

LEEWARD PLANNING COMMISSION
GENERAL PLAN SPECIAL MEETING
COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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The Leeward Planning Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., in the West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Council Chambers, Building A, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i, with Chairperson Dean Au presiding. This meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa, Commissioner Barbara DeFranco, Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz, Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte, and Dean Au (Chair).

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Commissioner Clement “CJ” Kanuha III and Commissioner Armando Rodriguez.

ALSO PRESENT: Suzanna Tiapula, Esq. (Deputy Corporation Counsel to the Commission), Jeffrey Darrow (Planning Director), and Planning Department staff.

Approximately six members of the public were present in the audience.

At 9:35 a.m. Chair Dean Au made an announcement that the commission didn’t have a quorum yet and that the meeting would begin in about ten to fifteen minutes. [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 00:18*]

Chair Dean Au called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. and began by thanking the public for taking the time to come the Leeward Planning Commission. He then made some housekeeping announcements, requesting attendees turn off their cell phones and put them on silent. He pointed out the location of the public restrooms and drinking fountain, both accessible through the door on the right. For anyone wishing to testify in person, Chair Dean Au asked them to fill out the yellow signup forms at the staff table and submit any written testimony not previously sent. A quorum was present, and Chair Au introduced the Commissioners. Staff introductions were made. He asked each Commissioner to confirm they had reviewed all materials related to the agenda items for today's meeting. The Commissioners confirmed they had. **The audio recording was on mute during this time.*

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Chair Dean Au explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to afford all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to comment on the County of Hawai'i General Plan 2045, Final Recommended Draft dated July 2024 and for the Commission to review the draft Plan and provide its recommendation to the County Council by March 24, 2025. The meeting would begin with public testimony. The Planning Department finished presenting the draft Plan to the Commission, but the Commissioners may still ask questions of staff. The Commission will discuss and make subsidiary motions if they want to change the draft Plan by adding, deleting or replacing language. At the end of the meeting, the Commission will vote on the main motion made at its November 21, 2024, meeting, to provide a favorable recommendation to the County Council on the draft Plan. **The audio recording was on mute during this time.*

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At 9:51 a.m. the Commission took up this item with approximately six members of the audience in the Council Chambers. **The audio recording was on mute during this time.*

Chair Dean Au explained that the meeting is in the public testimony portion, where the commission will first hear in-person testimony, followed by testimony from Zoom participants. This process will continue until all public testimony is heard. He emphasized that testimony should be respectful and delivered with aloha and warned that personal attacks or disruptive behavior would not be allowed. The Chair may pause or end the meeting if necessary to maintain order. Public testimony is limited to 3 minutes, and he encouraged people to adhere to this time limit to allow everyone a chance to speak. Chair Au also mentioned that written testimony has already been read, so avoid repeating it, and instead, if agreeing with previous statements, simply note that to save time and help complete the agenda. **The audio recording was on mute during this time.*

Staff member Maija Jackson announced the in-person testifiers. She instructs the testifiers to turn on the microphone, raise their right hand, and swear to tell the truth. She also clarifies that each testifier will have three minutes, with a 30-second warning, and requests that they state their name and town before beginning their testimony. **The audio recording was on mute during this time.*

Seven individuals provided testimony in-person at 9:52 a.m.:

- 1) Rebecca Melendez – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 19:14] **The audio recording was on mute in the beginning of testimony.*
- 2) Josephine Keliipio – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 21:04]
- 3) Michelle Melendez – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 27:04]
- 4) Karen Wood – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 30:27]
- 5) Martha Stephens – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 31:28]
- 6) Brittany Farmer – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 34:52]
- 7) David Paul – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 41:46]

Five individuals provided testimony in-person at 10:19 a.m.:

- 1) Kevin Hill – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 44:56]
- 2) Amanda Hatcher – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 49:02]
- 3) Ken Honma – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 53:37]
- 4) Dewi Maile Lim – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 56:07]

**Chair Dean Au officially noted for the record that Commissioner Barbara DeFranco has arrived and is now present. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 59:21]*

- 5) Donna Thompson – [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:00:51]

Public testimony was concluded. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:04:35]

Chair Dean Au thanked all attendees and participants—both in-person and via Zoom—for their contributions. He also expressed appreciation to those who had testified at the six previous meetings. After confirming with Planning Staff Maija Jackson that there had been six meetings in total, he formally closed the public testimony portion of the session. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:04:40]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to close public testimony. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:05:14] A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:05:26]

