

C. Kimo Alameda, PhD.
Mayor



John Pelletier
Vacant
Heather Korotie
Vacant
Charles Young, Chair
Nancy Pisicchio, Vice-Chair
Charla Thompson
David Huerta
Roselyn Molina

County of Hawai'i

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) 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: Tuesday, February 11, 2025
TIME: 12:00-2:00 p.m.
IN PERSON LOCATION: West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2 Conference Room
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
ONLINE/ZOOM:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/eLyJJgdNQeSBZnTb9c-QXg>

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 Section 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 Action Committee will consider approving the draft minutes for the Kona CDP Action Committee Meeting on January 14, 2025.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS:** The public may provide verbal testimony at the meeting by joining the Zoom meeting or attending in-person. Please register to testify by contacting cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. Comments may be made either during the public comment portion of the agenda or just prior to the relevant business item. With discretion of the Chair of the CDP Action Committee, comments may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item. Written testimony may be submitted via email at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior to this meeting (see the Notice Section below).
- IV. BUSINESS:**
 - 1. Kealahou Regional Park Update** – Update from Action Committee members and discussion regarding any actions the Committee may pursue.
 - 2. Leeward Planning Commission Testimony Update** – Vice Chair Pisicchio and Committee member John Pelletier to provide update on the January 16, 2025, Leeward Planning Commission meeting where they provided oral testimony on behalf of the committee.
 - 3. State Legislature Testimony** – Discussion and potential action on whether the Action Committee should submit testimony to State Legislature on bills relevant to the Kona Community Development Plan.
- V. PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS:** Action Committee members will discuss potential agenda items for the next meeting.
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - The Environmental Notice – DHHL North Kona Wells Project – Gianulias Well Site – Draft EA (FONSI) https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/The_Environmental_Notice/2025-01-23-TEN.pdf
 - The Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045 has been submitted to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will continue discussions and actions on the following dates. More information can be found here: <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-committees/planning-commission-applications>
 - Windward Planning Commission: March 10, 2025 at 9:00am
 - The Leeward Planning Commission: February 20, 2025 at 9:30am
 - The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the Kona CDP Action Committee and the Cultural Resources Commission and requests assistance in spreading the word 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>
- VII. ADJOURNMENT**

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/Browse.aspx?dbid=1&startid=9059&row=1&cr=1>. These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. The recorded video of this meeting will be uploaded to the Planning Department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@cohplanningdepartment>

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.

KONA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

Meeting Packet QR Code:



1 KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2 ACTION COMMITTEE
3 COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

4 DRAFT MINUTES
5 January 14, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC)
8 meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. A quorum was established with six members in attendance. This
9 meeting was held in person at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2 Conference Room and online via
10 the Zoom platform.

11 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mpQ22XZN08>

13 **ROLL CALL**

14 Members Present (in person): Vice-Chair Nancy Pисicchio, John Pelletier, and Chair Charles Young

15 Members Present (via Zoom): David Huerta, Charla Thompson, and Heather Korotie

16 Members Absent: Roselyn Molina

17 County Staff Present: Kawelo Kalili (in person), Maryam Palma, Janice Hata, and Jessica Lahip
18 (via Zoom)

19 There were approximately 25 members of the public in attendance (10 in person and 15 via Zoom).

20 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

21 Committee member Pelletier moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2024, meeting
22 as drafted. Vice-Chair Pисicchio seconded. The motion passed unanimously. [*SEE YOUTUBE*
23 *TIMESTAMP 2:10*]

24 **BUSINESS**

- 25 **1. Mayor's Boards and Commissions Collaboration** – Discussion and potential action on
26 opportunities for collaboration with other boards and commissions. [*SEE YOUTUBE*
27 *TIMESTAMP 4:45*]

28 Chair Young emphasized the importance of collaboration with other boards and commissions,
29 highlighting that it would be beneficial for the committee. He committed to focusing on water-
30 related issues by attending the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM)
31 meetings and County Department of Water Supply (DWS) meetings.

32 Committee member Pelletier suggested working with the Cultural Resources Commission
33 (CRC) and the Leeward Planning Commission as other potential partners.

34 Vice-Chair Pисicchio mentioned that they are interested in collaborating with other Action
35 Committees regarding the Sunshine Law legislation.

Committee member Thompson expressed interest in water-related issues and shared that she has been reviewing recommended water commission videos. She is particularly focused on the Kealahou Regional Park project and exploring involvement with relevant boards and commissions, such as those related to open spaces and water. Additionally, she is working on engaging with the Tree City USA initiative and has been in contact with Planning Department staff and the Arbor Day Foundation for guidance.

Committee member Korotie expressed interest in exploring the cesspool-to-septic conversion process, specifically whether better solutions are being considered. She plans to look into the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and identify which boards or groups might be addressing this issue to engage further.

Chair Young emphasized the need for committee members to adhere to Sunshine Law requirements, ensuring that no more than two members are present at the same meeting, including Zoom sessions. He encouraged members to independently pursue their areas of interest and raise any significant concerns or topics for discussion as agenda items during future meetings. Chair Young expressed appreciation for their commitment and encouraged members to exercise discretion in their efforts while reserving the agenda for their recommendations.

