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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, November 8, 2023

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Honoka'a People's Theatre
45-3574 Mamane Street
Honoka'a, Hawaii 96727

Please note there will not be a Zoom attendance option for this meeting.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Resignation of Nicolette (Niki) Hubbard from the Hāmākua Action Committee.
- Introduction of Planning Department volunteer, Theresa Cherry. Theresa Cherry will assist in taking minutes of the Hāmākua Action Committee Meetings.
- Hawaii County Council Chairperson, Heather Kimball to provide County Council Updates related to the Hāmākua Community Development Plan.
- Corporation Counsel indicates that per the Hawaii County Charter, Section 13-4, AC members may be removed upon recommendation by the mayor and the approval of the County Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

The Public may provide verbal testimony at the meeting by joining the Zoom meeting or attending in-person. 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 to this meeting (see the Notice Section below).

COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF HAWAII
2023 NOV - 1 PM 2:06

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the Hāmākua Action Committee Meetings on September 13, 2023.

BUSINESS:

1. **Hakalau School Transition Status:** AC Member Brad Kurokawa will provide an update regarding whether the decommissioned Hakalau Elementary school was transferred from the State of Hawaii, Department of Education to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources.
2. **Annual Nomination and Election of Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2023.**
3. **Hāmākua CDP AC's Recommendations to Amend the County of Hawaii's Draft General Plan:** Decision making regarding how the Committee is going to approach the review of the draft general plan and any subsequent recommendations.
4. **Discussion of the Draft General Plan's Expansion of Heavy Industrial Land Use at Hu Honua near Pepe'ekeo:** Decision making on whether to ask the Planning Department to provide explanation regarding the change of certain Agricultural Lands to Heavy Industrial at Hu Honua near Pepe'ekeo.
5. **Discussion of the Draft General Plan's Expansion of Heavy Industrial Land Use at the old 'Ō'ōkala Mill site:** Decision making on whether to ask the Planning Department to provide explanation regarding the expansion of Heavy Industrial land use at the old 'Ō'ōkala Mill site.
6. **Hāmākua CDP AC's Investigation into the Fire Preparedness of the Communities in the Hāmākua District:** Decision making whether to investigate the fire preparedness of the communities in the Hāmākua District and if so, how to conduct the investigation.
7. **Mud Lane Roadway that runs from Kukuihaele to Māmalahoa Highway:** Decision making whether to advocate for the County to begin a study on whether to open up Mud Lane as a County maintained roadway or for the Hāmākua CDP AC to investigate whether Mud Lane should be an Emergency Evacuation Route.
8. **Scheduling of Future Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee meetings:** Discussion and decision making regarding the scheduling, logistics, and format of future meetings.
9. **Future Agenda Item Recommendations.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Communication No. 2023-19 T. Keeney Letter to AC Chairs & Members
- Communication No. 2023-20 Hu Honua Heavy Industry new Zoning
- Communication No. 2023-21 Hu Honua Heavy Industry additional land
- Communication NO. 2023-22 Ookala Heavy Industrial #1
- Communication No. 2023-23 Ookala Heavy Industrial #2
- Communication No. 2023-24 Ookala Heavy Industrial #3
- Communication No. 2023-25 Threat of Hawaii Wildfires Clip

- Communication No. 2023-26 Mud Lane Kukuihaele Connector Road
- Communication No. 2023-27 Mud Lane-Waipio
- Communication No. 2023-28 Waipo-Honokaa Wider View

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Committee members will discuss potential agenda items for the next meeting including revisiting topics from meetings that did not have quorum.

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.

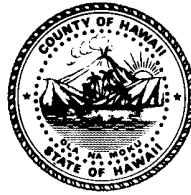
If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 as soon as possible, and no later than five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon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

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



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Director

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County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Wednesday, September 13, 2023 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tawn Keeney called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:36 P.M. Quorum was at this time. This meeting was held online via Zoom, and in-person at the Laupāhoehoe Public Library.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Tawn Keeney, Nicolette (Niki) Hubbard, Brad Kurokawa, Robert Nishimoto, Tisha Mahealani, Richard Bidleman

AC Members Absent: Desiree Cruz and Crystal Kua

AC Members Absent and Excused: Robert Nishimoto

County Staff: April Surprenant, Maryam Palma, Kim Tanaka

County Officials: Deputy Corporation Counsel, Sinclair Salas-Ferguson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Hāmākua CDP Action Committee New Member Update: Chair Keeney introduced the new AC Members Tisha Mahealani and Richard Bidleman

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Two member of the public provided oral testimony:

Cory Harden of West Sierra club talking about Agenda Item #3, they noted that email addresses not on the website are indicative of a bigger problem: no transparency. In addition, planning presentations that have been done by the County eat up time with no chance for ppl to ask questions. County has development proposals that the Action Committee does not get to review. County can find staff to review and update the zoning codes including the Subdivision Code and General Plan. Action Committee should be providing ongoing guidance and oversight.