****RECESS 10:40 A.M. to 10:51 A.M.**** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:05:58]

Chair Dean Au called the meeting back to order at 10:51 a.m. with approximately zero members of the audience in the Council Chambers. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:16:39]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:16:56] A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:17:12]

****EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:52 A.M. TO 11:13 A.M.**** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:17:15]

Chair Dean Au reconvened the meeting at 11:13 a.m. and noted that the Commission had requested legal advice from their Deputy Corporation Counsel related to their authority on a number of legal matters. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:38:56]

Chair Dean Au invited the commissioners to bring up subsidiary motions, asking them to recognize themselves if they wish to do so. He stated that he would call on them once they expressed their intention. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:39:19]

Action: Commissioner Barbara DeFranco moved to amend the main motion to include the amendments recommended by the Planning Director in a memo to the Commission dated

February 18, 2025. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:39:36] Commissioner Barbara DeFranco praised Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow for thoroughly addressing public testimony, making changes based on feedback, and providing clarity, especially regarding map designations. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:40:06] The motion carried with five ayes (DeFranco, Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:40:45]

Action: Commissioner Barbara DeFranco moved to amend the main motion by inserting the language related to public access, trails, recreation and scenic resources that were present in the Draft General Plan released by the Planning Department in 2019 as suggested by the Hawai‘i Island Na Ala Hele Advisory Council in their letter to the Commission dated February 18, 2025. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:41:25] Commissioner Barbara DeFranco explained that she made the motion to emphasize the importance of protecting public access, particularly to Hawaiian trails. She noted that the recommendation is somewhat general due to time constraints in reviewing multiple plans, but she hopes the intent and language will be carried forward and incorporated. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:42:10] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte expressed strong support for the motion, emphasizing the importance of ensuring public access to open space and natural and cultural resources as essential to caring for Hawai‘i Moku ‘Āina. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:43:01] The motion carried with five ayes (DeFranco, Noborikawa, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:43:27]

Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula requested that speakers turn off their microphones when not speaking, noting that having multiple mics on causes audio feedback and makes the recording difficult to hear. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:44:07]

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa raised a question about Policy 1.17 on page 42, seeking clarification on what qualifies as “redevelopment of existing waterfront commercial structures.” Planning Staff Bethany Morrison explained that the policy is tied to Hawai‘i’s coastal zone management objectives and aims to ensure any redevelopment maintains community character and preserves ocean views. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa confirmed that preserving the view is the policy’s primary concern. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 01:44:50]

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by adding language to page 42, Policy 1.17 by adding to the end of sentence “where sea level rise and/or coastal erosion will have no impact on the property.” so that it reads: Allow the redevelopment of existing waterfront commercial structures consistent with the community character to preserve overwater views where sea level rise and/or coastal erosion will have no impact on the property. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:47:05] Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula interjected during the commissioner’s motion, asking her to read very slowly to ensure the recording could accurately capture her statement. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:47:05] Commissioner Barbara DeFranco questioned the phrasing in a policy suggesting there would be “no impact” from sea level rise or coastal erosion, calling it unrealistic since the ocean inherently affects coastal areas. Vice Chair Donna

“Kinuko” Noborikawa responded by emphasizing the need to limit redevelopment in areas projected to be impacted by sea level rise, based on existing data and research. She advocated for policies that help prevent future problems by incorporating such considerations into planning. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco noted that redevelopment already involves compliance with current regulations like SMA permits and coastal setbacks. Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow clarified that while maintenance or repairs may be allowed under existing conditions, true redevelopment requires adherence to current codes, including increased shoreline setbacks. He explained that setbacks have expanded from 20 to 40 feet in many areas and will likely continue to increase to support managed retreat from the shoreline. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa confirmed this addressed her question about the definition and implications of “redevelopment.” [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:48:25] Chair Dean Au expressed support for the Vice Chair's motion, acknowledging that while it may be somewhat redundant, it's helpful for clarity—especially since the term “redevelopment” can be confusing. He noted that misunderstandings can affect permitting processes and departmental decisions, so including the language is beneficial. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:54:30] The motion carried with four ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, and Au), one nay (DeFranco) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:55:14]

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by renumbering Action 1.h on page 42 to become Action 1.a and renumbering the other actions accordingly. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:56:25] Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained that her motion aims to move Action 1.h to the top of the section to emphasize the importance of quality buffers in protecting natural habitats. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion, expressing her agreement. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:57:38] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:58:29]

