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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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

DATE: Tuesday, November 15, 2022

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

PLACE: Kula'imano Community Center
28-2892 Alia St.
Pepe'ekeō, HI 96783

Please note, there will be no Zoom attendance option for this meeting.

2022 NOV -9 PM 2:53
COUNTY OF HAWAII

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Keeney will report back to the Action Committee on a discussion he had with Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula regarding the State Sunshine Law, as it relates to communications between Action Committee members across districts.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the Hāmākua Action Committee Meeting on October 18, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Written testimony may be submitted via email at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior (Friday, November 11, 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. Comments may be made either during the public comment portion of the agenda or just prior to the relevant business item. With discretion of the Chair of the CDP Action Committee, comments may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. **Action Committee Meeting Calendar for 2023:** Action Committee members will discuss and codesign strategies for engagement in 2023. The discussion will center around meeting dates and logistics. Communication No. 2022-22 Meeting Dates 2023 outlines tentative Action Committee meeting dates for 2023.
2. **Election for Action Committee Secretary Position:** The Action Committee will nominate a secretary for minutes and notetaking. Discussion will include duties and length of position.

BUSINESS:

3. **Subcommittee Report Back to Action Committee:** Designated subcommittees will report back and provide updates to the Action Committee regarding their progress.
 - **Waipi'o Wahi Pana Report**
 - **Housing Subcommittee Report**
4. **Zoom-Hybrid Meeting Discussion:** The Action Committee will discuss the option of switching to a Zoom-Hybrid format for their meetings. Discussion will center around the technical capabilities and logistics of online and live streaming.
5. **Discussion on Action Committee Communication to the Public:** The Action Committee will examine their approach to community engagement. They will discuss methods to increase their public outreach within the Hāmākua district including reaching out within their network reflected in Communication Number 2021-02 Hāmākua Action Committee Network Map.
6. **Action Committee Project Prioritization Discussion:** Action Committee members will engage in an exercise to establish priority implementation projects and interests. 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.
7. **Status on All Action Committees Discussion:** The Action Committee will discuss the current work of each Action Committee on Hawai'i Island, to include: Ka'ū, Kona, North Kohala, Puna, and South Kohala.

COMMUNICATIONS:

8. Communication No. 2022-19 Brad Kurokawa Letter to the Planning Director Regarding Zoning and Subdivision Code Update Engagement
9. Communication No. 2022-21 Planner Heather Bartlett's Email Response to Hāmākua Action Committee Chair Tawn Keeney Answering Questions Related to Action Committee Meetings
10. Communication No. 2022-23 Planning Department Community Planning Newsletter
11. Communication No. 2021-02 Hāmākua Action Committee Community Group Network Map
12. Communication No. 2022-24 Hāmākua CDP Community Implementation Action Matrix
13. Communication No. 2022-25 Kohala Mountain News September 2022

14. Communication No. 2022-26 North Kohala Advisory Group Mission Statement

15. Communication No. 2022-20 Chuck Flaherty Article to the Sierra Club Regarding Planning Department Practices

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Committee members will discuss logistics (meeting date/time) and potential agenda topics for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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 Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/fol/109367/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.

HĀMĀKUA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

Hamakua AC Calendar and Locations			3rd Tuesday Monthly	
Date	time pm	Location		
12/20/22	5:30	Honokaa People's Theatre		
1/17/23	5:30	Laupahoehoe Library		
2/21/23	5:30	Kulaimano Center Pepeekeo		
3/15/23	5:30	Honokaa People's Theatre		
4/18/23	5:30	Laupahoehoe Library		
5/16/23	5:30	Pepeekeo		
6/21/23	5:30	Honokaa People's Theatre		
7/18/23	5:30	Laupahoehoe Library		
8/15/23	5:30	Pepeekeo		
9/19/23	5:30	Honokaa People's Theatre		
10/16/23	5:30	Laupahoehoe Library		
11/21/23	5:30	Pepeekeo		
12/19/23	5:30	Honokaa People's Theatre		

Hamakua Community Development Plan Action Committee

October 19, 2022

Mr. Zendo Kern
Hawaii County Planning Director
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Kern:

We are aware that the Planning department is in the process of updating the Hawaii County Zoning and Subdivision Code. The Hamakua CDP Action Committee met last night.

We respectfully request that the Planning Department formally include the Hamakua CDP Action Committee in this code amendment process beyond the online invitations and in person public meetings. As community representatives stewarding the Community Development Plans, it makes sense that this code update, a critical tool for implementing the General Plan and CDPs island wide include active participation of the committee(s). This could be done as CDP Action committee meeting via zoom or in person meetings.

We also recommend that all the CDP Action committees be assembled collectively to provide input during this process. This option could be in lieu of convening separate CDP Action committee sessions. The Planning department earlier this year attempted to convene all CDP Action committees in single sessions. This code update seems to be the perfect opportunity to gather

valuable input from the community via the island wide Action committees in a systemic manner.

Thank you for your consideration. We await your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Kurokawa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Kurokawa on behalf of the Hamakua CDP Action Committee

Cc: Mayor Mitch Roth; Kona, Kau, North & South Kohala, Puna CDP Action Committees

From: [Bartlett, Heather](#)
To: "tawn" [REDACTED]
Cc: [Stevens, Elyse](#); [Yeh, Justin](#)
Subject: RE: Upcoming Hamakua CDP AC meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:10:00 PM

Aloha Tawn,

Congrats on taking on the role as chair and mahalo nui for your willingness to take on the role. It looks as though you've put a lot of thought into the direction of the AC, so thank you for your thoughtful questions.

I'm sending this as a follow up to our conversation. If you want to clarify the sunshine law aspects you can also contact our Corp Counsel Suzanna at [REDACTED]

Zoom

As far as Zoom is concerned, that's definitely a possibility if you folks are interested in organizing that. It can be a challenge to facilitate a hybrid meeting and balance the related Sunshine Law requirements which include, having a 'courtesy site' available to the public where they can participate in person and view, listen and talk to AC members that are on Zoom. You would need to ensure that all members are on camera at all times (including members at the courtesy site), and that if tech disruptions occur (like losing internet, camera, or microphones) you would have to recess the meeting to fix the issues before the meeting can continue. If you lose connection and can't recover it you would need to cancel the meeting altogether (even if you still have quorum at the courtesy site). This is something I feel we can talk about more if you want to pursue it because there's some details that would need to be figured out to make it work.

Venue

For your venue, Elyse has been working with the Parks department to reserve a space but we've had some trouble getting responses. She has been in contact with Niki and we will certainly keep you updated if we can get some headway on that front from our end. In the meantime, having a back up plan could be advisable to prevent us needing to cancel/postpone your meeting.

Mailing List

We have been and will continue to send your agendas and meeting packets to our mailing list a week before your meetings. AC-led meetings are still official county meetings, so we are bound by Sunshine Law to get notice out to the public all the same (so it's a requirement, but more importantly it's the good/transparent thing to do regardless). As far as sending out other information and notices, and we do try to share relevant community events if they are related to community planning and if we have the time, so we are always open to suggestions

Budget

Unfortunately Action Committees do not have a budget, however if you had a specific project in mind (like the Waipi'o valley one you mentioned) it may be worthwhile to connect with Heather Kimball. She may be organizing outreach already for that specific issue or otherwise have access to funding (like Council discretionary funds or knowledge on grant opportunities, etc.). I think there are creative approaches or opportunities to explore grant funding for other projects which our team would be happy to help brainstorm for future projects too

Newspaper advertising

Funding is also a concern here. I know we have done that in the past when we have monies tied to

projects (plan drafting as a major example). Some ACs have connections with local news organizations (ex. The Kohala Mountain News advertises NK Advisory Group meeting notices free of charge, and the Ka'u Calendar has for a long time attended meetings and helped to share information). Some news organizations have community calendars or other resources where they share local events for free as well. Its possible that news organizations would be willing to partner and promote information to support the mission.. similar to how places will often waive reservation fees for us when we explain we're community-focused.

Upcoming Agenda Recommendations

It would be worthwhile to connect with Niki about your draft agenda to get her thoughts and keep continuity with the work shes been doing (if you haven't already).

It's helpful to consider what you hope to accomplish from proposed agenda items you plan to discuss. Is there a letter to send? Research to be done? Partners to work with? Information to share with the community?

Here is the list Niki recorded in your last meeting minutes:

1. Subcommittee Report Back to Action Committee:
 - a. Waipio Wahi Pana Report
 - b. Housing Subcommittees Report and possible invitation of the Hāmākua Development Corporation.
2. Presentation by the Planning Department on Permitted Uses.
3. Presentation by the Planning Department on Zoning Code Changes. Possible creation of a subcommittee to participate
4. Presentation from Noeau Peralto from huiMAU: Possible Action Committee meeting at huiMAU property or the creation of a subcommittee.
5. Presentation by the County of Hawai'i Fire Department: Fire Prevention Plans
6. County of Hawai'i Department of Water Supply – Discuss infrastructure needs and installation and how they utilize the CDPs.
7. Next year's calendar and locations

I can tell you the Planning Department won't be ready to present anything. Same for the Fire Dept and Water Supply, unless you guys already have a contact from their offices that you've been working with.

Combined AC Meetings (AKA Community Learning Series)

I know Brad had suggested using our community learning series to bring the ACs together to discuss the Code Update. We are currently looking ahead at balancing the community learning series platform with larger ongoing projects such as the GP and Code Update which involves coordinating with varies project leads and consultants. We have yet to finalize our outreach plans on that front but we will keep you guys updated.

Hoping this helps.. I know you guys will need to be posting your agenda fairly soon. Please feel free to get in touch if we can support you further!

Mahalo,
Heather Bartlett

From: tawn@

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:15 AM

To: Bartlett, Heather <Heather.Bartlett@hawaiiicounty.gov>

Subject: Upcoming Hamakua CDP AC meeting

Hi Heather,

It looks like I will serve as Chair of the HCDP Action Committee over the next year. Let me express to you some of my aspirations for this Committee. In concert with the Planning Department, I, like all of the AC members feel the priority of increasing the interaction between our District Communities and the County Government through the medium of the Community Development Plan and its Action Committees. To this end I would like to explore the possibility of resuming the Zoom mechanism and to have our Committee meetings uploaded to our site on Facebook. As these were functions previously handled by Planning, I need to discuss with you how this might be now facilitated. This should be priority #1. There may be a gulf between my imagination and the real world.

Second, it seems that we need to find a meeting place for the next meeting which I believe will be on Tuesday, November 15. This should ideally be in the Papaikou/Pepeekeo area. The People's Theatre in Honokaa is available any Tuesday incidentally. Do you have thoughts on a Papaikou/Pepeekeo facility for this? I can make inquiries if you have suggestions.

I will try to have an agenda for you by this Friday.

I was told once before that the Planning Department has email addresses of over 400 persons in Hamakua who have previously interacted with the CDP process. I the agenda sent to all 400 of those email addresses.

Will you send to those addresses any communications that the Action Committee would wish to make.

Does the Action Committee have a budget? For instance if we would wish to send US Postal mail to each Box holder in Hamakua, could we do that with Planning covering the postage? If any of the subcommittees wished to send postal mail to a particular mailing area, for instance Honokaa, Kukuihaele, Haina for communication about the Waipio discussions could that postage be covered by Planning?

