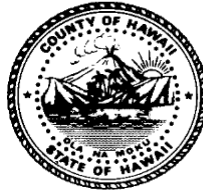


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Gregory Henkel
Jennifer Scheffel
Martha Morishige
Kanoë Wilson, Chair
Leilani DeMello, Vice Chair
Vacant
Leila Kealoha
Susan Osborne
Franny Brewer

County of Hawai‘i

PUNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Puna Action Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 92-7, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS). This meeting will be held in-person at the location listed in this notice and by Interactive Conference Technology (ICT) through Zoom.

DATE: Thursday, August 8, 2024

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

IN PERSON LOCATION: Kea‘au Community Center
16-186 Pili Mua St.
Kea‘au, HI 96749

ONLINE/ZOOM: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604788961>

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The public may provide oral testimony at the meeting by joining Zoom or attending in-person at the physical location listed above. Although not required, to register in advance for oral testimony please contact staff at cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8288. Pursuant to §92-3, HRS, interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so either at the time the committee takes public statements on the agenda, or at the time the specific agenda item is called. Please note that public testimony may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item. In addition, although not required, to ensure timely delivery of written testimony to committee members, it is requested that written testimony be submitted by 4:30 p.m. at least two business days prior to the meeting via email to cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov. When submitting written testimony, please specify for which agenda item written testimony is being submitted. All written testimony will be a part of the public record.

NOTICE REGARDING INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY (ICT): A meeting held by ICT shall be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication when audiovisual communication cannot be maintained with all members participating in the meeting or with the in-person location identified in this notice. The meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication is restored, or audio-only communication is established after an unsuccessful attempt to restore audiovisual communication. If it is not possible to reconvene the

meeting as provided in this subsection within 30 minutes after an interruption to communication, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Committee will consider approving the draft minutes from June 6, 2024.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Pursuant to §92-3, HRS, interested persons who want to provide oral testimony may do so now, or at the time the specific agenda item is called. Public testimony may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item.
- IV. BUSINESS:**
 - 1. Puna Brochure Permitted Interaction Group** – Decision making on whether to create a Permitted Interaction Group to investigate the existing Puna brochure.
 - 2. State Representative Update** – District 4 State Representative Greggor Ilagan provides specific updates regarding current and future initiatives for Puna.
 - 3. Overview of CDP Action Committee Purpose and Puna CDP Implementation Priorities** –Additional speakers Council Member Ashley Kierkiewicz and Recovery Staff Zoë Callahan will provide information on the County’s Resilience Capacity Areas (RCAs). The committee will discuss which implementation projects to pursue based off findings in the Puna CDP document.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The County of Hawai‘i Planning Department is pleased to announce the release of the Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045. In-person Public Informational Workshops will include a formal presentation of the Final Recommended Draft and will be held:
 - August 28, 2024, West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Building A from 2pm to 4pm.
 - August 29, 2024, Arc of Hilo, 1099 Waianuenue Ave from 2pm to 4pm.
 - Online workshop opportunities will be available with more information to come soon.
- The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Puna Action Committee and is requesting assistance to get the word out to interested community members. The application can be found on the Mayor’s office website at:
<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-commissions-application>
- The Department of Environmental Management has begun the process to Draft an Integrated Wastewater Management Plan. A recording of the first round of public meetings can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmR2EgTRQVI>

- V. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:** Action Committee members will discuss potential agenda items for the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Puna Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/Browse.aspx?dbid=1&cr=1>. 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 business days prior to the meeting.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service, other reasonable modification, or language interpretation to access this meeting please contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 or cdp@hawaiicounty.gov as soon as possible, but no later than five business days prior to the meeting date, to arrange for accommodations. If a response is received after the five-business days deadline, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled. "Other reasonable modification" refers to communication methods or devices for people with disabilities who are mentally and/or physically challenged. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

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-Council, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720.

PUNA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

PUNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

DRAFT MINUTES
June 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Leilani DeMello called the Puna Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. A quorum was established with six members in attendance. This meeting was held in person at the Volcano Cooper Center and via the Zoom online platform.

The YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxOxqus_kNU&t=6972s

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present (in person): Martha Morishige

AC Members Present (via Zoom): Vice Chair Leilani DeMello, Leila Kealoha, Susan Osborne, Jennifer Scheffel, and Gregory Henkel

AC Members Absent: Chair Kanoë Wilson and Franny Brewer

County Staff: Maryam Palma and Kawelo Kalili

There were approximately twelve members of the public in attendance (five in person and seven via Zoom).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [*SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 5:58*]

Committee Member Osborne made a motion to approve the February 1, 2024, minutes. Motion seconded by Committee Member Kealoha. Motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BUSINESS:

1. **Puna Brochure Permitted Interaction** – Decision making on whether to create a Permitted Interaction Group to investigate the existing Puna brochure. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 6:00*]

Committee member Morishige motioned to keep the Puna Brochure as is. Committee member Scheffel seconded the motion. The committee discussed the intention behind forming a permitted interaction group to update the current Puna Brochure. Committee member Morishige withdrew the motion to keep the brochure as is. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 11:45*]

Committee member Osborne motioned for the AC to establish a Permitted Interaction Group for the discussion, review and revision of the Puna Brochure. Committee member Henkel seconded the motion. The members included in this PIG are Susie Osborne, Leila

Kealoha and Jen Scheffel. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 17:15]

2. Orchidland Neighbors Park Update – Update by Orchidland Neighbors representative. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 19:56]

Orchidland Neighbors representative presented the Orchidland Neighbors park update. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 20:30]

Orchidland Neighbors representative Jessie Molina presented the Orchidland Neighbors park update. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 27:15]

Committee member Kealoha asked to clarify how the AC can contribute to the initiative. Representative Aste agreed to write a specific letter requesting the ACs support. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 31:25]

Stephanie Bath provided public testimony. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 38:33]

Committee member Morishige motioned to discuss the Orchidland Park at the next meeting. Seconded by Committee member Kealoha. The motion passed with 4 ayes and 2 abstentions. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 47:14]

3. Overview of CDP Action Committee Purpose and Puna CDP Implementation

Priorities – Presentation by Planning Department staff on the background and roles of the CDP Action Committee. Discussion to establish which implementation projects the committee will pursue based off findings in the Puna CDP document. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 49:23]

Planning department staff Maryam Palma provided a refresher presentation on the CDP AC roles and connectivity within the County and other government and non-government agencies. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 53:04]

Planning Department Recovery Division staff Patti Pinto provided a presentation on previous Puna Action Committee projects [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:28:14]

Planning department staff Maryam Palma elaborated on the Resilience Capacity Areas (RCAs). Committee member Kealoha clarified that the RCAs will be moving forward and noted that four out of eight AC members are also on the RCAs. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:34:20]

The presentation concluded with the PCDP priority action items of the AC members. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:45:00]

Stephanie Bath provided public testimony. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:57:10]

Hannah Hendricks provided public testimony. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 2:03:00]

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:54:03]

1. Discussion of AC Implementation Priorities
2. Presentation by Recovery Division staff Zoe Callahan regarding the RCAs
3. Orchidland Neighborhood Park

80 4. Update from House Representative and Senator

81 **ADJOURNMENT:**

82 Vice Chair DeMello adjourned the meeting at 7:16 P.M. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP*
83 *2:10:00*]

84 These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Puna
85 Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the [County of Hawai'i Public](#)
86 [Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department
87 by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov.

E Mālama Kākou I Ka 'Āina *Let's All Steward The Land*

Wherever your property is in Puna, untouched land may have native or endemic bird, insect, and plant species found nowhere else on earth. Some may very well be rare and/or endangered.

Responsible stewardship means building and living in a way that minimizes your impact on Hawai'i's unique ecosystems.



Wildlife Corridors

Many parcels of land in Puna either abut or are close to protected areas such as Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Kahauale'a Natural Area Reserve, Ola'a Forest Reserve, Wao Kele o Puna, Keau'ohana Forest Reserve, Nānāwale Forest Reserve and several others. These areas are of high ecological sensitivity and development can break the continuity of critical habitat. Bird and plant populations become genetically isolated and are at greater risk. By clearing minimally, removing invasive species and landscaping with native plants or non-invasive non-native plants, you can help to maintain the biological integrity of our at risk native species.

Informational Resources

- County Department of Public Works (DPW) <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/public-works/>
- State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/>
- State Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/>
- College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/Extprogrms.aspx>
- Hawaiian Alien Plant Studies (University of Hawai'i) http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/cw_smith/aliens.htm
- Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) <http://www.biisc.org/>

Mahalo Nui Loa

The agencies and organizations listed below have contributed information used in the development of this brochure.