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by adding a new Action to page 42, Action 1.f, following Action 1.e, and renumber the other actions accordingly. The new action would state: “Develop a regulatory list of invasive species for Hawai‘i County.” Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 01:59:13] Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained that her motion addresses the lack of a regulatory list of invasive species, noting that it's difficult to manage the problem without first identifying which species to target. She proposed creating a list within the county code to guide control efforts. Chair Dean Au and Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte both expressed support for the motion. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison confirmed that no such list currently exists in county codes, highlighting it as a recognized gap. Chair Dean Au thanked Vice Chair Noborikawa for identifying and addressing this issue. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:00:43] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:02:38]

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion regarding Policy 2.2 on page 44 by adding the phrase: “by utilizing guidance such as that found in the Commission on Water Resource Management document, Water Conservation Manual for State of Hawaii Facilities.” After being asked to repeat the motion slowly for the record, she restated it clearly.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barbara DeFranco. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:03:32]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained her motion, stating that while the policy mentions best management practices, it lacks clear guidance on where to find them. She noted that it was difficult to locate such practices, she was able to find relevant guidance in their documents. Noborikawa highlighted that while there is limited information on non-point source pollution, the water conservation management practices found aligned with the policy's goals. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:04:53]* Chair Dean Au asked for clarification on how Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa’s amendment relates to the One Water concept, referencing a testimony by Ms. Hatcher. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison explained that Policy 2.2 addresses best water management practices, which are already applied in agriculture through USDA conservation plans. One Water refers to recognizing all water—rainwater, groundwater, wastewater—as a resource, ensuring its proper management and quality across different uses, such as agricultural irrigation, to prevent water contamination downstream. Chair Dean Au expressed appreciation for Vice Chair Noborikawa’s attention to detail in strengthening the One Water concept. He compared it to safety practices in the construction industry, noting that just as construction workers have OSHA standards for safety, the One Water concept provides necessary guidance for managing water resources in Hawai‘i, ultimately ensuring public safety. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:06:00]* Commissioner Barbara DeFranco raised concerns about gray water, water runoff from golf courses, and desalination, asking whether these topics are addressed in the General Plan. Chair Dean Au responded that the General Plan and its amendments serve as a guide for developers and agencies in making decisions, but specific questions like those raised are better suited for developers. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco then directed her question to Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow, who explained that Policy 2.2 addresses nonpoint source discharges in agricultural and runoff areas, and best management practices vary depending on the activity (e.g., agriculture or urban development). Director Darrow noted that multiple agencies may be involved depending on the situation. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison added that gray water reuse is mentioned in the plan, particularly in Action 27 (page 139), which involves facilitating gray water reuse systems through code amendments and partnerships with the Department of Health, and in Policy 27.1 (page 138), which prioritizes gray water use in areas connected to County water but not wastewater systems. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:09:27]* Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte asked why the motion regarding the water conservation manual only applies to State of Hawaii facilities and not County facilities. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa suggested that the Water Resources Commission would be the appropriate party to answer this but mentioned she was considering withdrawing her motion. Noborikawa explained that the motion seemed to focus more on addressing non-point source pollution and water quality, whereas she had initially intended it to address water quantity. She asked for clarification on whether the motion is more related to water quality than water quantity. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 02:13:40]*

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa withdrew her original motion to amend, with support from Commissioner Barbara DeFranco. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 02:14:43]* A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 02:14:55]*

****LUNCH 11:50 A.M. to 1:01 P.M.**** *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 02:15:14]*

Chair Dean Au called the meeting back to order at 1:01 p.m. with approximately zero members of the audience in the Council Chambers. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 03:26:46]*

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa began discussion by inviting Planning Staff Janice Hata and Bethany Morrison back to clarify points before presenting her amendments. She asked whether actions 2.C and 2.E—related to buffer zones and wetland protection—would eventually be incorporated into the Special Management Area through action 2.G. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison confirmed this was correct. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa then asked about the meaning and process behind the designation of “natural beauty sites” referenced in action 5.C on page 48. Morrison explained these are longstanding elements of the county’s general plan, used during land use reviews and for identifying scenic areas. However, she noted that currently there is no formal process for updating them, though a recent Scenic Inventory and Resources Study could inform future action. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:27:13]*

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa raised concerns about the inclusion of Ironwood trees along Kohala Mountain Road in Table 7 (page 52), questioning whether it conflicted with Objective 1’s goal to limit invasive species. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison clarified that the scenic resource study focused on the visual qualities—like the shaded canopy—not the specific tree species. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa acknowledged that this approach might allow elements inconsistent with broader objectives. She then asked for clarification on the use of the terms “energy” and “power” in the section on energy and electricity (page 59), noting confusion due to their use as both nouns and verbs. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison explained that energy refers broadly to sources and storage, while power relates to how that energy is used or transmitted. Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula confirmed for the record that the two terms are technically distinct: energy is a measurable property, while power is the rate at which energy is used or transferred. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:30:21]*

