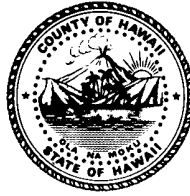


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## County of Hawai'i

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

### SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the South Kohala 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No in-person meeting location will be provided during this time period, unless the suspension is earlier terminated or superseded by a separate proclamation.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:** Monday, March 14, 2022

**TIME:** 5:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** South Kohala Action Committee Members will participate in this meeting via the Zoom interactive video platform. 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/2p9htnp4> or contact staff at [cdp@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiicounty.gov) or (808)961-8188.

Zoom registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/4bnzhhyp>

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

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** (Approval of Addendum and/or Supplemental Agenda (requires six votes, and must comply with Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 92-7(d))

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Welcoming Scott Nagata to the South Kohala Action Committee
- Ports of Entry Biosecurity Program (Communication No. 2022-05) – Chair Smith will briefly share how the community might support this initiative by participating in the legislative process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Written testimony may be submitted via email at [cdp@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiicounty.gov) or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior (Thursday, March 10, 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@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiicounty.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.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the South Kohala Action Committee Meeting on November 8, 2021 and the Joint AC meeting on January 19, 2022.

### **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. **Communication No. 2022-06: Letter to Director Kern Regarding CDP Priorities for Federal Infrastructure Funding.** Chair Ruth Smith will introduce a draft letter to the Planning Director to seek support for CDP established priorities for Federal infrastructure funding. Committee Members will discuss and vote on finalizing the letter.
3. **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.

4. **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.
5. **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 South Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee meeting on May 9, 2022.

## ADJOURNMENT

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's South Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/fol/17198/Row1.aspx>. These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing [cdp@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto: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.

SOUTH KOHALA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE



# 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:

Chelsea Arnott, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council planner, [chelsea.l.arnott@hawaii.gov](mailto:chelsea.l.arnott@hawaii.gov)

Leyla Kaufman, Mamalu Poepoe Coordinator, [leyla.v.kaufman@hawaii.gov](mailto:leyla.v.kaufman@hawaii.gov)

### **References:**

Gutrich, J.J., E. VanGelder, and L. Loope. 2007. Potential economic impact of introduction and spread of the red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, in Hawai'i. *Environmental Science & Policy* 10: 685–696

HDOT. 2018. Media Kit, Harbors Division. Honolulu, Hawai'i. <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/HDOT-Harbors-Division-Media-Kit-2018-1.pdf>

HDOT. 2019. The State of Hawai'i Airport Activity Statistics by Calendar Year. <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/airports/files/2013/01/annual-air-traffic-statistics-20190715.pdf>

HTA. 2019. Annual Visitor Research Report. <https://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/media/5062/2019-annual-report-final-for-posting.pdf>

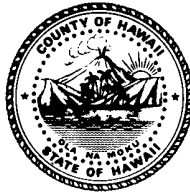
Lee, D.J., M. Motoki, C. Vanderwoude, S.T. Nakamoto, and P.S. Leung. 2015. Taking the sting out of Little Fire Ant in Hawai'i. *Ecological Economics* 111: 100-110

Lee, Donna. 2021. Unpublished data. Economic analysis of monitoring efforts at Hawaii's airports.

Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). 2015. Can't see the forest for the (albizia) trees: an invasive species update. - Honolulu, Hawai'i. - xi, 416 pages. tables ; 28 cm. - Report ; no. 15-3 . - Report (Hawai'i. Legislative Reference Bureau) no. 15-3.

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor

Lee E. Lord  
Managing Director



Zendo Kern  
Director

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Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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**Monday, November 8, 2021**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Smith called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (SKCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:10 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: Ruth Smith (Chair), Karen Anderson, Pete Hendricks, Tristie Licoan, Kevin McLaughlin and Bill Sanborn.

AC Members Absent-Excused: Julia Alos and Mark Gordon.

County Staff: Planners – Heather Bartlett, Alexis Ching and Keiko Mercado.

