

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

MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2025

A video recording is made part of these minutes, which can be viewed on the YouTube County of Hawai‘i Planning Department channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/bvR086rJHlo?si=C6ZIFbzZr9t1njR-&t=1>

Timestamps are provided for reference in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 92, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. In the event the video recording becomes unavailable at the above-mentioned URL address, the public can contact the Planning Department for assistance.

The Windward Planning Commission convened for a Special General Plan Continued meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 9:07 a.m., in the County of Hawai‘i, Council Chambers, located at 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i, with Chairman Louis Daniele III presiding. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Louis Daniele III (Chairman), Wayne De Luz, Chantel Perrin (Vice Chair), and Gordon Takaki.

COMMISSIONER ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Lauren Balog.

ALSO PRESENT: Ex Officio Commissioner, Hugh Ono (Department of Public Works Director), Suzanna Tiapula, Esq., Deputy Corporation Counsel (Counsel to the Commission), Jeffrey Darrow (Planning Director), and Planning Department staff.

Approximately twenty-four members of the public were in the audience.

A quorum was present, and Chairman Louis Daniele III called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. He then made some housekeeping announcements, reminding attendees to silence their cell phones and indicating the location of the public restrooms. Chairman Louis Daniele III also instructed anyone wishing to testify to complete the yellow sign-up form at the staff table and to submit any written testimony not previously submitted. Introductions of the Commissioners, the Ex Officio Commissioner, and staff followed. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:15]*

Chairman Louis Daniele III asked each Commissioner to confirm that they had reviewed all materials, including written public testimony related to the agenda item under review. Each Commissioner verbally confirmed they had done so. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:29]*

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Chairman Louis Daniele III explained that the purpose of this meeting is to provide all interested persons the opportunity to comment on the final draft of the County of Hawai'i General Plan 2045 and for the Commission to have an opportunity to review and submit its recommendations to the County Council by March 24, 2025. He outlined the format of the meeting, which will include a staff presentation, followed by public testimony, and then Commission would have an opportunity to questions to staff, discuss, and then forward a recommendation to the County Council on the draft Plan. Chairman Louis Daniele III also emphasized that the public may testify on any section of the draft Plan at each meeting until public testimony is closed. After public testimony is concluded, the Commission would have the opportunity to ask questions from the Planning Department staff.

He noted that at its November 4, 2024, meeting, the Commission passed a motion to provide a favorable recommendation to the County Council on the draft Plan. This motion will remain open until the final meeting, allowing Commissioners to propose changes by adding, removing, or revising language through subsidiary motions. At the last meeting, the Commission will vote on the main motion to finalize its recommendation to the County Council. He also mentioned that the draft General Plan, and the meeting agenda could be accessed on the Planning Commission website or by visiting the website address listed on the agenda. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:00]*

At 9:12 a.m. Ex Officio Commissioner Hugh Ono, Director of the Department of Public Works provided a statement on the Puna Alternate Road Study. He stated that the department has no intention of constructing a road through Hawaiian Home Lands, although the route will be included in the study as a requirement. He emphasized pursuing this route would only occur if the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and its beneficiaries support it. Director Hugh Ono shared that the mauka route would be a better option to alleviate traffic congestion. This route would divide traffic flow, with one direction using the current Volcano Highway or Railroad Avenue and the other directed mauka toward Komohana or Saddle Road area. He then welcomed any questions from the Commissioners. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 5:48]*

Commissioner Wayne De Luz asked if the study would lead to a recommendation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 7:56]* In response, Director Hugh Ono confirmed and added that the project is now on a fast track. He noted that funds for the study lapsed on June 30, 2024, which he considered unacceptable. He was unsure how it happened, as he had only been in his role for two and a half months. To move forward, he mentioned that the department is quickly engaging a consultant to meet statutory deadlines and emphasized his commitment to completing the study. The next steps will involve conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), followed by the construction phase. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 8:04]*

Chair Louis Daniele III asked if the funds were federal. Director Hugh Ono responded that the funds are a combination of County, Federal, and State resources. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 9:02]* There were no further questions from the Commissioners.

At 9:18 a.m. with approximately twenty-seven members of the public in attendance, Planning Department staff members Bethany Morrison and Janice Hata gave their presentation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 10:23]* Janice Hata presented the portion on Chapter 5 -Thriving, Diverse, & Regenerative Economy *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:36]*, while Bethany Morrison covered Chapter 6 -Monitoring & Implementation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 20:35]* *[SEE EXHIBIT A – PowerPoint Presentation 03-10-2025]*

Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow stated that an additional presentation would follow and noted that the recommendations dated February 18, 2025, had been distributed to the Commission. He explained that the General Plan has undergone review across two administrations. Following the recent administration change, he conducted a thorough review of the plan and made recommendations to align with the current administration’s direction.