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa asked for clarification on the term “County” in Objective 7 on page 69, which states the goal of reducing the County’s carbon footprint to net-zero emissions by 2045. She wanted to know whether “County” referred to the government or all residents of Hawaii County. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison confirmed it refers specifically to County government departments and operations, not the general population. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:35:36]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Action 2.g on page 45 by deleting the word “accordingly”, and adding the word “area” so that the action reads: “Amend the Special Management Area (SMA) to include wetlands, riparian areas, and adjacent buffer areas.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:36:34]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa proposed an amendment to clarify language by correcting the term “riparian” to “riparian areas,” explaining that “riparian” is an adjective and the revision better identifies the area intended for protection. She also removed the word “accordingly,” calling it superfluous. Commissioners Barbara DeFranco and Mahina Paishon-Duarte both voiced their support for the amendment. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:37:30]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:38:22]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Policy 4.3 on page 47 by changing the language after “objects” to read: “shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with lineal descendants, those with kuleana to the site or object, or other local sources such as cultural or historic groups”, so that the policy reads: “Public access to significant historic sites and objects shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with lineal descendants, those with kuleana to that site or object, or other local sources such as cultural or historic groups.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:52:35] Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained her motion, emphasizing the importance of including lineal descendants, local experts, and others with cultural or historical ties to a site in decisions about its appropriate use and protection. She expressed concern that the current language does not clearly mandate their involvement. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco asked whether public access and protection of significant historic sites should be explicitly addressed. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa responded that those with *kuleana* to the site should guide such decisions, noting that in some cases, protection may require limiting public access based on the site's cultural sensitivity. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:54:28] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte expressed support for Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa’s motion and suggested extending the proposed language to also apply to Policy 4.4 on page 47. Vice Chair Noborikawa agreed, stating it would be a great amendment. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:56:11]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the motion to include the additional language to Policy 4.4 on page 47 so that the policy reads: “Encourage the restoration of significant sites on a case-by-case basis in consultation with lineal descendants, those with kuleana to the site or object, or other local sources such as cultural or historic groups.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 03:56:13] Chair Dean Au voiced his support for the motion, stating that it strengthens the involvement of the Hawaiian community. He then invited additional comments from the commissioners. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz also expressed his support for the amendments to Policies 4.3 and 4.4. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:00:08] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:00:45]

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Action 4.k on page 48 by adding the statement after “property owners”, that says: “historical societies, preservation organizations, lineal descendants, and others with close connections” so that the policy reads: “Educate and encourage property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, lineal descendants, and others with close connections to nominate structures and sites to the State and National Register of Historic Places. Encourage collaboration among interested entities.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:02:17] Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained that her motion seeks to broaden support for nominations of historic sites beyond just property owners, as the official nomination process allows other entities to participate. She believes support should not be limited solely to property owners. However, when asked about amending a related item to include the same broader language, Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa declined, stating that preservation efforts typically fall on property owners due to the associated economic responsibilities. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte expressed support for the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:03:42] Chair Dean Au asked about the County’s

process when a property or structure is nominated as historic. Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow explained that nominations typically go through the State Historic Preservation Division and are reviewed by the County's Cultural Resources Commission but ultimately require the property owner's consent to proceed. Without that consent, nominations cannot move forward. Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow noted this is why property owners are central to the process. Chair Dean Au expressed support for Vice Chair Noborikawa's motion, stating it encourages community awareness and involvement, allowing neighbors to help identify historic properties and potentially educate new or unaware property owners. He emphasized that this approach fosters a sense of community and shared cultural responsibility. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:05:11] Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa clarified that she added the phrase "*encourage collaboration among interested entities*" to her amendment to emphasize the importance of cooperation with property owners, since their involvement is required for a nomination to proceed. She explained this addition was meant to promote partnerships between nominators and property owners. She then restated her motion before it was brought to a vote. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:08:04] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:09:46]