Koohan Paik-Mander also talked about Agenda Item #3, and seconded Cory Harden. They indicated there is more time needed to input. Especially since community development is moving so fast going 4x the rate of Maui. CDP interface with the public that took 10 years. Email addresses not on the website is a negative thing as things (larger plans) are pushed through at a rapid pace.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

This item was taken out of order, immediately following Agenda Item #2.

Chair Keeney motioned to approve the March 21, 2023, April 12, 2023, and May 10, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Brad. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote (6-0).

BUSINESS:

1. Hāmākua Wildfire Preparedness:

Nani Barretto of Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization did a Wildfire Management Plan Presentation. Included in the information was a brief history of the organization which is a nonprofit and not a government entity that has been around for 20 years in Waimea. Where they are trying to understand risks, resources, and plans for the last 20 years. Many have not considered wildfire as something to think about. But they are focused on fire mitigation in close partnership with Civil Defense partners and Firefighters. They know that they can change the path of a wildfire by managing lands and yards. Can also build and retrofit residences to reduce the risk of fire losses. Consider firefighting to be the last line of defense with the first line being to be prepared and mitigate risk. A large team of partners that work alongside. Presentation CWPP is the County Wildfire Preparedness Plan. Put together by team to protect life, property, and infrastructure. Prioritize the projects and establish a pathway for funding and collaboration and communication. Hawaii Wildfire was tasked one year ago to develop the plan. Had a meeting to establish areas of interest and actions needed (Summary Sheet [HERE](#)). Included in the presentation was information on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program passed in 2022 funding for at-risk low if the program has been identified in the document as eligible if there is an entity that wants to develop a program. Round 2 application ends on October 31 but 3 more rounds in the future. She wants to share some resources. Wildfire & Drought LOOKOUT! campaign (Webpage [HERE](#)) gets launched every year to educate people about what they can do to prepare. Another thing is a resident handbook called Hawai'i's Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Action Guide which is a one stop resource for residents and visitors to know to be prepared for a Fire. (Download [HERE](#)) Another resource is a Nationally recognized Firewise USA program that recognizes neighborhoods that are working towards raising awareness and readying their homes and yards in their neighborhoods (Download [HERE](#)). Please go to the website to see if your community has an established Firewise program. If you don't live in a Firewise neighborhood, then find some neighbors and see how you can use the resources to establish your Firewise Program. There was one in the Hāmākua area previously, but it never got traction. Primary information ambassadors are trained in the area, and they can share the available resources including a free home assessment. If you are interested in the program, please reach out and you can get more detail. (Webpage [HERE](#)) for free assessment. Pacific fire exchange is a

research program for large landowners, landscapers, educators, and exchanges. (Website [HERE](#)). Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization has been invited to various areas and are always - survey ([LINK](#)) if you have comments or to share your wildfire concerns, priorities, or shovel-ready project ideas go [HERE](#). Also subscribe to our newsletters to keep up to date with upcoming workshops, new resources, etc. [HERE](#). I am a co-director, and we can be reached collectively at directors@hawaiiwildfire.org

Q: Is your org a 501 (c) 3. A: Yes

Q: How do you get most of your funding A: Most is from federal grants, also chili cookoff and t-shirt sales.

Q: How many ppl? A: We have a staff of 8 but are working to staff up as our team is stretched thin

Q: Tawn: What is the next step with the current great interest? We have discussed a meeting with Honoka`a where much will be done. As there will be 5-6 other communities that may be interested. What is the best next step for AC members to intersect? A: The Firewise program has a good framework as this connects the communities with the officials and firefighters. As residents we need to know how to start with our home. This is a group of people talking about it regularly and keeps people action oriented. Next step we could have a meeting that is just about the Firewise program so neighborhoods could become more active.

Q: In your group of organizations of interest you did not mention Kamehameha Schools. Are we wrong that the Eucalyptus trees are a risk? How is KS involved? A: Unmanaged lands and unmanaged fuels during a dry period (even on the wet side are at risk). Also, firefighting resources are stretched thin.

Q: Tawn: have you been in contact with KS. A: Not a lot. Some residents were nervous and allowed us access to the area to use FEMA funds to cut some back.

Q: Tawn: Are you hopeful for conversations? A: Yes, I am always hopeful as relationships are the most important. No real answer when it comes to the human connection and personalities, but we have seen it before.