The 74-page document includes minor editorial changes and adjustments to the land use section, particularly the Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map. Some changes were made to align with existing zoning, as reversing these would not make sense. Notably, the Hokulia development was reverted from a Rural designation to Extensive Agricultural to match its Agricultural-1 acre zoning. Similarly, the Kohala Ranch project in South and North Kohala was recommended to remain as Extensive Agricultural instead of being designated as Rural. The Leeward Planning Commission has already recommended approval of these changes to the Council, and Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow requested the Windward Planning Commission’s consideration for the same. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 30:00]*

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEM

At 9:41 a.m. the Commission addressed this item with approximately twenty-nine public members present in the Council Chambers. Chairman Louis Daniele III announced that public testimony would begin with in-person speakers, followed by Zoom participants, and would continue until all were heard. He reminded everyone to keep their testimony respectful and delivered it with aloha. Personal attacks and disruptive behavior would not be permitted and could result in the testimony being paused or ended to maintain decorum. He also noted that testimony would be limited to three minutes and encouraged participants to respect the time limit to ensure as many voices as possible were heard. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 34:16]*

Nineteen individuals provided in-person testimony:

1. Bob Douglas *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 36:35]*
2. Maile Lu‘uwai *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 39:17]*
3. Ken Honma *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 43:36]*
4. Lori Pasco *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 46:12]*
5. Nāko‘olani Warrington *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 49:34]*
6. Susan Champeny *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 53:17]*
7. Paul Andrade *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 57:05]*
8. Rocky Ishibashi *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:00:47]*

Chairman Louis Daniele III reminded the audience to refrain from using profanity, emphasizing that this was not the appropriate forum. He also requested that speakers avoid using first names when addressing the Commission and instead direct all comments to him as the Chair. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:04:25]* In-person testimony then resumed.

9. Kalei Kailikini *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:05:36]*
10. Iokepa Kao-Kaolulo *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:09:03]*
11. David DeCleene *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:12:25]*
12. Michael Johnson *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:15:48]*
13. Michelle Melendez *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:20:14]*
14. Millicent Cummings *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:23:39]*
15. John Stern *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:27:29]*
16. Jesse Waltjen *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:30:05]*

Deputy Corporation Counsel Suzanna Tiapula clarified that the Windward Planning Commission has not yet forwarded its recommendation to the County Council but hopes to do so this week. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:31:33]*

17. Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:32:50]*
18. Kaulani Almeida *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:35:55]*

Chairman Louis Daniele called a 10-minute recess at 10:47 a.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:40:12] and reconvened the meeting at 10:57 a.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:50:12] Commissioner Wayne De Luz was not in attendance.

In-person testimony resumed with approximately eighteen members public members in attendance.

19. Kevin Hill *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:51:00]*
20. Adriana Duerr *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:55:30]*

Commissioner Wayne De Luz returned at 11:03 a.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:56:41]

Chairman Louis Daniele called a 5-minute recess at 11:08 a.m. to address technical issues with the Zoom platform. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:01:24] He reconvened the meeting at 11:12 a.m. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:05:01]

Nine individuals provided testimony via Zoom:

1. Ainaaloha Ioane *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:05:37]*
2. Cindy Evans *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:09:20]*
3. Eugene Elmer *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:13:20]*
4. Martha Stephens *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:17:30]*
5. Dave Webb *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:21:34]*
6. April Lee *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:25:49]*
7. Josephine Keliipio *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:29:38]*
8. Marion Geruschat *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:34:52]*

9. Shaylene Fahey *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:38:43]*

At 11:50 a.m. Chairman Louis Daniele III opened the floor for the Commissioners to ask questions of the Planning Department staff. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:42:09]*

Chairman Louis Daniele III asked Planning Department staff to clarify how the public was notified. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:42:22]* Planning Department staff member Bethany Morrison explained that the public notice for the Plan and its related efforts was conducted through multiple channels. This included newspaper advertisements, posts on the Planning Department's social media platforms, and individual mailings to property owners whose properties had proposed map changes to a natural or conservation designation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:43:10]*

Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow added they use a service called List Serv to notify people about applications, processes, or meetings if they sign up for it. Bethany Morrison also noted that the Plan was included on the agenda multiple times with the Community Development Plan Action Committees. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:43:55]*

Vice Chair Chantel Perrin asked when the General Plan review or update began, and Bethany Morrison answered 2015. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:44:48]* Vice Chair Chantel Perrin then asked how the public was informed, referencing newspapers, mailings, and the List Serv function. Bethany Morrison confirmed that they used the mailing list mentioned by the Planning Director and held numerous meetings around the island.