County Officials: Council Member Tim Richards

Members of the public: Members of the public observed the meeting via the [COH Planning Department YouTube Livestream](#). The livestream is available at [South Kohala CDP Action Committee Meeting – November 8, 2021 - YouTube](#).

**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. Members of public were encouraged to sign up for the GP mailing list as new information will be sent out as it comes in, along with an updated timeline.

Chair Smith requested clarification if AC members need to sign up for the mailing list as well.

Ms. Mercado informed that AC members may already be signed up, but they will check and confirm.

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

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     **3. Meeting with Jojo Tanimoto:**

38     Ms. Ching provided a summary of the meeting with Jojo Tanimoto that was held on September  
39     22, 2021. Ms. Tanimoto wants to ensure that the South Kohala CDP is more inclusive of the  
40     Kawaihae and Kailapa areas.

41     *For reference see Jojo Tanimoto's written testimony ([communication number 2021-06](#)) and notes*  
42     *from her meeting with Planning staff ([communication number 2021-10](#))*

43     **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

44     **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

45     *Committee Member Pete Hendricks made a motion to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes.*  
46     *Motion seconded by Committee Member Tristie Licoan. Motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes*  
47     *nay.*

48     **BUSINESS:**

49     **1. Update on the Status of the Mana Road Fire After-Action Report:**

50     Council Member Tim Richards provided an update on the status of the Mānā Road fire After-  
51     Action Report. He discussed what was done well, what was learned and what could have  
52     been done better. Communication between agencies and with the public has been identified  
53     as the area needing the most improvement. It was noted that more community outreach for  
54     volunteers to assist with future fires is needed. The County is also looking into technology  
55     that will be able to geographically track the heavy equipment being used to fight fires.

56     Committee Member McLaughlin asked if there is an action item identified or a team that is  
57     set up to work on solutions for the identified issues.

58     Council Member Richards informed the AC that this was still in the formative discussion  
59     phase. He explained that the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Civil Defense Administrator and the  
60     Mayor still need to discuss and set up the appropriate structure and communication  
61     channels. He noted that while there is no final report yet, the issues that need resolving have  
62     been identified.

63     Based on the total cost of the fire, loss of property, loss of acreage, and loss of production  
64     from that land, Council Member Richards estimated that the community lost \$20 - \$25  
65     million. He also discussed recovery and funding efforts going forward. Recovery will look at  
66     more than just the amount of money spent, it will look at the impact this situation had on  
67     both the economy and environment.

Chair Smith expressed frustration that a survey had not been sent out and that the AC hadn't received much response to the letter they sent after their last meeting to the Mayor via Director Kern.

Council Member Richards advised Chair Smith to send the letter to him so that he could follow up.

*Chair Smith requested a motion to adapt the letter the Action Committee sent to the Mayor in their September meeting ([communication number 2021-07](#)) to send to Council member Richards so that he may take the lead on following up. Committee Member Hendricks moved and the motion was seconded by Committee Member Sanborn.*

Ms. Mercado suggested and Council Member Richards confirmed that it would be most efficient for staff to forward the original letter to Council Member Richards.

*Committee Member Hendricks withdrew his motion to adapt the letter.*

Before closing the discussion, Chair Smith expressed the importance of holding those responsible for starting the fire accountable as the loss to the community was devastating.

## 2. Implementation Updates from Action Committee Members:

a. Waikōloa: Chair Smith - The Waikōloa Village Association Firewise Committee is looking for new leadership, Committee Member Gordon is serving as the interim Chair.

b. Puakō: Committee Member Anderson - The State gave the County \$1.5 million to fund the Puakō wastewater system, and with the County's percentage of matched contribution, a total of \$1.75 million is available. If the encumbered funds are not used by early-middle 2022, then the monies will return to the State's coffers. It is Ms. Anderson view that the County is hesitant to take over and move forward as they do not want to be responsible for another treatment plant.

