself, testified on the State Sunshine Law Update. She expressed agreement with the previous testifiers, adding that CDPs are products of a democratic process and that she hoped the administration would honor that. Ms. Lui explained that the Sunshine Law premise would mean nothing if there were no meetings. She shared that infrequent meetings are a hindrance particularly given the significance of the incoming Federal funds and the pandemic. She expressed support for place-based AC initiatives given how different each district is. Ms. Lui echoed concern about the 100-acre 201H housing development Ms. Harden mentioned. She talked about the disadvantages of bypassing zoning regulations through the 201H and how it could potentially harm the community. Community Member Lui voiced the need for affordable housing, however, not at the expense of agricultural land.

MESSAGE FROM PLANNING DIRECTOR, ZENDO KERN:

Planning Director Zendo Kern introduced himself and shared his appreciation to Action Committee members for their service to the community. Mr. Kern described the heavy workload in the Planning Department explaining that it is not meant to be an excuse but an insight on staff experiences. He mentioned Mayor Roth's priority of sustainability and how the Planning Department plays a central role in that function. In describing his strategic approach; Director Kern utilized the Japanese term *Kaizen*. He defined it as continuous improvement and an approach to improve the multifaceted processes of the department through improving communication and addressing ongoing challenges. Director Kern shared the benefits of the County's EPIC system that would increase transparency, improve customer service, and streamline processes.

He summarized some primary project goals to improve the EPIC system, increase digitization of department files, and ongoing work with the Research and Development Department on a Climate Action Plan to be a "living document" attached to the General Plan. He explained that the Department is now back to "full throttle" on the General Plan comprehensive review although it still has an extensive process to go through. He also shared plans for a comprehensive update of the Zoning Code and Subdivision code to include a framework for green infrastructure and transit-oriented developments (TODs) among other initiatives. He shared that the Puna Eruption Recovery work continues to be a big priority for the Department which includes the property buyout program, working with FEMA on infrastructure needs, and designing a resiliency framework that can be applied island-wide. Director Kern also explained the work he's done to connect with Senators and the State DOT to understand and plug into the process of dispersing Federal infrastructure funds. He said the County is still waiting on information but that he would advocate for CDP Action Committee priorities as the process moves forward. Lastly, he expressed that the Roth administration cares deeply about the CDP Action Committees and shared regret that previous statements had been misconstrued to imply

otherwise. Moving forward, he encouraged AC members to contact the CDP team so that further feedback could be shared with him.

BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Susan Kuntz from the Office of Housing and Community Development:

Housing Administrator Susan Kuntz presented an overview of the 201H process and provided information on its use and applicability. In her presentation, she covered the housing needs in Hawai'i County by outlining how they used Area Median Income (AMI) figures of 5 years to estimate the need for 10,796 affordable housing units. Ms. Kuntz identified the challenges developers face as affordable housing is not as profitable as developing market-rate housing and may not always be financially feasible. She spoke about different mechanisms available to assist qualifying housing projects, including federal funding assistance and the State's 201H law. This law allows for exemptions from various permitting constraints relative to affordable housing developments. Administrator Kuntz also shared 201H projects that were proposed in 2021. She explained the agency's Strategic Roadmap which included regulatory reform of the inclusionary zoning code (Hawai'i County Code (HCC) Chapter 11), as well as working with the Planning Department on amendments to the subdivision (HCC Chapter 23) and zoning codes (HCC Chapter 25). Ms. Kuntz also included the creation of an affordable housing program that identifies potential or existing State and County properties that could be used for affordable housing developments.

Based on questions posed in the Zoom chat, Ms. Bartlett summarized a general question around the qualifications for 201H. Ms. Kuntz replied by stating that both private and non-profit developers could apply with the stipulation of a 50% plus 1 criterion of affordable units. Ms. Bartlett assured participants that other questions or comments would be followed up on after the meeting.

Click here for the OHCD presentation slides (Communication No. 2022-02):

<http://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/114215/Page1.aspx>

The 2019 Hawai'i Housing Study mentioned in the presentation may also be accessed here:

https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hhfdc/files/2020/01/FINAL-State_Hawaii-Housing-Planning-Study.pdf

2. Presentation by Executive Director Kristine Kubat from Recycle Hawai'i.

Recycle Hawai'i Executive Director, Kristine Kubat shared information on strategic methods to reduce solid waste, available resources, and their mission as a non-profit organization. She stressed the importance of recycling and the general goals and objectives that the non-profit organization would like to see communities accomplish. Ms. Kubat phrased Zero Waste as "The conservation of all resources through responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health". She provided examples of self-sufficient community successes and current waste management practices that could be expanded. Recycle Hawai'i would like to be further involved with Action Committee work and invites the community to get involved in the mission.