Has Planning previously entertained having a section in the Island newspapers available for communications from the ACs.

Do you have recommendation for Agenda Items for the meeting on the 15th.

I suspect that Planning has discussed continuing to hold Combined Action Committee meetings twice a year. What was the outcome and input on that discussion. As a casual observer, it seems that that should be within the means of the Planning Dept. The question has, of course, arisen whether Planning would make a presentation to the Combined ACs on the rationale driving the need for reconsideration of the County Code and what preliminary thoughts or general perspectives might be in play.

My phone is [REDACTED]. I think we should have an open channel via the phone. My schedule is open and I am always available to take a call if I have my phone with me. If I don't hear from you today, I will call you tomorrow.

Who should I talk to to develop and understanding of how we can implement Zoom meetings?
Mahalo for your help.



COMMUNITY PLANNING NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2022



Mahalo for reading our Community Planning newsletter!

This newsletter is intended to highlight active community planning efforts in our Department and across the island. We hope to continue promoting these ongoing efforts by providing visibility for initiatives that support positive future growth of our County. We look forward to our continued collaboration, as we imagine a future rooted in love for our ‘āina and our people.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Vibrant Hawai'i

Resilience Hubs were first launched in 2019 as a response to COVID-19 to build human and social relationships and develop resilient communities.

You can find Resiliency Hubs around the island that provide opportunities to participate and support your community. The Vibrant Hawai'i website also includes a variety of resources, meeting events, and topic-based streams where you can learn more about how to get involved in the issues you care most about.

Vibrant Hawai'i
[vibranthawaii.org]



Hawai'i Island
Resilience Hub
Mapping
Initiative



Phase I
Resilience Hubs



Phase II
Resilience Hubs



Ka'ū Dream

Purpose is to honor the authenticity and traditions of Ka'ū, while building a resilient community. Their model includes hands-on learning opportunities, workforce development, celebration of arts and culture, agriculture-based economic development, infrastructure advocacy, career pathways, and more.

Check out their website for more information and join their mailing list to be informed on upcoming events and ways to participate.

Ka'ū Dream
[kaudream.org]

Hui Mālama i ke Ala ‘Ūlili (huiMAU)

“Committed to cultivating kīpuka (safe, regenerative spaces) that foster and regenerate the growth of place-based ancestral knowledge, healthy food- and eco-systems, and strong ‘ohana with the capacity to live and thrive in Hāmākua for generations.”

Check out their website to learn more about their youth after-school and summer educational programs, along with other community events and activities.

Pictured: the ‘Umi-a-Līloa Mural Project at the Pa‘auilo Elementary & Middle School self-sustainability.

HuiMAU Website
[alaulili.com]



Hāmākua CDP – Community Objectives 4, 8, 11, 12



South Kohala Coastal Partnership (SKCP)

A collaboration of various community groups and organizations working to restore a healthy, abundant, and resilient South Kohala coastal system.

There are several ways to get involved from tree planting events to beach clean-ups. Malama the ‘āina, learn, and have fun while you do it!

SKCP Website
[southkohalacoastalpartners.com]

South Kohala CDP: General Policy 5, Kawaihae Policy 3, Puakō Policy 3

Revitalize Puna

Created in response to the 2018 Kīlauea Eruption, these events are community activations that bring County & Puna residents together.

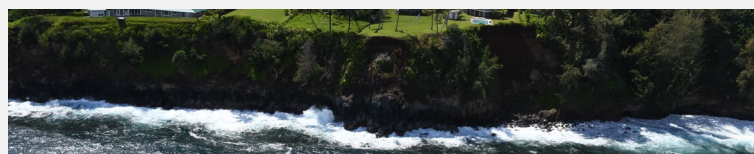
Join their mailing list to get notified about their next quarterly event

Revitalize Puna
[recovery.hawaiicounty.gov]

Paint Pāhoa Town

Painting will continue through December 2022

Volunteer to Paint or Donate
[bit.ly/paintpahoa]



Shoreline Pursuit: Analysis to Establish Research-based Shoreline and Riparian Setback Amendments

Purpose of this multi-phase project is to analyze coastal and riparian areas in order to adopt more effective adaptation and mitigation policies. With a genesis in Hāmākua, the project has broadened across the island thanks to multi-sector partnerships and funding sources.

Outcomes will result in more effective coastal zone management tools, including targeted setback strategies and protective regulations as well as deeper understanding of our varied, beautiful and ever-changing coastal landforms.

Planner: Kevin Sullivan, AICP

State and County partnerships to facilitate place-based shoreline management strategies:

County Profiles Storymap
[<https://arcg.is/1H8K9q>]

Hāmākua CDP – Policy 18, 20, 40; Kona CDP - LU-1.5&1.6, ENV-1.7; Ka'u CDP - Policy 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31

Kona Open Space Network (KOSN)

The KOSN planning effort will be kicking off soon. It is intended to identify opportunities for residents to engage in natural, recreational, educational, subsistence, and gathering activities.

Planner: Natasha Soriano

Join our Kona CDP mailing list to be informed about upcoming opportunities to participate!

KCDP Mailing List
[vision.hawaiicounty.gov]

Kona CDP - Policy ENV-2.1, 3.1, 3.2; CR-1.1(2); PUB-6.4



Hawai'i Island Housing Coalition [Vibrant Hawai'i]

The Annual Statewide Homelessness Awareness and Housing Solutions conference is being held from November 15-19.

"We can't do housing first without housing first!"

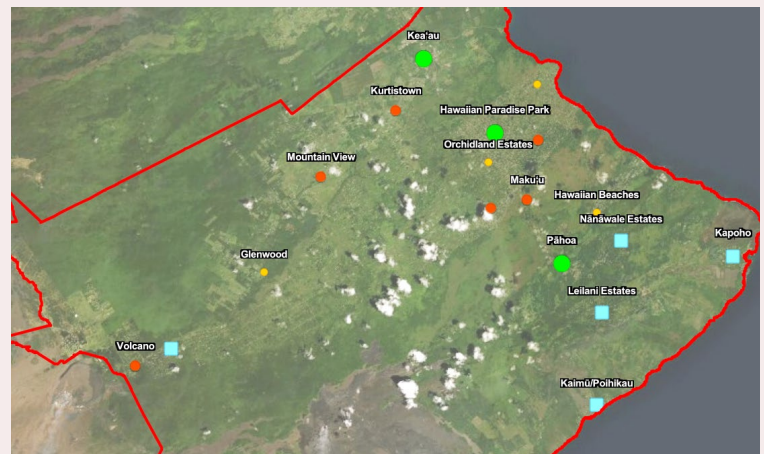
A public forum is being hosted on Nov 15 from 4-6pm at the Imiloa Astronomy Center

Register for Free
[partnersincareoahu.org]

Volunteers are needed for the January 2023 Point-in-Time Count. The Point-In-Time Count (PIT) provides an estimate of homelessness on a specific night during the last ten days of January each year.

Volunteers canvass the island and are paired with professional service providers and advocates who work with the homeless. There are two shifts; morning and afternoon. Learn first-hand about why people are homeless by volunteering to be a canvasser.

For more information contact: Carrie Ho'opi'i at choopii@hopeserviceshaawaii.org.



Puna Wastewater Feasibility Study

The County of Hawai'i, Department of Environmental Management is evaluating the feasibility of and potential locations for the addition of wastewater services and facilities for the Puna District in the context of the Kīlauea Eruption Recovery planning process.

Project Coordinator: Kelly Hartman

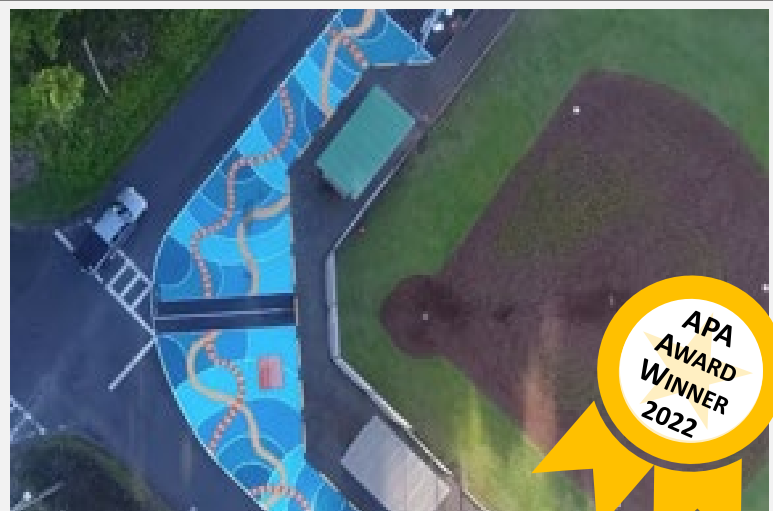
Puna Wastewater Storymap
[<https://arcg.is/10j4bW1>]

Keaukaha Quick Build Project

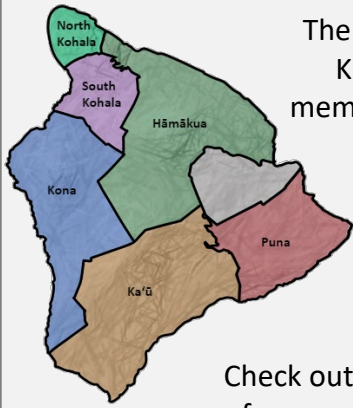
The Planning Department collaborated with community organizations, artists and volunteers to install a "Quick Build" Project near Keaukaha Elementary School. The main goal was to improve the health, safety and happiness of residents and students by reconfiguring existing areas with Complete Streets management, including safe places to walk and bike.

Planner: Natasha Soriano

KeaukahaQuick Build Video
[<https://vimeo.com/733805542>]



Community Development Plan Action Committees



The Hāmākua, Kaʻū, and South Kohala Action Committee members have hosted their own official meetings. Action Committees serve their communities through grass-roots efforts to implement Community Development Plans (CDPs).

Check out the CDP website and sign up for our mailing list to stay up to date

CDP Website
[hawaiicounty.gov/vision]

County of Hawaiʻi Zoning & Subdivision Codes Update

The County of Hawaiʻi is initiating a process to analyze, update, and amend the Zoning & Subdivision Codes (Chapters 25 and 23) of the 1983 Hawaiʻi County Code.

The purpose of the update is to implement the general plan and community development plans, provide for more predictability, increase consistency, incorporate best practices in land use and zoning, promote desirable and equitable development, and meet the needs of the Hawaiʻi Island community.

