

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAII

DRAFT MINUTES
March 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 12:08 p.m. 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=3Kj-KN8wQVw&t=211s>

ROLL CALL

Members Present (in person): Nancy Pisicchio (Vice-Chair)

Members Present (via Zoom): Charles Young (Chair), David Huerta, John Pelletier, and Heather Korotie

Members Absent: Roselyn Molina and Charla Thompson

County Staff Present (in person): Jessica Lahip, Shan Miller and Kawelo Kalili

County Staff Present (via Zoom): Maryam Palam

There were approximately 6 members of the public in attendance (4 in person and 2 via Zoom).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Nancy Pisicchio moved to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2025, meeting as drafted. Committee Member John Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:45]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony regarding the County Council Ad Hoc Committee and supports strengthening the role of CDPs and opposes the weakening of their authority. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 14:24]

Rebecca Melendez provided testimony urging officials to prioritize resources over new construction. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 18:50]

Pricilla Basque provided testimony regarding the General Plan language being unclear due to abbreviations and vague language. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 24:42]

BUSINESS:

1. Kealakehe Regional Park Update – Update from Action Committee members and discussion regarding any actions the Committee may pursue. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 26:04]

This item was called to order at 12:29 p.m.

Committee Member Pelletier introduced Executive Orders #4355 and #3665, which pertain to setting aside land for public purposes, referencing Communications No. 2025-06 and Communication 2025-07 found in the State archive. He expressed support for allocating the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget funds for the park and suggested the AC contact County Parks and Recreation Planner James Komata. Chair Young shared insights from a conversation with Parks Director Honma, indicating that the park project is stalled at the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) due to the absence of RS1 WWTP development, which is required for RS1 water. Vice-Chair Pisicchio noted that the preliminary budget states the Environmental Assessment (EA) is completed but the executive orders do not mention RS1 requirements. Chair Young confirmed the EA's completion but clarified it has not been approved. Community member Janice Palma-Glennie inquired about federal funding, and Committee Member Pelletier confirmed that the budget is entirely county-funded. Planner Maryam Palma added that the CIP document outlines the sources of project funds, including county bonds and state and federal contributions.

This item concluded at 12:37 p.m.

2. Leeward Planning Commission Testimony Update – Vice Chair-Pisicchio and Committee Member John Pelletier to provide an update on the Leeward Planning Commission meeting. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 34:45]

This item was called to order at 12:37 p.m.

Vice-Chair Pisicchio shared that she and Committee Member Pelletier testified at the first General Plan review before the Planning Commission, discussing the Hokuli'a redesignation and transit-oriented development (TOD) issues. The Planning Director later recommended keeping Hokuli'a designated as agricultural instead of changing it to rural, but the final decision is up to the County Council, so it is important to follow up. She also mentioned that the TOD testimony submitted to the Leeward Planning Commission was based on an outdated version of the General Plan and needs to be updated before sending it to the County Council. She suggested adding a clearer explanation of TODs since some council members may not be familiar with the concept. Committee Member Pelletier agreed, noting that it is important to be well-prepared when presenting to the Planning Committee.

Chair Young asked if the Leeward Planning Commission is hearing similar concerns about the General Plan's challenges and the need to catch up. He emphasized that while the committee advises on issues aligned with the CDP, it is ultimately up to the public to advocate for themselves. Seeing a nod in response, he took that as confirmation.

Rebecca Melendez provided testimony regarding the need for public knowledge on topics mentioned in the Final Draft General Plan. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP: 39:49]

Vice-Chair Pisicchio confirmed that the Leeward Planning Commission has made their final recommendations, and it is now out of the AC's hands. The next step is for the County Council Planning Committee to review it, though the timeline for that is uncertain. The public will have a chance to testify at the Council hearings.

This item concluded at 12:48 p.m.

76 **3. State Legislature Testimony** – Discussion and potential action on whether the Action
77 Committee should submit testimony to State Legislature on bills relevant to the Kona
78 Community Development Plan. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 45:26]

79 This item was called to order at 12:48 p.m.

80 Chair Young introduced SB 1602, which focuses on monitoring water in the Keauhou aquifer, with
81 the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) planning to install two monitoring wells
82 in the water system. Vice-Chair Pisicchio then introduced SB 867, which aimed to establish a
83 working group to study drilling wells for affordable housing units, but Committee Member
84 Pelletier informed the AC that the bill was killed that day. Both Vice-Chair Pisicchio and Chair
85 Young expressed their support for SB 1602, as it benefits Kona's water resources. Vice-Chair
86 Pisicchio moved for the AC to submit testimony in support of SB 1602, with Committee Member
87 Pelletier seconding the motion. Vice-Chair Pisicchio and Chair Young will collaborate on drafting
88 the letter, and the motion passed unanimously with an all-in-favor voice vote.

89 Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony in support of SB 1602 [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP
90 54:03]

91 This item concluded at 1:01 p.m.

92 **4. Update on SB869 SD1 & HB686 HD1** – Vice-Chair Pisicchio to provide update on the status
93 of the bills at the current legislative session. [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 57:17]

94 This item was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

95 Vice-Chair Pisicchio provided an update on a bill related to the State Sunshine Law, which limits
96 committee discussions to items on the agenda and restricts public input. This bill aimed to ease
97 those restrictions, allowing more freedom for committees to take public testimony and hold
98 conversations without a quorum. While the bill passed three votes in the Senate, it was killed in
99 the House after being referred to the Finance Committee. However, the Senate bill is still alive and
100 has been referred to the House Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, which is a positive
101 development. Vice-Chair Pisicchio highlighted the importance of this bill for the island, as it would
102 improve how the committee functions and encourage community participation. The bill has
103 garnered significant support from various community groups, showing the hard work put into
104 advancing it.

105 Chair Young congratulated Vice-Chair Pisicchio and Committee Member Pelletier for their efforts
106 in advancing the bill, which is new to the island. He acknowledged that Vice-Chair Pisicchio
107 played a key role in drafting the bill and working with legislators to get it introduced. He also
108 mentioned their encouragement of Representative Tarnas to support the bill. Chair Young
109 expressed optimism about the bill's progress despite some challenges, like the heavy volume of
110 bills in the legislative process, which can cause less prominent bills to be overlooked. He reflected
111 on the need to continue networking with other committees and commissions, though he admitted
112 falling behind on some efforts. Finally, Chair Young encouraged everyone to track the bill's
113 progress online through the Hawai'i State Legislature's website, where they can see updates,
114 comments, and scheduled hearings.

115 This item concluded at 1:10 p.m.

116 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP*
117 *1:06:45]*

- 118 1. PONC Committee Presentation
- 119 2. Kealakehe Regional Park
- 120 3. Capital Improvements Program Draft Review
- 121 4. Senate Bill Updates

122 Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony requesting that the AC consider revisiting amending the
123 Kona CDP. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:11:15]*

124 Rebecca Melendez provided testimony regarding General Plan land use designation letters. *[SEE*
125 *YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:12:17]*

126 **ADJOURNMENT**

127 The meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:44:19]*

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