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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 (AC) in accordance with the provisions of Section 92-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

DATE: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: This meeting will be held by Interactive Conference Technology (ICT) through Zoom. The public may provide verbal testimony at the meeting by attending in-person or calling into the Zoom meeting. Members of the public may attend via Zoom or attend the in-person on-site location listed below.

To register for verbal testimony please contact staff at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8288.

Zoom registration link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-igpzouGMKK1J1xPm5jh-VgDN7F9Hk>

If internet connection is lost, the public meeting will be automatically recessed to restore communication. If the lost connection exceeds 30 minutes, the meeting will be terminated.

In-person site location:

Laupāhoehoe Public Library
35-2065 Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Laupāhoehoe, Hawai'i 96764

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

2023 MAY -2 PM 3:19
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF HAWAII

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Affordable Housing Production Administrative Rules have been finalized and are now available for public access. The rules and more information on the tentative schedule and fund availability can be found on the Hawai'i County Office of Housing & Community Development's website here:
www.hawaiicounty.gov/ahp
- The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Hāmākua Action Committee. They are requesting assistance getting the word out to find interested community members. The application can be found on the Mayor's office website here:
<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-commissions-application>
- The Action Committee is seeking a volunteer Secretary to take meeting notes and collaborate with the Planning Department accordingly. Any interested parties should email cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: The Public may provide oral testimony at the meeting by joining online or calling into the Zoom meeting. Please register to testify by contacting cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. 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. 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 (Monday, May 8, 2023) to the meeting (see the Notice Section below).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the Hāmākua Action Committee Meetings on March 21, 2023, and April 12, 2023.

BUSINESS:

1. **Permanent Affordable Living (PAL) Presentation:** Representative, Mary Blyth, will share information about the Kaua'i-based non-profit affordable housing developer and their possible expansion to Pepe'ekeo.
2. **Public Access, Open Space, & Natural Resources (PONC) Presentation:** Blake McNaughton will share his efforts and experience with the PONC applications for Pepe'ekeo.
3. **Honoka'a Business Association Presentation:** Information will be shared on an application submitted to the Department of Public Works for a public restroom on Māmane Street in Honoka'a.
4. **The Hāmākua Heritage Center's Agriculture Festival** is to be held in October 2024, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Hāmākua Sugar's final harvest.
5. **Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC:** Designated permitted interaction groups will report back and provide updates to the AC regarding their progress.
 - Waipi'o Wahi Pana
 - Lehua Street Infrastructure
 - Housing

- 6. Action Committee Meeting Format:** AC discussion on the format of future meetings such as if they should be all in-person, hybrid zoom/in-person, or another alternative.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Communication No. 2023-10 Permanently Affordable Living (PAL) Presentation

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Committee members will discuss potential agenda items 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.

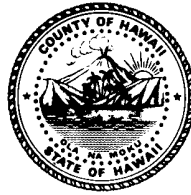
If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 as soon as possible, and no later than five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice may be made available in alternate/accessible formats.

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, Hawai'i County Building, 25 Aupuni Street, Room 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720.

HĀMĀKUA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

Mitchell D. Roth
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Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



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County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

HAMAKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, March 21, 2023 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tawn Keeney called the Hamakua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:00 P.M. Quorum was not established at this time. At 6:17 P.M., quorum was established with the arrival of a fifth member. This meeting was held online via Zoom, and in-person at the Honoka'a People's Theatre.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Tawn Keeney, Nicolette (Niki) Hubbard, Brad Kurokawa, Robert Nishimoto, Desiree Cruz (arrived at 6:17 p.m.)

AC Members Absent-Excused: Carol Ignacio and Crystal Kua

County Staff: April Surprenant, Planning Program Manager

County Officials: Deputy Corporation Counsel, Suzanna Tiapula

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Hāmākua Action Committee Recruitment:

Chair Keeney made an announcement about the 2 open seats for the Hāmākua CDP AC, and the applications the Mayor is reviewing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

This item was taken out of order, immediately following Agenda Item #1, after quorum was established.