Q: Michelle: I was wondering if you are cool with me networking and sending out the links. Especially because we do a lot of events in Honoka`a. A: Of course, because people are scared and if you have ideas we would love to connect.

Q: Nikki: Is the right document to share the first document? A: Within the month we will have a final draft.

Q: How will we get the final A: Nani will send the final to Tawn.

Q: What do the grants fund? A: Education and outreach. Mitigation. Health system restoration. Field reduction and field management. Converting fire prone invasive landscapes to more drought tolerant.

Q: In Honokaa the vegetation on the West side, Eucalyptus, is a huge fire issue since it is about the size of Oahu. Is this an entry with KS to get grants to mitigate fire hazard and trees. A:

105 Field management entities are eligible, but I heard that KS would not be interested in Federal
106 funds.

107 Comment: County needs to interface with KS and maybe can be invited to a meeting.

108 Comment: Richard came across a Big Island News Now article, it is incumbent on the County
109 to develop the rules. It should be the County to go after grants and take care of our
110 landscape. Doesn't want to rely on a non-profit to take care of this problem.

111 **2. Governor's Housing Proclamation Discussion**

112 *Chair Tawn Keeney made a motion that the personal letter that he wrote to Nani Medeiros be*
113 *endorsed by the Hāmākua CDP as a statement representing their views, on developments be*
114 *brought to the CDP. Brad seconded the Motion. Letter was read aloud ([LINK](#)) Discussion:*
115 *Richard Bidleman. New to Honoka'a in a brand-new subdivision and many places are*
116 *becoming urban. Many may not like that but it's reality. Preserving the historical nature is*
117 *important but things are going to become more urban. Brad Kurokawa asked if we are*
118 *assuming that the Emergency Proclamation may supersede the current lines of*
119 *communication so believes an official request should be there. Currently the developer is*
120 *under no obligation to talk with the community and/or the CDP. Would like the Action*
121 *Committee to be included in this communication stream. Heather Kimball: Housing Officer*
122 *Nani Medeiros will resign, and the Emergency Order is temporary and may not be re-issued.*

123 *Tawn would like to call for a vote on the motion. Brad-Aye Robert-Aye Nikki-Aye Tisha-Aye*
124 *Richard-Aye Tawn-Aye. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote (6-0).*

125 Q: Jack Vicory, can we add in the letter a return receipt? A: Yes.

126 **3. Action Committee Email Addresses on the Hāmākua CDP Website**

127 Chair Tawn Keeney made a motion that the email address that has been removed from the
128 Hāmākua CDP website be restored and in addition, that there is a restoration of the Chair and
129 Agenda, Date and Time or the upcoming meeting of the Action Committees. Tisha seconded
130 for the discussion. Discussion centered around concerns about the accessibility of the email.
131 Sinclair - Planning Department Rep stated that the agenda is posted on the website and there
132 is a fact sheet for Chair, personal privacy information including email address is not usually
133 posted as it is considered private. However, if the Board agrees individually email addresses
134 can be posted by the Planning Department. April confirmed that the Planning Dept can move
135 forward and send an email to all the AC members to see if they want to include their email or
136 a separate CPD related email address. Michelle suggested that an email be sent through a
137 secretary or as Mahealani mentioned setting up a CDP specific email. Sinclair confirmed that
138 the server will only allow for an individual email for each.

139 Guest speaker mentioned they wanted an accessible interface which is not really what we
140 have now.

141 *Chair Keeney amended a motion to have the email address that has been removed from the*
142 *Hāmākua CDP website be restored with the exception of those members who do not want*
143 *their personal email address exposed. Seconded by Niki Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously*
144 *with a voice vote (6-0).*

145 *Keeney made a motion that we have restoration of the Chair and Agenda, Date and Time or*
146 *the upcoming meeting of the Action Committee on the HCDP website. Motion passed*
147 *unanimously with a voice vote (6-0).*

148 **4. AC Meeting Cadence:**

149 The Chair confirmed with the Corporation council and planning department that the Chair can
150 discuss setting of dates, times, venues and agendas and that no discussion of note can be
151 made regarding topics as it does not violate the Sunshine Laws. No motion needed.

152 **5. Permitted Interaction Group Updates:**

153 ○ **Waipi'o Wahi Pana**

154 Committee Member Kurokawa reports a 2-day session on Aug 19-20 with the Edith Kanakaole
155 Foundation with the Waipio steering committee. Interesting session to discuss the
156 generational resources Papakumakawalu and the Hawaiian culture/chants and using this as a
157 foundation and framework to develop Kapu (religious and important elements) and Kanawai
158 (rule set in place to protect the Kapu). Heather pulled out the process that is communicated
159 through oral chants and other historical learnings. Put a draft in place and pull from
160 additional sources and take it back to the Steering Committee and Corporation Counsel.
161 Creating pool of resources to justify the actions taken.

