

From: [David DeCleene](#)
To: [LPCtestimony](#)
Subject: General Plan 11/21/24 hearing
Date: Monday, November 18, 2024 11:37:19 AM

LEEWARD PLANNING COMMISSION
BARBARA DEFRANCO, Chair

RE: County of Hawai'i General Plan 2045, Final Recommended Draft dated July 2024

Commissioners:

I request that the Final Recommended Draft of the General Plan (GP) 2045 be rejected as presently constituted by the Planning Commission for two reasons, both deriving from a failure to provide for true public input.

1) LACK OF A HILO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP)

CDPs were established for Kona, Puna, N Kohala, S Kohala, in 2008; for Kau 2017; for Hamakua 2018 (35). What happened to Hilo?

CDPs are referenced in the GP on 16 pages, establishing their primacy in constructing our GP. The clearly stated purposes are: as a vehicle for the people's vision, as foundational documents of the GP, and as the way to foster priorities of the community through a conversation. Three samples from the GP:

"...CDPs are synthesized to form a singular vision statement for Hawaii Island" (35).

"The goals of the GP were formulated by incorporating concepts and value statements from the 2005 GP and the various CDPs. These foundational documents..." (35).

"The purpose of a CDP is threefold...#3 Provide a process for citizens to engage in civic dialogue and contribute to the identification of community priorities (217).

The absolutely crucial nature of each district's CDP renders incomprehensible the lack of one for Hilo. Below are two hosted meetings with the Planning Department and the community where twice the question was asked as to why Hilo has no CDP.

At the Arc of Hilo, the Planning Dept member said they were "...so close into this process we didn't feel we needed to start another whole process of doing a CDP for Hilo..." We Hilo residents might ask: *What gives employees of the county the power to determine that the 40,000 people of Hilo can have their voices dispensed with?* Because the inconvenience foreseen of commencing a CDP for the largest city in the county seems like it would dash their plans for an early 2025 wrap-up? Or because of the inconvenience of 40,000 voices perhaps in disagreement with points in the already-drafted GP?

At the Puna presentation, that same Planning Dept member said: "We are meeting with the council members of Hilo in the next couple of weeks and we're going to talk about the next steps for initiating a Hilo CDP." Why would we set in stone a GP now, when a Hilo CDP may be initiated, and could take a couple of years to finalize? Is there a timeframe that dictates a completion date which overrides the voice of Hilo residents? Surely the document which combines the **purpose and authority** to establish **the policy document for the long-range comprehensive development of the island of Hawaii** (28) is only complete when the largest city in its purview is represented in the same way that the other areas, and towns, and cities are represented.

Hilo Workshop at Arc of Hilo 8/29/24
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTxYmRTxUjA>
1:14:45 (begin referenced part)

Puna Workshop 10/3/24
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/pahoa/FMfcgzQXJkSJVPzhchSBNDQJGVmVJrxB?compose=CllgCKCDkpKzHgrbBxDgqJtpwKbjgmewTTLhqXpxjbZTTkvXwJzCeVXcrWfEvxXbdSsOGDKOwjg&projector=1>
1:36:00 (begin referenced part)

2) LACK OF LOCAL DISCUSSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS/CONCEPTS THAT UNDERGIRD THE GP IN FUNDAMENTAL WAYS

Much of the GP sits on the substrate of a theory for which there is no scientific consensus: man-made **climate change**, formerly called **global warming**. There have never been townhall meetings and discussions on Hawaii Island to determine what the residents think of this theory. Yet a GP has been written that accepts this theory as scientific fact. In the interest of developing a GP that truly echoes the voice of the people of Hawaii Island, isn't the democratic path one that either: 1) neutralizes any theory in the interest of leaving it an open question for the purpose of reaching a common purpose, or 2) has fully discussed this and other theories through a series of open forums for the purpose of deciding a course of action based

upon majority opinion. Chapters 3 & 4 are largely devoted to this theory, but riddled throughout the GP are the terms that derive from current literature on this subject.

GPs across the country are set on a similar path. The genesis of this "green movement" as it relates to planning and development is the introduction of *Agenda 21* at the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. It was through this document that governments around the world, including at our state and county levels, have adopted the tenets of climate change as defined in this landmark document. But wide acclimation and enthusiastic implementation do not necessarily equate with scientific truth. Because the stakes are so high - our natural environment, our lands, our buildings, our roads, our industries, as well as our relationship to government and the liberties we hold fast - the decision by Hawaii County employees and elected officials to adhere to a single theory without knowing the will of the majority is unwise, and unDemocratic.

While the Hilo CDP is being assembled, can we not have this discussion about scientific theories?

David & Susan DeCleene
Hilo