Chair Keeney motioned to approve the January 10, 2023, minutes. Seconded by Vice-Chair Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. One member of the public provided oral testimony:

Community member Phaeton Keeney, representing herself, testified on Agenda Item #1. She noted that she was glad to move to a renewable future and hoped that we would move away from biomass and towards clean zero emission sources.

2. One member of the public provided written testimony:

Community member Tina Stiteler, provided written testimony on Agenda Item #1.

See Communication No. 2023-06 – Tina Stiteler Comments Regarding Hawaiian Electric here: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/122699/Communication%20No.%202023-06%20Tina%20Stiteler%20Comments%20RE%20Hawaiian%20Electric.pdf>

BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and Hawai'i Energy:

This item was taken out of order, immediately following Announcements on the agenda. Quorum was not established at the start of the presentation but was established before the presentation concluded.

Representatives David Kurohara and Marc Asano from HECO, and Gracen Ghen from Hawai'i Energy shared information about Hawai'i Powered, Integrated Grid Planning and Hawai'i Energy rebates and resources.

See presentation slides on renewable energy sources here:

<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/122700/Communication%20No.%202023-07%20HECO%20and%20Hawaii%20Energy%20Presentation.pdf>

Community member Richard Robert Bidleman questioned if Puna Geothermal was generating hydrogen to be used for buses, if hydrogen powered vehicles were being used on the island, and where the hydrogen was coming from?

Representatives from HECO informed that Puna Geothermal was not using their energy to create hydrogen; their contract with HECO is to supply power to the grid. They also informed that there was a hydrogen bus on island used by the County but did not know the current status of it being used at this time. They clarified that electric buses were being used. Mr. Kurohara also informed that the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) does have a hydrogen station, in Kona, where they produce and that is where the hydrogen bus mentioned was filled.

Community Member Troy Pearson questioned if HECO was looking into investments that have long-term impact on toxins in our environment as the current photovoltaic solar cells use a lot of plastic and when they are not in use anymore, they produce a lot of toxins.

For large scale solar projects, HECO doesn't develop solar project, but they do partner with developers or third parties to buy power from them. In their contracts, they make sure there's proper end-of-life treatment of the facility when it is retired. He believed even at the state level, recycling programs were being looked at for those types of materials.

65 Community member Richard Robert Bidleman questioned what efforts HECO were taking
66 to encourage clients to install solar and put electricity back into the grid.

67 Mr. Asano informed that there are different programs for customers and customers are
68 always able to self-consume any electricity that they generate. He noted that they work
69 with the Public Utilities Commission developing some of those programs, but ultimately
70 the commission approves them and any compensation. Mr. Asano informed that they
71 expect to release newer programs with additional customer incentives to provide services
72 to the grid in the near future.

73 Further discussion was had on the concern of affordability of electricity for residents as
74 the question of how HECO planned to address that was raised. Mr. Kurohara
75 acknowledged the increase in oil costs that impacted everyone's bill in the past few years.
76 He informed that, in the past, the law required their company to purchase power from
77 independent power producers at the cost of oil. Some of those contracts have been
78 amended and others are to be reviewed and renewed to a fixed rate to eliminate that tie
79 to the cost of oil. Mr. Kurohara stated that as they add more renewables to the grid scale
80 projects, the cost of electricity will stabilize and start lowering over time.

81 **2. Hāmākua Action Committee Meeting Schedule Discussion:**

82 Members of the AC discussed creating a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023.

83 It was noted that Council Member Kimball was not able to make meetings on the third
84 Tuesday of each month and one committee member was not able to make it on the
85 second Tuesday of each month, so the committee considered moving dates. Chair Keeney
86 also considered meeting to coincide with the Hāmākua Times submission due date before
87 the 20th of each month.