Over the past six years, the Puakō Community Association has been working with the County, and various engineering firms to determine the best solution. It was determined that a good solution would be to create their own mini plant, similar to the one above Costco. There has been an ongoing discussion on whether the future plant would be operated by the county or a private entity and meanwhile the community is concerned about the encumbered funds expiring. Committee member Anderson asked if there was any way to extend the window they have to use the money.

Committee Member Sanborn advised that they seek out other public or private connections to assist. He suggested reaching out to Cal Water, who has done sewage systems in Waikoloa. He explained that they may need to find an alternative option while they wait on a response from the County. Committee Member Sanborn will provide contact information for the manager at Cal water.

c. Waimea: Committee Member Sanborn - The State has been in negotiations with the County to take ownership of Mamalahoa Highway through Waimea. The issue was raised that when the State takes over, they will no longer have the same connections with the State as they currently have with the County, with regards to problems such as pot holes, traffic safety, etc. Committee Member Sanborn would also like to find a way for them to

be informed about the different road negotiations and their outcomes, that affect South Kohala, so that the community can be informed beforehand.

Ms. Mercado suggested that Long Range Planner Natasha Soriano would be a good person to start with because she works closely with both the State DOT and DPW. Committee Members Sanborn and Hendricks were in favor of setting up a meeting with Ms. Soriano.

3. **Review Current Action Committee Member Terms and Ideate Around 2022 AC Proceedings:**

Ms. Bartlett presented a spreadsheet outlining the South Kohala AC members' term durations and timelines. Ms. Mercado explained that they would be reaching out to all AC members to set up time for an open and honest conversation to check-in about how they are feeling relative to their terms and discuss strategies for engaging during 2022. Discussions were had regarding holdovers and staff assured that committee members could continue as holdovers until such time that new applicants were vetted via the Mayor's office and the County Council.

Committee Member Sanborn suggested that they involve Council Member Richards with the recruitment process if and when more members are needed.

The Planning staff informed that they are working to develop additional strategies to engage and support action committees in 2022 that will help implementation. Ms. Mercado shared that Action Committees may be able to meet more often if they are interested in facilitating their own meetings while staying in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

Committee Member Sanborn would also like Planning to check for any outstanding or existing budget items that they should continue to support and keep in front of the County, so they can move forward and check on the goals they have for those different venues.

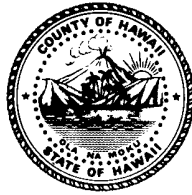
**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

1. Update on items and reports discussed at this meeting: Wastewater system for Puakō, Mānā-Road Fire, historic preservation, road negotiations
2. A potential project to highlight appropriate tourism attractions in South Kohala
3. 2022 Action Committee strategy

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Committee Member Hendricks moved to adjourn. Seconded by Committee Member Licoan. The motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

These meeting minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's South Kohala 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](mailto:cdp@HawaiiCounty.gov).



## County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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**Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

#### **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 South Kohala 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:

South Kohala: Ruth Smith (Chair), Bill Sanborn, Julia Ann Alos, Kevin McLaughlin, Scott Nagata, Karen Anderson.

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

31 Law and that caution should be taken when discussing business with other AC members,  
32 especially if there is potential for applicability across multiple Action Committees.

33 Kona Committee Chair Young questioned amending an agenda and whether rearranging items  
34 would be applicable. Ms. Campbell clarified that agenda items may be re-ordered or postponed.  
35 She added that boards are generally discouraged from adding agenda items during a meeting as  
36 it does not give the public advanced notice.

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

43 Hāmākua Committee Member Keeney inquired further on communication with other members  
44 through email on recommendations for agenda items. Ms. Campbell responded with a  
45 suggestion that communications outside of meetings should generally be discouraged and  
46 recommended that Action Committee members share their agenda item suggestions with staff.  
47 Ms. Mercado reminded Committee Member Keeney that staff contacts AC members about three  
48 weeks before each meeting to request input for the upcoming agenda. She requested that any  
49 additional questions and/or feedback be included in the post-meeting feedback form.

