

1 SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2 ACTION COMMITTEE
3 COUNTY OF HAWAII

4 DRAFT MINUTES
5 January 16, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Vice Chair Scott Nagata called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) Action
8 Committee (AC) to order at 5:09 p.m. A quorum was established with six members in attendance.
9 This meeting was held in person at the Waikōloa Village Association Community Room.

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

11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5PLVE14p8M>

12 **ROLL CALL**

13 Members Present (in person): Scott Nagata (Vice-Chair), Julia Alos, William Sanborn, and Karen
14 Anderson

15 Members Present (via Zoom): Ruth Smith and Tristie Licoan (Chair)

16 Members Absent: Kevin McLaughlin and Peter Hendricks

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

18 There were approximately fourteen members of the public in attendance (eleven in person and
19 three via Zoom).

20 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:50]

21 Chair Licoan moved to approve the October 28, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee member Smith
22 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

23 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:41]

24 Jojo Tanimoto provided testimony. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:00]

25 **BUSINESS**

26 **1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair** – Discussion and potential action to elect a Chair and Vice-
27 Chair for the South Kohala CDP Action Committee for 2025.

28 This item was called to order 5:21 p.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:49 & 1:34:45]

29 Committee member Sanborn made a motion to nominate Chair Licoan for Chairperson 2025. The
30 motion was seconded by committee member Alos. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Licoan
31 accepted the role of Chair for 2025.

32 Chair Licoan made a motion to nominate Vice-Chair Nagata for Vice-Chairperson 2025. The
33 motion was seconded by committee member Anderson. The motion passed unanimously. Vice-
34 Chair Nagata accepted the position of Vice-Chair for 2025.

35 This item closed at 5:25 p.m.

2. Testimony at State Legislature Regarding HRS 92 (Sunshine Law) – Presentation by Nancy Pисicchio regarding a drafted bill being introduced to the Legislative Session that could provide Sunshine Law flexibility for CDP Action Committees. Followed by discussion and decision-making to provide testimony to the Legislature.

This item was called to order at 5:25 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 16:00 & 1:08:05*]

Nancy Pисicchio from the Kona CDP Action Committee discussed challenges posed by Chapter 92 ("Sunshine Law") on the action committees, which need more flexibility for community interaction. She highlighted past legislative amendments (Chapter 92.81-92.83) and ongoing efforts, led by Senator Dru Kanuha, to further amend the law to improve flexibility and engagement for neighborhood boards and other counties.

John Pelletier from the Kona CDP Action Committee emphasized the proposed benefits, including allowing public input on non-agenda items, holding meetings without a quorum (no decisions made), and enhancing community outreach.

Committee member Anderson inquired about opposition to the bill, to which Nancy responded that she knows of no opposition but noted some defensiveness about the Sunshine Law's quorum rules. She offered to provide updates on the bill's posting.

Committee member Sandborn moved to submit written testimony in support of replicating what the Kona CDP Action Committee already voted to submit and that the South Kohala CDP Action Committee will be updated with the bill numbers once it is released. The motion is seconded by Committee member Alos and passed unanimously.

This item closed at 5:47 p.m.

PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 37:50*]

- Update on Puakō Sewer project
- Water Resources for Waimea (PIG)
- Update on PONC applications in Waimea
- County water flooding study presentation
- Kailapa Fire Wise evacuation plan
- Update on Sunshine Law bill

Edith Kawai and her husband, Maulili Dixon, from the Hawaiian Civic Club board invited everyone to a water meeting focused on respecting and managing water resources. The County Department of Water Supply (DWS) will host an informational presentation with a Q&A session on January 22nd, from 5 to 7 p.m., aiming to address community needs. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 39:02*]

ANNOUNCEMENTS [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 49:30*]

- Community Meeting: Overview of Waimea County Water. Co-sponsored by Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club and Mauna Kea Education and Awareness:
 - Presentation and Q&A by County DWS
 - Date: January 22, 2025 at 5-7 p.m.
 - Venue: Mana Christian Ohana Kahilu Town Hall

- Kailapa Talk Story Meeting was held on December 27, 2024. The meeting was hosted by Senator Tim Richards and Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno at the Kailapa Community Center to discuss critical topics such as water resources for Kawaihae and the development of an emergency road.
- The Planning Department is currently seeking applicants for the South Kohala 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 Environmental Notice Waikoloa Drive/Paniolo Avenue Roundabout – Final EA (FONSI):
- Vice-Chair Nagata shared that he attended the South Kohala Traffic Committee meeting, where the State Transportation Department announced that the Waiaka roundabout project is in its final stages. They plan to begin construction in the next couple of months, so preparations for traffic disruptions in the area are expected soon. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:03:35]
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/The_Environmental_Notice/2025-01-08-TEN.pdf
- The 2025 tentative meeting dates for the South Kohala CDP AC have been issued (See Communication No. 2024-09).
- Committee member Alos, shared the Cherry Blossom Festival in Waimea will be held on February 1, 2025 and the Wiliwili Festival will be held on February 8, 2025 in Waikōloa. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:07:29]
- A community member shared that the Makahiki Festival is also on February 8, 2025. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:07:45]

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nagata adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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