88 *Chair Keeney proposed a cadence of hybrid meetings on the second Wednesday of each*
89 *month. Seconded by Committee Member Cruz.*

90 *Passed with 4 votes aye (Hubbard, Keeney, Cruz, Nishimoto), 1 abstain (Kurokawa), 0 votes*
91 *nay.*

92 **3. Subcommittee Report Back to Action Committee:**

93 Designated subcommittees provided updates to the Action Committee regarding their
94 progress.

- 95 • Waipi'o Wahi Pana (section 4.9.6, action items 16-20):
96 Committee Member Kurokawa had nothing to report at this time
- 97 • Housing (CDP Section 5.2 – Community Action #25):
98 Vice-Chair Hubbard informed that she would provide a report at the next meeting
- 99 • Lehua St. Subdivision (Honoka'a) Infrastructure Subcommittee (section 5.5):

100 Community Member Robert Bidleman commented that many who utilize Lehua Street
101 are driving too fast and jeopardizing the neighborhood safety. He informed that a
102 petition to the County to install speed bumps has been started as he felt that would be
103 the first step to ensure the street is safe for pedestrians.

104 **4. Action Committee Project Discussion:**

105 Members of the AC discussed forming more subcommittees.

106 Chair Keeney noted that they should clearly define what County policies they are
107 advocating for and whether the subcommittee is for a specific action or subject. He asked
108 what the scope was of the subcommittee on Waipi'o Wahi Pana as the sections that
109 mention Waipi'o also include Mauna Kea, so clearer definition is needed. Committee
110 member Kurokawa will report back at the next meeting.

111 Chair Keeney stated that there are 130 Policies that the AC could advocate towards. He
112 expressed that orienting their actions to support those would lead to more proactive and
113 more fulfilling AC work.

114 Chair Keeney proposed forming the following ten subcommittees:

- 115 • Land Use and Development
- 116 • Agriculture
- 117 • Infrastructure and Transportation
- 118 • Access Open Space Roads Trails and Coastline
- 119 • Natural Environment
- 120 • Health Safety and Education
- 121 • Commerce and Econ Development
- 122 • Wahi Pana (Waipi'o and Mauna Kea)
- 123 • Preservation and Revitalization
- 124 • Community and Government Relations (Communication)

125 He acknowledged that taking issues as they come may be desired, but subcommittees
126 could form focus groups for specific problems that arise.

127 *Chair Keeney motioned to create the 10 subcommittees, but not take discussion at this*
128 *time. No second was heard. Motion did not move forward.*

129 Vice-Chair Hubbard asked the Chair to clarify on the other two items on the agenda
130 regarding the Open Space Subcommittee and Public Restroom subcommittee ideas. Chair
131 Keeney did not make motions.

132 Community member Robert Bidleman commented that the committee he was on started
133 out and then dwindled. They cannot tackle all issues, so they may not be very big but if
134 you have interest, create the committee.

135 Community member Indy Rishi Singh stated that he supports subcommittees and wants to
136 have volunteers. He hoped to find ways to make community feel involved and provided
137 ideas of offering food at meetings from local vendors. He also mentioned Regenerative
138 Civics.

139 Community member Pam Elders commented that she likes committee structures
140 coordinated with the CDP. She advised that they need to be proactive not reactive.

141 Community member Diana Cantu-Reyna informed that she was a registered nurse and
142 would like to proactively address issues, not run to catch up. She would like to discover

143 how to engage community members to stay involved. She also suggested that the AC
144 source community members who have experience in meeting facilitation, to help move
145 the meetings along

146 Community member Whitney Valez, a Hāmākua Ag Coop board member, questioned how
147 they can engage with the process. She provided an idea to send a survey to members, 54
148 farmers, to gather feedback from farmers on what is important to them.

149 **5. Action Committee Community Outreach Strategy:**

150 Members of the AC discussed strategies to increase meeting attendance and ways to
151 better engage with the Hāmākua community.

152 Chair Keeney briefly shared that he would try to get into the Hāmākua Times and would
153 try to explore social media.

154 Community member Robert Bidleman commented that maybe the AC needs an example
155 of an item that they could work on in order to spark interest to form a subcommittee.

