

1 KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2 ACTION COMMITTEE
3 COUNTY OF HAWAII

4 FINAL MINUTES
5 April 8, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Charles Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee
8 (AC) to order at 12:06 p.m. This meeting was held in person at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2
9 Conference Room and online via the Zoom platform.

10 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL9KEbZU_z8

12 **ROLL CALL**

13 Members Present (in person): Charles Young (Chair), Nancy Pisicchio (Vice-Chair), John Pelletier,
14 and Charla Thompson

15 Members Present (via Zoom): David Huerta

16 Members Absent: Roselyn Molina and Heather Korotie

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

18 County Staff Present (via Zoom): Jessica Lahip

19 There were approximately 13 members of the public in attendance (3 in person and 10 via
20 Zoom).

21 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

22 Committee member John Pelletier moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting
23 as drafted. Vice-Chair Nancy Pisicchio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
24 [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 3:48*]

25 **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

26 Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony on agenda item #5 regarding the proposed General Plan
27 amendment [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 5:52*]

28 Lamakū Roy provided testimony on the General Plan. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 8:53*]

29 **BUSINESS:**

30 **1. Kealakehe Regional Park Update** – Update from Action Committee members, followed by
31 a discussion on potential Committee actions. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 11:15*]

32 This item was called to order at 12:16 p.m.

Committee member John Pelletier shared insights from his conversation with Parks and Recreation Planner James Komata, who has been deeply involved with the park project for several years. He reported that the Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently under review but on hold due to the larger wastewater treatment plan (WWTP) upgrade issue. While the Department of Water Supply will provide potable water for drinking fountains and sinks, irrigation must rely on recycled water. The County plans to upgrade the water system to R1 standards, in line with the mayor's 100-day plan. Vice-Chair Pisicchio clarified that while the governor's executive order does not require the use of recycled water, the Department of Water Supply lacks resources to meet irrigation needs. A portion of the site, protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will be fenced off to preserve native species, with the remainder allocated for park use. The committee also discussed the island's west side well water history and credit allocations. Despite challenges, the County remains committed to advancing the project.

Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony regarding concerns about local uses for the park. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 22:36]

Lamakū Roy provided testimony opposing the Community Development Plan. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP: 26:16]

This item concluded at 12:33 p.m.

2. Draft County Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget – Discussion and potential action on proposed priority projects within the Kona CDP region. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 27:37]

This item was called to order at 12:33 p.m.

The committee reviewed a list of CIP recommendations, led by Vice-Chair Pisicchio, who emphasized the need for updated transportation planning to address infrastructure capacity between North and South Kona. She highlighted key priorities including extending Lako Street makai, funding a sewer line along Ali'i Drive, upgrading the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant to comply with Clean Water Act standards, and acquiring land for public parking in Kailua Village. Committee member Pelletier added the need for a public transit shelter behind Target in Kona, noting issues with inadequate shelter and poor signage. Planner Maryam Palma provided an overview of the County's budget process, explaining that departments submit proposals for review and revision by the Mayor before they are forwarded to the County Council. The AC also discussed submitting timely testimony to the Council's Finance Committee and agreed to support funding requests for Kealakehe Regional Park and Planning Department initiatives.

Josephine Keli'ipio provided testimony emphasizing the need to prioritize safe pedestrian pathways over car-centric design, sharing personal experiences of unsafe walking conditions along Ali'i Drive. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 44:40]

Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony regarding a new development near Kuakini Highway and public parking in Kona. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 46:11]

Lamakū Roy provided testimony stating that no further development should occur between Kaloko and Hōnaunau, including projects like Lako Street and Ali'i Parkway, as the area is spiritually protected and guided by ancestral authority and divine revelation. She emphasized that this message has been formally shared with the County and State and is rooted in her role as Kahunanui of Ahu'ena Heiau at Kamakahonu. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 49:47]

A discussion followed between Lamakū and Chair Young regarding the inclusion of her comments in the official meeting minutes. While staff clarified that a summary would be included, the full recording of the meeting is publicly available for reference.