Check out the website to participate in our Virtual Open House through Sunday, Nov 13th:

Code Update Website
[cohcodeupdate.com]

Hawaiʻi County Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)

Professionally trained FEC Counselors provide free one-on-one financial counseling for their clients, helping to navigate complex financial challenges and choices around:

- Taking control of debt
- Improving credit
- Building savings
- Creating and sticking to a budget
- Finding safe and affordable financial products
- Connection to other services based on your needs

Hawaiʻi County has partnered with Hawaiian Community Assets and Hawaiʻi First Federal Credit Union to provide this free service

Office of Housing and Community Development Website
[<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/departments/office-of-housing/>]



Stay Connected

County of Hawaiʻi Planning Department
Community Planning

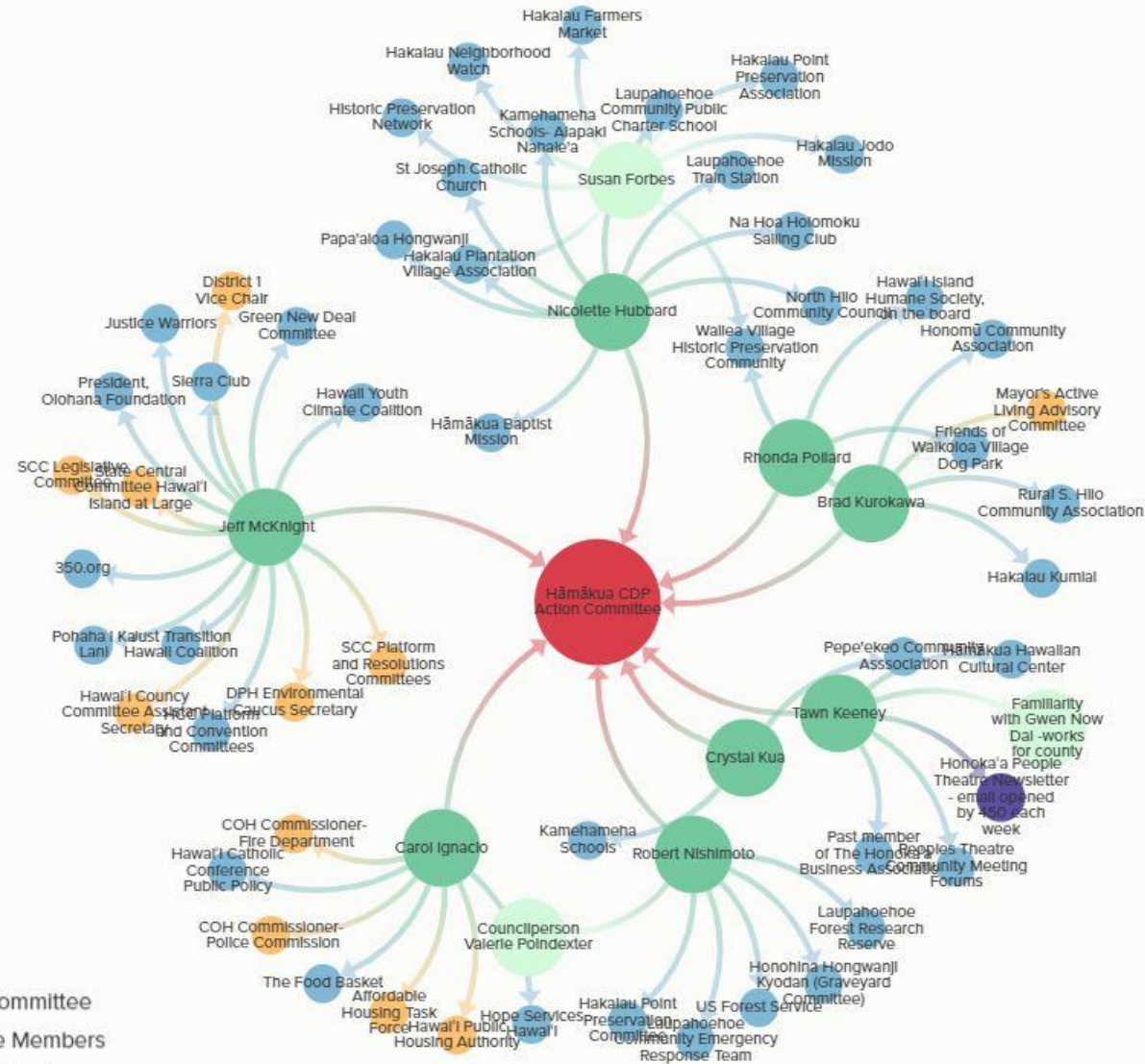
Website: hawaiicounty.gov/vision



If you are interested in being featured in our Community Planning Newsletter, please feel free to contact us at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. We'd love to hear from you!

Hāmākua CDP Action Committee Network Map

Comm. No. 2021-02



Legend

- Opposite
- Hāmākua CDP Action Committee
- HCDP Action Committee Members
- Community Group/Organization
- Community Member
- Government Organization Connection
- Project

Hāmākua CDP Implementation Actions from the Hāmākua CDP Community Action Guide

	Community Action	Description	Page #	Policy #
3.1 Land Use & Settlement Patterns				
1	Community Action 1: Develop Town Revitalization Plans focused on developing guidelines for preserving historic and cultural character, infrastructure improvements, developing affordable housing, and promoting economic revitalization.	There are nine small towns in the Hāmākua Planning Area that would benefit from urban renewal and revitalization efforts. The region has not fully recovered from the demise of the plantation economy and many of the region's small towns have dilapidated commercial centers with high vacancy rates and shrinking populations consisting of predominately aging populaces. The growth trend has been in the outlying agricultural lands, and so far not within the towns themselves. The CDP was unable to provide adequate town-level plans for each town, however the Planning Department is interesting in partnering with motivated community/business associations to help provide the necessary technical assistance in taking steps toward revitalization, including developing plans, taking advantage of grant opportunities, and developing infrastructure improvement districts.	11	Land Use Policy 1-11 County Action Policy 12-14
4.1 Expand the Local System of Preserves				
2	Community Action 2: Establish acquisition priorities, using PONC criteria, and secure priority lands. Partner with existing Hawai'i Land Trusts to acquire land through conservation easements and acquisition to ensure viewshed protection; Identify appropriate critical habitat areas needing further protection as priority areas through PONC criteria to protect through easement or acquisition mechanisms	Hawai'i has the largest number of federally listed and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. Native species sacred to the Hawaiian culture are disappearing at the highest extinction rate in the nation because of development, introductions of invasive species, and other threats. Certain resources are valuable and vulnerable enough to merit acquisition, possibly including: mauka forests, stream/watershed corridors, unique geological features, heritage resources, ecological resources, mauka or makai access, trail corridors, park space, buffers, open space and viewscapes, and agricultural lands that are prone to runoff, could be converted to affordable agriculture parks, or are under threat of non-agricultural development. Resources for acquiring easements and land are limited, and Hāmākua must compete with other communities locally, statewide, nationally,	12	County Action Policy 15, 16 **See also Policy 42, 46

Hāmākua CDP Implementation Actions
from the Hāmākua CDP Community Action Guide

	Community Action	Description	Page #	Policy #
		and globally, so it is important to establish priorities. At a minimum, any land considered for acquisition should serve the achievement of one or more of Hāmākua’s community objectives. More specifically, it should protect cultural assets and/or mauka or shoreline ecosystems, assure access, and/or preserve viable agriculture lands or viewscapes. Relative priorities should then be established using criteria similar to those used by the PONC: • Level of community support • Identified management /maintenance partners • Benefit to the general public • Urgency • Special opportunity for acquisition exists (e.g., special funding is available, landowner willing, etc.) • Resources can be leveraged through partnerships with other government, private, or nonprofit entities • Land or property entitlements are available for acquisition. For example, two parcels were prioritized by the PONC list in 2010: • Hāmākua Springs Agricultural Conservation Easement in Pepe’ekeo • Maulua Gulch in North Hilo		
4.2 Preserve Coastal Resources				
3	Community Action 3: Develop a coastal resource management plan as part of watershed management plans. <u>**See also Community Action 8</u>	There is limited management of natural, scenic, cultural, subsistence, trail, and recreational resources along the Planning Area’s coastline. Often, resources and landscapes have multiple owners and fall under several different jurisdictions. Effective resource management, therefore, requires high levels of collaboration and coordination among a wide range of agencies and organizations. Likewise, few know the resources like those who use and enjoy them. Local Hawaiian families, cultural practitioners, hunters, fisherman, hikers, farmers, and ranchers	13	Land Use Policy 17 County Action Policy 18-20 **See also Policy 13, 46, 48

Hāmākua CDP Implementation Actions
from the Hāmākua CDP Community Action Guide

	Community Action	Description	Page #	Policy #
		who know and frequent the forests, agriculture lands, and coastline are well-positioned to play a leadership role in managing them. This is consistent with the CDP objective to encourage community-based collaborative management plans to assure that human activities are in harmony with the quality of Hāmākua's unique natural and cultural landscape.		
4	Community Action 4: Support the organization of a community-based hui for the fisher people of the Hāmākua Coast.	Diminishing access to public hunting, gathering, and shoreline areas and the closure of the Planning Area's only boat ramp in Laupāhoehoe have eroded the community's ability to hunt, fish, and provide supplemental nutrition to their families. The boat ramp is an important asset to subsistent fisher people and recreational boaters. The boat ramp has been officially closed since June 2009 to protect public safety. Parks and Recreation makes minor repairs to the rebar protrusions when they are reported and local residents have, at times, taken it upon themselves to make repairs and continue to use the ramp on a limited basis and at their own risk. It is commonly thought that the location of the ramp is part of the problem and until the ramp is relocated to its original position and orientation in the bay, the problems of significant wave erosion will continue to manifest themselves. The County has been assessing the ramp's condition since 2009 in an attempt to develop a plan for restoring the ramp to a usable/safe condition. Currently there are no funds allocated for the repairs of this project. A community-based group could serve as a liaison to the County for the project as well as exploring other options for managing resources at Laupāhoehoe Point. Fishers are also concerned about the potential of over-harvesting and want to limit access for hunting and fishing to people who live in nearby communities. Pursuant HRS section 188-22.6, DLNR may designate community based subsistence fishing areas and carry out fishery management strategies for those areas for the	15	Land Use Policy 17 County Action Policy 18-20 **See also Policy 13, 46, 48

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		purpose of reaffirming and protecting fishing practices customarily and traditionally exercised for purposes of native Hawaiian subsistence, culture, and religion. Pursuant to this law, the Miloli'i Fisheries Management Area and Hā'ena on Kaua'i have been designated as a community-based subsistence fishing areas. Proposals to DLNR should include a description of the area, justification for the designation, and a management plan.		
4.3 Protect Agricultural Lands and Open Space				
5	Community Action 5: Educate landowners about agriculture, ranch, and forestry land preservation programs and encourage participation in these programs.	One of the most effective ways to preserve agricultural land is through agricultural conservation easements. Agricultural conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently preserves the land for agricultural uses. The agreements typically allow landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs. Easements are a viable alternative to development because they can reduce property and estate taxes and qualify the owner for tax deductions.	16	Land Use Policy 21-24 **See also Policy 6 County Action Policy 25-30 **See also Policy 15, 53
4.4 Protect Mauka Forests				
	**See also Community Action 2, 4, 8, 9, and see Section 4.8: Establish and Manage Public Access.			Land Use Policy 31 **See also Policy 16, 36, 48
4.5 Protect Scenic Areas and Viewsheds				
6	Community Action 6: Educate residents on scenic viewshed importance and alternatives to tall, vegetative wind-breaks that impact viewsheds. **See also Community Action 2	One challenge in protecting and restoring scenic viewsheds in the Planning Area is the trend of planting tall perimeter trees as windbreaks for farms and/or residences. Many times this reflects a desire for privacy plantings more than it reflects a legitimate need to block wind. Residents might not be aware of how dramatically the viewsheds of the entire community can be altered by tall trees planted strategically along the	17	Land Use Policy 32-34 **See also Policy 108 County Action Policy 35-38 **See also Policy 52