50 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

- 53 1. Community member Cory Harden provided testimony on the Planning Director’s message  
54 and on item (3) 2022 RoadMap. She contended that the North Kohala Action Committee “fell  
55 apart” a while back due to what the Kohala Mountain News quoted as “Tight rules [that]  
56 made it impossible to respond to issues in a timely manner and to allow discussions on items  
57 that are not in the agenda.” Ms. Harden expressed concern with the AC meetings moving  
58 from once a month to once every three months. She also described long delays in filling  
59 vacant Action Committee and Kailua Village Design Commission seats. She mentioned that  
60 the multi-meeting process for taking action combined with the limited number of meetings  
61 severely slows progress. She also conveyed frustration with Planning Staff that an agenda  
62 item request to discuss a large 201H housing development on agricultural land, was not  
63 honored. Ms. Harden shared her concern that Action Committees were changing from being  
64 place-based to issue-based. Lastly, she expressed concern that the draft General Plan is  
65 formatted so differently from previous General Plans that it is too difficult to differentiate the  
66 changes.
- 67 2. South Kohala Committee Chair Smith, representing herself, testified on the Planning  
68 Director’s message. She read her written testimony to Director Kern regarding incoming  
69 Federal infrastructure funding. She asked the Director to advocate for the CDP  
70 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>

Click here for the 2019 Hawai'i Housing Study mentioned in the presentation:

[https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hhfdc/files/2020/01/FINAL-State\\_Hawaii-Housing-Planning-Study.pdf](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=637812880742349217>

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/3-14-09-Hawaii\\_Zero\\_Waste\\_Plan.doc.pdf](http://hawaiiizerowaste.org/site-content/uploads/3-14-09-Hawaii_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:**

All the February Action Committee meetings have been moved to March. The next South Kohala Action Committee meeting will be on March 14, 2022.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

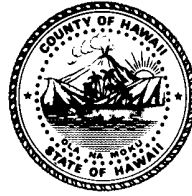
The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's South Kohala 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](mailto:cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov).

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor

Lee E. Lord  
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office  
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
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## County of Hawai'i

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern  
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Deputy Director

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Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone (808) 961-8288  
Fax (808) 961-8742

**DATE:** March 14, 2022

**TO:** ZENDO KERN  
Planning Director, Planning Department

**FROM:** SOUTH KOHALA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** South Kohala CDP Infrastructure Priorities

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Dear Director Kern:

At the South Kohala Community Development Plan's Action Committee meeting today, we voted to request your advocacy to the Mayor on our behalf to prioritize funding for infrastructure projects in our district. This is intended to guide allocation of the substantial federal dollars that were allotted in the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill that passed with bipartisan support in the last Congressional session and was signed into law by President Biden.

Hawai'i State is receiving \$2.8 billion. This unprecedented influx of funds is for long-delayed infrastructure repairs of roads and bridges, plus new traffic infrastructure needed in areas of population growth. In the County of Hawai'i, the distribution of the funds will ultimately come down to Mayor Roth's decision on which community projects get funded. We ask you to advocate on behalf of the priorities that are documented in the South Kohala Community Development Plan regarding infrastructure and emergency preparedness needs, along with priority projects that have been identified through extensive community meetings since. The list below does not cover things that have come up in the interim 14 years since that plan was developed, such as the much-needed resolution of traffic control at the Waikoloa Road/Paniolo Avenue intersection, which was not specified in the SKCDP, but was noted in the last Hawai'i County General Plan of 2005, stating that "the Waikoloa Intersection needs a Stop Light."