156
157 **COMMUNICATIONS:**

158 Chair Keeney shared that AC members could review the communications at their leisure.

- 159 1. Communication No. 2023-03 Public Access & Coastline Preservation Flyer – Toni
160 Withington
- 161 2. Communication No. 2023-04 Hāmākua Agricultural Plan (2006)

162 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 12, 2023:**

163 Community member Indy Rishi Singh shared that he hosted a Civic Action rally at Hakalau,
164 which centered around farming, education and health care. He noted that they came together
165 and shared they all agreed they needed to focus on community gardens and tie that into
166 health.

167 Committee Member Hubbard noted that this ties into section 6.2, strengthening local
168 agriculture and suggested discussing at the next meeting.

169
170 **ADJOURNMENT:**

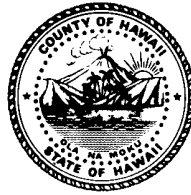
171 *Committee member Nishimoto motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chair Keeney.*
172 *Motion passed unanimously (5-0).*

173 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

174 These meeting minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's
175 Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i](https://www.hawaii.gov/publicdocuments/)
176 [Public Documents Repository](https://www.hawaii.gov/publicdocuments/). These documents may also be requested from the Planning
177 Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.

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Wednesday, April 12, 2023

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tawn Keeney started the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting at 5:09 P.M. This meeting was held online via Zoom, and in-person at the Honoka'a People's Theatre. Quorum was not established at this meeting; thus, only presentations were heard and committee business was not addressed and there were no votes.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Tawn Keeney, Nicolette (Niki) Hubbard, Brad Kurokawa,

AC Members Absent-Excused: Desiree Cruz, Carol Ignacio, Crystal Kua, and Robert Nishimoto

County Officials: Deputy Corporation Counsel, Suzanna Tiapula

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chair Keeney announced that the Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Hāmākua Action Committee. He noted the department's efforts to find interested community members and the notice in the Hāmākua Times asking for interest in membership.
- Chair Keeney announced that the Action Committee is seeking a volunteer secretary to take meeting notes and collaborate with the Planning Department accordingly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

This item was deferred as quorum was not established.

BUSINESS:

1. Council Member Kimball Updates:

- Impact of Kona Low storms on community resulted in working sessions with Hawaiian Electric and Hawaiian Telcom to find ways to improve responses and response times to this type of event. Council Member Kimball noted that Hawaiian Electric reinforced

27 telephone systems to resolve reporting issues. If clients need to report an issue, they
28 may now call and record a message or speak with an actual person.

- 29 • Council Member Kimball encouraged the use of Civil Defense’s website link to report
30 property damage. If ever the threshold for FEMA funding is met, those who submitted
31 claims in advance may get reimbursed. She noted the incident where the Hāmākua
32 ditch got blocked and members of community had to pay for water. Those situations
33 would be the type to report on the Civil Defense website.
- 34 • The Department of Environmental Management’s new Vehicle Tow Program will allow
35 property owners to request for one (1) car towed off their property, per year, to be
36 disposed at the Hilo vehicle disposal site. Currently the County pays for disposal, but
37 not towing. The program will resolve that towing barrier and is estimated to start in 6
38 months. Applications may be submitted on the Environmental Management website.
- 39 • Animal Control is now a separate agency and no longer under the Hawai’i Police
40 Department. While under the police department, animal control positions were short
41 term contracts, which limited the people who wanted to apply. Now, with the new
42 agency, the animal control positions are civil service positions. Council Member
43 Kimball hoped this change would improve staffing and animal control issues.
- 44 • For updates regarding Waipi’o, status quo with Emergency order will remain for now.
45 Residents can go down with four-wheel drive and no pedestrians or visitors are
46 allowed to drive down in the valley. Tree trimming and rock fall work is ongoing. The
47 Steering Committee continues to meet.
- 48 • Bills underway:
 - 49 ○ Property owners in the Homeowner class get the home exemption on value,
50 homeowner rate on tax and 3%-year cap on assessed value. People in the
51 dedicated agriculture program or non-dedicated agriculture program, do not
52 have the cap protection, and home value increases affected many. Council
53 Member Kimball informed that they are trying to add the cap to primary
54 residents of farmers agriculture land. They are also working on requiring
55 documentation to get the agriculture exemption as they have seen many who
56 claim they are doing ag but are not.
 - 57 ○ Council is in the process of developing Draft 4 of the Short-Term Vacation
58 Rental bill. See <https://www.hawaiicountytar.com/> for a copy of the current
59 draft and FAQ page.
 - 60 ○ Bill 194 was vetoed by the mayor. Council will revisit since it was vetoed.
 - 61 ○ Council has put funding towards homelessness and homelessness services. 7.5
62 million budgeted for homeless services and development of housing. The
63 Office of Housing will be tasked with most of this and addressing these
64 challenges.