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		highway or in other locations that block views to the ocean or other scenic resources.		
7	Community Action 7: Support the development and promotion of a Heritage Corridor, and/or sections of the Old Māmalahoa Highway as Scenic Byways. **See also Community Action 2	The Hilo-Hāmākua Heritage Corridor was a designation placed on Highway 19 just north of Hilo to promote the Hāmākua coast road as a scenic visitor experience. However, the Heritage Corridor program now appears to be defunct and all that remains of it are dilapidated road signs. The State of Hawai'i Updated May 2018 18 Department of Transportation (HDOT) administers a Hawai'i Scenic Byways Program which designates transportation corridors as scenic byways. The Scenic Byway process is community driven, facilitated by a community sponsor that wishes to lead the preservation, protection and/or promotion of the byway with a Local Advisory Committee and Corridor Management Plan and benefits the community in the following ways: • Awareness and appreciation of historic, archaeological, natural, scenic, cultural and/or recreational sites and stories along the byway; you can't protect, preserve or enhance what you don't know you have. • Collaboration and working together with different generations and different organizations – community "stakeholders." • Insight into the community planning process. • Creating a community vision for the byway that can be shared with organizations and/or government agencies having jurisdiction over the road or byway areas. • Ability to let new residents, developers, and visitors know about the community's priorities and concerns. • The information gathering process creates a prioritized list of action items to share and implement as resources are available. A Scenic Corridor could also be established, pursuant HCC section 25-6-60. For transportation	17-18	Land Use Policy 32-34 **See also Policy 108 County Action Policy 35-38 **See also Policy 52

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		corridors that require a comprehensive planning approach, the Hawai'i County Council may, by ordinance, establish all or portions of public roadways and an appropriate portion of the adjacent property as a scenic corridor. Any standards and conditions not included in the underlying zoning related, but not limited, to signage, lighting, design standards, access management, landscaping, parking, height, historic and cultural preservation, view planes, and/or setbacks, must be included as part of the scenic corridor management plan and adopted by scenic corridor enabling ordinance by the Council. The scenic corridor management plan must demonstrate the need for the adoption of special standards and conditions in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or enhance the intrinsic character of the corridor.		
4.6 Protect and Enhance Ecosystems and Watersheds				
8	Community Action 8: Collaborate with Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, the County, and appropriate State and Federal agencies in developing and implementing watershed management plans and projects. Ensure that Native Hawaiian practitioners directly tied to the subject area are consulted while developing or implementing natural resource plans in culturally sensitive areas.	The protection and management of watersheds is particularly important to Hāmākua because the Planning Area is home to 73% of the watersheds on the Island (107 out of 146). Moreover, the Planning Area is unique in the State for its density of relatively pristine streams, especially the Maulua Gulch to Wailuku River area. Often, resources and landscapes have multiple owners and fall under several different jurisdictions. Effective resource management, therefore, requires high levels of collaboration and coordination among a wide range of agencies and organizations. Likewise, few know the resources like those who use and enjoy them. Local Hawaiian families, cultural practitioners, hunters, fisherman, hikers, farmers, and ranchers who know and frequent the forests, agriculture lands, and coastline are well-positioned to play a leadership role in managing them.	19	County Action Policy 39-43 **See also Policy 18, 36, 86

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9	Community Action 9: Partner with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and the Big Island Invasive Species Committee in managing invasive species.	Alien species, particularly ungulates such as feral pigs and goats, trample and devour vegetation, leaving bare ground or openings for alien plants that consume more water and increase runoff. Invasive floras are changing not only the ‘face’ of the forest but also how it functions. An example is that in East Hawai‘i, invasive plants have already reduced estimated groundwater recharge by 85 million gallons a day. Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is a voluntary group including state, federal, and county agency directors and managers, nonprofit directors, and chairs and managers of island-based invasive species committees. CGAPS benefits from the knowledge and guidance of world-renowned scientists who are dedicated to protecting Hawai‘i from invasive species.	21	County Action Policy 39-43 **See also Policy 18, 36, 86
10	Community Action 10: Promote soil and water conservation best practices.	To preserve the quality of agricultural land and shoreline waters, land managers need to practice soil and water conservation best practices.	22	County Action Policy 39-43 **See also Policy 18, 36, 86
4.7 Protect and Enhance Cultural Assets				
11	Community Action 11: Document the Mo‘olelo of Hāmākua using resources outlined in oral history, hula, chant, and other sources. Work with the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) and possibly seek assistance through the County Product Enrichment Program (CPEP) to develop appropriate cultural signage for moku and ahupua‘a boundaries.	The mo‘olelo of Hāmākua (i.e., its stories or oral history) articulates the community’s relationship to place and communicates its authenticity and distinctiveness. Gathering memories and stories of place can be a powerful tool for capturing what is sacred, honoring the wisdom of the past, and advancing Hāmākua’s living culture. In addition to stories, an oral history project could capture languages spoken, food culture, and customs that are unique to Hāmākua. The mo‘olelo also helps residents welcome visitors, giving them insight into the authentic Hāmākua and tools for demonstrating respect and sensitivity during their stay. Oral history projects can also provide a platform for youth to interact with kūpuna; learn about the significant cultural, historical, and natural sites of the area; and develop their skills	23	Land Use Policy 7 County Action Policy 44-45 **See also Policy 72, 125

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		to not only gather the stories but also design an effective system for sharing the stories through technology and social networking strategies.		
12	Community Action 12: Identify and inventory important sites, map resources, and make recommendations to County Cultural Resource Commission for sites.	Time, climate conditions, agricultural land uses, and neglect have severely impacted and degraded many historical/cultural sites. In addition, competing land uses and dramatic changes in economic drivers have rendered many plantation era facilities obsolete and crumbling.	24	Land Use Policy 7 County Action Policy 44-45 **See also Policy 72, 125
13	Community Action 13: Develop and implement place-based strategies to retain village and town character, including alternatives to Historic District designations.	Competing land uses and dramatic changes in economic drivers have rendered many plantation era facilities obsolete and crumbling. One example is Honoka'a Historic Downtown with its' old false-front wooden buildings that are examples of vernacular architecture—architecture of a key historical period created by people without the help of a professional architect. Many of these buildings were built in the 1920's and 1930's by Japanese and Chinese former plantation workers who left the plantation to start their own businesses. There are several compelling reasons to establish historic districts. However, there is also the possibility that the social character of districts may change through gentrification. Gentrification is the process of neighborhood revitalization that brings about a change in the socioeconomic status of its residents. Conflict occurs when a well-established, socially-diverse, historic neighborhood becomes so successful in its revitalization efforts that its original residents may no longer be able to afford to live there as property taxes and the cost of other services dramatically increase. With this possibility in mind, there are some who feel that neighborhoods should be holistically analyzed within the context of the history of its people and the buildings, and that both should be protected.	26	Land Use Policy 7 County Action Policy 44-45 **See also Policy 72, 125

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14	Community Action 14: Develop, promote, and maintain the continuity of community festivals and events.	In addition to Hāmākua's many physical cultural assets, it also enjoys a thriving living culture grounded in a rich oral tradition, active cultural practices, and art. Hawaiian culture is celebrated through ahupua'a-based farming, fishing, gathering, and hunting; hula hālau; and many other practices. Likewise, traditions from the region's Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Micronesian, European, American, and other cultures are carried from one generation to the next. Many local festivals and events have a combined heritage/agricultural component, whether they are centered on paniolo heritage, plantation heritage, or celebrating current agricultural endeavors. The many cultural and community events that the community organizes are prime examples of Hāmākua's rich, living culture.	27	Land Use Policy 7 County Action Policy 44-45 **See also Policy 72, 125
4.8 Establish and Manage Public Access				
15	Community Action 15: Develop and implement plans to establish and manage specific access points and trails. **See also Community Action 40	Public access to the ocean and mountains has special recreational, traditional, and cultural significance to the people of the Hāmākua CDP Planning Area. The original inhabitants of the Planning Area, the ancient Hawaiians, depended on an extensive network of trails as their only means of overland transportation. In more modern times, many privately maintained and privately owned sugar cane haul roads enabled the public to access the forests and coastlines for over a century while sugar plantations were in operation. Access users were primarily local residents who depended on access to favorite hunting and fishing spots to bring food to the family table and to teach harvesting skills to younger generations. After the sugar era ended in 1994, former sugar plantation land holdings and the mostly unpaved, cane haul roads crossing these lands have been subdivided, bought, and sold. The result is a patchwork of land ownership and an end to the open network of former cane	28	County Action Policy 46-50 **See also Policy 15

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		haul roads. Trespassing appears to be a common practice, whether on purpose or unintended and damaged fences, gates left open, and cruelty to livestock are among the problems reported. Some landowners and managers have responded by prohibiting access, but hikers, hunters, fishermen, and community members who are used to unfettered access find this unacceptable. Furthermore, landowner concerns over liability continue to be a barrier to opening private lands to public access.		
4.9 Preserving Sacred Places: Waipi'o Valley and Mauna Kea				
16	Community Action 16: Form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity for community empowerment to develop a Land Management Partnership.	Following the Great Māhele in 1848, Charles Kana'ina assumed ownership of 5,800 acres in Waipi'o Valley. Ultimately Charles Reed Bishop purchased the land, and in 1896 the land was conveyed to Bishop Museum. The Museum continues to lease its land to Waipi'o Valley taro farmers. A history of differing perspectives in the Valley on natural and cultural resource protection, water and stream maintenance management, public access, and tourism have resulted in little progress towards resolution of these fundamental issues over the years. Since 1999, the Community Circle of Waipi'o Valley has been meeting on generally a monthly basis to identify and discuss issues and concerns relative to the Waipi'o Valley. The draft Waipi'o Valley Community Action Plan was developed in response to the issues, concerns, and suggestions that were raised at the Community Circle of Waipi'o Valley Meetings, as well as from other discussions with other community members. The Action Plan represents a broad range of interests, issues, ideals and concerns and serves as an Updated May 2018 30 guide for the implementation of a possible detailed Master Plan for Waipi'o Valley. Progress has been made in Land Management Partnership project through the Farmer Training Program at North Hawai'i Education and	29	Waipi'o Valley County Action Policy 52-59 **See also Policy 29, 35, 42 #1, 46 #10.

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		Research Center and by farmers who are offering practitioner training on an informal basis.		
17	Community Action 17: Develop a detailed Master Plan for Waipiʻo Valley, including a community based management plan for the Waipiʻo Valley visitor's center.	In order to comprehensively manage the range of issues in Waipiʻo Valley, a master plan needs to be developed.	30	Waipiʻo Valley County Action Policy 52-59 **See also Policy 29, 35, 42 #1, 46 #10.
18	Community Action 18: Secure funding through PONC, DLNR LLC, or other similar programs for purchase of easements and potential acquisition of land to protect views of Waipiʻo Valley rim.	The area west and southwest of the Valley is within the Forest Reserve and Special Management Area, and, consequently, has limited development potential as well as an added level of discretionary review, through the SMA process. However, the Valley rim on the east and southeast sides are within the A40a Zone District, with the potential for one dwelling unit per acre, an 'ohana unit, and additional farm dwelling units, subject to compliance with HCC Section 25-5-77. By right, the A-40a setbacks are 30 feet front and rear and 20 feet side yards. Consequently, structures can locate and encroach into the viewshed from the Valley floor. Certain resources are valuable and vulnerable enough to merit acquisition.	31	Waipiʻo Valley County Action Policy 52-59 **See also Policy 29, 35, 42 #1, 46 #10.
19	Community Action 19: Support community organizations, such as the Waipiʻo Circle, in developing a watershed plan based on the Waipiʻo Valley Stream Management Plan, the Hanalei Watershed Hui model, or similar community-based management plans.	One of the largest valleys in the Hawaiian Islands, the Waipiʻo Valley is fed by five streams—Wailoa River, Waimā, Koʻiawe, Alakahi, Kawainui, and Hiʻilawe—and nine waterfalls that still support native fauna. The protection and management of these watersheds is particularly important to Waipiʻo. Often, resources and landscapes have multiple owners and fall under several different jurisdictions. Effective resource management, therefore, requires high levels of collaboration and coordination among a wide range of agencies and organizations. Likewise, few know the resources like those who use and enjoy them. Local Hawaiian families, cultural practitioners, hunters, fisherman, hikers, farmers, and ranchers who know and frequent the forests, agriculture	32	Waipiʻo Valley County Action Policy 52-59 **See also Policy 29, 35, 42 #1, 46 #10.