Action: Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Table 7 on page 52 by deleting two lines "Indian Banyan trees at Chalon International of Hawai'i's office in Hāwī", and "Ironwood trees along Kohala Mountain Road". Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:11:41] Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa explained that her motion to remove two items from a list was based on the lack of established criteria and the fact that the species involved are identified as high-risk invasives by the Plant Pono site. She suggested waiting until proper guidelines are in place to determine their suitability. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco responded with concern, noting that while the species may be invasive, they also carry historical significance, and removing them without broader community input might be premature. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:12:31] Chair Dean Au voiced strong support for Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa's motion, emphasizing her deep connection to and knowledge of her community. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte echoed his support for the same reasons. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco raised a question about the ownership of the Indian banyan tree at Chalon International and whether the property owners had been consulted. Vice Chair Noborikawa clarified that the site is privately owned and noted the owners had already expressed concern on the Convey website about being included without consent. She reiterated her motion is not against the trees themselves but aims to prevent promoting the planting of invasive species and to wait for clearer criteria before designating such sites as "natural beauty" areas. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:14:22] Chair Dean Au raised a concern about land ownership along Kohala Mountain Road, suggesting that most of it is likely private property. He noted that removing sites from the natural beauty list could give landowners more flexibility, as he believed such designation might impose restrictions. He asked staff to confirm whether removing a tree from a designated site requires permission. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison clarified that Chair Dean Au was thinking of the separate "Exceptional Tree Program," which does impose restrictions and offers tax credits, unlike the natural beauty site designation. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:17:00] Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa explained that based on her experience in public works, she assumes the Ironwood trees along Kohala Mountain Road are mostly within the road easement, as they appear to be on the roadside of the fence line. She

clarified that her motion likely refers to the trees within this easement area, not those on private property. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:18:15]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:19:34]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Policy 9.4 on page 79 by adding the phrase “or cultural or historic sites” to the end of that policy, so that the policy reads: “Support mechanisms, such as PUD and Cluster Plan Development (CPD), that group parcel density to preserve open space, recreational areas, scenic viewsheds, or cultural or historic sites.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:20:21]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained that her motion aims to clarify that using a Planned Unit Development (PUD) mechanism to preserve cultural and historic sites—like in the recent Kula Nei LLC proposal—is an appropriate and encouraged use of planning tools. She highlighted that Kula Nei LLC voluntarily set aside over 14 acres for preservation rather than simply subdividing the land. Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow agreed with Noborikawa, confirming that the proposal's intent aligned with proper use of planning mechanisms. Chair Dean Au supported the motion, noting that clearer guidance in the past could have saved the landowners money and effort. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:20:21]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:23:39]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by adding the word “government’s” to the first sentence of Objective 7, on page 69 so that the objective reads: “Reduce the County government’s carbon footprint to net zero emissions by 2045.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:24:26]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained that her motion aims to clarify confusion around the term “County.” She noted that some testimony misunderstood “County” to mean all residents of Hawai‘i County, rather than specifically referring to the County Government. Her motion is intended to address and eliminate that misunderstanding. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:25:11]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:25:54]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by amending Policy 46.9 on page 205, so that the policy reads: “Support and invest in regenerative agricultural practices and restoration involving traditional ecological knowledge systems and practices through revitalization of the ahupua’a system, restoration of ancient Lo‘i and Loko I‘a, with decision-making through leadership of culturally informed land stewards, agriculturalists, scientists, etc., to advance and perpetuate cultural practices and food security.” Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:26:34]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa expressed that historically, the Kohala field system sustained 20,000–30,000 people over 15,000 acres pre-contact, and emphasized the importance of restoring this agricultural knowledge to achieve food sustainability in the County. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco raised a concern about the use of the Hawaiian terms Lo‘i and Loko I‘a in the motion, noting they were not defined in the glossary. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa acknowledged they would need to be added. Chair Dean Au and other commissioners, including Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte, supported the motion, with

Paishon-Duarte offering to help develop definitions for discussion later in the meeting. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:30:44]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, Au, and DeFranco) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:38:26]*

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the motion to add “ancient Lo‘i, Loko I‘a , and traditional agricultural field and water systems” so that the policy reads: “Support and invest in regenerative agricultural practices and restoration involving traditional ecological knowledge systems and practices through revitalization of the ahupua‘a system, restoration of ancient Lo‘i, Loko I‘a , and traditional agricultural field and water systems, with decision-making through leadership of culturally informed land stewards, agriculturalists, scientists, etc., to advance and perpetuate cultural practices and food security.” Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:34:32]* The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, DeFranco, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:37:19]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by adding a new action on page 206 as Action 46.s, to read: “Support and invest in cultural food programs, including food preservation.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:55:24]* Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa explained her motion's goal to support farmers and preserve traditional food knowledge, such as food preservation techniques used for long voyages. She mentioned a canoe group in North Kohala leading efforts in this area. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco supported the motion but raised concerns about the term “cultural groups,” suggesting it might be too limiting and exclude some farmers. She proposed using more inclusive language, like “all food programs” or “all farmers.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa agreed to consider adding “all” to make the wording more inclusive. Chair Dean Au asked for an orderly discussion, suggesting members organize their thoughts and speak one at a time. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 04:55:53]*