65 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

66 Two (2) members of the public provided comments on Agenda Item #1:

- 67 1. Community member Cory Harden, shared that she appreciated Council Member
68 Kimball’s update on Bill 194 as she thought it was very important for members of the

69 public to have a say on how long developers have to complete their development. She
70 confirmed with Council Member Kimball that this would be revisited on April 19th and
71 encouraged everyone to contact their Council members to support this bill as it would
72 take 6 council votes out of 9 to override the mayor's veto.

- 73 2. Community Member Phaeton Keeney, requested recommendations on strategies to
74 form a community group to work on PONC purchases in Hāmākua area. She would like
75 to find the best way or structure for community to interact and work with the CDP
76 Action Committee for these types of purchases.

77 Council Member Kimball shared that the AC, as a County Committee, are guided by
78 Sunshine Law. She provided several options to engage in any kind of project. The first
79 option, to form an informal working group with members of community and only two
80 members of the AC at most. Another option would be to form a Permitted Interaction
81 Group (PIG) where up to four AC members could participate. The benefit of this option
82 is that you may include more AC members. A disadvantage would be that your work is
83 not discussed by the AC as a whole until the work is done. Council Member Kimball
84 informed that Deborah Change was District 1's representative on the PONC
85 Commission. She encouraged the AC to reach out and have Ms. Chang present on the
86 PONC application process. Nominations for PONC properties already happened for this
87 year.

88 **2. Presentation from Indy Singh related to Community Healing Gardens:**

89 Indy asked to acknowledge the land that we are on and those who have cultivated it
90 before us and acknowledge all the different types of people who have come to cultivate
91 the land in the past and presently. He thanked County staff, AC members, and all the
92 guests and expressed gratitude for the conversation going forward.

93 Mr. Singh started his presentation by encouraging everyone to think about which
94 community members needed support the most for the whole community to thrive.
95 Nurses, local farmers, teachers, elders, and students were mentioned. Mr. Singh noted
96 that food directly affects our health and soil health affects our food health and community
97 health. He encouraged cultivating discussions for actions to be taken soon to create
98 centralized places where healthcare, education, and food can be supported through
99 community gardens.

100 Mr. Singh shared that he hosted a civic action rally in Puna to address farming, healing,
101 different ideas and solutions, and relationship with the Hawaiian culture. He also did a
102 civic action rally at the Hakalau Farmers Market and attended a Kohala Ag Vision
103 Committee meeting. Mr. Singh shared that his takeaway from all of those meetings was
104 that it comes down to having accessible Hawai'i County supported community gardens
105 that are education and well-being hubs. He expressed that these should be at schools and
106 senior centers. Mr. Singh shared that he learned of seniors getting reprimanded for
107 growing food in their units and how the County issued them eviction notices. He
108 expressed that the County should be providing public money to senior housings facilities
109 that support gardening, and not reprimand seniors for gardening.

Mr. Singh shared his experience with the East Hawai'i Organics Facility in Hilo, which was started by a small group and is now a full-blown operation supported by the County. They create and distribute mulch throughout the island to local and new farmers.

Mr. Singh encouraged everyone to think about and share their ideas on how the County of Hawai'i can support community healing gardens, where nurses, educators, and farmers can be supported.

Mr. Singh shared a recent article, covered by KHON2 News, about the food insecurity rising in Hawai'i for keiki and kupuna. He expressed the severity of this situation and how it will not improve unless willful actions are taken. He noted the importance of finding places to bring back the cultural and traditional ways of sharing and giving food. Mr. Singh shared several suggestions from audience. The first, to audit vacant County owned lands and see if the community can use them for gardens. Mr. Singh shared that something similar to this did happen in California. Another suggestion was for the County to support people providing advice on how to grow food.

Mr. Singh informed that he would continue to meet on farms and outside of this rigid format to make progress towards this effort. He encouraged everyone to show up to his meetings and to share their email with him for more information and meeting notices.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Two (2) members of the public provided comments on Agenda Item #2:

1. Community Member Phaeton Keeney asked who 'we' in Indy's group is, and if he was in a certain community group or represented an organization.

Mr. Singh stated that he is just a member of the general public at the moment. He understood the value of non- and for-profit organizations and noted that he also had those types of relationships with different organizations, but for now they are just calling in community for this initiative. He informed that they would gather again in May.

2. Community Member Diana Cantu-Reyna shared her disappointment that Council Member Kimball left this meeting early and wondered if there was a better way to engage council members and hold their attention to be present. She noted other meetings that Council Member Kimball had left early and felt that there was lack of engagement with community members. Ms. Cantu-Reyna also shared that her nonprofit, Cultivating Self, supports Indy's initiatives and would be grateful to have the County support their work. She encouraged everyone to visit their site and hoped more would get involved to support these initiatives <https://www.cultivatingself.org/>.

Chair Keeney shared that he would like to support the visions presented. He noted that AC would pass on their concerns to Council Member Kimball. He encouraged communicating directly with Council Member Kimball as well as he knows she is very receptive to communications from the community even though she is very busy.

3. Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC:

This item was deferred as quorum was not established.

150 **4. Public Access, Open Space, & Natural Resources (PONC):**

151 Community Member Phaeton Keeney shared that Tony Whittington, of North Kohala,
152 came to Honoka'a at the end of March to present their community's success with PONCs.
153 She explained that the presentation inspired them to do the same for the Hāmākua
154 district. She learned that there are properties that are already proposed for PONCs in
155 Hāmākua.

156 See Communication No. 2023-09 PONC Past Project List here:

157 <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/122705/Communication%20No.%202023-09%20PONC%20Past%20Project%20List.pdf>
158

159 Ms. Keeney informed that not much has happened since 2006-2007, other than the
160 purchase of the Rice property in Waipi'o, which is now reserved for public open space and
161 is being stewarded by a community group in the area. She also informed that there is a
162 South Hilo community group, which is working on two areas in Pepe'ekeo near the Hu
163 Honua project site. Ms. Keeney would like to connect with them and gather more
164 community engagement on thinking about going forward to submit next year's list in
165 January 2024. She would also like to use Ms. Whittington's advice on non-profit formation
166 for this purpose to connect and prioritize efforts. She informed that there was no formal
167 name to their group but they are looking to connect with more people, as the group
168 currently consists of those who were at the presentation in March. She noted that they
169 have also connected with Blake McNaughton, who is leading the Pepe'ekeo PONC
170 purchases, and Jackson Bauer of the Na Ala Hele trails group.

171 Chair Keeney shared that Council Member Kimball encouraged the AC to share
172 suggestions for connections to people in their areas who are interested in access and trail
173 preservation.

174 Committee Member Kurokawa advised that the first place to start with PONCs would be
175 with an owner who is willing to sell their parcel.