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		lands, and coastline are well-positioned to play a leadership role in managing them.		
20	Community Action 20: Strengthen Community capacity through the Hawai'i Community Stewardship Network (HCSN).	In order for the Waipi'o Community to be actively involved in management and implementation of a master plan, it needs to build capacity and support.	34	Waipi'o Valley County Action Policy 52-59 **See also Policy 29, 35, 42 #1, 46 #10.
4.9.6 Mauna Kea: Community Action				
21	Community Action 21: Document the Mo'olelo of Mauna Kea using resources outlined in Oral History.	The mo'olelo of Mauna Kea (i.e., its stories or oral history) articulates the community's relationship to place and communicates its authenticity and distinctiveness. Gathering memories and stories of place can be a powerful tool for capturing what is sacred, honoring the wisdom of the past, and advancing Hāmākua's living culture. In addition to stories, an oral history project could capture languages spoken, food culture, and customs that are unique to Hāmākua. The mo'olelo also helps residents welcome visitors, giving them insight into the authentic Hāmākua and tools for demonstrating respect and sensitivity during their stay. Oral history projects can also provide a platform for youth to interact with kūpuna; learn about the significant cultural, historical, and natural sites of the area; and develop their skills to not only gather the stories but also design an effective system for sharing the stories through technology and social networking strategies.	35	Mauna Kea County Action Policy 42 **See also Kōkua Action 31-47
22	Community Action 22: Develop an educational program for tour operators, Visitor Information staff, and volunteers as part of orientation training for regular users of Mauna Kea.	It is recognized that with increased access to the summit, users and visitors are impacting the native landscape. Mandating natural and cultural resource education is one way to ensure that users and visitors to the mountain are doing so with appropriate knowledge and sensitivity of the region's natural, historical and cultural context. This community action encourages groups to collaborate with each other to ensure that an appropriate natural and cultural resource education	36	Mauna Kea County Action Policy 42 **See also Kōkua Action 31-47

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		program is developed and implemented for users and visitors to Mauna Kea (see also corresponding Advocacy Action #22).		
23	Community Action 23: Collaborate with surrounding land owners and the user-community to educate users and manage ATV use in mauka areas and in the Mauna Kea region.	The Mauna Kea region is increasingly being used for various recreation uses, including all-terrain vehicles (note: all-terrain vehicles can also be used for subsistence hunting purposes). Since ATV uses have environmental, social, and cultural impacts, this community action seeks to address these concerns collaboratively to ensure ATV uses are managed appropriately.	36	Mauna Kea County Action Policy 42 **See also Kōkua Action 31-47
5.1 Coordinate Infrastructure, Facility, and Service Improvements				
24	Community Action 24: Actively advocate for CIP appropriations, financing, allotments, and encumbrances that support implementation of the CDP.	The CDP identifies capital improvement priorities, but their implementation will be expedited by community leadership	37	County Action Policy 60-62 **See also Policy 51, 58, 67, 70, 71, 83, 102.
5.2 Expand Affordable Housing Options				
25	Community Action 25: Engage community associations and volunteers to work with self-help nonprofits to promote construction of homes for eligible buyers in the Planning Area.	Hāmākua communities have seen an increase in out-migration due to increases in property values, low wages, and a lack of employment opportunities. Long term residents have expressed concern that the region is often too expensive for the next generation to remain and raise their own families.	38	County Action Policy 63
5.3 Improve the Roadway Network				
26	Community Action 26: Develop 'road improvement districts' in order to finance improvements. (Supporting policy: GP13.2.3 (d); County Res. No. 320-10)	This action is to address the County's budget constraints of improving substandard roads and opens up options for property owners to finance their own improvements. See V4B: Community Building Analysis page 114 for a discussion of Improvement strategies. The two applicable strategies to finance road developments via road improvement districts are: Updated May 2018 39 ♣ Lot Owner Assessment. Lot owners fund the cost through an Improvement District or other land secured public	38	Land Use Policy 64 County Action Policy 65-70 **See also Policy 49, 73.

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		financing. The County would establish the financing district and provide a long-term loan at a below-market interest rate. ♣ Self-help. County Resolution No. 320-10 directs DPW to partner with communities where the County would provide maintenance material from County-owned quarries.		
27	Community Action 27: Work with the owners of private roads and local community groups to help identify and develop road management agreements that mitigate road closures and access disagreements for public access and/or residential use. The following private roads have been identified as examples of roads needing improvements in their road management/access strategies: ♣ Mill Road in Pāpa'ikou ♣ Beach Road to Honoka'a Landing ♣ Blair Road in Laupāhoehoe	Some private roads originally developed to serve plantation needs are now owned by private individuals who periodically or regularly restrict access for maintenance, privacy, or other legal reasons.	39	Land Use Policy 64 County Action Policy 65-70 **See also Policy 49, 73.
5.4 Formalize Alternate Routes				
	**See Community Action 24			County Action Policy 71 **See also Policy 55, 67
5.5 Develop Place-Appropriate Road Standards				
	**See related Policies 73 & 74, and related Community Action 37			County Action Policy 72, 73
5.6 Expand Mass Transit Facilities and Services				
28	Community Action 28: Identify locations for bus stops, biking	The residents and users of services are often the best suited to identify infrastructure needs to guide policy and resource allotment. In the case of identifying efficient locations for bus	40	County Action Policy 74-77

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	facilities (i.e. bike racks, lanes, etc.) and park and ride facilities.	stops, bike facilities, and park and ride facilities, it is clear that community input is vital in order to determine, not just locations that might be conveniently sited from an agency perspective, but locations that will enable the most users access to the service and by its optimal siting, encourage new users to consider these modes of alternative transportation.		
5.7 Improve Water and Wastewater Infrastructure				
	**See Community Action 24			County Action Policy 78-80 **See also Policy 120
5.8 Improve Environmental Management Facilities				
29	Community Action 29: Host composting and recycling workshops in collaboration with agencies /organizations such as Dept. of Environmental Management, Recycle Hawai'i, and the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service.	The County is moving toward its Zero Waste goals, which include increased diversion of discarded materials with a focus on recycling and composting. It is important to affirm these goals and support the County's efforts in offering recycling and composting educational opportunities to the public. Currently, the Department of Environmental Management performs outreach and offers educational workshops in communities around the island; however these programs are dependent on public support and are often vulnerable to budget cuts. This community-collaborative action enlists active support from local communities and business groups to host events and look for further opportunities to partner with these Updated May 2018 41 agencies to advance the Community's Objectives relating to environmental protection and also in support of the County's Zero Waste goals. Supporting and improving recycling and composting programs is important, not merely as waste diversion strategies, but also in enhancing our local economy and food supply. According to the Hawai'i Zero Waste Plan: Resource management methods [. . .] – reuse, recycling, composting, and special discards management, among others - represent increased job creation and economic growth in sectors more stable, and	40	County Action Policy 81-87

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		sustainable, than tourism. Further, on-island organic resource management possesses the potential to increase both employment opportunities and ensure a local, healthier food supply for Hawai'i residents. Sustainable farming enhanced through the use of mulches and soil amendments, and created from Hawai'i's own organic discards, can also help advance agritourism, a new, dynamic, rapidly growing business on both the island and worldwide.		
30	Community Action 30: Partner with the County to manage recycling/reuse centers at County Facilities.	The County is faced with mounting waste issues and budget decreases in Environmental Management while at the same time it is moving toward its Zero Waste goals. The County's Zero Waste goals include increased diversion of discarded materials with a focus on recycling and composting. Public education and diversion programs are instrumental for solid waste diversion goals to be successful. In North Hilo, a volunteer community group has been key in managing the reuse tent located at the Laupāhoehoe Recycling and Solid Waste Transfer station. More community-based volunteer programs at other rural transfer stations could help offset budget constraints as the County keeps moving toward its Zero Waste goals.	41	County Action Policy 81-87
31	Community Action 31: Educate neighborhood watch groups and other community groups about how to actively identify and report littering and illegal dump sites to the Department of Environmental Management. Raise awareness of the issue through the use of outreach and social media tools to report sites and offenders.	The Planning Area's rural roads and agricultural areas are increasingly becoming illegal dumping sites. Household trash, large furniture, appliances, and derelict cars are abandoned in rural driveway and other locations that can block access to homes, farms, trails, and possibly result in pollution and harm to soil quality and stream health.	42	County Action Policy 81-87

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5.9 Improve Emergency Preparedness & Hazard Mitigation				
32	Community Action 32: Coordinate with Civil Defense to develop emergency evacuation plans for Laupāhoehoe, and the valleys of Waipiʻo and Waimanu.	This policy is linked to Policy 90, and is intended to address community concerns over being able to safely evacuate these isolated and geographically vulnerable areas when necessary. Both areas have a hazardous, single-lane road as their only access. Residents have noted that evacuating Waipiʻo Valley has been problematic due to emergency vehicles attempting to enter the valley, while residents were attempting to evacuate using the same single-lane route. Residents are often also evacuating livestock and have expressed the desire for more coordinated efforts in addressing how to efficiently evacuate, or how to even shelter in place when appropriate. Supporting policies are General Plan 13.2.5.9.2 (d) and 10.3.2 (j).	42	County Action Policy 88-94 **See also Policy 74, 103
33	Community Action 33: Develop and train CERTs throughout the Planning Area.	The County's Civil Defense Agency administers the Community Emergency Response Team or CERT program and the County's Fire Department conducts CERT training. CERTs are community-based, comprised of residents and businesspersons that have the local knowledge of their community and the fundamental skills to properly respond to an emergency.	43	County Action Policy 88-94 **See also Policy 74, 103
34	Community Action 34: For communities identified by DOFAW as Communities at Risk (CAR), develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and work towards gaining Firewise recognition.	http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/fire/community-risk-reduction/ http://www.firewise.org/usa-recognition-program.aspx [This is a new Community Action and the rest of this content is under development.]	43	County Action Policy 88-94 **See also Policy 74, 103
5.10 Improving Protective Services				
35	Community Action 35: Develop volunteer firefighter capacity for the Laupāhoehoe Fire Station.	Recently the Volunteer Fire Station in Laupāhoehoe has lost volunteer capacity to have a full firefighting team. Volunteers	44	County Action Policy 95-98 **See also Policy 88