****RECESS 2:34 P.M. to 2:43 P.M.**** *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 04:59:15]*

Chair Dean Au called the meeting back to order at 2:43 p.m. with approximately zero members of the audience in the Council Chambers. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:08:30]*

Chair Dean expressed support for Vice Chair Noborikawa's motion but raised concerns about the Big Island's sustainability in agriculture and food production. He noted that local farmers and producers often find it more profitable to export their goods, citing examples like local meat and produce being more expensive than mainland products. He acknowledged that while the motion could make a difference, broader issues, like state regulations and incentives for local businesses, need to be addressed for true agricultural sustainability. Despite these concerns, he reiterated his support for the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:08:50]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:14:15]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the prior motion to add “all” before “cultural food programs” so that it reads: “Support and invest in all cultural food programs, including food preservation.” Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the

motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:11:30] Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa clarified that while she had been using the term “cultural” in her motion, she had been thinking specifically of Hawaiian culture. By adding the word “all,” the language would become more inclusive. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte expressed support for this inclusive approach, emphasizing the importance of all cultural and ethnic groups on the island. She reiterated support for agricultural efforts that align with the diverse communities on the island, including canoe crops and culturally appropriate agricultural practices. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:12:06] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:13:32]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending the definition for “Ahupua’a” on page 9 to read: “*Ahupua’a* is a Native Hawaiian comprehensive and holistic system of careship of biocultural and socio-political systems and resources that are inclusive of *wao* or horizontal bioregions.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:22:57] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that her intent in revising the definition of *Ahupua’a* stemmed from public testimony indicating the existing definition in the general plan was inadequate. As a cultural practitioner and subject matter expert, she consulted with academic professionals to create a more accurate and meaningful definition. She emphasized the importance of showing the public that the commission is listening and collaborating with planning staff to improve the plan. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco expressed support, agreeing that the previous definition lacked clarity. Chair Dean Au asked Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow if the department had concerns, and Darrow confirmed the planning department supports the change. Commissioner Paishon-Duarte then restated the revised definition before the vote. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:24:01] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:28:54]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending the definition of “*Wahi Pana*” on page 21 to read: “*Wahi Pana* means living space and place of ecological, cultural and/or historical significance. *Wahi Pana* may also mean legendary place.” Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:29:48] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte clarified that her motion aims to modernize the definition of “*Wahi Pana*,” explaining that while it traditionally referred to a legendary place, it now encompasses locations of ecological, cultural, and historical significance. Chair Dean Au expressed support for the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:29:48] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, DeFranco, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:31:37]

Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte proposed a motion to amend the definition of *‘Āina* by adding that it is a Hawaiian word that sustains and feeds people and ecosystems and also means land or Earth. Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:32:23] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that the amendment reflects a more definitive and research-based understanding of *‘Āina* and its broad applications over the past two decades. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:33:29] Following the seconding of the motion and related discussion, the meeting recessed for a break.

****RECESS 3:10 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.**** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:35:16]

Chair Dean Au called the meeting back to order at 3:15 p.m. with approximately zero members of the audience in the Council Chambers. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:40:18]

Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte withdrew her original motion and indicated she would submit a revised one, with support from Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:40:30] A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 05:40:48]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending the definition of “‘Āina” on page 9 to read: “‘Āina is a Hawaiian term that means land or earth that sustains and feeds the ecosystems and its communities.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:40:58] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte further explained her intention behind the motion to amend the definition of ‘Āina, stating that although the change may seem minor, clarifying and expanding key terms like *Ahupua‘a*, *Wahi Pana*, and ‘Āina can have broader impact. She expressed hope that by doing so, the county may set an example for planning efforts in other islands and communities, emphasizing the value of the work being done. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:41:38] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:42:28]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by adding a sentence on the importance of the Native Hawaiian ahupua‘a framework in the introduction on page 26, under the section titled ‘Navigating Growth on Hawai‘i Island’, the last sentence to read: “Careful consideration of these factors are intended to result in successful long-range planning and the application of Native Hawaiian ahupua‘a framework in all planning and development analyses. This section should articulate the critical importance of the Native Hawaiian ahupua‘a framework in all planning and development analyses.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:43:07] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that, following the adoption of an expanded definition of *Ahupua‘a*, she aimed to identify appropriate places to apply it within the existing framework. After consulting with planning staff, she proposed incorporating the definition into the introduction section to provide context for the chapters that follow. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz voiced his support for the added language, and Chair Dean Au agreed, stating that it strengthens the introduction to the “Navigating Growth on Hawai‘i Island” section. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:44:10] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:45:22]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by adding the following language to Objective 2, on page 44, and any other reference of that objective in the plan to state: “Apply the Native Hawaiian *ahupua‘a* framework to preserve and enhance the health and function of watersheds to promote water recharge, improve water quality, and reduce runoff.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:47:05] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte stated that, similar to a previous motion, her intent is to incorporate the *Ahupua‘a* framework into the plan. She noted