Vice Chair Chantel Perrin pointed out that while the General Plan includes a photo from 2019, the COVID pandemic from March 2019 to early 2022 caused shutdowns and disconnect. She also noted that the County's social media platforms didn't launch until 2022. She asked if there were any samples of mailers, newspaper clippings, or posters displayed at the airport to inform the public, particularly families relocating to the area, and requested proof of these efforts. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:45:21]*

Bethany Morrison responded that the 2019 draft was released with numerous newspaper notices, public announcements, and meetings. She noted that the public comment period closed in October 2019, before the pandemic. She explained that no outreach occurred between the closure of public comments and the release of the recommended draft, as that time was dedicated to reviewing and incorporating the feedback received. Outreach was not planned during that period. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:46:14]*

Vice Chair Perrin then pointed out that from 2019 until the General Plan was brought to the Commission, there were no community outreach efforts or meetings. She highlighted that most community meetings took place between 2015 and 2019 and questioned the use of social media during that time. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:47:09]*

Ms. Morrison responded that the County of Hawai'i Planning Department's used its Facebook page for outreach.

Vice Chair Chantel Perrin noted that the County's Instagram account began in March 2023, with its earliest post from that time. She expressed frustration, saying she felt her hands were tied when the community claimed there was a lack of communication. She emphasized that she had no evidence to counter that claim, highlighting a significant gap in communication that left the community unaware and unable to participate, especially as the population grew and became more reliant on social media.

Bethany responded that while social media wasn't the only platform used, the County's channels were active during that period. She mentioned a rebranding effort that established additional channels for community development plans and noted that older posts from those channels dated back from 2015 to 2019. She emphasized that the Planning Department's website contains information about the outreach efforts, the plan's development process, and thousands of public comments.

Vice Chair Perrin then asked if Bethany could provide a newspaper clipping of an advertisement published between 2015 and 2019 to inform the public. Bethany confirmed that she could provide it. Vice Chair Perrin also requested a copy of the mailer. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:47:43]*

Commissioner De Luz asked if there is a Community Development Plan (CDP) for South Hilo. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:50:33]* Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow confirmed that there is a CDP for Hilo, noting that it was the first one adopted and is still in use, though it needs an update. He added the administration has discussed this with the Councilmember. He explained that the General Plan update is currently the top priority, followed by updates to the Zoning and Subdivision Codes. Once those are complete, the CDP's will be updated as part of Phase 2 of the General Plan implementation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:50:56]*

Vice Chair Chantel Perrin asked a question on land use, specifically inquiring about the importance of updating the land use development plan compared to making adjustments to the existing one. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:52:53]*

Planning Director Jeffrey Darrow explained that the Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map was created 20 years ago, and since then, new designations like "natural recreation" have been introduced to better meet current needs. He noted that some designations, such as "Resort Nodes," have been removed. He emphasized the importance of reassessing growth areas to encourage development where it is desired and restrict it where it is not. He also pointed out that the updated map significantly reduced density compared to the previous plan, with a focus on carefully identifying suitable areas for future growth. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:53:11]*

MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

Vice Chair Chantel Perrin moved, and Commissioner Wayne De Luz seconded, to continue the discussion on the General Plan at the Commission's Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Louis Daniele III thanked everyone their attendance and participation. *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:54:47]*

This hearing item ended at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Dacayanan-Salvador
Melissa Dacayanan-Salvador (Jun 10, 2025 14:59 HST)

Melissa Dacayanan-Salvador
Secretary

ATTEST:

Louis Daniele III
Louis Daniele III (Jun 11, 2025 17:16 HST)

Louis Daniele III, Chairman
Windward Planning Commission

County of Hawai'i



General Plan Comprehensive Review

Windward Planning Commission

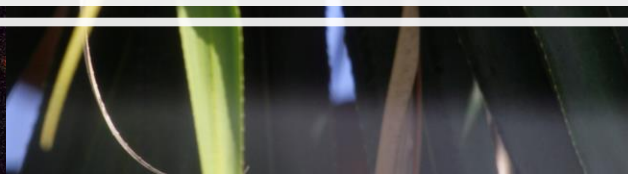
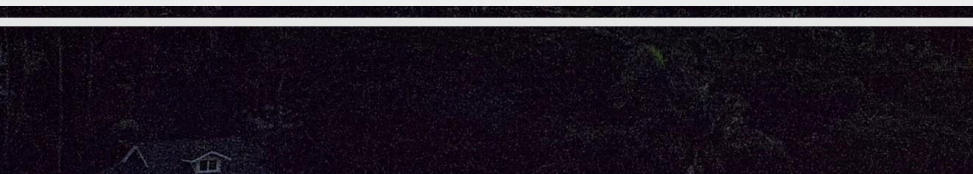
Thriving, Diverse, & Regenerative Economy;
Monitoring & Implementation