Click here for the 2021 Zero Waste Plan:

<https://www.hawaiiicounty.gov/home/showdocument?id=304313&t=637812904261834301>

Click here for the 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan:

<https://records.hawaiiicounty.gov/weblink/ElectronicFile.aspx?openfile=true&dbid=1&docid=110921>

Click here for the 2009 Zero Waste Plan:

http://hawaiiizerowaste.org/site-content/uploads/3-14-09Hawaii_Zero_Waste_Plan.doc.pdf

3. 2022 Roadmap Discussion.

Long-Range Planner, Heather Bartlett presented on the 2022 Action Committee Roadmap and provided the Action Committees and community with updates, foreseeable events, and upcoming discussion topics. Ms. Bartlett explained that the slideshow was a brief skeletal overview to be discussed in greater detail at individual AC meetings. Ms. Bartlett covered a collection of thoughts, ideas, and feedback from one-on-one meetings with AC members and encouraged more AC members to share their thoughts with the CDP Team. She highlighted progress for the Puna AC who gained two new members to satisfy quorum requirements along with their progressive recovery efforts. Ms. Bartlett highlighted ongoing work to engage the North Kohala community as they work to formalize an AC. She shared that the Mayor's office had received numerous applications for the Ka'u CDP Action Committee and the CDP Teams aspires to have members appointed by mid-2022. Suggested upcoming AC discussion topics include chair and vice-chair elections in March, sharing of the draft Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget, project prioritization/road-mapping, Chapter 16 review and guidelines, and the hosting of mixed Zoom and in-person (hybrid) meetings.

Click here for the 2022 Roadmap Presentation slides (Communication No 2022-03):

<http://records.hawaiiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/doc/114216/Page1.aspx>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The February Action Committee meetings have been moved to March. The next Kona Action Committee meeting will be on March 10, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Kona 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@hawaiiicounty.gov.



The Critical Role of the Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program

January 19, 2022

The Purpose: Secure funding for The Ports-of Entry Biosecurity Program. This program fills a critical gap in our overall biosecurity system, minimizing opportunities for new pest incursions and safeguarding our islands from further invasion and damage from invasive species. Making small investments in the monitoring and rapid response efforts provided by this program saves the state millions of dollars in long-term response efforts and economic damages.

The Issue: The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program is in its last year of funding from the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT). A 5-year pilot period has demonstrated that this program is an excellent investment for the biosecurity of the State. The program fills an important gap in surveillance at ports-of-entry and enhances the state's ability for early detection and rapid response of species that can severely impact human health, our environment and the economy. The list of targets includes Africanized bees, invasive ants, mosquitos, and coconut rhinoceros beetle. The program currently operates at airports, but there is momentum to expand efforts to include seaports as well as the list of current targets. The program is in its last year of funding and facing the possibility of operating at a significantly reduced capacity or not at all without additional funding.

Background: Small investments in early detection and rapid response programs are the most cost-effective way to deal with invasive species and can save the state billions of dollars in economic losses and damages. The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (formerly known as Māmalu Poepoe), has acted as the invisible shield to prevent the introduction and spread of some of the most high-risk pests to Hawai'i. The program has successfully operated at Hawaii's six main airports with funding from the Hawai'i Department of Transportation's Airport Revenue Fees for the past five years and brings together multiple state agencies including the Hawai'i Departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Health, Land and Natural Resources, and the University of Hawai'i. The program monitors for four target pests; Africanized bees, invasive ants, mosquitos, and coconut rhinoceros beetle. Each of these targets could easily hitchhike on planes, slip through inspections, and impact multiple sectors of the local economy, as well as human health and our way of life in the islands. This program fills a critical gap in our island's biosecurity system.

The State Legislature declared invasive species to be the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors in a 2015 report (LRB 2015). Hawaii's role as a hub for travel, commerce, and military transport is a major contributor to the economy but also increases its vulnerability to new pest incursions. Prior to COVID-19, the state had over one million aircraft operations, landings and takeoffs and 600,000 shipping containers processed through Hawaii's seaports (DOT 2017). In 2019, Hawaii received more than 10.5 million visitors (air and cruise ships), setting a new record for visitor arrivals and visitor spending. Each of these arrivals and shipments provides a new opportunity for the introduction of invasive species.