that since the commission has already expanded the term and its definition in consultation with planning staff, this is an appropriate section to include it. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:47:44] Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow advised that any changes made to objectives, policies, or actions should also be reflected consistently throughout the rest of the plan. He recommended informing staff to ensure all related sections are updated accordingly, without needing to specify each location at this time. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:48:16] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:49:25]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending Objective 10 on page 80 so that the objective reads: “Increase the integration of natural systems planning including the Native Hawaiian *ahupua’a* framework.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 05:59:52] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:00:37]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending Objective 42 on page 190, by adding an additional policy titled Policy 42.5 which would read: “Research and develop an *‘Āina Kupuna* program that would exempt 100% of real property taxes of qualifying *kuleana* landowners as referenced by the Kuleana Act of 1850.” Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:02:00] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte introduced a motion inspired by Maui County's ordinance aimed at providing tax relief to qualifying *kuleana* landowners. She explained that many Native Hawaiians are being priced out of their ancestral lands due to rising property taxes caused by nearby development. Her proposal seeks to replicate Maui's successful approach to help protect these landowners. In response to a question from Chair Dean Au, she provided historical context on *kuleana* lands, explaining they were awarded to Native Hawaiians during the 1840s Mahele land division for those who had long cultivated and cared for the land. Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula added that the *kuleana* system was formally established by the Kuleana Act of 1850. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:03:07] Chair Dean Au sought clarification on *kuleana* land ownership, initially comparing it to land given to plantation workers or large land purchases by entities like the “Big Five.” Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte clarified that *kuleana* lands are specifically tied to Native Hawaiian descendants with ancestral claims predating 1778. Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula further explained that *kuleana* lands are small parcels granted under the 1850 Kuleana Act to Native Hawaiians who could prove ancestral ties and cultivation of the land, emphasizing the historical and cultural significance of these lands. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:06:24] Commissioner Barbara DeFranco expressed strong support for adding a more specific definition of “*kuleana* landowners” to the glossary, noting that the current entry for “*kuleana*” is too general. She suggested using the recently discussed explanation. Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula responded that the general plan already references applicable laws, including those defining land ownership, such as the Kuleana Act. Chair Dean Au asked if a separate definition was necessary. Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula advised against adding one hastily, suggesting instead a reference to the Kuleana Land Act of 1850 for accuracy and completeness. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:07:51] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that her motion aims to address the issue of families losing their *kuleana* lands due to rising property taxes, often triggered by nearby development. She highlighted that this has affected families who

have held these lands for over five generations. She emphasized that a successful program in Maui County could serve as a model, aligning with the general plan's goals of ensuring equity, particularly for underserved residents. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:09:34] Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow expressed support for the amendment, suggesting that referencing the Kuleana Lands Act would be more appropriate than adding a definition. Chair Dean Au agreed with the support for the motion, emphasizing that many local landowners are losing their property due to rising property taxes, making it difficult for families to afford to keep inherited land. He voiced his full support for the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:10:45] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:13:29]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by adding the following language to Action 48.c, on page 212 after “leaders”, “inclusive of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority”, which would read: “Update and maintain the Hawai‘i Island Tourism strategic plan through collaboration between community and industry leaders, inclusive of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority.” Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:15:34] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that her motion aligns with the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority’s updated strategic plan, which emphasizes community engagement and partnerships for destination stewardship. Including this language could enhance the County’s eligibility for additional funding. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco seconded the motion but raised a question about potential conflict of interest. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte clarified that she serves as a volunteer Vice Chair on the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority board. After discussion, Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula confirmed prior conversations on the matter, and Chair Dean Au noted that no commissioners found a conflict of interest. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz was in support of the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:16:27] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:18:27]

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by adding the following language to Objective 49 on page 213 and to any other references throughout the plan: “by developing community engagement strategies that are informed by community subject matter experts”, so that Objective 49 reads “Increase authentic Hawai‘i Island visitor experiences by developing community engagement strategies that are informed by community subject matter experts.” Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:19:11] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that her motion aims to strengthen existing policies and actions by emphasizing community engagement and local expertise. She noted that similar strategies are already being implemented at the state level and believes the county should align with and replicate those efforts. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:21:19] The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, DeFranco, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:21:19]