March 10, 2025

(EXHIBIT A)



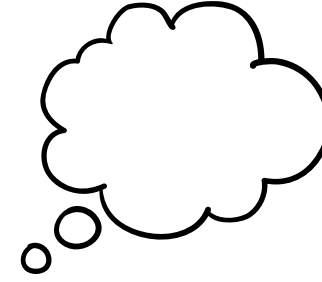
Thriving, Diverse, & Regenerative Economy



Plan Chapters & Sections

Chapters	Elements
Introduction	Purpose, Authority, & History Planning Process Sustainability Principles & Practices Planning System & Framework Grounded Vision & Goals
Collaborative Biocultural Stewardship	Native Habitats Watersheds Biocultural Stewardship Cultural & Historic Assets Natural Beauty (Scenic Character)
Adapting to Climate Change for Island-Wide Health	Mitigation Adaptation
Sustainable Development & Resilient Communities	Land Use Transportation Access & Mobility Public Utilities Public Facilities & Services Housing For All Integrated Systems
Thriving, Diversified, & Regenerative Economy	Agriculture & Food Systems Visitor Industry
Implementation & Monitoring	Planning System Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Monitoring & Evaluation

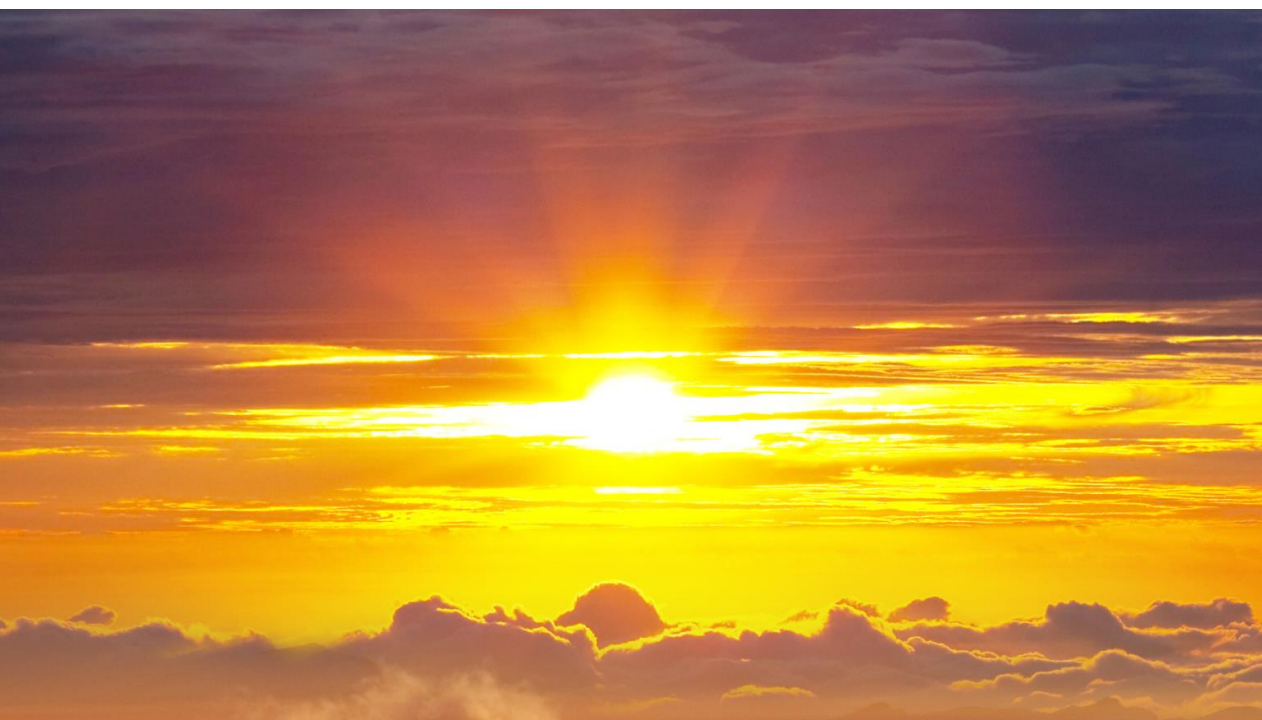
Economic Considerations in the General Plan



- Why is it important?
 - Helps align land use policies with economic growth goals
 - Encourages investment in areas that support local jobs and businesses
 - Promotes economic resilience against global and local economic changes
 - Ensures equitable opportunities for all community members



Sustainability



Economy (overarching goal)

Our economy is diverse, regenerative, and innovative, improving and maintaining the financial well-being of our residents with a focus on increasing local economic opportunities.



