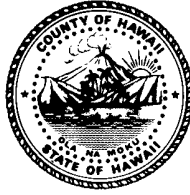


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County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, May 17, 2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McKnight called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:03 P.M. A quorum was established with five members in attendance. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and new provisions set by the Sunshine Law, this meeting was held via the Zoom interactive video platform with one on-site location at the Laupāhoehoe Train Museum.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Jeff McKnight (*Chair*); Niki Hubbard (*Vice-Chair*); Brad Kurokawa; Rob Nishimoto; Tawn Keeney

AC Members Absent-Excused: Rhonda Pollard; Carol Ignacio; Desiree Cruz; Crystal Kua

County Staff: Planners – Keiko Mercado, Heather Bartlett, Elyse Stevens, Kevin Sullivan

County Officials: Councilmember Heather Kimball, Jennifer Kagiwada (Legislative Assistant)

1 member 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 [\(23\) Hāmākua CDP AC Meeting - May 17 - YouTube](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The November Hāmākua Action Committee meeting was moved to Thursday, November 17th. (Communication Number 2022-10)
[Communication No. 2022-10 2022 Calendar.pdf \(hawaiicounty.gov\)](#) may be viewed here.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Hubbard noted that her name was spelled incorrectly in the March 15, 2022 minutes and requested that it be corrected to Nicolette.

Vice-Chair Niki Hubbard made a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 minutes. Motion seconded by Committee Member Brad Kurokawa. Motion passed with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.

27 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

28 One member of the public provided oral and written testimony:

29 Deborah Chang, representing herself, provided both written and oral testimony on agenda item
30 3. She asked for the Action Committee's support in getting a site visit for Kahawai road and
31 Lower Kalōpā road to establish them as public rights-of-way.

32 There was an overall discussion regarding the roads location. Legislative Assistant Jennifer
33 Kagiwada stated she was sitting in for Councilmember Kimball and reiterated her sentiment for
34 support on the issue at hand.

35 [Ms. Changs' written testimony \(Communication No. 2022-11\) may be viewed here.](#)

36 **BUSINESS:**

37 **1. Update on the Shoreline Setback Project:**

38 Mr. Sullivan screen shared a PowerPoint to discuss the islandwide Shoreline Pursuit Project
39 based on integrated Coastal Zone Management HRS Chapter 205A, Federal Coastal Zone
40 Management Act. He described the five phases of the project and the involved agencies
41 such as the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH), the United States Geological Survey (USGS),
42 FEMA, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
43 Administration (NOAA), and the Pacific Island Climate Adaptation Science Center (Pi-CASC).
44 He explained that Phase 1 targeted the Hāmākua coastline and was comprised of helicopter
45 flights for image collection and analysis. He summarized how the data collected helped to
46 measure shoreline typology and classification, create time-series images of top-of-cliff
47 delineations, identify coastal changes for inundation models, and calculate sea level rises,
48 riparian buffers, and coastal setbacks. He stated how the applied data would help to analyze
49 change rates within the Hāmākua shoreline to establish island-wide policy, future shoreline
50 resilience, and hazard typology.

51 He explained that Phases 2 and 3, were focused on policy implementation to gauge coastal
52 resilience and stated that the program would have a better policy baseline understanding
53 within the next few months.

54 Phases 4 and 5 were a continuation of Phase 1 for island-wide data collection that included
55 additional survey areas with current and potential developments. He explained that these
56 phases would examine coastline changes and briefly discussed the project timeline for the
57 end of the year.

58 Committee Member Kurokawa expressed the need to protect riparian corridors. He was
59 hopeful for future funding for island-wide data collection and policy implementation due to
60 the potential for disasters and property damage within the Hāmākua coastline.

61 Mr. Sullivan discussed the need for ecological and cultural protection along the Hāmākua
62 coastline. He recognized the issue with over clearing and grading of parcels and the need to
63 coordinate with the Department of Public Works. He expressed the potential restoration of
64 coastal species and a broad framework with specific shoreline setback regulations for Hawai'i
65 Island. He would have a better understanding of how the data could direct policy toward the
66 end of 2022 and would follow up with the Action Committee.

Committee Member Kurokawa discussed ecological and conservative approaches to protect specific agricultural areas. He mentioned existing development pressure and funding as current issues. He discussed the disregard for maintenance and preservation of drainage berms by new developments. He also reiterated that future community outreach for the Shoreline Setback Project could involve continued conservation efforts.

Committee Member Nishimoto praised Mr. Sullivan's efforts and encouraged him to update the Action Committee on the projects' progress.

2. CIP Budget Overview:

Staff shared the FY2022-23 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget spreadsheet that outlined capital project appropriations submitted to the County Council relating to the Hāmākua District. Ms. Mercado stated that the listed projects ranged from being directly related to the Hāmākua District to broader island-wide benefits. She offered to provide Financial Impact Statement (FIS) sheets for specific projects should the Hāmākua Action Committee be interested.

Vice-Chair Hubbard had questions regarding testimony for the County Council CIP budget meetings. Councilmember Kimball stated that the Thursday, May 19 budget meeting would allow for public testimony.

Chair McKnight asked how proposed projects were considered. Councilmember Kimball stated projects were accepted as a package based on each Department's needs. She elaborated that priorities are added every year and the projects on the current list were newly proposed. She discussed the District 1 projects currently in progress, such as the Laupāhoehoe Road and Boat Ramp, and bridge repairs. Ms. Mercado clarified that CIP projects remain in the budget and then are reappropriated as needed.