Overall Benefit:Cost: A recent economic analysis looked at the costs of the current program's monitoring efforts compared to the potential costs to airports if a pest incursion occurred without any monitoring or rapid response capabilities. The economic analysis found that there is an overall 110:1 benefit: cost ratio. The economic analysis only took into account the benefit of monitoring for invasive species at airports. Clearly the benefits from airport monitoring and rapid response would extend to the surrounding areas, the island, and the entire State. These benefits are expected to be many times larger than the benefits to the airport thus further warranting continued funding of the program.



Africanized Bees, also known as killer bees, are currently not present in Hawai'i. They were intercepted in 2011 at Honolulu Harbor which made them a high priority for monitoring through the program. The establishment of Africanized bees would decimate Hawaii's ability to grow diversified agriculture and the beekeeping industry, valued at over \$220 million. Africanized bees are significantly more aggressive than common honeybees and would threaten the health and lifestyle of residents and impact the \$14.9 billion tourism industry.



Invasive ants threaten agriculture, natural resources and pose a health risk to residents, pets, and wildlife. Little fire ant (LFA) and red imported fire ant (RIFA) pose a serious threat to human health, quality of life, and agriculture. LFA and RIFA can bite and sting people and cause severe pain and serious skin reactions to people and animals. An economic study estimated that current control costs for LFA on Hawai'i island alone averages \$200 million per year. The red imported fire ant (RIFA) is not currently present in the State, but the economic costs if it does establish are estimated at \$200 million per year in damages to tourism and agricultural sectors.



Mosquitos: The introduction of new species of mosquitoes can transmit new diseases, posing serious health threats to people and native species, not to mention more mosquitos are an added nuisance to both visitors and residents. Local transmission of high-profile diseases like Zika and Dengue in Hawai'i could cause many visitors to travel elsewhere impacting an important driver of our economy.



Coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is the most recent introduction, detected in Hawai'i near the end 2013 and is currently confined to O'ahu. This invasive beetle is a major pest of coconut palms and feeds on a wide array of palm species including the native loulu, *Pritchardia spp.* Coconut palms are an important symbol, populating much of the State's skyline. If CRB was left unchecked much of our iconic skyline could be whittled down to mere stumps, which has occurred in Guam where the beetle is now widespread.

Budget: \$525,000 to continue the program as is (monitor for current targets at 6 main airports) + expansion to seaports on Oahu, and monitor for 2 additional targets. This budget is for 12 months.

Total Personnel Cost \$425,000

Total Materials & Supplies Cost \$60,000

Total Travel Cost \$15,000

Total Other Cost \$25,000

Contacts:

For more information, please contact:

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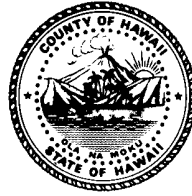
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DATE: March 10, 2022

TO: DR. LEYLA KAUFFMAN
Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

FROM: KONA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Support for Hawai'i Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program

Aloha,

The Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee on the Big Island of Hawai'i would like to express support for the Ports-of-Entry (POE) Biosecurity Program (formerly known as Māmālu Poepoe), which actively surveils our ports for pests like invasive ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle, Africanized bees, new mosquito species, and more.

We are highly supportive of proactive efforts taken to prevent the naturalization of new damaging species. For many years, the Kona district has been subject to severe impacts from invasive pests that have cost us not only monetarily but have also negatively impacted our health and well-being. From the destructive coffee berry borer which has the potential to reduce crop yields by up to 90 percent, to the aggressive fountain grass that degrades pasture lands and increases the intensity of wildfires, to the little fire ants that blind our pets and make growing more difficult for our farmers, we are plagued by the worst of the worst in Hawai'i. Our burden is already great without the addition of new pests known to be some of the worst in the world.

For many years now, economic analyses have made it clear that relatively small investments into biosecurity can have large payoffs later. Just one of the invasive ants targeted by this POE program, the red imported fire ant (RIFA), has been projected to cost Hawai'i more than \$200 million *per year* should it become established here. The health costs of diseases carried by certain species of mosquitoes, the losses to our honey industry and pollination services caused by Africanized bees - any of these impacts run into the millions of dollars annually, yet this statewide program costs less than a million dollars a year. Truly a bargain!

Kona has a wonderful mixture of many large- and small-scale agricultural endeavors. We are currently engaged in a robust effort to implement and move forward a community-driven vision to enhance and improve our district. We appreciate any biosecurity efforts that seek to allow us

Dr. Leyla Kauffman
Hawai'i Invasive Species Council
March 10, 2022
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to plan for the future of our community without additional strains from new invasive species that could affect our environment, our farmers, and the health and well-being of our residents.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Charles Young
Chair, Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee

KM:hb

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