Economy ***Agriculture &*** ***Food Systems***

Goal:

Agriculture is a robust, diversified sector that addresses food security and includes a broad range of agricultural-based businesses that highlight value.



Economy

Visitor Industry

Goal:

A high quality of life for residents is maintained when a regenerative visitor industry balances the preservation of natural and cultural resources with responsible visitation.



Economic Objectives



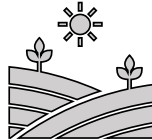
Obj 43: Improve access at all levels for education and training.



Obj 44: Increase the growth and health of small businesses.



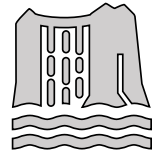
Obj 45: Incorporate resiliency, diversity, and innovation in County programs, plans, and research to support healthy economic development and revitalization.



Obj 46: Increase access to land for active food production.



Obj 47: Increase interagency coordination, programs, and policy initiatives that improve local agriculture infrastructure.



Obj 48: Support the visitor industry investment in its connection with communities, the 'āina, and our historic and multicultural heritage.



Obj 49: Increase authentic Hawai'i Island visitor experiences.

*Agriculture & Food
Systems*

Visitor Industry

Economic Policies & Actions

Example

Goal: Our economy is diverse, regenerative, and innovative, improving and maintaining the financial well-being of our residents with a focus on increasing local economic opportunities.

Objective 43: Improve access at all levels for education and training.

Policy 43.3: Support apprenticeships and workforce training to strengthen leadership and entrepreneurial skillsets and networks.

- The policy sets the vision for a stronger workforce with leadership and entrepreneurial capabilities, while the actions provide the mechanisms to achieve this goal.



Action 43.b: Continue to provide or expand County services and/or programs for workforce development and technical assistance.



Action 43.f: Develop and maintain partnerships with the higher education system and other organizations to support education and workforce development opportunities.

Economic Policies & Actions

Example

Goal: Our economy is diverse, regenerative, and innovative, improving and maintaining the financial well-being of our residents with a focus on increasing local economic opportunities.

Objective 44: Increase the growth and health of small businesses.

Policy 44.2: Streamline regulatory processes associated with starting and operating a business.

- Policy intent: Make regulatory processes more efficient, so that it is easier to start and operate a business. Reducing bureaucratic delays, simplifying permitting, and improving coordination can lower barriers for entrepreneurs and encourage economic growth.

Action 44.a: Promote liaison services with the private sector with respect to the County's requirements for establishing businesses on the island.

- The action provides an approach to implementing the policy by establishing liaison services to assist the private sector in navigating County requirements. These services would offer guidance, facilitate communication with government agencies, and help businesses comply with regulations.

Economic Policies & Actions

Example – *Agriculture & Food Systems*

Goal: Agriculture is a robust, diversified sector that addresses food security and includes a broad range of agricultural-based businesses that highlight value.

Objective 46: Increase access to land for active food production.

Policy 46.8: Support the research and development of the agriculture technology industry in collaboration with agriculture applications to optimize production.

- Policy intent: Promote research and development in agricultural technology to optimize food production. By integrating technological advancements with agricultural practices, farmers can improve efficiency, increase yields, and adapt to environmental challenges.

Action 46.f: Invest in a crop suitability tool, including existing and projected water demand.

- Provides farmers and policymakers with critical data on which crops are best suited for specific locations, considering factors like soil quality, climate conditions, and water availability.

Economic Policies & Actions

Example – *Visitor Industry*

Goal: A high quality of life for residents is maintained when a regenerative visitor industry balances the preservation of natural and cultural resources with responsible visitation.

Objective 49: Increase authentic Hawai'i Island visitor experiences.

Policy 49.2 Strengthen the accessibility of creative industries and Hawai'i Island-made products such as fashion, food, and the arts to the visitor industry.

- Streamlined event processes increase exposure, infrastructure investments improve visitor accessibility, and technical support strengthens business capacity.

Action 49.a

Streamline processes for community-based programs, festivals, and events.

Action 49.d

Continue to seek funds from the State Capital Improvements Program to support facilities, including restrooms, parking, and road improvements.

Action 49.e

Provide technical support for local businesses to promote or further develop their products, services, and activities in the visitor industry.



Implementation & Monitoring

Implementation requires translating broad statements of the GP to specific actions, evaluating progress, and effective community engagement.

