

General Plan Implementation

Public Comment Summary

County of Hawai'i Draft General Plan 2045

The public comment period for the Draft General Plan 2045 was held from September 18, 2023 to April 1, 2024. This comment summary contains the key themes derived from community feedback on the Implementation section of the draft plan.

1. Feasibility and Practicality of Implementation

Implementation comments express concerns over the realistic and practical aspects of implementing the General Plan, including funding limitations and capital projects. Specifically, the allocation and sufficiency of funding for proposed plans as well as the criteria for setting project priorities, particularly in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) section, is of concern. There are suggestions to incorporate pragmatic language and better explanations in this section. Several comments highlight the importance of identifying clear priorities and implementing development plans in phases, with specific calls for urban development plans for regions such as Hilo. There is a strong push for the creation of a Community Development Plan for Hilo, pointing out its absence and the necessity for its inclusion to guide local development.

2. Community Engagement and Local Decision-Making

Many comments advocate for local community input and decision-making power, cautioning against reliance on consultants or unelected bodies. The comments represent a strong sentiment that civic engagement should be fostered.

3. Plan Accessibility and Clarity

Comments reflect frustrations with the plan's layout, organization, and presentation, including missing content, navigational difficulties, and the need for more accessible public review. There is a call for the inclusion of specific benchmarks, standards, and responsibilities in the plans to assess progress and ensure proper implementation.

4. Environmental Concerns and Sustainable Practices

A few comments discuss environmental topics, including skepticism around climate change strategies and an emphasis on sustainable housing solutions.

Comment	Page Number (in the online Konveio platform)
On A Final Note In the early 1600's the Roman Catholic Church was Europe's religious, political and scientific authority. It supported a geocentric doctrine, which placed the earth at the center of the universe. At that time, Galileo Galilei supported Copernican heliocentrism, which placed the sun at the center of the solar system, Galileo based his support and scientific writings on actual telescopic observations of the sun, moon, planets and stars. After an Inquisition the Church admonished, punished and censured Galileo. He was placed under house arrest and was forced to recant his support of Copernican heliocentrism. A decision that damaged the Church's reputation for over 300 years. Finally, in 1992 the Church acknowledged that the Inquisition was wrong to not listen to and accept Galileo's scientific findings. The moral to this story.. popular doctrines and flavors of the month will eventually give way to the truth. Ultimately, the truth will prevail and the truth will ultimately show that efforts to reduce emissions of man-made atmospheric CO2 will have no effect on the earth's climate and global warming. Millions and billions of dollars spent on a fool's errand. Accordingly, for the reasons and facts stated above, I urge you to remove plans to eliminate man-made CO2 from the County of Hawaii's Plan 2045. Solar radiation is the earth's primary heat source and Henry's Law, which has been a fundamental law of physics since 1850, shows that the temperature of the earth's land and water surfaces govern the levels of atmospheric CO2, not the level of man-made CO2, which is so small that it cannot be measured. For those of you who do not have the time to read all of the articles referenced above, click on the graphic below to watch the movie "THE COLD TRUTH", which provides similar information. This movie premiered on March 20, 2024.	213
Comments on the General Plan layout, organizaiton and topical presentation 1. The lack of a Table of Contents made navigating, reviewing, and commenting on the draft plan very difficult. 2. Lack of consistency in the numbering convention used throughout the document. a. Major Subjects Listed as "sections" b. Subsections also listed as "sections". c. Some major subjects included a table at the beginning of the section showing numbered subsections and others did not. i. Some components of the subsections were not numbered.	213
How is this General Plan being funded and by whom?	213
I am also skeptical of the use of public/private partnerships where local decisions are made by unelected bodies, especially those from away. And does "government" refer to Hawai'i County? if it doesn't, it should. I'm also deeply disturbed by the suggestion of a micronuclear plant being suggested on our nuclear free, earthquake and tsunami prone island. Such a proposal is nothing but insane. And don't you need the approval of the citizens of this county? I have many more questions and reservations and hope you extend the period to allow public input and inquiry. Mahala for considering my reservations and hope you will answer all my questions,	213
COMPARISON OF 2005 AND 2045 PLANS The 2045 Plan is lacking many features of the 2005 Plan that provided information and facilitated understanding ..Public comment is hampered by the lack of a table of contents for 2045, and by no mechanism to copy text from the 2005 plan PDF. 2005 Table of Contents 2045 none, unless you happen to click on an lcon on the left, which yields a brief table of contents List of Tables List of Maps Statement of assumptions none none none Projections re. employment and population Citation of sources for tables Maps other than LUPAG maps Lava hazard zones Historic sites Schools Libraries Police stations Fire stations Courts Correctional faciitiies Hospitals Landfills and transfer stations Cemeteries Electric power generating faciitiies Water wells and springs Wastewater treatment plants Parks-County, State, Federal Roadways-detailed maps for various districts Airports Wharfs and harbors Government owned lands: Federal, State, DHHL Military installations	213
Priorities and Phases The first phase is the consistency phase and will require a hard look at our policy and planning framework to ensure consistency with this General Plan. It includes implementation actions such as auditing codes to determine needed updates and updating our Community Development Plans and other relevant plans. p.209 There should be ample opportunity for the public to comment Phase 1 2024-2029 Revamp of CIP process p. 209 "CIP" should be explained. Proposed changes should be more fully described.	210