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		are urgently needed to ensure Laupāhoehoe has adequate firefighting capacity for emergencies.		
36	Community Action 36: Encourage expansion of community policing programs (i.e. neighborhood watch, farm watch, etc.)	This policy is to address the rise of crime (particularly thefts) throughout the Planning Area, and is affirming the General Plan policy 10.3.2(g). Research has shown these programs and strategies can reduce crime and resident fear of crime, as well as increase citizen satisfaction with police, resident involvement in crime prevention activities, and interactions between police and residents.	44	County Action Policy 95-98 **See also Policy 88
5.11 Expand Healthcare & Social Services				
	**See 6.3 Expand health and Wellness Industry			County Action Policy 99
5.12 Strengthen & Expand Education Facilities and Services				
37	Community Action 37: Develop and implement Safe Routes to School programs.	This action focuses attention on the need to improve traffic safety in and around the schools and acknowledges that parents and the community will likely need to take a leading role in this strategy. This goal is partially affirmed in the General Plan policy 10.2.4.2.2 (c): Provide pedestrian walkways to and around all school complexes. See also Kōkua Action 60 and 61. According to State of Hawai'i Department of Health: Fatalities among motor vehicle occupants is the fifth leading cause of fatal injury in Hawai'i for all ages and the second leading cause of fatal injury among ages 1 to 34. Motor vehicle injuries also contribute to the second leading cause of injuries requiring hospitalization. Hawai'i has the highest pedestrian fatality rate in the nation for older adults, and 16 out of 17 bicycle fatalities over the past 5 years involved a motor vehicle. ⁸ Safe Routes to Schools is a national program and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for students to walk, bike, and skate to and from school. The SRTS movement became a federal mandate in 2005 with the passage of the Safe,	45	County Action Policy 100 **See also Policy 73

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		Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, and since then nearly \$800 million has been allocated to encourage more biking and walking by improving safety conditions around schools and offering educational programs.		
5.13 Expand Parks & Recreation Facilities				
38	Community Action 38: Work with County Dept. of P&R through the County Cooperative Park Management Programs (Adopt a Park, etc.,) to maintain/improve existing park facilities. GP 12.3 (j)	The County Parks and Recreation Department is budget-challenged with maintaining and enhancing the existing parks within its inventory. Developing new park facilities is even more difficult. For instance, though the property known as Hakalau Beach Park was acquired by the County in 2006, it has yet to appear on the official Parks and Recreation Parks inventory because the department lacks the funds to make the necessary improvements to the property. Instead, the nonprofit group Pakalove (aka: Basic Image, Inc.) 8 http://health.hawaii.gov/injuryprevention/ Updated May 2018 46 partners with the County Parks and Recreation department to help manage and make improvements to Hakalau and Honoli'i Beach Park through an adopt-a-park program. This type of private and public collaboration is important to ensure that facilities are maintained and to ensure that future properties under consideration for acquisition are not passed over due to preventable concerns over maintenance budget constraints. By developing a strong, sustainable adopt-a-park program, the community invests in, takes pride in, and helps bolster a stewardship approach to 'āina and facility management.	45-46	County Action Policy 101-107 **See also Policy 51, 56, 58, 100
39	Community Action 39: Hakalau community group to advocate and pursue management and redevelopment options for the Hakalau Gym facility (through	Currently there is no indoor community facility in Hakalau and both the old school facility and the County Gym are closed and have dilapidated into states of questionable usability. This action encourages the community to be proactive in developing a plan to move forward to accommodate	46	County Action Policy 101-107 **See also Policy 51, 56, 58, 100

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	County Parks and Recreation Dept.) and/or the old Hakalau School property (through the Dept. of Education).	community use of this property. Some of the options are to allow a community group to manage and use (including repair) the facility, allow the community to redevelop the property for community use (this would likely involve new construction), or redevelop the sites for community use as a County funded project. This policy is supported by General Plan policy 12.3(b). "Improve existing public facilities for optimum usage," Policy 12.3 (h), "Provide facilities and a broad recreational program for all age groups, with special considerations for the handicapped, the elderly, and young children."		
40	Community Action 40: Work with State and private landowners to develop and maintain additional trails for non-motorized recreation.	The County is particularly challenged in developing trails for recreation in the Hāmākua region. The vast amounts of private lands that have been developed without first establishing legal public access has complicated trail development. Legitimate and perceived fears of liability remain a major impediment to private landowners opening up accesses. See pages 191-122 of Appendix V4A for more information on public access challenges, and pages 97, 104, 110-112, 153, and 161-171 of Appendix V4B for information on trail development.	47	County Action Policy 101-107 **See also Policy 51, 56, 58, 100
5.14 Telecommunications and Energy				
41	Community Action 41: Work with County and private enterprises to bring broadband and Wi-Fi services to the Planning Area's towns.	Many of the Hāmākua Planning Area's towns lack internet connectivity (and cell phone service). Spanning this technology gap is advantageous from a social connectivity and an economic perspective. One theory is that visitors will stay in an area longer when they are able to be connected to the internet; so businesses providing free Wi-Fi service may find an economic boost for their investment. Benefits for local residents are also anticipated in that they may be more likely to socialize and shop in their local town if they have internet access. Honomū is specifically in need of internet connectivity in its downtown area. A recent local example of this type of	47	Land Use Policy 108 County Action Policy 109, 110 **See also Policy 34, 92

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		partnership is Honoka‘a’s Business association downtown Wi-Fi program.		
6.1 Coordinate Regional Economic Development				
42	Community Action 42: Develop a distinctive identity for the Hāmākua region to enable public and private industries to promote it as unique within the State of Hawai‘i.	The Hāmākua region has a unique, yet little-known heritage and identity. In order to promote the Hāmākua region as a desirable place to live, work, and visit, a priority should be placed on developing and defining this identity. This Community Action is a corresponding action to Policy 108, which is an affirmation of General Plan policy 2.3 (o): “Promote a distinctive identity for the Island of Hawai‘i to enable government, business, and travel industries to promote the County of Hawai‘i as an entity unique within the State of Hawai‘i.”	48	County Action Policy 111-113
43	Community Action 43: Coordinate regional, cross-sectoral economic development strategies.	As Hāmākua continues to grapple with recovery from the phase out of plantation-era economics, it is becoming increasingly clear that long-term systems of transformation and recovery are required to build a more resilient and sustainable economy. Ideally, these systems would support and link each sector of opportunity – agriculture, renewable energy, ecosystem services, health and wellness, education and research, visitor, and retail. These systems should also coordinate complementary economic development strategies – enhancing regional identity, building local industry clusters, connecting to anchor institutions, Updated May 2018 49 advancing innovation, building business and workforce capacity, democratizing ownership, and diversifying investment. These systems could also combine the necessary facilities and infrastructure with a network of comprehensive services that bring technical, financial, and educational support to ensure that new and existing enterprises have the greatest chance for lasting success (see Community Action 44:below). This “third wave” economic development approach	48-49	County Action Policy 111-113

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		focuses on strengthening the foundations of economic opportunity and creating fertile ground for home-grown economic development. A critical aspect to this approach is the need for regional coordination and on-going linkages across economic sectors. This “network” approach builds the social connections that provide access to critical supports – linking people, businesses, and institutions to each other and the wider regional economic networks and opportunities.		
44	Community Action 44: Develop a high-tech, high-touch regional education, enterprise development, and research network.	Significant natural and cultural assets along with robust economic opportunities in a range of sectors provide the need – and opportunity – for an educational and research network in Hāmākua. Such a network would provide two significant outcomes: first, it would support workforce training, business innovation, and entrepreneurial development in high-potential sectors, and second, it would expand Hāmākua’s creative, education, and research sector, establishing the region as a hub for learning and innovation. An education, enterprise development, and research network could be established that has both “hard” and “soft” components. That is, it should be composed of both facility nodes (e.g., classrooms, workshops, computer labs, hands-on project sites, etc.) and learning nodes (e.g., credit courses, certification training, mentors, projects internships, apprenticeships, informal learning, technical assistance providers, etc.).	51	County Action Policy 111-113
45	Community Action 45: Coordinate regional strategies to increase “buying local.”	In Hawai’i County, 89% of businesses are microenterprises (20 or fewer employees), and in rural Hawai’i, more than one in four workers are employed by micro-enterprises. In other words, small, locally-owned businesses drive much of the local economy. A “plug the leaks” strategy identifies sectors where money currently flows out of the community and entrepreneurial opportunities exist to redirect that flow as reinvestment in the local economy. When businesses and	54	County Action Policy 111-113

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		employees spend business revenue within a region, they generate the multiplier effect that boosts a local economy. A recent study found that spending at independent retailers generates 3.7 times more direct local economic benefit than spending at chains, and spending at local restaurants generates 2.15 the benefit. Studies have also demonstrated that, compared to large chain stores, local businesses create more jobs, pay higher wages, support a greater variety of other local businesses, generate more tax revenue, cost less in public facilities and services, and make more charitable and other investments in the community. “Buy local” campaigns are typically organized and supported by coalitions of independent businesses, non-profits, and concerned citizens. A regional “buy local” campaign that complements but is differentiated from broader campaigns can help to raise the awareness, willingness, and capacity of residents to buy locally produced services and goods. The Independent Business Survey conducted by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) consistently demonstrates that businesses located in communities with active “buy local” and/or “local first” campaigns experience markedly stronger revenue growth compared to those in areas without such initiatives.		
6.2 Strengthening Local Agriculture				
46	Community Action 46: Strengthen local agriculture through the following: ♣ Develop a marketing brand for Hāmākua products o Assist in the promotion of products produced in Hāmākua (GP 2.3(t). ♣ Support Farm to School/Farm to Table Programs, CSAs, and	Hāmākua has a diverse, robust agricultural sector. Much of it is cash crops (sweet potato, macadamia, ranching, and forestry), but the landscape is dominated by pasture for beef, and vegetable, fruit, and flower farms. Yet there is even greater potential, including thousands of acres of unused agricultural land, abundant water sources, and a strong demand for local food. Barriers to tapping this potential include the “cheap food-expensive land” dynamic in Hawai‘i, limited land tenure for most producers, challenging	55	County Action Policy 114-120 **See also Policy 42 #5, 53, 124

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	other local farm-to-consumer initiatives; ♣ Support and develop celebratory events that support agriculture (e.g., festivals, rodeos, parades, community gathering events at farmers’ markets, etc.). ♣ Work to effectively manage or eradicate invasive species that impact agricultural production. ♣ Develop agricultural cooperatives to facilitate farming collaborations, cost- and resource-sharing opportunities, provide a mechanism for marketing assistance and educational opportunities, and coordinate with County, State, and Federal agricultural specialists. Updated May 2018 56 ♣ Pursue the development of incubator community kitchens for the production of value-added agricultural products. **See Community Action 45	environmental conditions (pests, drought), limited water access, high input costs (energy, fuel, amendments, feed), labor availability, limitations on business capacity, and incomplete supply chain infrastructure. These impediments can be remedied, in part, through coordinated collective efforts. For example, communities across the country are addressing the national phenomenon of supply-side imbalances in local food systems by re-engineering their food supply chains at three basic levels: ♣ Nodes – food-related businesses ♣ Food hubs – a business or organization that manages aggregation, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products to meet wholesale, retail, and institutional demand ♣ Food innovation districts – a regional network that connects food nodes and hubs to bring all the parts of the local food system together. By addressing supply, market, and processing/aggregation/distribution (PAD) opportunities and challenges through the cooperative strategies, the supply chain is built into a “value chain” that links supply with markets efficiently in ways that promote: ♣ Equity and fair pay – for farmers and workers in the supply chain ♣ Community capacity – improving the community’s ability to meet its own food needs and to build a more self-reliant economy through locally owned infrastructure and assets ♣ Health and food access – for all, especially for those with limited means.		
47	Community Action 47: Promote farmers’ market events as community and visitor gathering places.	The community is supportive of farmer’s markets as community gathering events, however, developing a stronger outreach to include visitors in this gathering tradition would	60	County Action Policy 114-120 **See also Policy 42 #5, 53, 124

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	**See Community Action 45	likely add to these smaller markets’ vitality and overall experience/success		
48	Community Action 48: To better address issues relating to the Lower Hāmākua Ditch: form a cooperative community group (for example, a “Friends of the Lower Hāmākua Ditch” group) composed of adjacent landowners to the ditch and other affected parties to advocate to and collaborate with the Department of Agriculture in developing a cooperative management plan that would seek to resolve issues relating to water quality, water efficiency, ditch maintenance, and to assess ditch trail access opportunities. **See Community Action 45	The Lower Hāmākua Ditch Irrigation system is owned by various adjacent landowners but managed by the Hawai‘i State Department of Agriculture. It consists of a combination of ditches, tunnels, flumes, and reservoirs. Controversy over water management (including water quality and quantity issues), ditch structural improvements and maintenance, and resource management in general (particularly in relation to water diversions from Waipi‘o Valley) have so far not been resolved to the satisfaction of local farmers. Since the ditch is not in the County’s jurisdiction and the County currently lacks capacity for this type of natural resource management, this issue is best addressed at the community level with adjacent landowners and stakeholders forming collaborative groups in order to liaise with the Department of Agriculture. A possible model for this type of collaborative management is the Kohala Ditch Foundation (http://kdfhawaii.org/).	61	County Action Policy 114-120 **See also Policy 42 #5, 53, 124
6.3 Expand Health and Wellness Industry				
49	Community Action 49: Establish a comprehensive network of health and wellness services.	A range of facilities and organizations compose the health and wellness sector in Hāmākua, which already employs a significant number of those working in the region. There are also many traditional and non-traditional health and wellness practitioners that can collaborate with mainstream practitioners to build this sector. The sector is poised to continue its rapid growth as health care reform is implemented and Hawai‘i’s population continues to age, which creates employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in Hāmākua.	61	**See also Policy 124

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6.4 Promote the Creative, Education, & Research Sector				
50	Community Action 50: Collaborate with farm groups, community organizations, and County to support the Kohala Center’s research and training programs (i.e., the Beginner Farmer-Rancher Development Program)	The Kohala Center Agricultural Internship Program is designed to give interns hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture and information about island food systems based at the Kohala Center’s Ka Hua ‘Āina farm in Honoka’a. Students take field trips to processors and wholesalers and meet agricultural leaders as well as visit and work on farms and earn a stipend for the farm work. Supporting these programs would aid Updated May 2018 63 in developing business/agricultural capacity in the local labor market and in fostering entrepreneurial endeavors.	62	County Action Policy 121
6.5 Develop a Place-Based Visitor Industry				
51	Community Action 51: Develop a regional ho’okipa network – a place-based approach to community tourism.	The visitor industry statewide and on Hawai’i Island continues to grow, driving roughly a third of the local economy. Hāmākua is a natural draw to the large number of visitors who prefer more authentic experiences and engagement with residents and local culture, including experience-seekers, culture-seekers, adventure-seekers, and those interested in agritourism, health and wellness, edutourism, and eco-tourism. Currently captures very little of the economic gains from the visitor market because of limited dining, lodging, organized activities, and tours. This market segment provides an opportunity for Hāmākua to restructure the visitor industry to one that nurtures, invests in, and sustains Hāmākua’s people, culture, and natural resources in ways that provide repeat visitors with meaningful experiences. While this provides a substantive opportunity to generate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, the Hāmākua community must take an active role in shaping these opportunities in ways that are consistent with its vision and values. Community Tourism is a process by which a community is empowered to share its greatness while preserving its dignity. It is	63	County Action Policy 122-127 **See also Policy 111, 55, 56

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		appropriately scaled to achieve a community’s intended social, economic, and environmental outcomes and driven by a genuine desire of a community to share itself, its history, traditions, and customs with strangers. In short, community tourism supports economic growth while strengthening the sense of place and identity. This “place based” model embraces the Native Hawaiian practice of ho’okipa (the practice of greeting and welcoming strangers) and is focused on ‘āina and its interdependent relationship with the people of that place. This welcoming relationship of reciprocity between place, host, and visitor provides a framework for creating visitor experiences that preserve and build upon the natural, historical, and cultural assets that define Hāmākua. The starting point for growing this sector is regional identity – the preservation and improvement of the region’s natural and historical resources, culture, and people (see Community Action 42:above). They provide the opportunity to nurture community tourism through the following “sharing clusters:” ♣ Sharing of Place – engaging visitors in celebrating and enhancing Hāmākua’s unique geography and local features (e.g., geo-tourism and eco-tourism) ♣ Sharing of Culture – the sharing of Hāmākua’s unique cultural, historical, and heritage stories (e.g., heritage tourism, living history, edutourism, and wellness tourism) ♣ Sharing of Work – involving visitors in the day-to-day work and activities of Hāmākua’s residents (e.g., agri-tourism and service tourism).		
52	Community Action 52: Develop and support cultural festivals and events with a view to welcoming visitors.	Refer to: ♣ Community Action 14: Develop, promote, and maintain the continuity of community festivals and events.	64	County Action Policy 122-127 **See also Policy 111, 55, 56

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		♣ Community Action 47: Promote farmers' market events as community and visitor gathering places.		
53	Community Action 53: Develop and promote public restroom facilities at various locations along Highway 19. *See also Community Action 1	There is an identified lack of amenities along Highway 19 between Honoka'a and Hilo. There is only one gas station with one, gender-neutral, over-used public restroom along Highway 19. By providing more public restrooms along this route, it would provide a basic amenity that would serve a community benefit and give visitors an added reason to stop and shop at local businesses.	64	County Action Policy 122-127 **See also Policy 111, 55, 56, 14
6.6 Revitalize Hāmākua's Town Centers				
54	Community Action 54: Promote the collaborative development, use, and management of community gardens in towns and neighborhoods.	Urban agriculture, including small pocket gardens in downtown neighborhoods, can provide benefits on environmental, human health, economic sustainability, and quality of life levels. Specifically, they can be a beneficial addition to many communities by increasing the availability of nutritious foods, strengthening community ties, reducing environmental hazards, reducing food miles and creating a more sustainable system. There are currently community gardens on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawai'i Island.	65	County Action Policy 128-129 **See also Policy 3, 14, 45, 127
6.7 Encourage Green Industries				
55	Community Action 55: Develop local, renewable, distributed energy networks.	The cost of electricity and fuel in Hāmākua is very high. At the same time, there is great potential for solar, wind, hydro, and biofuel energy production in the district. Moreover, because many renewable energy jobs are in construction, Hāmākua's relatively large workforce of tradesmen is well-positioned to provide renewable energy to local communities. Local, distributed energy systems facilitate local production, distribution, and consumption of energy. Such systems increase household access to renewable energy, lower energy costs, increase energy reliability and independence, create more jobs per dollar invested than conventional energy technologies, and circulate local dollars within the community.	66	County Action Policy 130 *See also Policy 121, Kōkua Action 73

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		Examples of local, renewable, distributed energy systems include: ♣ Group Buying Programs – where groups of homeowners, schools, municipal buildings, or other groups purchase or lease clean energy systems together ♣ Community Ownership – where the community finances, owns, and/or operates a system ♣ Community Funding – privately owned systems that are partially financed by selling shares or bonds to community members ♣ Community Energy Garden – where individuals own a piece of a larger, privately developed system and their share of the production is credited on their electricity bill.		
56	Community Action 56: Pilot a program to secure community payments for ecosystem services (PES).	Ecosystem services can assist in preserving the values and rural character of Hāmākua while directly providing economic benefits to the community. There are existing efforts and growing interest among public and private landowners to maintain local ecosystem services. Moreover, tools for measuring ecosystems services are available and distinct markets for payments for those services are coalescing quickly for climate stabilization, hydrological regulation, and biological diversity. This provides a foundation for an ambitious effort that involves local community organizations, businesses, landowners, and farmers seeking compensation for their efforts to preserve, restore, and manage natural resources. Payments received for ecosystem services would complement growth in agriculture, renewable energy, and community tourism while attracting valuable research and educational opportunities. If viable, Hāmākua could become a laboratory for developing models, frameworks, and processes to establish ecosystem services as a viable economic option for rural communities.	68	County Action Policy 130 *See also Policy 121, Kōkua Action 73

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6.8 Preserve Informal Economies and Living off the Land				
	**See Community Action 4, 22 and 40.			County Action Policy 15, 46, 48, 51, 116 Kōkua Action 22, 23, 38, 39

CDP Advisory Group To Hold Monthly Public Meetings

Kohala Mountain News – September 2022

The same month that the County Planning Department announced it would no longer staff the action committees of all district's Community Development Plans (CDP), North Kohala held its first successful meeting of the new Advisory Group (AG), whose mission is to implement Kohala's CDP.

The eight members conducting the August 31 meeting were assured that the decision would not affect the workings of the Kohala AG because it was set up, with the blessings of the Planning Department, to be a possible pilot project for other districts to develop independent groups more representative of the population.

With five members of the public in attendance the group got right to the job of re-organizing the structure of the committee, its seven subgroups, and its relationship to the County.

First, the group decided to hold monthly public meetings at 5pm on the last Wednesday of each month at the Kohala Intergenerational Center in Kamehameha Park. Upcoming agendas will be published in Kohala Mountain News along with reports of meetings and calendar notices. The public is encouraged to attend meetings and comment on agenda items or bring up any issues they wish the AG to address.

Officers elected to serve until next elections in January are John Winter, chair; David Fuertes, vice chair, and Alan Brown, secretary.

Winter led the group through a draft mission statement and proposed structure for bylaws. The main goal is to implement the goals and strategies of the NKCDP. Several additions and amendments were made, and it was agreed to re-visit them at the next meeting, which is scheduled for September 28.

In bringing up the recent letter from Planning Director Zendo Kern ending the departments participation in the CDP action committees, Winter said he was part of a small committee that has been working with the Long-Term Planning division of Kern's department for a year to come up with the guidelines for an independent group with a more diverse representation of the community.

The department would be invited to attend future AG meetings, but would not conduct them as in the past, Winter said. Agendas and minutes would be shared with the department. The NKCDP is a county ordinance and attached to the General Plan.

The subgroups of the Advisory Group were described at the "work horses" of the CDP process. Winter called on members to join the subgroups and report on their accomplishments monthly. Three groups – Community Access, Affordable Housing and Parks, Water, Roads have continued to meet through the pandemic. Joe Carvalho agreed to continue with Access; Collin Kaholo and Jack Hoyt will report on Affordable Housing, and John Winter will cover Parks, Water, Roads. David Fuertes and Sadie Young will work with the Agriculture group and Steve

Hoffmann will re-organize the Power, Viewplanes and Erosion Control group. Growth Management group is in the process of re-organizing. The Health and Wellness Group and the Historic and Cultural Group have not met for several years.

