

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII

FINAL MINUTES
December 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum was established with five members in attendance. This meeting was held in person at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2 Conference Room and online via the Zoom platform.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zbZkhvPRlQ&t=790s>

ROLL CALL

Members Present (in person): Vice-Chair Nancy Pисicchio, Charla Thompson, Heather Korotie, and Chair Charles Young

Members Present (via Zoom): David Huerta and John Pelletier

Members Absent: Roselyn Molina

County Staff Present: Kawelo Kalili (in person) and Maryam Palma (via Zoom)

There were 8 members of the public in attendance (0 in person and 8 via Zoom).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee member Pисicchio moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024, meeting as drafted. Vice-Chair Pисicchio seconded. The motion passed unanimously. [*YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 5:20*]

BUSINESS

- 1. General Plan Discussion** – Discussion and potential action regarding submitting comment to the Leeward Planning Commission. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 6:29*]

Committee member Pelletier suggested submitting the AC's comments on the General Plan as testimony to the Leeward Planning Commission and volunteered to attend the December 19, 2024 meeting at the Kona Council Chambers to provide verbal testimony. Chair Young supported the action and clarified that the testimony should focus on the Kona CDP, as Pelletier would be representing the Kona AC. Planning staff agreed to submit the comments. Pelletier moved to submit the letter and represent the AC at the Leeward Planning Commission meeting. Committee member Korotie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Pисicchio reported a draft testimony prepared for submission to the Leeward Planning Commission, emphasizing concerns regarding the remapping of properties in the draft General

Plan from agricultural to rural use, which could encourage urban sprawl beyond the Kona Urban Growth Area. She highlighted that the proposed changes could lead to higher-density development outside the existing rural towns and villages, conflicting with the strategic objectives of the General Plan to preserve resources and manage growth effectively. Vice-Chair Pisicchio recommended removing the proposed remapping and clarified that developers could still seek boundary amendments through the State Land Use Commission, if necessary. Committee member Pelletier supported Vice-Chair Pisicchio's concerns, agreeing that the remapping contradicts the intent of rural land use policies and contributes to urban sprawl. Pelletier expressed willingness to present the comments at the upcoming meeting and stated that both the TOD comments and the proposed testimony could be covered within the allotted time. Committee member Thompson moved for the AC to support Vice-Chair Pisicchio's letter and for committee member Pelletier to read it verbally at the PC meeting. Committee member Korotie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations and Elections – Discussion and potential action to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Kona CDP Action Committee for 2025. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 29:21]

Vice-Chair Pisicchio moved to nominate Chair Young as Chair of the committee for 2025. Committee member Pelletier seconded the motion. Chair Young emphasized the need for a strong succession plan with both internal and external resource development as a condition for continuing as Chair. He supports public participation and collaboration with other committees and the administration, stressing succession planning for 2025 while remaining willing to serve until a successor is found. Vice-Chair Pisicchio called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Young nominated Vice-Chair Pisicchio as Vice-Chair of the committee for 2025. Committee member Pelletier seconded the motion. Chair Young shared his appreciation for Vice-Chair Pisicchio's commitment to the committee. Chair Young called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Advisory Committees Discussion – Discussion and potential action on how the Kona CDP AC may interact with other advisory committees on CDP related matters. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 33:55]

Chair Young emphasized the need for the AC to strengthen connections with county and outside agencies, suggesting outreach efforts beyond meetings and creating a priority list for engaging with other committees. Committee member Pisicchio proposed inviting chairs from other boards and commissions to present their projects and build relationships around CDP topics. Committee member Pelletier encouraged AC members to use the county calendar. Chair Young challenged the committee to review the County calendar before the January meeting to discuss effective communication strategies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vice-Chair Nancy Pisicchio to provide update on the status of State bill relating to Neighborhood Boards.

- 74 ○ Vice-Chair Pisicchio provided an update on the status of a State bill aimed at
75 revising Sunshine Law provisions for neighborhood boards. Last year, Senator
76 Kanuha introduced a bill drafted with the island's action committees to align
77 Sunshine Law rules with those established for city neighborhood boards in 2008.
78 The bill was deferred due to concerns from a committee chair, who felt the title was
79 too specific. As a result, the bill now has a more generic title. Recently, Vice-Chair
80 Pisicchio met with State Representative Kapela, who plans to reintroduce the bill
81 in both the House and Senate, emphasizing grassroots participation in government.
82 The proposed changes would allow public testimony on items not on the agenda,
83 and provide more flexibility for non-voting discussions, such as presentations on
84 the General Plan. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 48:55]

- 85 • See Communication No. 2024-32 for the Updated 2025 Kona CDP AC Meeting Cadence
86 Memo.
- 87 • The Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045 has been submitted to the Planning
88 Commission. The Leeward Planning Commission will continue discussions and actions
89 on December 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm. More information can be found here:
90 [https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-](https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-committees/planningcommission-applications)
91 [committees/planningcommission-applications](https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-committees/planningcommission-applications)
- 92 • The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Kona CDP Action
93 Committee and the Cultural Resources Commission and requests assistance in spreading
94 the word to interested community members. The application can be found on the mayor's
95 office website at: [https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boardscommissions-](https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boardscommissions-application)
96 [application](https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boardscommissions-application)
- 97 • Vice-Chair Pisicchio, the current Kona AC representative for the KOSN committee,
98 announced the ongoing Open Space Network committee, which has been meeting
99 throughout the year. Recently, the committee had a satisfying meeting where consultants
100 presented a comprehensive map of urban trails and open spaces within the urban boundary,
101 highlighting connections, potential issues, and roads related to these spaces. Vice-Chair
102 Pisicchio was excited about the progress made, noting that it exceeded expectations,
103 especially regarding trail connections and public domain information. They emphasized
104 the importance of ensuring that underrepresented areas are considered in future efforts.
105 [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 59:50]

106 **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:05:28]

- 107 1. General Plan Updates
108 2. Neighborhood Boards Bill

109 **ADJOURNMENT**

110 The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:08:00]

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