Public Agency Functional Plans and Programs p. 206 The General Plan draft should cite statutory authority for each of these. Public Agency Functional Plans and Programs p. 206 Blocks of text for this section appear to be moved to the wrong spot on the page.	207
Local Engagement Foster grassroots participation and balancing of interests by providing opportunities for active civic engagement, where citizens have the means to collaborate with the government and are empowered to effect positive change consistent with plans developed under this chapter. p. 202	203
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Replace "the government" with "the county"	203
According to the GP 2045, the purpose of the County Planning System is to serve as a guide for the long-range development, and economic, environmental, and socio cultural wellbeing of the county. The Planning System is designed to incorporate feedback systems to ensure that all its components fit together and serve their intended purpose. A key component of this are Community Development Plans (CDPs), Special Plans, and Urban Development Plans. The town of Hilo is unique of all regions on the island in that it lacks a modern CDP (the last Hilo CDP dates from 1975). That means that not only are we in Hilo missing a "plan on the shelf", and there is thus no mechanism to accomplish the intended functions of the CDP, which the GP 2045 says are to: 1. Translate the General Plan's broad statements and community development guidelines to actions specific to the planning area to address regional issues and opportunities. 2. Improve and advance communities and community resilience through the acknowledgment and development of community capacity. 3. Provide a process for citizens to engage in civic dialogue and contribute to the identification of community priorities. In the absence of a CDP, Hilo should be the subject of an Urban Development Plan. The GP 2045 states that these plans are: a means of implementing the policies and objectives of the General Plan and/or Community Development Plans within towns, villages, and other areas of existing urban development or within areas specifically intended for new or more intensified urban development. They comprise a minor portion of a larger, regional community planning area. They shall be consistent with and implement the visions, objectives, and policies of the General Plan and applicable community development plans.... An Urban Development Plan is initiated by or through the Planning Director or County Council. The Urban Development Plan process should identify: 1. An analysis of problems, needs, and opportunities 2. Appropriate planning standards • Public services and transportation • Housing unit densities, urban design • Streetscaping and landscaping design • A statement of proposed considerations for historic or archaeological features in the proximity of the plan's area, which may consider restoration, access, buffers, and other measures as	203