Specifically, our community requests include:

- 1) To mitigate the risk of natural disasters, the Puakō community requested the construction of the Paniau Evacuation Route and considered it a "top priority." (P.138)
- 2) To provide transportation and circulation, "Plan, Fund, and Construct a Second Access Road to Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway" as a "top priority" both to accommodate increasing traffic volumes...and more importantly, to provide a second emergency egress

Zendo Kern, Director  
Planning Department  
March 14, 2022  
Page 2

route for Waikoloa residents, noting that “the most significant type of natural disaster that threatens the Waikoloa community is the threat of wildfires.” (P.102)

- 3) To provide transportation and circulation, a) implement short-term traffic mitigation improvements in and around Waimea Town Center, b) design and construct the Parker Ranch Connector Road, c) design and construct the Lalamilo Connector Road, and d) resolve the best alignment for the proposed Waimea/Kawaihae Road Bypass Highway. (Pages 75-76.)
- 4) To widen and realign the Waiaka Bridge. The South Kohala CDP specifically asked that these urgent safety improvements would create a new bridge suitable for vehicular traffic while preserving the old bridge for multi-modal use.

We appreciate you delivering our message to the Mayor on our behalf.

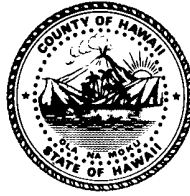
Sincerely yours,

Ruth A. Smith, Chair, SKCDP-AC

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor

Lee E. Lord  
Managing Director

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Hawai'i State is receiving \$2.8 billion. This unprecedented influx of funds is for long-delayed infrastructure repairs of roads and bridges, plus new traffic infrastructure needed in areas of population growth. In the County of Hawai'i, the distribution of the funds will ultimately come down to Mayor Roth's decision on which community projects get funded. We ask you to advocate on behalf of the priorities that are documented in the South Kohala Community Development Plan, and have been identified through extensive community meetings since, regarding infrastructure and emergency preparedness needs. ~~The list below does not cover things that have come up in the interim 14 years since that plan was developed, such as the much-needed resolution of traffic control at the Waikoloa Road/Paniolo Avenue intersection, which was not specified in the SKCDP, but was noted in the last Hawai'i County General Plan of 2005, stating that "the Waikoloa Intersection needs a Stop Light."~~

Specifically, from the 2008 SKCDP, our community requests include:

- 1) To mitigate the risk of natural disasters, the Puakō community requested the construction of the Paniau Evacuation Route and considered it a "top priority." (P.138)
- 2) To provide transportation and circulation, "Plan, Fund, and Construct a Second Access Road to Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway" as a "top priority" both to accommodate increasing traffic volumes...and more importantly, to provide a second emergency egress

Zendo Kern, Director  
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Page 2

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- 3) To provide transportation and circulation, a) implement short-term traffic mitigation improvements in and around Waimea Town Center, b) design and construct the Parker Ranch Connector Road, c) design and construct the Lalamilo Connector Road, and d) resolve the best alignment for the proposed Waimea/Kawaihae Road Bypass Highway. (Pages 75-76.)
- 4) To widen and realign the Waiaka Bridge. The South Kohala CDP specifically asked that these urgent safety improvements would create a new bridge suitable for vehicular traffic while preserving the old bridge for multi-modal use.
- 5) To fund improvements to the Waikoloa Road/Paniolo Avenue Intersection. This has been a longtime community concern and is referenced in the 2005 General Plan (13.2.5.6.2.j) “Provide traffic signals at the Waikoloa Road-Paniolo Drive intersection.”
- 4)6) To fund safety improvements to four bridges along the Kawaihae Rd/Akoni Pule Hwy. that are located between the entrance to the Pu‘ukoholā Heiau and Kawaihae Hawaiian Homes (located over Pohaukole Makeāhūa, Makahuna and Honokoa Gulch). These bridges are frequented by both bicyclists and heavy vehicles and have been identified by several community groups as needing improvements so that bicyclists can ride off the road and avoid sharing a lane with vehicular traffic. (P.49)

We appreciate you delivering our message to the Mayor on our behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth A. Smith, Chair, SKCDP-AC