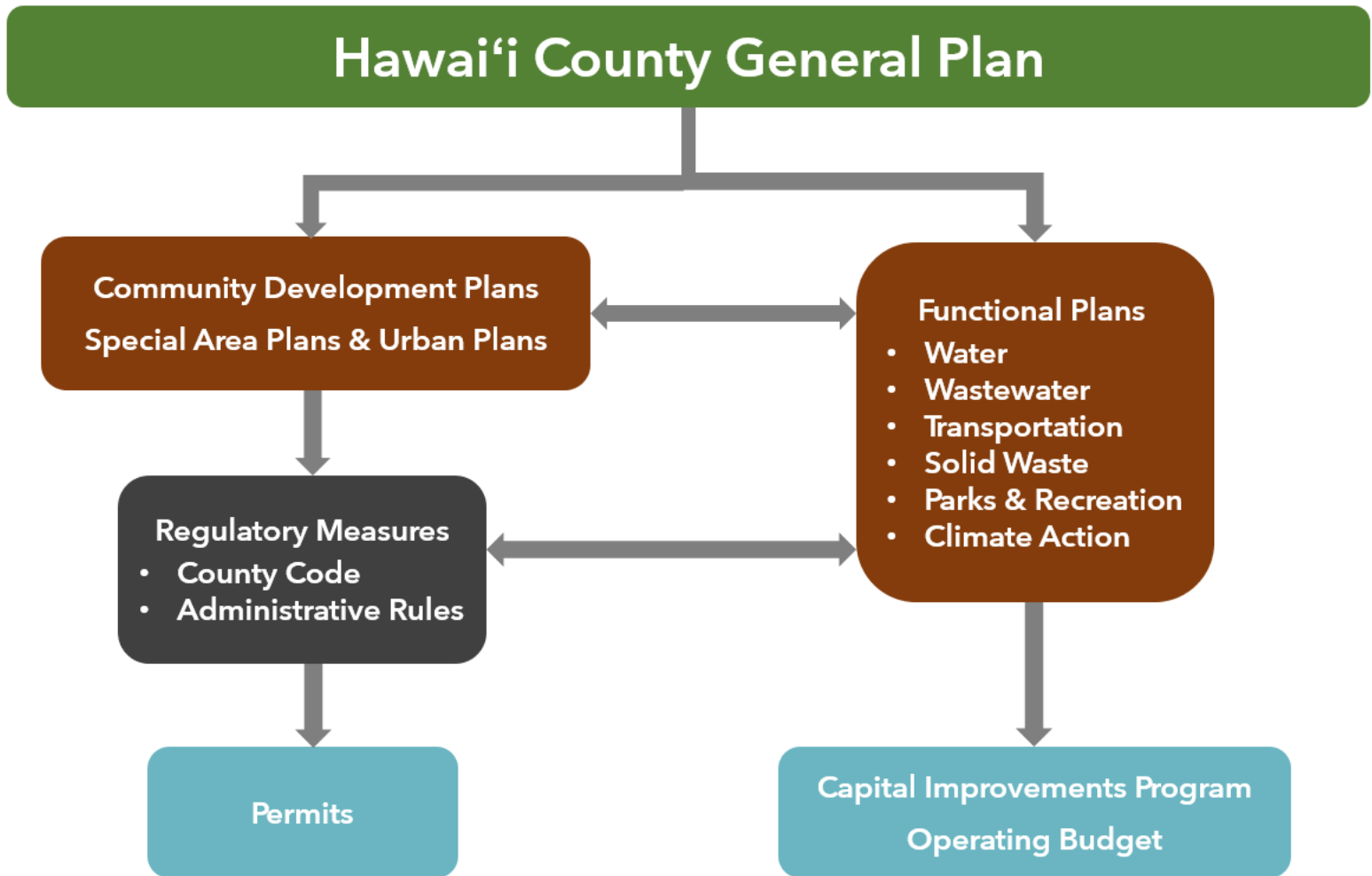


Implementation Requires

A framework focused on:

1. Local engagement
2. Long-term and holistic approach
3. Consistent policies and implementation
4. Interagency collaboration
5. Implementation system

Implementation occurs
at each level of the
Planning System



Community Development Plans

Purpose

- Translate the General Plan's broad statements and community development guidelines to actions specific to the planning area to address regional issues and opportunities.
- Improve and advance communities and community resilience through the acknowledgment and development of community capacity.
- Provide a process for citizens to engage in civic dialogue and contribute to the identification of community priorities.



