

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII

FINAL MINUTES
June 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Meyer called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:04 p.m. A quorum was established with six members in attendance. This meeting was held in person at the Honoka‘a Complex and via the Zoom online platform.

The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJzzonbEFpY&t=2301s>

ROLL CALL

Members Present (in person): Richard Bidleman, Tawn Keeney, and David Meyer (Chair).

Members Present (via Zoom): Brad Kurokawa and Robert Nishimoto.

Members Absent: Mahealani Maikui

County Staff Present (in person): Maryam Palma, Jessica Lahip and Kawelo Kalili.

Also in Attendance: Heather Kimball (County Council)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:07]

The Action Committee deferred to approve the May 8, 2024 meeting minutes at the next meeting, scheduled for August 14, 2024. Committee Member Richard Bidleman motioned to approve the April 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee member Tawn Keeney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments

BUSINESS

- 1. Hale Ho‘ola Hāmākua Presentation** – Presentation from Director, Denise Mackey on Hale Ho‘ola Hāmākua staffing needs, training, and housing.

This item was called to order at 5:07 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:43]

Director, Denise Mackey speaks on rural location staffing struggles/challenges in all job positions. Previously have contracted with Island CPR for Nurse Aide training. Also offer a premium to work at the rural locations, however, not many applicants. Overall, Director Mackey believes that due to living in a small community/small population, staffing across the job market is difficult.

This item concluded at 5:41 p.m.

2. Updates on Implementation Priorities – The Action Committee will provide updates on their respective implementation priorities:

- i. CDP Community Action Items 3 & 4: Presentation from Committee member Robert Nishimoto
- ii. Waipi‘o Wahi Pana – Committee member Brad Kurokawa and Vice-Chair Mahealani Maikui
- iii. Fire Preparedness & Public Access – Committee member Tawn Keeney
- iv. PONC – Committee member Tawn Keeney
- v. Planning Department Public Notices – Committee member Tawn Keeney
- vi. CIP Budget/Agriculture Taxes – Chair, David Meyer

This item was called to order at 5:41 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 36:18*]

Committee member Robert Nishimoto presented on CDP Community Action 3 (Develop a coastal resource management plan as part of watershed management plans) and Community Action 4 (Support the organization of a community-based hui for the fisher people of the Hāmākua Coast). He hopes for shared governance of our aquatic kuleana through partnerships with government, private fishing groups and the community.

Rose Cypret Testimony [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 55:40*]

Committee member Brad Kurokawa did not have any updates on Waipi‘o Wahi Pana [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:01:16*]

Committee member Brad Kurokawa made a request to Council Chair Member Heather Kimball to provide an update on Waipi‘o. A Waipi‘o Valley Steering Committee meeting will discuss 3 things: permitting system on roadway, Kamehameha Schools potentially providing land for a parking lot and visitor experience from the top of the valley.

Rose Cypret Testimony [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:11:22*]

Committee member Tawn Keeney gives an update on Fire Preparedness & Public Access [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:12:04*]

Committee member Tawn Keeney speaks on the Hāmākua Fire Preparedness plan, prepared by the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). Keeney spoke with Nani from HWMO and the plan has reached a limbo status. Council member Heather Kimball to reach out to Nani for an update. There is a suggestion for Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to give fire mitigation plan presentation.

Brittany Anderson Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:23:15]

Tom Forgatsch Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:25:00]

Committee member Tawn Keeney gives an update on PONC [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:27:41]

Committee member Tawn Keeney talks about 10 properties by Pepe'ekeo that the County may purchase. The decision will be made July 9, 2024.

Committee member Tawn Keeney gives an update on Public Notices [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:29:38]

The Action Committee discusses the Public Notices response letter from Deputy Corporation Counsel Jean Campbell regarding the question, "Does HCC Section 16-6 require the Planning Department to monitor all Planning Department actions for effect on properties located within the geographic scope of the Hāmākua CDP and report the same to the AC?"

Tom Forgatsch Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:58:20]

This item concluded at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:08:09]

1. Updates on Action Priorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:08:23]

- Hawaii County Council Chairperson, Heather Kimball to provide County Council updates related to the Hāmākua Community Development Plan.
- Brad Kurokawa was notified that 2.1 million dollars in funds were appropriated to Hakalau School

104 **ADJOURNMENT**

105 Committee Member Tawn Keeney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Committee member
106 Richard Bidleman seconded the motion. An all-in-favor voice vote carried the motion
107 unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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