2. Neighborhood Boards Bill – Discussion and potential action on whether the Action Committee should submit testimony to Senate committees. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 12:36]

The Action Committee discussed the next steps for a bill they had voted to support, focusing on how to proceed if it is posted before their next meeting. Members suggested drafting a letter of support based on finalized bill language, circulating it for approval, and ensuring Sunshine Law compliance. Planning Department staff, Maryam, proposed agreeing on key bullet points during the meeting to expedite the process, with Vice-Chair drafting the letter accordingly. Vice-Chair Pisicchio shared updates from Senator Kanuha, noting the finalized draft might be available Friday evening. Committee member Pelletier moved for Vice-Chair Pisicchio to update the previous testimony the AC submitted on February 21, 2024, with necessary edits to the bill number and date and resubmitting it to both the Senate and House. Vice-Chair, Pisicchio, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. General Plan Discussion – Discussion and potential action regarding submitting comment to the Leeward Planning Commission. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 23:46]

Chair Young approved for Committee Member Pelletier to share his update on the December 19th Leeward Planning Commission meeting. Committee member Pelletier shared that the testimony submitted at the last meeting went well, though there wasn't much discussion from the Commission. He noted that the upcoming meeting on Thursday, January 16th may involve more decision-making. He also outlined two key topics from the testimony: concerns about transit-related aspects in the general plan and the issue of designating property outside of the urban growth area for development, which was voted on due to concerns over urban sprawl. The committee plans to follow up on these points in future discussions.

Public Testimony:

- Josephine Keli‘ipio provided testimony expressing concern about the shift towards transit-oriented development and "smart cities," which they fear could lead to surveillance-based systems like those in China. They opposed these developments, emphasizing that they are not suitable for the local community [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 27:31]
- Burke Matsuyama provided testimony inquiring about the status of zoning changes related to the General Plan and how it might impact his five-acre grocery store development. He sought an update on the land use process and timeline for when the plan will be accepted. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 31:04]
- Rebecca Melendez provided testimony criticizing the General Plan for being vague and lacking clarity on the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program and its impact on landowner rights, particularly regarding environmental restrictions and private property development. They also expressed concerns about the plan’s push for smart grid infrastructure, 5G technology, and the lack of research on health risks, while emphasizing the need for local jobs and innovative solutions to resource issues like power outages and waste management. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 38:56]
- Robert Gay provided testimony arguing that climate change is primarily driven by the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth, not CO2 levels, citing the minimal human contribution to CO2 emissions. They pointed to the 2021 eruption of the Hunga Tonga volcano, which released massive amounts of water and sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, causing temporary cooling effects, and emphasized the importance of considering these factors in climate discussions. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 52:34]
- Will Pode provided testimony expressing concern that people are unaware of the changes in the general plan, citing a recent experience where farmers were affected by shifts in the plan without prior knowledge. They requested more time for public awareness before the bill is passed. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:01:06]
- Shellie Davis provided testimony expressing concern that homeowners and landowners, particularly Native Hawaiians, were not properly notified about the general plan, and questioned whether the county had plans to protect their property rights. They argued that the plan could lead to the forced removal of property owners, urging the county to prioritize residents' rights and ensure transparency in the planning process. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:05:54]

Chair Young reminded the audience that updating the general plan is mandated by law and is essential for good planning, as conditions change over time. Chair acknowledged that communication could have been better and emphasized that the current plan is an update based on previous versions and current conditions. Vice-Chair Pisicchio clarified that the Action Committee's role is to discuss concerns and consider potential amendments, but the actual decision-making responsibility lies with those in charge of reviewing the general plan. They emphasized that recommendations for more public meetings or amendments would be forwarded to the Planning Commission for further action. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:17:28]

- Elizabeth Cook provided testimony rejecting the current plan and called for a new one created by the people, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in decision-

making. They expressed concern that government often fails to act in the best interest of local communities and urged elected officials to listen to the people. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:17:28]

