



County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, October 18, 2022
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Niki Hubbard called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:41 P.M. This was an Action Committee hosted meeting held at the Laupāhoehoe Public Library- Humanities Room; there was no Zoom option. Quorum was established at this meeting.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Nicolette Hubbard (Vice Chair); Brad Kurokawa, Rhonda Pollard; Robert Nishimoto; Tawn Keeney.

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

County Officials: Suzanna Tiapula, Deputy Corporation Counsel

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder that this was a Hāmākua Action Committee-hosted meeting. There was no Planning Department staff in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action Committee Member Tawn Keeney requested to revise the draft minutes of the May 17, 2022, to clarify, the removal of the sentence in the agenda item #2, Implementation Projects, "He thought they could be a model the HCDP could use." As that is not what he meant to suggest. *Please note that the roll call information was not provided for this motion and will need to be clarified.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Three (3) members of the public provided oral testimony and/or written testimony.

1. Richard Bidleman, representing himself, provided oral testimony on agenda item #2. He shared that he served on the Puna Action Committee and encouraged the Hāmākua Action Committee to get the community involved on various subcommittees to increase community involvement. He shared his personal experience by serving on a Puna Action Committee infrastructure subcommittee and how they decided to focus on healthcare;

they were able to get a clinic in Pahoa with public and private funds. He believes that subcommittees can recruit community members. Additionally, he read from the HCDP page 82, Policy 70 – Safe Sidewalks in Honoka‘a. There are 5 streets with no sidewalks leading down into town. Lehua St. would be the best candidate for sidewalks because of the new development proposed. He hopes this becomes a priority.

2. Meizhu Lui, representing herself, provided both written and oral testimony on agenda item #2. She shared about how the CDP process started 15 years ago and believed now is the time to get involved again and make sure the CDP is implemented. She proposed a future agenda item for the next meeting regarding land use. She expressed how incoming residents do not know the rules and permitted uses within the district. She believes we need to inform them and have a mechanism to create awareness. She expressed how even some residents are not aware. She would like to know who to direct questions or who to report to regarding violations.

[Ms. Lui's written testimony \(Communication No. 2022-18\) may be viewed here.](#)

3. Lei Brown, representing herself, provided oral testimony on agenda #2. She expressed how she can help with the Policy 52 of the Hāmākua Development Plan (HCDP) and Waipi‘o Wahi Pana Subcommittee. She had questions regarding the editing and updating the CDP and the creation and/or existence of a fisheries management subcommittee.

Please note, from this moment the Action Committee went into a long discussion that was more like Wahi Pana committee work

Action Committee member Keeney shared that he believes the CDP can be edited. He restated that the Waipio Wahi Pana subcommittee was formed with 3 members, that the mayor hosted a meeting about the current issue since the Action Committee last met. And it was left in the community's hands to figure out and so it seems that the CDP has a role to play now. He would like to join the committee.

Community member Brown hopes the goal is to manage the valley beyond just the current conflict. Community member Bruce K. stated that an integrated management plan is needed, and the CDP's role is to provide a place for community input and bring it back to the County to move the plan forward.

Community member Brown shared that the prior steering committees with Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP) were slowed because of the focus on destination not Wahi Pana and lots of parties were lacking representation.

There was a discussion regarding notifying all parties and have them review policy 52 and come to share with the Action Committee. The Action Committee doesn't want to duplicate what is being done.

Community member Randy S. asked Community member Brown to define fisheries, which she clarified that she hopes to have a management plan that covers both the ocean and river fisheries.

Action Committee member Nishimoto shared that he values the Wahi Pana concept, he acknowledges that there is often a disconnect between cultural methods that work for Hawai'i and state and federal agencies; Western methods do not work for Hawai'i but are prescribed in plans they come up with. There is also a challenge with the state and federal agencies saying it is not their kuleana and some areas are not managed. He has seen fishery management disasters following western ideas. The right way to approach management here is mauka to makai, the muliwai. Action Committee member Nishimoto is willing to share his experiences having worked with many of the agencies that manage these areas.

Vice-Chair Hubbard discussed watershed and referred to section 4.6 in the CDP. She asked if the Action Committee would want another committee, or will Waipi'o Wahi Pana be able to cover this as well? Action Committee member Keeney said he would resign from the subcommittee to allow Action Committee Nishimoto to participate. The Wahi Pana Subcommittee now consists of: Brad Kurokawa, Rhonda Pollard, Desiree Moana Cruz, and Bob Nishimoto.

BUSINESS:

1. Election of Action Committee Officers:

Action Committee member Nishimoto declined the nomination as Chair from the previous September 20, 2022, meeting.

Action Committee member Kurokawa moved to nominate Tawn Keeney. Seconded by Action Committee member Pollard. Motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 nay.

Action Committee member Nishimoto asked Action Committee member Keeney to explain his position on the North Kohala's AC changing to an advisory council. Action Committee member Keeney explained that while he is interested to see how an Advisory Group works, he does not want to follow that model, as the Action Committee would lose their status as an official board; wants the Action Committee to liase with the County.

2. Hāmākua Action Committee Implementation Projects:

Action Committee member Keeney previously mentioned creating a Housing Subcommittee and wanted to explore that. Vice-Chair Hubbard shared that she would like to know what specifically the subcommittee would address as what the CDP Community Action listed was very limiting.

Action Committee member Keeney made a motion to form a Housing Subcommittee; seconded by Vice-Chair Hubbard.

There was discussion centered around possible topics of interests for this subcommittee that require further investigation and discussion. Vice-Chair Hubbard read from the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (CDP), Section 5, 5.1 and 5.2.

Action Committee member Kurokawa reminded the Action Committee of their liaison roles. He discussed the County zoning code updates and the upcoming community meeting he will be attending. There were discussions around the Action Committee being involved with the Code update regarding input, a potential island-wide CDP meeting or a potential consultant presentation.

Action Committee member Keeney discussed the need to mitigate the disconnect between the community and the Planning Department, and other departments. Action Committee member Kurokawa further discussed the infrastructure needs within the community and posed questions regarding future services from the Department of Water. He suggested a presentation from the Department of Water Supply.

Vice-Chair Hubbard asked if the Action Committee could volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, since that is listed as an action item.

There was a vote to approve the Housing Subcommittee with 5 ayes, 0 nay. The Housing Subcommittee currently consists of Vice-Chair Hubbard and Action Committee member Keeney.

The Action Committee discussed other implementation projects. Action Committee member Kurokawa shared he is still working on the Action Item regarding Hakalau School (Hāmākua Community Development Plan – Section 5.13 Expand Parks & Recreation Facilities, Community Action #39). He stated how the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Education (DOE) need to work together. He will continue to report back to the Action Committee.

Vice-Chair Hubbard asked for a list of implementation projects; Action Committee Kurokawa recalled a Matrix. Vice-Chair Hubbard would like access to review and invite entities from each action item to share and spread awareness of their work.

There was a general discussion regarding a property tour concerning the huiMAU community initiatives, Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) and the status of the County of Hawai'i Community Planning website.

Please see the link below for more information about Hui Mālama i ke Ala 'Ūlili (huiMAU):
[huiMAU - HuiMAU Home \(alaulili.com\)](http://alaulili.com)

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Subcommittee Report Back to Action Committee:
 - a. Waipi'o 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

ADJOURNMENT:

Action Committee member Pollard moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice-Chair Hubbard.

145 The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

146 This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua
147 Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i Public](#)
148 [Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department
149 by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@HawaiiCounty.gov.

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