176 **5. Action Committee Meetings:**

177 *This item was deferred as quorum was not established.*

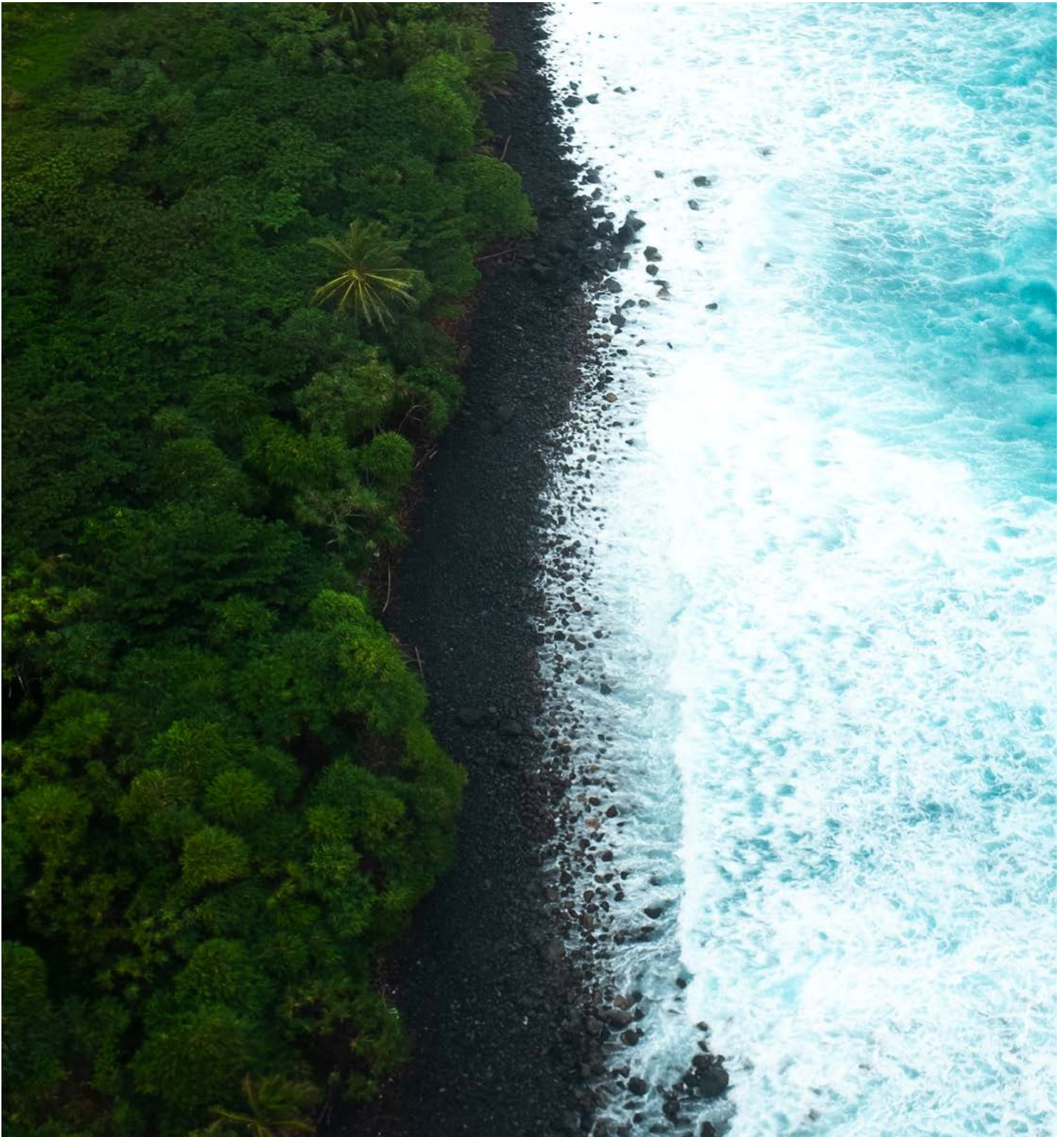
178 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- 179 1. Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC
180 2. Format of Future AC Meetings
181 3. Honoka'a Business Association presentation
182 4. Presentation from Blake McNaughton on Pepe'ekeo PONCs

183 **ADJOURNMENT:**

184 The meeting ended at 6:20 P.M.

185 These meeting minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's
186 Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i](#)
187 [Public Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning
188 Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov.



ALOHA

PAL - Kauhale O Pepe'ekeo



*Full presentation can be found here:

<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/1/edoc/122861/Communication%20No.%202023-10%20New%20PAL%20Pepeeko%20Presentation.pdf>