All groups are looking for new participants. Anyone interested in serving in the Agriculture Group contact David Fuertes at dcfuertes808@gmail.com.

Carvalho, who is chair of the new Kohala Community Plan working group, gave an update on the progress of the long-term planning arm of the overdue revisions to the 2008 NKCDP. He said the group would continue to stay in close touch with the Advisory Group.

North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group Mission Statement

GUIDING GOALS AND STATUTE: From the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP): The County of Hawai'i General Plan section 15.1 (February 2005, as amended) calls for the preparation of community development plans "to translate the broad General Plan statements to specific actions as they apply to specific geographical areas." The General Plan requires CDPs be adopted as an "ordinance", giving the plans force of law. The following are excerpted from the NKCDP:

Administered by the Planning Department, the CDP Action Committee is to be a pro-active, community-based steward of the plan's implementation and update. (p. 94)

The stated duties of the CDP-AC are: (p. 95)

- (a) Provide ongoing guidance and advocacy to advance implementation of the CDP goals, policies, strategies, and actions.
- (b) Broaden community awareness of the CDP.
- (c) Create subcommittees, as appropriate, to implement CDP policies and actions.
- (d) Build partnerships, as appropriate, with governmental and other organizations to implement CDP policies and actions.
- (e) Provide timely recommendations to the County on priorities relating to the County operational budget and the CIP budget and program.
- (f) Receive periodic briefings from the Planning Department on all major proposed (and recently approved) projects, developments, and land use decisions involving property located within the planning area, and on other issues related to the CDP.
- (g) Review and make recommendations on all major proposed projects, developments, and land use decisions within the planning area, to the entity with the decision-making power.
- (h) Receive briefings from other County agencies, as requested, on priority actions identified in the CDP.
- (i) Monitor the progress and effectiveness of the CDP.
- (j) Review and make recommendations on amendments to the CDP.
- (k) Serve as the steering committee, as set forth in the General Plan, in any comprehensive update of the CDP.
- (l) Provide recommendations to amend the General Plan.
- (m) Develop and implement an educational/training program for current and prospective Action Committee members, in order to strengthen CDP implementation.
- (n) Carry out other duties as needed.

The principal goal of the Action Committee and its subcommittees is to *improve the quality of life in North Kohala*. The CDP is the plan that guides development toward realizing that goal. The role of the Action Committee, as we move to implementing the CDP, is to take a collaborative, cooperative approach to dealing with areas needing improvement or change.

PROPOSED RE-ORGANIZATION:

Over the past few years, the NKCDP Action Committee became difficult to staff, due in part to the restrictive mandates of the Sunshine Law and the expressed need of the Planning Department to gradually reduce meetings from monthly to bimonthly to quarterly in order to conserve staff time. With the cooperation of the Planning Department, we propose to implement and test an alternative AC structure that we believe will be much more effective and alleviate several impediments to an efficiently functioning group and, if successful, perhaps enhance the ability of the Planning Department to manage implementation of the several Community Development Plans on the island (Kohala may serve as a test for a new structure).

We begin by saying that we firmly believe in the spirit of the Sunshine Law which was developed to mitigate having important decisions affecting the public made by officials behind closed doors without public scrutiny. We plan to adhere to that spirit. The Law itself, however, has seriously reduced the effectiveness of community groups such as ours. It is our wish to create a less formalized structure that still works in close cooperation with the Planning Department yet is not an official government entity and therefore not subject to the strict mandates of the Sunshine Law. Toward that end, we propose the following rules and structures for an NKCDP Advisory Group:

- The purpose of the Advisory Group is the implementation of the North Kohala Community Development Plan and oversight of the Sub-Groups.
- The term of office shall be 2 years, with the possibility of renewal for a second 2-yr term with the approval of the Chair. A member may not serve for a consecutive third term but may re-apply after 2 years have passed. Terms end on Dec. 31. New members begin in January. Some adjustment in terms by the Chair may be necessary so that approximately half of the members retire on any given year. In the case of resignations, the substitute new member shall complete the term of the member replaced and shall be eligible for a second term. Any member may remain on the AG beyond their term limit until a replacement can be found.
- A Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary shall be selected annually at the January meeting.
- Applicants shall be interviewed and selected by several members of the existing AG. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be responsible for organizing the recruitment of new AG members and assuring that a slate of willing candidates is interviewed and ready to serve when needed.
- A *quorum* shall be half or more of the number of active AG members at any given time. A quorum shall be necessary for any final discussion and/or vote on an issue. Meetings without a quorum may still accept Sub-Group reports, hear from the public and conduct preliminary discussions based on public input.
- Meetings shall be held monthly and are open to the public. One or more members of the Planning Department may attend any meeting.
- Sub-Groups (which actually do the real work of implementing the NKCDP) shall continue to be created and guided by the AG. Every member of the AG shall also be a member of one Sub-Group and report on their progress at each AG meeting. AG members may also attend any other Sub-Groups.
- Although the AG is informal and not subject to the Sunshine Law, the following procedures will be followed to ensure that the public is aware of AG doings and have the opportunity to comment.
 - Minutes will be kept, and a copy sent to the Planning Department. Minutes will be made available to the public on the Planning Department website.
 - The Chair and Vice-Chair will create an agenda at least 10 days in advance of a meeting. The agenda, plus the meeting time and location, will be published in the Kohala Mountain News at least a week before each meeting. Agendas will also be made available to the public on the Planning Department website.
 - No final discussions, votes or decisions will be made on any subject not specified in advance in the published agenda.
- The AG serves the people of North Kohala, and the public are encouraged to attend any meeting to observe or to speak on an agenda item or on any relevant issue that concerns them. Within the guidelines of proper decorum, a member of the public may request to speak at any time on an issue under discussion. Time restrictions may be imposed by the Chair.
- Members of the AG may respond to and discuss any issue brought up during a meeting to decide if it should become an agenda item for the next meeting. They cannot vote or decide on any issue, however, until it has become an item in a pre-meeting published agenda with sufficient time for public input.

- Email exchanges between AG members shall be limited to routine administrative matters such as membership, meeting times, items to place on an agenda, etc. They shall not collude on or discuss outside of AG meetings any matters related to implementing the NKCDP strategies or other issues entrusted to them. These need to be discussed in regular meetings with proper public input and scrutiny. Only in cases of time-sensitive issues, such as approval of a letter from a Sub-Group on an issue with a public input deadline before the next AG meeting, may AG members discuss and approve via email. Any such vote shall then be included in the minutes of the next AG meeting.
- Any number of AG members may attend public meetings held on any issue. They may also participate in discussions at those meetings. But they cannot conspire to vote on such an issue at an upcoming AG meeting.
- AG members shall be free to address issues beyond those specified in the NKCDP.

It is critically important that the NKCDP-AG maintains the previous close ties of the Action Committee with the Planning Department and retains its status as working in conjunction with that department to implement the CDP (a formal Planning Department document and County Ordinance). They must be able to speak with the authority of NKCDP when dealing with various State and County agencies, other offices, and individuals. We also wish to continue having access to Planning Department documents so that the Growth Management and Community Access Groups can continue to operate.

Is the Hawai'i County Planning Director Disabling Community-Based Planning?

by Chuck Flaherty, Hawai'i Island Group Executive Committee Chair | Reading time: 4 minutes

On August 18, 2022, the Hawai'i County Planning Director, Zendo Kern, sent a letter to the county's six volunteer Community Development Plan Action Committees (CDP AC) that began:

"Aloha CDP Action Committee Members,
Due to recent staffing changes in the Long-Range Division within the Planning Department, it has become necessary to adjust staff time and resources. This means staff will unfortunately not have the capacity to organize or facilitate AC meetings for the foreseeable future."

This announcement caused great alarm and consternation among the members of the CDP AC, the county council and the many, many hundreds of residents who volunteered their time, energy, and expertise to develop the CDPs, as well as those who have served on and supported the Action Committees over the years. The Planning Department's withdrawal of support for the CDP AC's has coincided with several luxury developments submitting applications to build in one of the last undeveloped areas of the Hawaiian islands where the traditional culture of Hawai'i remains a way of life in the southwest part of Hawai'i Island, an area that is larger than the island of Oahu. The six CDPs were adopted as law beginning in 2008 and require the Planning Department to work with the CDP ACs to manifest the goals, objectives, and actions detailed in each. One of the biggest questions is whether the Planning Director has the legal authority to withdraw support of the CDP ACs since that undermines the ability of the CDP laws to be administered as intended by those laws. Also, there are questions as to whether the Sunshine Law was violated when at two publicly noticed CDP AC agendas did not list a discussion of changes being made, though that was an agenda item during the meetings. [The CPDs can be seen here](#).

The alarm increased when one month later, invitations were sent to "key stakeholders" that began:

"Aloha: The County of Hawai'i (COH) is embarking on an approximately 18-month process to review and update its zoning and subdivision codes (Chapters 25 and 23 of the 1983 Hawai'i County Code, respectively). COH is supported in this effort by a

consultant team including Rundell Ernstberger Associates, Orion Planning and Design, and SSFM International."

The consultant team are all mainland-based companies, which the community knows from past unfortunate experience will be inherently unable to understand and give proper consideration of Hawaiian cultural values and the environmental resources upon which these values depend. [The Zoning and Subdivision update website is here.](#)

Further complicating the situation for Hawai'i Island community-based volunteer efforts, the county Planning Department is also in the midst of a revision of the county General Plan, the comprehensive law that guides development on Hawai'i Island. The legality of the revision process is also in question because rather than truly revising the current GP with changes shown through Ramseyer formatting, the draft GP has no references to the current GP. The new GP would effectively be "gut-and-replace" legislation rather than a revision or update of existing law. [The current and draft GPs can be seen here.](#)

After being nominated and confirmed, the Planning Director was required to implement a "firewall" because his planning consulting firm had many past, current, and future clients making applications to the Planning Department. Despite numerous requests, the Planning Director has not produced a copy of an internal memo containing written procedures that would allow an independent party to determine whether or not the "firewall" is sufficient to prevent the Planning Director's conflicts of interest from having any undue influence on the employees of the Planning Department involved with any application process.

A final concern is the fact the Planning Director has reportedly invalidated all past internal memos, which would have included, for instance, one that prescribed Planning Department policy and procedure to assure adequate protection of historic and cultural resources in light of a historically "broken" State Historic Preservation Division.

The bottom line is the Hawai'i County Planning Director is taking actions without consideration of pragmatic effects on volunteer community-based planning efforts. The pandemic and the social and economic challenges it has brought into the homes and families of all residents of Hawai'i have been overwhelming for many. The Planning Director's actions over the past year have increasingly challenged the community's ability to provide constructive, effective input, while at

the same time further assisting paid, wealthy special interests which already dominate planning decision-making processes.

We urge the Planning Director to take actions, such as funding and staffing to restore the partnership the Planning Department had with the CDP ACs, and proposing a true revision of the current GP while also revising the CDPs to have uniformity of format with GP to ensure more effective and efficient administration of these laws, thereby providing for a safe and healthy future for all Hawai'i citizens.

We also strongly urge County Council to hold a public hearing, as soon as possible, on these sweeping and extremely troubling changes.