162 ○ **Housing**

163 Vice-Chair Hubbard does not have a particular task. It is an information sharing session. A
164 mailer with the map was sent out that has a 50-acre residential parcel with a 30-unit
165 affordable housing subdivision proposal. They do not have funding for infrastructure or
166 housing. They have a design laid out but will not know how the development will be built until
167 they have the infrastructure. It is a county development and will have the infrastructure as
168 required by the county. Niki will follow-up and be a liaison. The immediate community was
169 not pleased with the plan and are concerned with run off and confusion with what affordable
170 housing will look like and what it is and what it will do to the surrounding community. AC
171 could provide education to the community. County will not know the affording housing
172 parameters until they get planning.

174 Heather Kimball made some additional comments and calls to action. There will be a Wildfire
175 meeting and participation in the Mayor's fire related task force on 10/3/2023. There is a
176 presentation on 9/19/2023 for support tools for ecosystem data management to help with
177 determining how policies affect other areas of land management. There is a bill coming
178 forward on 10/3/2023 to focus eligibility on residence and closeness to work. On October 3rd
179 the Council is also asking the Finance Department to work on negotiations to purchase a 32-
180 acre parcel in Gualt's Gulch, the southern part of Pepe'ekeo and shoreline via PONC. Public
181 support is needed. Hank Correa owns the parcel, and it is for sale. If acquired would provide
182 public access to fishing and agroforestry and support the local community with local
183 stewardship. The hearing is 10/3/2023 in committee and the following Wednesday in Council.

184 **6. Future Agenda Item Recommendations**

185 1. Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC

- 186 2. Format of Future AC Meetings
187 3. Honoka'a Business Association presentation
188 4. Presentation from Deborah Chang, Current Chair on Pepe'ekeo PONCs

189 **ADJOURNMENT:**

190 *Committee Chair Keeney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Committee Member*
191 *Nishimoto. Motion passed unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at approximately*
192 *7:51 p.m.*

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

Aloha fellow Action Committee Chairs and members,

This letter inquires whether there is interest in coordinating AC response to the Draft General Plan due March 1, 2024, as there will likely be similar questions & comments by each Committee toward Planning, and response from Planning, on proposed changes to the current GP (2005). County Code specifies it is the duty of each AC to provide recommendations to amend the General Plan.

As background to this inquiry, on Monday, Oct. 16, I sent mail to Corporation Counsel and Planning requesting judgement whether the Public Comment period deadline on the COH Draft General Plan is applicable to the Community Development Plan Action Committees. "Must deliberation and recommendations from the various district Action Committees be submitted to the Planning Department by the November 20 deadline in order to be considered as official documents from our Committee?" County Code at 16-6 (10) specifies the Duties and Responsibility of the Action Committee to "(10) Provide recommendations to amend the General Plan." The Nov. 20 deadline allowed only one Hamakua AC meeting for General Plan consideration, which is incompatible with the above Responsibility. My request for meetings more frequent than monthly had been previously denied by Planning, understandably. On Wednesday, Oct. 18, the Public Comment Deadline was extended to March 1.

I believe that Planning has a right to expect from the Action Committees that they make good use of this temporal extension. Therefore some coordination among AC groups may be desired, as the answers to many AC member questions to Planning in this short timeframe will most likely be relevant to the entirety of the Islandwide AC members.

My own perspective has been shaped by comments received asking that Planning make clear, perhaps in a Compendium/Appendix accompanying the Draft GP, those items and directives which are a change from the current 2005 Plan. I'm not sure if this has been an issue for other committees review of the Draft GP, but if so, perhaps this should be a consistent request from each Action Committee toward Planning. This consolidation would then be a starting point for the Action Committees' and Public's understanding, discussion and comment.

For example, it has been my impression that the presentation of the Land Use map is insufficient to understand where changes in zoning have been made. One needs to 'click' on each property (?thousands) to determine if it is subject to zoning change. Designation on the map should exist where changes in zoning have taken place. Or perhaps, more practically, there could be an accompanying compendium of those properties which have zoning change.

Also, my reading thus far has occasionally encountered terms and concepts which are foreign to me. It is possible that each AC member may have concepts they wish explained, and since this duty to comment is obligated of each AC, and several Committees may have the same questions, it seems reasonable to consider a group AC 'concepts and terms clarification' request to Planning. Planning could decide whether

their response would be in email to each islandwide member, or in the 'Communications' section of each agenda, or both. It does not seem reasonable to expect from Planning explanations of concepts previously present in the 2005 General Plan as this is likely an unmanageable burden of historical data. But likewise, concepts that are new to this Draft GP may be novel to the AC members, and Planning staff likely have explanations readily available. The members of various Committees will, in many cases, have similar questions.