CDP process should identify:

- Recommended Governmental Improvements
- Advocacy Strategies
- Acquisition Priorities
- Capital Projects
- Programs and Community Actions
- Social Capital and Community Network Mapping

Urban Development and Special Area Plans

- An analysis of problems, needs, and opportunities
- Appropriate planning standards
 - Public services and transportation
 - Housing unit densities, urban design
 - Streetscaping and landscaping design
 - A statement of proposed considerations for historic or archaeological features in the proximity of the plan's area, which may consider restoration, access, buffers, and other measures as appropriate.
- Sequencing and phasing of development or redevelopment, public facilities, infrastructure (Examples include roads, water, wastewater, parks, educational sites, and public safety facilities).
- Implementation program
 - CIP, financial considerations, and schedule.



Community Development Plans
Special Area Plans & Urban Plans

Public Agency Functional Plans and Programs

- Functional plans are developed by the agency primarily responsible for a given functional area and must identify priority issues and specific needs of the agency responsible for implementation. They may, but are not required to, be adopted by ordinance or resolution.



Functional Plans

- Water
- Wastewater
- Transportation
- Solid Waste
- Parks & Recreation
- Climate Action

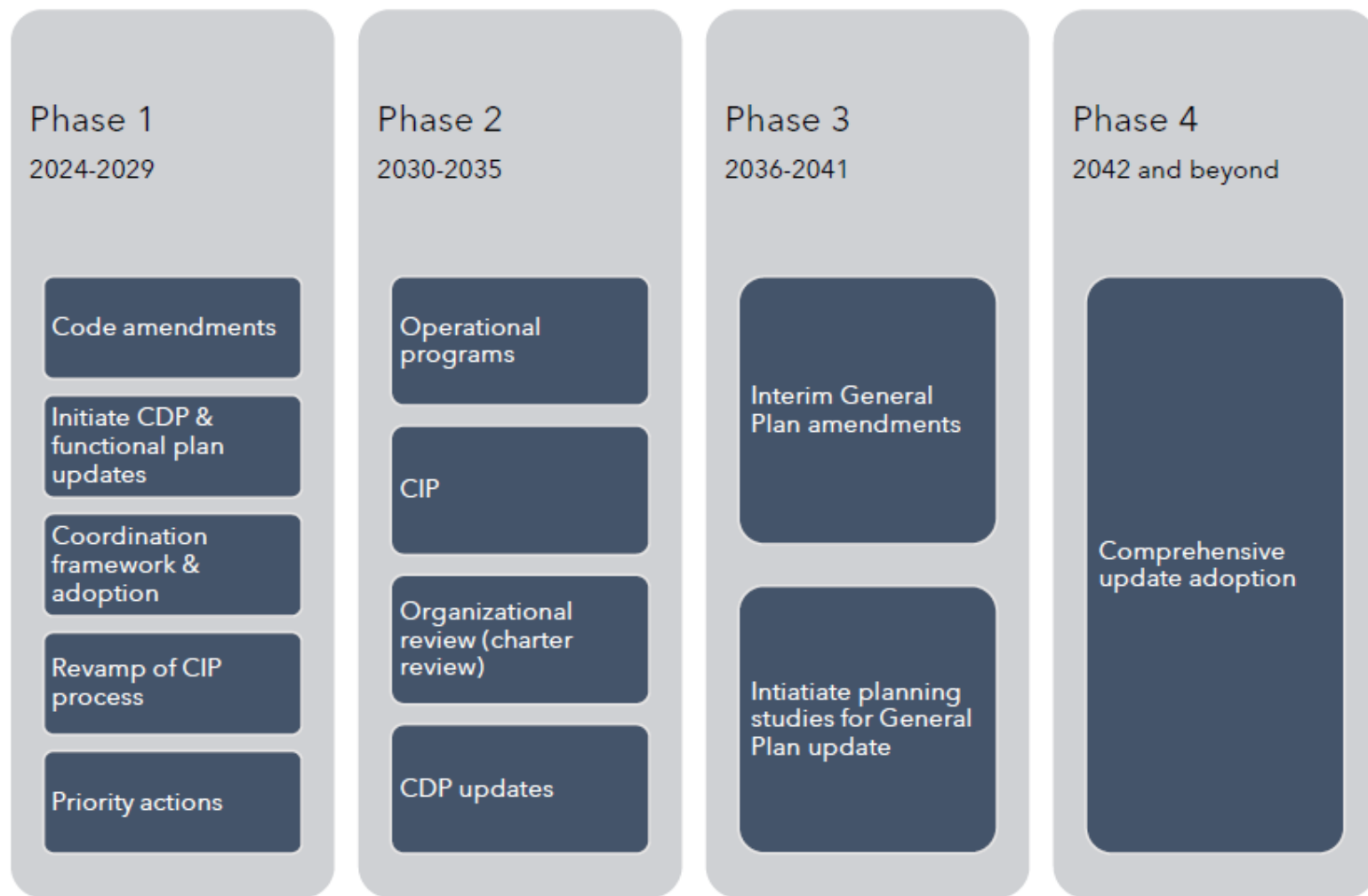
Capital Improvement Program Prioritization

