

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII

DRAFT MINUTES
August 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Meyer called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:07 p.m. A quorum was established with five members in attendance. This meeting was held in person at the Pāpa‘aloha Gym Annex and via the Zoom online platform.

The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_UGRHTCi74

ROLL CALL

Members Present (in person): David Meyer (Chair), Richard Bidleman, Tawn Keeney, Robert Nishimoto

Members Present (via Zoom): Mahealani Maikui (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Brad Kurokawa

County Staff Present (in person): Maryam Palma and Jessica Lahip

Also in Attendance: Heather Kimball (County Council)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:35]

Committee member Richard Bidleman motioned to approve the May 8, 2024 and June 12, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee member Robert Nishiimoto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Dave Molenaar Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:28]

Committee member Tawn Keeney made a comment stating that members of the public should be able to testify on items that are not listed on the agenda. County Planner Maryam Palma will follow up with Corporation Counsel to determine whether it is possible to add a public comment section as an agenda item. If approved, this will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

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

a. Fire Preparedness & Public Access – Committee member Tawn Keeney

b. Coastal Resource Community Based Hui – Committee member Robert Nishimoto

- c. Waipi‘o Wahi Pana – Committee member Brad Kurokawa & Vice-Chair, Mahealani Maikui
- d. Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission – Committee member Tawn Keeney
- e. County of Hawai‘i Capital Improvement Budget & Agriculture Taxes – Chair, David Meyer

This item was called to order at 5:07 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 19:16]

Committee member Tawn Keeney spoke about the Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) Community Wildfire Protection Plan. He plans to speak with the Fire Department and do a perimeter walk-around in potential areas where wildfire might be reduced. This may also reveal if additional steps can be taken to lessen the potential fire hazard in these high-hazard areas. The discussion for emergency evacuation routes is ongoing and will focus on the perimeters of these communities that were referenced in the HWMO plan.

Council member Heather Kimball made a comment on the Hawaiian Electric power safety shut off plan.

Vice-Chair Mahealani Maikui had no update regarding Waipi‘o Wahi Pana. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 38:00]

Committee member Robert Nishimoto spoke about the Coastal Resource Community Based Hui. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 38:22]

Access to Hāmākua. Fishing access is very limited in Hāmākua and if someone has a complaint regarding fishing, he would like to contact them personally. He discussed how to effectively reach fishing community of the Hāmākua coast. He mentioned the importance of accessibility to the coast and using a “story” to effectively engage people in this topic.

Council member Heather Kimball stated that \$40 million has been approved for Laupāhoehoe boat ramp and breakwater.

Committee member Keeney provided an update on the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC). [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:02:30]

Property that was nominated to the PONC commission was selected with the second highest ranking out of 10 nominations for County purchase.

Chair David Meyer had no update regarding County of Hawai‘i Capital Improvement Budget & Agriculture Taxes [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:08:39]

Chair David Meyers asked Council member Heather Kimball for clarification on the tax plan and how it does not seem to relate to the preservation of farmland.

Pam Elder Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:24:22]

Dave Molenaar Testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP [1:35:12]

This item concluded at 6:53 p.m.

- 2. Final Recommended Draft of General Plan 2045 Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) –**
Consideration of adding 1-2 additional members to the existing P.I.G. (Committee members

74 Keeney and Kurokawa) to review and prepare comments on the Final Recommended Draft
75 of General Plan 2045.

76 This item was called to order at 6:53 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:46:15]

77 Committee member Tawn Keeney highlighted that the Final Recommended Draft of General
78 Plan 2045 is now available for public comment. Additionally, Keeney discussed Bill 181, which
79 was recently introduced by Council member Holeka Inaba. No additional committee members
80 were added to current P.I.G. Committee member Tawn Keeney requested to have a letter to
81 support Bill 181 which will be discussed at the next Hāmākua CDP Action committee meeting.

82 This item concluded at 7:20 p.m.

83 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:13:40]

- 84 1. Updates on Action Priorities
85 2. Letter in support of Bill 181 regarding the Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045
86 3. Kō Education Center Meeting Report

87 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:17:36]

88 Announcements have been deferred to the next meeting.

89 **ADJOURNMENT**

90 Committee member Richard Bidleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Committee member
91 Tawn Keeney seconded the motion. An all-in-favor voice vote carried the motion unanimously.
92 The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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