It is my impression that Action Committees are unreasonably burdened with trying to untangle what is new and what is Status Quo, in formulating their recommendations toward the current Draft GP.

Again, the CDP mandated Action Committee 'Duty' of requesting needed clarification and explanation preceding recommendations, would likely be preempted by Planning's publishing the suggested compendium of changes from the 2005 Plan which have been incorporated into the current Draft. After those changes are clarified, along with explanation of new terms and concepts, then the work of the Action Committees would be accelerated over the next few months in drafting response and recommendations.

Without a compendium of changes from the current Plan and explanation of novel concepts in the Draft GP, questions and comments submitted to Planning from each AC will be unnecessarily repetitive and burdensome, and useful information may be distributed from Planning to some Committees but not to others.

To that end I suggest perhaps the following, (but welcome other ideas or suggestions):

- 1) A Zoom meeting of the chairs of each Action Committee
- 2) Creation of a Permitted Interaction Group in each Committee responsible for developing an initial set of Questions and Comments to be presented to Planning with a Copy to be sent to each other district Action Committee (to be included the 'Communications' on the Agenda of the various Committees).
- 3) Planning's response to those Questions and Comments from each Committee would be sent to the entirety of the District Committees and included in the 'Communications' on the next meeting Agenda.
- 4) Perhaps a subsequent meeting of the chairs of the Committees would distill the questions and response from Planning into an Agenda for a Combined Action Committee meeting with Planning. This should be sent to each district Action Committee and included on the Agenda of the various Committees.
- 5) A Combined Action Committee meeting with Planning to address the Comments and Questions raised.
- 6) The Final set of Recommendations would be written by each Action Committee to Planning and copy to County Council. To have official status as recommendation, the document needs to be from each individual Action Committee, as the Combined

Group has no 'official' status, e.g. voting authority. Likely there will be a great deal of overlap in the documents from each Committee.

Can this be accomplished by March 1? To me, the above all seems like the most lawful and considerate approach. In order to avoid much work and duplication it might be desirable that each Committee, at their next meeting, draft and send a letter to Planning asking for presentation to the Public and Committees a compendium of all proposed changes from the Status Quo in the Draft General Plan. Any suggestions to the above described process would be most welcome.

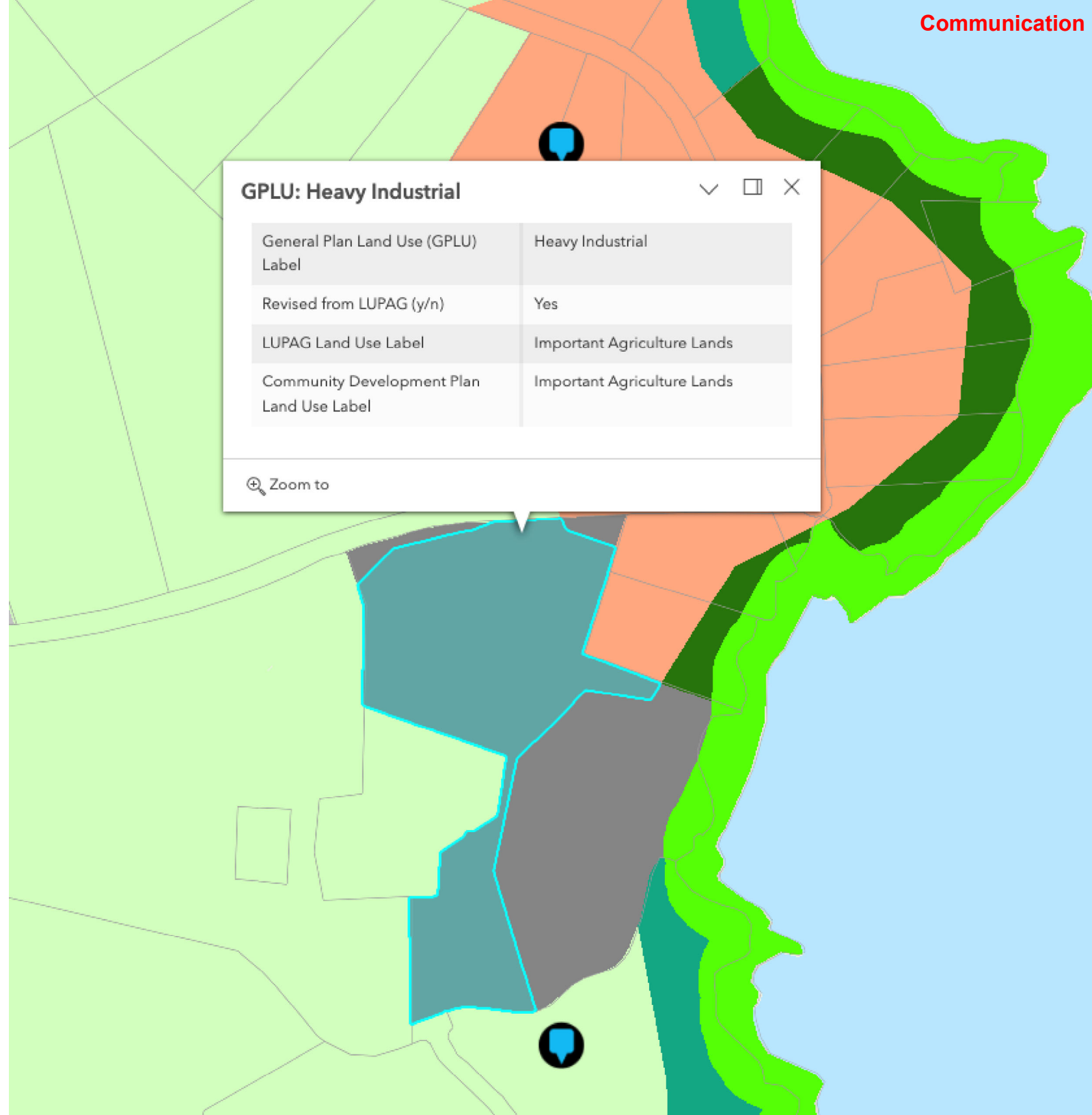
To facilitate a Zoom meeting of the chairs of the district ACs, perhaps each chair would respond by email or phone (808-937-7674) to me with a note whether they would be interested in a Zoom meeting and, if so, when they would be available to meet (time and day).