appropriate. 3. Sequencing and phasing of development or redevelopment, public facilities, infrastructure 4. Implementation program CIP, financial element, and schedule. We request that the GP 2045 be amended to recommend the preparation of an Urban Development Plan for Hilo, and that the plan include an Action Committee consisting of nine volunteer residents from the Hilo area who shall serve as stewards of the UDP through facilitating implementation and recommending plan updates as needed, similar to the CDP.	
We need a train. That will revolutionize our island. Quick transportation long distances of both people and goods. Then taxis and buses can handle each drop off point.	212
Does this not describe our entire island?	212
How do you plan on doing this when you're just using guesses from whatever the latest model is? None of them has panned out thus far. This is an expensive and unnecessary requirement that will limit what our county can do.	212
The budget should be proportional to adequately address health and safety needs Then our children should swim in sanitary and safe pools, not like the one in North Kohala!...after non-use (& plenty of time to scrub it down) there was nothing done to clean up the degraded condition! How can we let our seniors live in housing with smart meters directly radiating them. We need to truly enact this mandate in the General Plan...It is the highest priority; 'Health and Safety'.	208
Some of the phases in this section mention "strategic gaps in the Plan" and "comprehensive updates." Isn't that what is going on now during this time that the public has to review the plan and submit feedback? Yes, the Plan when implemented will continue to 20 years, but it is not clear how any updated or changes would be accomplished after the Plan is approved and implemented.	210
CIP = Funding and we all know that funding is limited. As stated in this section only about 30% of projects actually get funded and those projects are determined in large part by the CDPs. Again, no CDP in Hilo.	208
The CDPs are an important part of this portion of the Plan but there is no CDP for Hilo, nor has there been for over 50 years. Hilo is the 2nd largest city in the state and stands to be greatly impacted by the Smart City concept and yet there is no Hilo CDP.	204
There are a lot of nice words in the General Plan as a whole but not enough actual "Plan." There has not been enough civic engagement to move forward with the Plan. Even though the County has given months for the public to read the Plan and enter comments, the general public appears to require actual meetings where they can ask questions and get clarification. The one meeting in Hilo had lots of information displayed which could not easily be interpreted by average citizens.	203
Pg. 201-212 Include department responsibility/oversight in an implementation action matrix. This could provide a more detailed path to follow. -correlate key areas of the plan with the primary department/entity responsible. -large actions may be further broken down into smaller steps (more feasible for implementation. Think about the expected outcome, how actionable/feasible it is.	203
Affordable housing can be increased by regulating builders of "Tiny HOuses" so they meet building standards and thus do not require a building permit for placing in urban and rural areas.	213
Our planet is NEVER in the same place from one day to the next. Of course the climate changes. We need adaptable stewardship of our Aina.	212
Any issue can be brought to the People on a regular basis. ANY CIP can be brought to the people for votes. Let us get back to more immediate self- governing, not committee ruling.	209
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EPA Enforcement actions are going to drive a lot of wastewater CIP priorities. Not sure how you want to mention that as a criterion	209

My impression: the draft Plan touches essentially all the bases. But it is full of verbs such as support, ensure, strive etc. Priority Actions are not clearly prioritized within a group and sufficient funds do not exist in the County (or even in the State?) to implement most of them. Even the final Monitoring table lacks specific benchmarks to evaluate adequately.	211
And Community Development Plan committees	211
Make it 3-year. We need to know how progress goes.	211
Include parcels that meet basic safety and emergency needs For example, Pratt Road in North Kohala could become an emergency access route when our only through highway becomes blocked (again).	206
Why not refer to them as the "local committees that implement their CDPs"?? North Kohala, for example has created an Advisory Group to accomplish this. Why set Action Committees in stone for the next 20 years?	205
and "procedural or technical gaps..."	210
Why is this in the CIP section? This should be up front, in a section that offers specific language about how collaboration toward GP goal achievements should be carried out. Or else just omitted. It's pointless in the CIP section in particular.	209
consider being more proactive in the funding component. we have very little infrastructure in already developed areas of our cities and towns	208
looks like part of the sentence is missing.	207
Well - we have to be careful that the precious few dollars we have for capital projects into consumed by a "candy jar" option for Department heads to say, "Oh, we can't figure this out, or don't have the time, so we're going to hire a consultant for \$500,000 to ask us the questions we need to ask ourselves, and write down and collate what they say for them." No. No. No.	208
Yes! Sequencing expansion, whether called phasing or otherwise, is critically important to make this work. As for your other aspect for the urban development plans to identify, I suggest adding several examples below the heading, i.e., "Roads, water, sewer, parks, DOE school sites, public safety facilities." This adds "weight" to the concept of these things being address in such plan.	207
Change "should" to "may." We have to be realistic; just as the CIP can be viewed more as "wish list" than an action mandate, amending the GP because a region wants more of whatever should be expressly considered, via such items being an appendix to a proposed CDP revision draft, in conjunction w/ the Council's consideration of that particular CDP draft or within one year later (ideally, after multiple CDP updates have been presented and adopted with reservations or revisions).	206