- Funding Source
- Health and Safety
- Long-Range Project Delivery
- Nonrecurring Rehabilitation (extreme deferred maintenance)
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Level of Service
- Land Use Policies



Capital Improvements Program
Operating Budget

Implementation Priorities and Phases



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Progress Reports
 - Mayor's Annual Report
 - 5-year Implementation Status Report
 - Comprehensive Review and Update Schedule
 - Initiated not more than 15 years after adoption
 - Submitted to PC not more than 20 years after adoption
- Implementation Table
 - Actions, Agency, Type

- Implementation Indicators

Table 44: Collaborative Biocultural Stewardship Indicators

Goal	Natural and cultural resources are thriving and sustainably managed, preserved, and restored to maintain our unique and diverse environment.
Objectives	1. Increase the biodiversity and resilience of native habitats. 2. Preserve and enhance the health and function of watersheds to promote water recharge, improve water quality and reduce runoff. 3. Increase direct community restoration and collaborative efforts to conserve and nourish the island's biocultural resources. 4. The historical integrity, character, scenic assets, and open spaces of our communities are protected, restored, and treated as unique assets with significant social and economic value and managed in perpetuity. 5. Protect, restore, and enhance our communities' unique scenic character.
Example Indicators	• Increase in native habitat coverage • Population trends of native species • Area of coastal habitats protected • Incidents of coastal erosion • Number of water bodies meeting clean water standards • Frequency and severity of water contamination incidents • Groundwater levels and quality • Number of historic sites and structures preserved or restored • Participation rates in cultural activities and events

For More Information

Planning Website – Overall Process

[2019 Draft General Plan Workshops & Public Input](#) >

[2023 Draft General Plan Workshops & Public Input](#) >

[2024 Recommended Draft General Plan Workshops & Public Input](#) v

Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045

The Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045 is now available for public review and comment. To access the Final Draft and provide comments, [CLICK HERE](#).

Download a PDF copy of the Final Draft: [Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045_July2024](#)

Download a PDF copy of the Policy Rationale: [General Plan 2045 Policy Rationale_July2024](#)

Download a PDF copy of the General Plan Land Use Technical Methodology Report: [Scenario Planning - Technical Methodology for General Plan Land Use \(2024\)](#)

Participate in the General Plan Comprehensive Review Process

Public Workshops

- August 28, 2024 - West Hawai'i Civic Center (Building A), 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- August 29, 2024 - Arc of Hilo, 1099 Waiānue Ave, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- September 5, 2024 - Online Webinar Workshop, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IQ49gu9TTqRMi4PDN

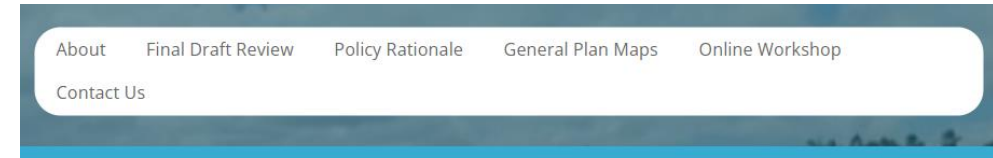
* Video recordings will be available after the event.

Community Meetings

- September 17, 2024, South Kona at 5:00pm - Rodney Yano M Hwy, Captain Cook, HI 96704
- September 19, 2024, Ka'ū at 5:00pm - Ka'ū District Gym Multi-Purpose Room, HI 96777



Interactive Draft & Maps



Final Recommended Draft General Plan 2045

Open for Review

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Click anywhere in the document to add a comment. Select a bubble to view comments, add your own comment to what others have shared or give comments a thumbs up or down.





<https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/gp/comp>

<https://cohplanning.konveio.com/final-recommended-draft-general-plan-2045?document=1>

Next Steps

Tentative WPC Hearing Dates:

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Information for Upcoming Planning Commission Meetings for Review of General Plan 2045 at: <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-committees/planning-commission-applications> or by calling 808-961-8288.

A photograph of a red flower with green foliage growing from a dark, rocky, and misty landscape. The flower is in the center-right of the frame, and the background is a dark, rocky slope with mist or smoke rising from it. The text "MAHALO" is overlaid in the center of the image.

MAHALO

County of Hawai'i Planning Department