Committee member Pelletier moved to have Vice-Chair Pisicchio prepare written testimony to the County Council in support of the line items discussed. The letter will be reviewed by the AC prior to submission and will be signed by Vice-Chair Pisicchio. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:05:28]

Lamakū requested that her testimony, which emphasized the historical and spiritual significance of the issue, be included in the committee's draft letter to the County Council. The Chair clarified that while her comments would be reflected in the meeting minutes, the letter must represent the collective voice of the AC. She was encouraged to submit her testimony independently, as the committee cannot formally endorse individual statements.

This item concluded at 1:28 p.m.

3. Update on SB1602, SD1 – Chair Young/Vice-Chair Pisicchio will provide an update on the bill's status in the current legislative session. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:22:34]

This item was called to order at 1:28 p.m.

The AC discussed a bill proposing the drilling of two monitoring wells in the Keauhou Aquifer, supported by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), to assess downstream impacts of groundwater withdrawals. The bill has advanced through both chambers with little opposition and is expected to proceed to conference committee. While the bill itself (SB1623) appears to have broad support, the actual funding is included in House Bill 300, which is still under consideration. The AC noted the importance of this measure, especially given limited current knowledge about water extraction volumes. The monitoring wells are seen as critical to advancing water management and are supported by a wide range of testimonies. The funding amount has increased from \$100,000 over two years to \$4 million, reflecting the urgency and scale of the effort. The AC expressed optimism and emphasized the bill's alignment with long-overdue water monitoring needs.

Lamakū Roy provided testimony emphasizing that the proposed development lies within a culturally protected 40-mile zone, presenting new information to the legislature about sacred sites and ancestral burials that must be considered in all planning decisions. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:26:54]

This item concluded at 1:34 p.m.

107 **4. Update on SB869, SD1** – Vice-Chair Pisicchio will provide an update on the bill’s status in
108 the current legislative session. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:29:17]

109 This item was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

110 Vice-Chair Pisicchio reported that the neighborhood board community outreach bill is progressing
111 well, with both House and Senate versions aligned and advancing toward final approval. She
112 credited the coordinated efforts of staff and other CDP ACs for the bill’s strong momentum.

113 This item concluded at 1:36 p.m.

114 **5. Amendment Request to Draft General Plan 2045, County Planning System, page 33** –
115 Discussion and decision-making on submitting Communication No. 2025-08 as testimony to
116 County Council. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:30:59]

117 Vice-Chair Pisicchio requested an amendment to the planning system diagram on page 33 of the
118 Draft General Plan to depict CDPs as distinct from functional plans, noting that the current diagram
119 misrepresents their role. Further details are provided in Communication No. 2025-08 included in
120 the meeting packet.

121 Chuck Flaherty provided testimony supporting the amended language, recommending clarification
122 of CDPs’ legal basis by ordinance, and included a referral to Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council’s
123 comments, support for returning the Hokuli‘a project area to agriculture, and a request to address
124 development plans for five lots on the northern slope of Pu‘u Ohau, despite its burial site
125 designation. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:37:05]

126 Janice Palma-Glennie provided testimony in support of Chuck’s addition to the amendment to
127 include something about the legal basis for the general public to see. [SEE YOUTUBE
128 TIMESTAMP 1:40:53]

129 Committee member Pelletier moved for the AC to submit Communication No 2025-08 to the
130 County Council during the General Plan hearing. Committee Member Thompson seconded the
131 motion. All in favor, aye. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP
132 1:41:43]

133 Lamakū Roy provided testimony regarding the authority of Akua (Most High God) and sacred
134 ancestral knowledge supersedes human law, emphasizing that Hawai‘i – originally Kaluaokalani
135 – is the heart of creation, home to the restored temple Ahu‘ena Heiau, and that true stewardship of
136 sacred sites comes from divine lineage, not state governance. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP
137 1:42:48]

138 This item concluded at 1:50 p.m.

139 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP
140 1:06:45]

- 141 1. Keauhou Aquifer Adaptive Management Plan Presentation
- 142 2. Tree City USA

143 **ADJOURNMENT**

144 The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:03:44*]

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