- Randy Rugar provided testimony emphasizing the need for a new approach, criticizing the vague concept of "stakeholders" in the current plan and expressing frustration that the government's actions often fail to meet local needs. They advocated for more community-driven solutions and better use of available technology to address pressing issues like water and climate change, while urging transparency and accountability from elected officials. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:25:40]
- Michael Sofranko provided testimony sharing their experience of fighting against environmental changes, particularly related to the sugar cane industry and timber projects, stressing the importance of informing the public about such changes beforehand. They also criticized the lack of transparency about stakeholders' interests and suggested a more voluntary, trial-based approach to implementing new policies to better understand their potential impact. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:32:28]
- Juhl Rayne provided testimony via Zoom expressing strong opposition to the ongoing planning processes, comparing them to a UN agenda and raising concerns about the impact of policies like those in Kona and other regions. They emphasized the lack of public input, calling for more transparency and citizen engagement to protect future generations' freedom. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:39:20]
- Chuck Flaherty provided testimony via Zoom emphasizing protecting cultural preserve areas to uphold native Hawaiian rights. They urged the committee to review their testimony, address wastewater issues, and advocate for restoring public access and cultural protections in the General Plan during future Planning Commission meetings. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:41:58]
- Joyal Yasuda provided testimony via Zoom emphasizing the importance of protecting Hawai'i's land and cultural heritage, drawing on ancestral wisdom and the sacred connection between people and the land. They urged the committee to make decisions that honor their kupuna and ensure a legacy of stewardship for future generations, grounded in aloha and responsibility. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:46:24]
- Kalei Ka'ilikini provided testimony via Zoom opposing the 2045 General Plan, citing flaws in land use designations and concerns over the inclusion of "stakeholders" that could empower billionaires and corporations over local residents. She also emphasized addressing homelessness, referencing its health impacts, and urged research into weather modification technologies, linking them to disasters like the Lahaina fires. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:54:47]
- Adrienne Hew provided testimony via Zoom raising concerns about California's water diversion by a billionaire couple for private farming, tying it to issues like stakeholder influence, smart meters, and infrastructure failures linked to wildfires. They also recommended the book *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* to highlight parallels with systemic land grabs and urged specificity in the general plan to avoid similar outcomes. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:02:06]
- April Lee provided testimony via Zoom regarding the need for transparency and accountability in the county's general plan, calling for annual audited reports on financial inflows, expenditures, and contractor activities. They highlighted concerns about water access, neglected infrastructure, and the misuse of funds, urging the county to prioritize

166 community needs and ensure responsible resource management. [SEE YOUTUBE
167 *TIMESTAMP 2:06:23*]

168 Vice-Chair Pisicchio and Committee member Pelletier agreed to attend the Leeward Planning
169 Commission meeting on January 16th to participate in further discussions regarding the AC's
170 testimony from the previous meeting. They plan to provide a report to the AC at the February
171 meeting.

172 **4. Kealahou Regional Park Update** – Update from Action Committee members and
173 discussion regarding any actions the Committee may pursue. [SEE YOUTUBE
174 *TIMESTAMP 2:14:00*]

175 The AC discussed the lack of response from the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding
176 the project and proposed inviting the new Department of Parks and Recreation administrator
177 for an update. Vice-Chair Pisicchio moved to send a letter, signed by the chair, requesting
178 updates on the regional park's master plan and status of impact studies, as progress appears to
179 be in early stages despite the plan being in development since the 1990s. Committee member
180 Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

181 Chair Young deferred the announcements to the next meeting and mentioned finalizing the
182 agenda beforehand. The meeting adjourned with unanimous approval, ending 20 minutes over
183 the scheduled time.

184 **ADJOURNMENT**

185 The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 2:17:51*]

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

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January 27, 2025

Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawai'i
101 Pauahi Street Suite #6
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee Invitation to Director Honma

Aloha Director Honma:

The Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee (AC) met on January 14, 2025, at the West Hawaii Civic Center. Included on the agenda was an update from Action Committee members and discussion regarding any actions the Committee may pursue regarding the Kealahou Regional Park. Following deliberation, the committee voted unanimously to submit the letter collectively, identified as Communication 2025-03.

Sincerely,


Charles Young (Jan 29, 2025 08:21 HST)

Charles Young, Chair
Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee

KK:

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Dear Director Honma,

The Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee would like to extend an invitation for you to meet with us at an upcoming meeting of the Committee. The Committee is especially interested in receiving an update on the current status of the long-awaited Kealakehe Regional Park. Some specific questions we have are as follows:

- What is the status of any EIS updates or preparations for Kealakehe Regional Park?
- What is the source of the specific condition that indicates the use of R-1 water for the park?
- Over the years funds have been allocated for the park. What is the current status of the park's funding?

Your update will provide valuable clarity and help us address concerns that our community has regarding this important project. Members of the Action Committee would like to offer our services to help move this project forward.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to working with you.

Respectively,


Charles Young (Jan 29, 2025 08:21 HST)

Charles Young, Chair
Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee

C. Kimo Alameda, PhD.
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January 29, 2025

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
and
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB869: RELATING TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH BOARDS.

Dear Chair McKelvey, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees,

I am Charles Young and chair the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee. I am writing to ask for your support of SB869: RELATING TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH BOARDS. On January 14, 2025, the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee voted unanimously to support this measure.

Since the creation of the County of Hawaii's advisory CDP Action Committee Program in 2009 we have had to convene our meetings under the strict regulatory Sunshine Law requirements required of all decision-making bodies, such as the County Council.

SB869 proposes to make minor updates to Part VII Chapter 92.81 related to Neighborhood Boards. In addition, SB869 proposes the adoption of a new generic definition for community outreach boards under 92-2 HRS.

The Kona CDP Action Committee believes the passage of SB869 will greatly increase the ability of all of Hawai'i County's CDP Action Committees to better serve our communities and encourage public participation in local government.

Mahalo,

C

Charles Young,
Chair Kona CDP Action Committee

Signature: 
Charles Young (Jan 29, 2025 08:21 HST)

Email: youngc042@hawaii.rr.com