Since identification of the Committee chair has been removed from the CDP website, I am sending this note to each AC member whose email address I have, other than my own Committee (where I will place this note in Agenda 'Communications'). This has been clarified by Corp. Counsel to not be in violation of Sunshine Law. As a side note, Planning has stated that the email addresses of each member giving their consent for posting on the district CDP website will be restored after the vacationing Planner gets caught up on her work after returning.

Forgive my assuming your interest as AC members in considering the above. I simply hope to do due diligence to our appointed duty.

Mahalo for your consideration, and feel free to comment to me, but please avoid 'reply all' or comment directed to your own Committee members as that might be considered a possible Sunshine violation.

Tawn Keeney MD



GPLU: Heavy Industrial

General Plan Land Use (GPLU) Label	Heavy Industrial
Revised from LUPAG (y/n)	Yes
LUPAG Land Use Label	Open
Community Development Plan Land Use Label	Open

🔍 Zoom to

GPLU: Heavy Industrial

General Plan Land Use (GPLU) Label	Heavy Industrial
Revised from LUPAG (y/n)	Yes
LUPAG Land Use Label	Low Density Urban
Community Development Plan Land Use Label	Industrial

🔍 Zoom to



GPLU: Heavy Industrial



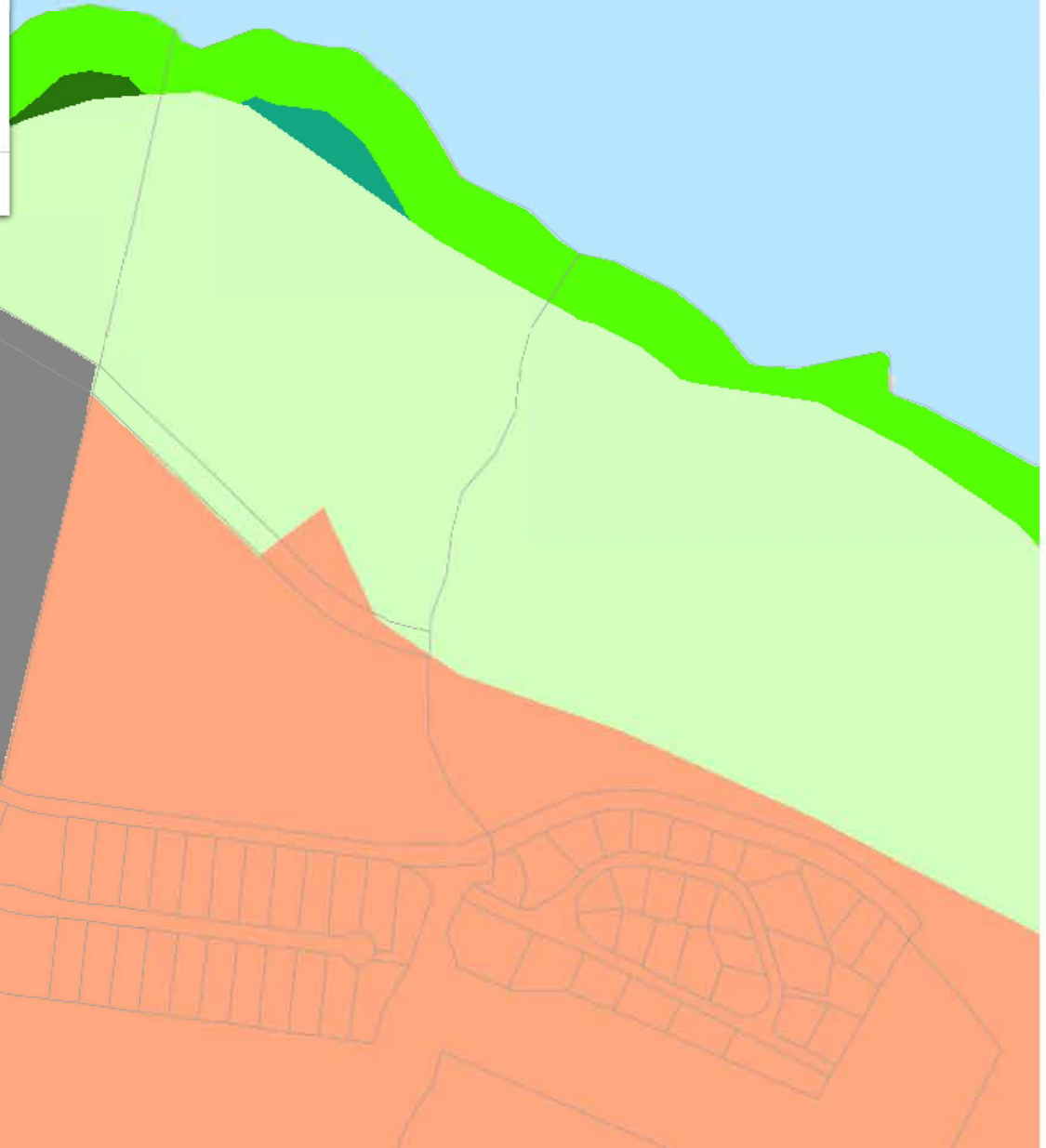
General Plan Land Use (GPLU) Label	Heavy Industrial
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Revised from LUPAG (y/n)	Yes
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LUPAG Land Use Label	Important Agriculture Lands
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Community Development Plan Land Use Label	Industrial
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Zoom to



Palma, Maryam

From: tawn@honokaapeople.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 7:24 PM
To: Surprenant, April; Planning CDP