****RECESS 3:57 P.M. to 4:01 P.M.**** [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:22:14]

Chair Dean Au called the meeting back to order at 4:01 p.m. with approximately zero members of the audience in the Council Chambers. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:26:46]

Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte proposed an amendment to include language in section 6.2.1 of the plan to recognize Community Development Plans (CDPs) as being based on the Native Hawaiian *Ahupua'a* framework. She explained that this addition would reinforce the integration of Native Hawaiian values—particularly the interconnectedness of social, cultural, and environmental systems—into community planning. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:27:01]* During discussion, Commissioner DeFranco expressed concern about potential conflicts with the original geographic basis of CDPs, she acknowledged the merit in expanding the framework. Planning Staff Bethany Morrison suggested the language might be more appropriate under the section outlining the CDP's purpose, particularly where it addresses community resilience.

In response to the feedback, Commissioner Paishon-Duarte withdrew her original motion and indicated she would submit a revised one, with support from Commissioner Dela Cruz. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:33:31]* A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:33:41]*

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by amending the language on page 217, under 'Community Development Plan Framework', the second purpose to read: "Improve and advance communities and community resilience through the acknowledgement and development of community capacity and in support of Native Hawaiian ahupua'a frameworks." Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:34:00]* The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, DeFranco, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:35:00]*

Action: Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte moved to amend the main motion by deleting the term "hosted" from the definitions on page 14. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:35:45]* Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte explained that her motion aimed to remove a term that wasn't referenced elsewhere and seemed unnecessary. Chair Dean Au asked if the definition was included by oversight or carried over from the 2005 plan. Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow clarified that it was related to a bill on hosted rentals, which has been shelved, making the definition no longer relevant at this time. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:36:35]* The motion carried with five ayes (Paishon-Duarte, Dela Cruz, DeFranco, Noborikawa, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:38:02]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion by adding the definition for "*Lo'i*" which is a traditional Hawaiian taro patch designed specifically for cultivating taro (kalo) in wetland environments. These patches are often found in valleys or along steambanks, where they can be irrigated and flooded to create optimal growing conditions." Commissioner DeFranco seconded the motion. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:42:39]* Vice Chair Donna "Kinuko" Noborikawa explained that her motion is housekeeping to add definitions for "*Lo'i*" and "*Loko I'a*" to the glossary, following an earlier motion that included those terms in an action item. *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:43:47]* The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, Paishon-Duarte, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). *[YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:44:50]*

Action: Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to amend the main motion to add the definition for “*Loko I’a*” which means “an ancestral hawaiian fishpond that is a unique aquaculture system that optimizes natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology. *Loko I’a* feed and connect communities.” Commissioner Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:45:51] Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte expressed strong support for the proposed definition and thanked those involved. Chair Dean Au thanked Vice Chair Noborikawa for her attention to detail and for bringing forward multiple contributions. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:47:21] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:47:57]

Before the final motion, Chair Dean Au took a moment to thank the staff, community, and all involved in the long-standing process, noting its decade-long journey and ongoing discussion at the County Council level. He invited the remaining commissioners to share brief comments. Commissioner Barbara DeFranco expressed heartfelt gratitude for the collective effort, praising the compassion, intelligence, and dedication shown by the community, staff, advisory committees, and fellow commissioners. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:49:00]

Action: Chair Dean Au stated that at the November 21, 2024, meeting, Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to forward a favorable recommendation to the County Council to amend the County of Hawai‘i General Plan 2005 by adopting the planning director's recommended *County of Hawai‘i General Plan 2045, Final Recommended Draft dated July 2024* inclusive of all the subsidiary motions made by the Leeward Planning Commission. Commissioner Mahina Paishon-Duarte seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:50:35] The motion carried with five ayes (Noborikawa, Paishon-Duarte, DeFranco, Dela Cruz, and Au) and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:51:35]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Staff Maija Jackson announced that the regular March 20th meeting is cancelled due to the absence of agenda items, giving the commission a one-month break. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:52:50]

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Donna “Kinuko” Noborikawa moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Michael Dela Cruz seconded the motion. [YOUTUBE TIMESTAMPED 06:53:19] A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried with five ayes and two excused (Kanuha and Rodriguez). [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 06:53:29]

This meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsie Chang

Kelsie Chang (May 16, 2025 14:08 HST)

Kelsie Chang

Secretary

ATTEST:

Dean Au

Dean Au (May 20, 2025 14:33 HST)

Dean Au, Chairperson

Leeward Planning Commission