Committee Member Kurokawa discussed bridge repair concerns, specifically asking if Ka'ahakini Stream Bridge was included in the CIP budget. Councilmember Kimball confirmed that bridge repair is accounted for from previous CIP appropriations. She also confirmed new funding for the Papa'aloa Gym replacement (State allocated 5 million with the County to match funds), and Waipi'o Valley road safety improvements.

[Communication No. 2022-12 May CIP FY2022-23 \(Hamakua\) Final.v2.pdf \(hawaiicounty.gov\)](#) may be viewed here.

3. Infrastructure Discussion:

Ms. Mercado explained that the upcoming Federal Infrastructure Bill funding would be allocated to the State and County. To prepare for this, the Administration created a task force to identify priority projects. The Planning Director requested that the Action Committee discuss infrastructure project ideas for their district. Planning Staff would then record the projects identified and provide them to the Director.

Vice-Chair Hubbard suggested the Laupāhoehoe Boat ramp, road and bridge needed Federal assistance. Committee Member Kurokawa suggested alternative routes and connectivity for emergency purposes. Chair McKnight proposed the need for adequate emergency shelters to prepare for potential hurricane disasters and climate change impacts. Committee Member Kurokawa brought up the Hakalau School and Gym which is in dire need of repair.

He discussed the need to coordinate with the Department of Education and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transition the structures into community emergency shelters. Councilmember Kimball stated that these projects can be “shovel worthy”, and do not necessarily need to be “shovel ready.” She suggested the Action Committee identify projects that “just make sense.”

Vice-Chair Hubbard proposed that the Waipi’o access be added to the list. She noted that though everyone was aware of the existing issue, it was still a significant project to highlight.

Ms. Mercado suggested that AC Members discuss projects and priorities within their community networks. She requested that all proposed infrastructure projects be submitted by the end of May and that Planning Staff would follow up with Action Committee members as needed.

4. Action Committee Community Project Discussion:

The Action Committee continued their discussion to identify community action initiatives for 2022 and explore mutual interests between Action Committee members to potentially create investigatory subcommittees and community liaison groups.

Ms. Mercado screen shared action items from the Hāmākua CDP Implementation Table. She noted common areas within the table with more than 2 people could provide the opportunity to create an investigatory subcommittee. She offered that Planning Staff could provide the necessary resources and connections that may support the Action Committee with their initiatives.

Vice-Chair Hubbard hoped for the formation of an investigatory subcommittee for public access and trails. She shared however that she would not be able to commit her time to the project.

Ms. Mercado gave an example of an investigatory subcommittee within the Action Committee and reiterated the idea for AC members to work outside of regularly scheduled meetings. She suggested the collaboration between Committee Member Keeney and Community Member Chang regarding the Lower Kalōpā Road could potentially become an investigatory subcommittee if more AC Members were interested.

Committee Member Keeney stated that he and Community Member Chang would collaborate and asked if anyone else were interested in the Lower Kalōpā Road Trail Project. Community Member Chang discussed the need for a site visit to occur. She explained that relying on maps alone was deceiving, in that what you see on-site could include overgrowth or other barriers. She added that permission would be needed for any on-site visit due to privately owned lands and blocked access. There was a brief discussion about ownership of the subject roads. Ms. Mercado offered to connect the liaison group with Long Range Planner, Kamuela Plunkett to assist with the conversation about public access.

Ms. Mercado confirmed that no investigatory subcommittee has been established for the Lower Kalōpā Trail Road, but one could potentially be formed in the future.

Vice-Chair Hubbard updated the Action Committee about the Papa’aloe Gym. She explained that the State allocated 5 million in the budget, and the County would match the funds. She

added that the County released a needs assessment survey to assess how the community may want to move forward on the project (link below). They hoped to hold public meetings in the near future regarding the construction of the new gym.

Vice-Chair Hubbard also shared information about Vibrant Hawai'i, which is a growing community organization that is committed to collective action for affordable housing. She mentioned that the organization is currently looking for writers.

[You may find the Pāpa'aloa Needs Assessment here.](#)

[You may find the Vibrant Hawai'i Website here.](#)

Chair McKnight updated the Action Committee relative to the Emergency Preparedness working group. He previously donated a repeater and two-way radio system to the Department of Civil Defense. He discussed obtaining an FCC license and antennae system for future emergency implementation.

Committee Member Keeney discussed Senate Bill No. 2070 which granted a 50 million Special Purpose Revenue Bond to the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. He stated that the main objective was to reforest the Kona Coast and how the initiative had already accomplished up to 73 acres in reforestation. He claimed he was unsure how the new funding would impact the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative but believed it could pave the way for other community groups. He proposed potential discussions between the Action Committee and the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative in the future.

[You may find Senate Bill 2070 \(SD1\) here.](#)

Councilmember Kimball highlighted a two-day community meeting on Friday, June 10 (2pm-6pm) and Saturday, 11 (10am-1pm) at the Jack Wayne ILWU Union Hall in Honoka'a regarding Waipi'o Valley public access. She encouraged the Action Committee to participate and to share the information within the community.

Ms. Mercado suggested creating a Google Document for the Action Committee to access and update with projects and priorities. She suggested the Action Committee email Planning Staff with any suggestions for the Joint Action Committee meeting agenda. She proposed that Planning Staff would also provide a link to a PowerPoint presentation staff did that outlines how Action Committee can initiate self-run meetings.

Chair McKnight asked the Action Committee to think about other locations for future meetings within the Hāmākua district, preferably with Wi-Fi connectivity, and to send suggestions to Planning Staff.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: None.

ADJOURNMENT: *Committee Member Keeney moved to adjourn. Seconded by Committee Member Kurokawa. The motion passes with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i Public](#)

186 [Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department
187 by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

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