Subject: One more link (important) for 'Communications' for the Hamakua CDP AC meeting

Hi April,

Probably the most important link to place in Communications is the following.

<https://youtu.be/SCngrDYSwEM>.

This is a condensation of a Civil Beat panel discussion on Wildfire Preparedness. It was a 60 minutes panel but I condensed it into 22 minutes. Elizabeth Pickett from Hawaii Wildfire Management and Clay Trauernicht from UH Manoa are the majors. I have had conversations with Elizabeth and with the Honokaa Fire Captain, and the Hamakua Fire Prevention officer and Kamehameha Schools Asset manager and have had email exchange with the Civil Defense director about developing a plan or multiple plans for fire preparedness in Hamakua. Of course HWMO has finished their new 'official' plan but I haven't seen it. It will now be a matter of application. I got a positive feeling from my Conversation with Kamehameha Schools. That was encouraging. On Nov. 7 we will be addressing this topic with the Honokaa Business Assn. I think that it would be 22 minutes well spent to look at this.

Thanks, Tawn

Steve Pause
Director, Department of Public Works
County of Hawaii

Dear Director Pause,

My name is Tawn Keeney. I was physician in Honokaa for 36 years and have been retired for 10 years. I have owned the Honokaa People's Theatre since 1991 and currently operate it as a 5 night/week movie theatre. I am currently the chair of the Hamakua Community Development Plan Action Committee. I am writing this as a member of the public, but this is an issue soon to be taken up by the Hamakua CDP Action Committee.

The CDP Action Committee concerns itself with problems and potentials in the Hamakua District. I wish to have you consider with me one of those potentials, one that has been given thought for the 45 years that I have lived in Honokaa - a Mud Lane to Honokaa connector road.