- County of Hawai'i Planning Department
- Puna Community Development Plan Action Committee
- Volcano Community Association
- Mālama O Puna

The information contained in this brochure is for general information purposes only and is not conclusive. Please confirm all building and permitting requirements with the respective approving agency.

BEFORE YOU BUILD IN PUNA



A Guide to Protecting Puna's Forests

Produced by the
Puna Community Development Plan
Action Committee



County of Hawai'i Planning Department
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
(808) 961-8288

Protecting Puna's Forests

Endemic to Hawai'i means that the species cannot be found anywhere else in the world, making it ever more important for us to protect the habitat of our endemic species!



The endemic 'Amakihi sipping from an endangered Hau Kuahiwi flower.

- There are 26,608 species in the state of Hawai'i
- 10,000+ of these species are endemic
- Hawai'i has already lost 26 native bird species with 27 more species currently endangered.
- 90% of terrestrial species in Hawai'i are endemic

Benefits of Saving Your Forest

- Visual and noise buffers are free and provide increased privacy.
- Natural landscaping provided by native forest is both valuable and appealing.
- Essential habitat is saved for native and endemic bird, insect, and plant species.
- Aggressive invasive species can spread quickly on cleared land. Limiting dozing and clearing helps to limit the introduction of invasive species which may save you time, money, and the use of herbicides.
- Serious flooding problems can happen for you and/or your neighbors when improper or excessive grading occurs.
- Vegetation impacts localized climates through natural processes. Forested areas can help reduce localized air temperatures.

Suggestions for Preparing Your Lot

- Get a permit. The County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works regulates grubbing and grading requirements and permits. Those found in violation of Hawai'i County Code (HCC) Chapter 10 are subject to fines. See HCC Chapter 10 Section 10-8. <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/lb-countycode/#countycode>
- Preserve existing native forest. Avoid clearing your lot "pin-to-pin" preserving areas with the healthiest forest. There are organizations that can help you identify native plants. (See resources on the back)
- Minimize cleared areas. Hand clear or use small machinery and equipment when clearing your lot. Being present to supervise clearing can help minimize misunderstandings.
- Remove existing invasive species during land preparation. Such species include Albizia, Myrica, Ficus, Strawberry Guava, Tibouchina, Himalayan Raspberry, Miconia and Ginger.

Reduce the Spread of R.O.D.

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) is a disease that has killed hundreds of thousands of 'ōhi'a trees. This disease is caused by a fungus called *Ceratocystis fimbriata*. 'Ōhi'a lehua is a keystone species of Hawai'i's native forests and watersheds, and possibly the most important tree in Hawai'i. You can help reduce the spread of rapid 'ōhi'a death by:

- Not moving 'ōhi'a wood, firewood or posts, especially from areas known to have ROD.
- Not moving 'ōhi'a plants, wood, or other plant parts interisland without a permit. [Hawai'i Administrative Rule §4-72-13]
- Cleaning tools used for cutting 'ōhi'a trees (especially infected ones) with 70% rubbing alcohol or 10% bleach.
- Cleaning shoes, gear and clothing. Decontaminate shoes by dipping the soles in 10% bleach or 70% rubbing alcohol. Other gear can be sprayed with the same proven cleaning solutions. Wash clothing in hot water with detergent.
- Washing tires and undercarriage of vehicles with detergent, especially after traveling from an area with ROD and/or if you have traveled off-road.

Building with the Environment

- Much of our native forests are heavily degraded. Help restore our forests by planting native and endemic species appropriate to YOUR local conditions/climate.



'Ōhi'a Lehua Blossom

- Beware of invasive species and aggressive invasive plants. Potted plants can carry hitchhikers like coqui frogs, fire ants, and stinging-nettle caterpillars. Check all plants before taking them home! Ensure that you are planting non-invasive plant species.
- Prevent standing water. Mosquitoes breed in containers of standing water, and the avian malaria they carry is deadly to native birds. Turn over empty pots, buckets & tires.
- Outdoor lighting and reducing light-pollution. Keep native seabirds safe by limiting exterior lighting. Improperly installed exterior lighting can disorient birds as they overfly forests at night. The law requires that all outdoor lights face the ground, not outward or upward. Rules and regulations for outdoor lighting can be found in Hawaii County Code Chapter 14: General Welfare Article 9. <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/lb-countycode/#countycode>

E Mālama I Ka 'Āina

Research permitting requirements before grubbing and grading!



This is the result of clear-cutting