

Directors Nani Madeiros and Elizabeth Pickett
Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Dear Nani and Elizabeth,

The Hamakua Community Development Plan Action Committee wishes to again express our appreciation for the work which you are doing on behalf of the residents of Hamakua in facing the threat of wildfire. Especially, thank you for the excellent presentation before our committee in November of last year.

As we get closer to 'fire season' we in communities along the Hamakua coast will probably become more interested in the status of the Hamakua Wildfire Preparedness Plan which you referenced in that presentation. Of course, that season is probably still a few months away, but preparation time is always 'now'.

That this Plan has not been released to the Public after 4 or 5 months of consideration, and possibly discussion, at expert levels, likely means that there is some disjunct between what has been proposed in the Plan which you had submitted, and what is felt practical by the Agencies responsible for its application.

We, as the public, would be interested in where that tension might exist between the ideal and the practical. It can be imagined that your organization, as advocates, might strive toward that ideal. The County undoubtedly has an obligation to work within its limitations. And obviously, the two of you must work together to confront the challenge.

It is therefore wondered if it would be practical that the Action Committee would become informed as to any discussion that might be taking place which will shape the final design of the Plan which HWMO and the County are formulating. Of course, this would be public disclosure, and it may be that there are sensitive issues. But, I think that it is reasonable that the Public be informed of dimensions which may separate the ideal from the realizable or practical. The public might wish to advocate on its own for striving toward the ideal in its protection, and might be able to volunteer energy toward realizing that ideal.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Chair, Hamakua Community Development Plan Action Committee