This consideration is embodied in the Hamakua Community Development Plan as Policy 55: "Perform a feasibility study on developing a scenic route from the Waipio Valley Lookout extending mauka to connect to Mud Lane at the entrance of Waimea." Policy 56 states: "Perform a feasibility study on developing a scenic park (accessible via Mud Lane) with a viewing area of Hiilawe Falls in conjunction with the development of the scenic highway."

Discussion of Policy 55 states, "Improving the mid-section of Mud Lane would provide an alternate/emergency route to Kukuihaele and the Waipio Valley lookout, and would create a scenic loop between Waimea, Waipio Valley Lookout and Honokaa.

This feasibility study could include assessing public access potential to the Hamakua Forest Reserve (Kea'a and Hanapai Sections). This policy is based on GP 13.2.5.4.2 (c).

Discussion of Policy 56 states, "This policy is related to and dependent on Policy 55 above and is based on General Plan policy 12.5.4.2 (d). One of the advantages of developing a scenic park with a view of Hiilawe Falls would be to incentivize scenic viewpoints above the Valley with the goal of minimizing visitor trips into the valley. To minimize impacts, this park could be accessible via a pedestrian hiking trail developed along the old cane haul road." (I would like to add consideration of bicycle concession access.)

I would like to enumerate the considerations which I have encountered in relation to these proposals, which, after all, are only feasibility studies.

First, a new member on our CDP Action Committee, Tisha Mahealani Maikui, on her introduction to our Committee indicated that her first priority would be to advocate for an alternate emergency access (other than the Honokaa-Waipio Highway) route for the Waipio/Kukuihaele/Kapulena communities (that route was not specified).

Second, the reluctance of the Honokaa Business Community to construction of such a connector road, citing concern for loss of visitor passage through Honokaa in transit to the Waipio lookout, might turn to support if it were agreed that a Mud Lane connector would be a one way road with a wide shoulder which could accommodate a bike lane or emergency vehicle passage. I believe that 'one way traffic', thus ensuring visitor

transit through Honokaa, would be important to any consideration of receiving Honokaa Business support. Residents in the Waipio/Kukuihaele/Kapulena area would have their round trip mileage to Waimea significantly reduced.

Third, the overlook park mentioned above is truly spectacular, on a par with the current Waipio lookout, and should be accessible, even if by walking or cycling. Kulia Potter currently has management and access authority from Kamehameha Schools over this area. She is dedicated to Hawaiian Cultural Restoration but I believe could be supportive of a park here if access were limited to walking or bicycling the mile(?) of trail required.

Fourth, the current urgency of search by the County and Communities for solution to the Waipio visitor inundation problem might be favorably impacted by provision of the Overlook Park described above.

I personally feel that construction of such a one-way connector road would be a 'win-win' for everyone involved. If 'one-way' status could not be assured, then I also might be hesitant to support such a proposal.

If construction of a one-way connector road (with emergency capable shoulder) extending Mud Lane down to Kukuihaele might be a possibility, then I would like to request an appointment, perhaps in the company of Ms. Maikui, to meet at your office to discuss how we might begin the process leading to this study or studies, even if this possibility currently would seem remote.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Tawn Keeney MD





Hata, Janice

From: Valerie Van Pham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 12:19 PM
To: Planning CDP; Kimball, Heather
Subject: Hamakua Community Development Plan Action Committee Meeting, November 8th, 2023: Item 7 (Mud Lane Roadway)

Dear Committee,

On behalf of my family, neighbors and friends I am advocating that Mud Lane become a county maintained road (possibly restricted to Hawaii residents only as is Waipio Valley Road) for the following reasons:

Opening Mud Lane would create a significant bypass for Hawaii residents

1. seeking emergency or other medical attention in Waimea at the North Hawaii Community Hospital, which offers more comprehensive services than the Honokaa Health Center can provide;
2. seeking emergency or other medical veterinarian care for domestic and feral animals that live or were abandoned in Kukuihaele or Waipio Valley (Veterinarian Associates on Mana road is the closest vet to us).
3. seeking a shorter commute for those of us who regularly commute to or from Kukuihaele and Waipio Valley going or coming from Waimea and the communities in the middle and the east side of the Big Island, for farming, business or family reasons.

Thank you for taking these issues into consideration.

Sincerely,
Valerie Van Pham

[REDACTED]

Hata, Janice

From: Roger Schafer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:23 PM
To: Planning CDP
Subject: Hamakua community development plan action committee meeting Nov 8th

Aloha,

I am a resident of W. Waikoekoe lane next to Mud Lane. As someone who depends on mud lane for my daily life, I would like to make a comment at the public meeting of the Hamakua community development plan action committee on Nov. 8th, 2023. I would like to comment on the use of mud lane as a county-maintained road and have questions about the specifics of its future usage.

Thank you,
Roger Schafer

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