



County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, May 10, 2023

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tawn Keeney started the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting at 5:04 P.M. This meeting was held online via Zoom, and in-person at the Laupāhoehoe Public Library. Quorum was not established at this meeting; thus, only presentations were heard, and committee business was not addressed and there were no votes.

The YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDFa7zB5raE>

ROLL CALL

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

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

County Officials: Deputy Corporation Counsel, Suzanna Tiapula

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *This item was taken out of order and announcements were given at different times during the meeting*

- Council Member Heather Kimball announced that she will be including a detailed update on the Laupāhoehoe pool repairs in her next newsletter. She also shared that the first hearing for Bill 48, which was created by herself and Council Member Villegas, would be held next week. The Bill would create an Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience. Council Member Kimball encouraged all to submit testimony for the Bill if interested. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:22:41]
- 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 [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:33:11]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

This item was deferred as quorum was not established.

BUSINESS:

1. Permitted Affordable Living (PAL) Presentation:

Representative, Mary Blyth, shared information about the Kaua'i based non-profit affordable housing developer and their possible expansion to Pepe'ekeo. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:25]

Questions were taken from Committee members and members of the public, and further discussions were had around funding, the Pepe'ekeo location, programs offered by the non-profit organization, determination of residents, as well as the organization's current goals for the Pepe'ekeo location. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 14:23]

For more information on PAL Big Island click here: <https://www.pal-kauai.org/big-island>

Council Member Heather Kimball informed that County Council is currently working on residential preference law with regard to residents who have lived or worked in the county for a certain period of time. She also informed that they were working to ensure that homes built for affordable uses continue to be used as such for a longer period than ten years. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 31:18]

See PAL presentation here:

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

2. Public Access, Open Space, & Natural Resources (PONC) Presentation:

Chair Keeney informed that presenter for this agenda item, Blake McNaughton, was unable to attend this meeting to share his efforts and experiences with the PONC application for Pepe'ekeo. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP - 2:45]

3. Honoka'a Business Association Presentation:

Michelle Hartman, Head of the Honoka'a Business Association, apologized for arriving late to this meeting and informed that she would give her presentation at another time as she had another meeting to attend that evening. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 19:55]

4. The Hāmākua Heritage Center's Agricultural Festival:

Nicole Garcia, Director of the Honoka'a Heritage Center, shared information on their upcoming Agriculture Festival which is to be held in October 2024 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Hāmākua Sugar's final harvest. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 39:05]

Questions and comments were taken from Committee members and members of the public. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 46:24]

Dwight Takamine, member of the Honoka'a Historical Committee, shared his appreciation of the opportunity to work together and acknowledged the CDP process allowing community and grassroots participation. He also shared some background information to emphasize the

importance of the history of what life was like during the sugar plantation era along the Hāmākua coast and how this event would provide more opportunity to strengthen the foundation of the community, by not only learning about the history, but also the continuity of agriculture in Hāmākua. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 47:09]

Ms. Garcia requested assistance from the AC in acquiring County level support for this event. Mr. Takamine also suggested and encouraged members to communicate and participate as resources so they could work together to bring more effectiveness to the overall effort. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:00:36]

Additional comments and questions were taken from Committee members and members of the public. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:03:23]

5. Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC:

Richard Biddleman shared updates on his work and efforts related to Lehua Street Infrastructure in Honokaʻa [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:27:30]

6. Action Committee Meeting Format:

This item was derferred as quorum was not established.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Permitted Interaction Groups Updates to AC
2. Action Committee Meeting Format
3. Honokaʻa Business Association Presentation
4. Community Gardens Update Presentation by Indy Singh

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 6:43 P.M.

These meeting minutes 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](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov.