

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

4 FINAL MINUTES
5 May 13, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Charles Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee
8 (AC) to order at 12:02 p.m. This meeting was held in person at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2
9 Conference Room and online via the Zoom platform.

10 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpLUTaqOkTg&t=200s>

12 **ROLL CALL**

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

14 Members Present (via Zoom): David Huerta and Heather Korotie

15 Members Absent: Roselyn Molina and Charles Young (Chair)

16 County Staff Present (in person): Kawelo Kalili and Jessica Lahip

17 County Staff Present (via Zoom): Maryam Palma and Janice Hata

18 One (1) member of the public attended the meeting in person; no participants joined via Zoom.

19 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

20 Committee member Pelletier moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting as
21 drafted. Committee member Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
22 *[SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:19]*

23 **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

24 There was no public testimony at this time.

25 **BUSINESS:**

26 **1. Mayor's Community Meeting Update** – Update from Action Committee member John
27 Pelletier, followed by a discussion on potential Committee actions. *[SEE YOUTUBE*
28 *TIMESTAMP: 3:40]*

29 This item was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

30 Committee member Pelletier reported that the recent community Q&A session with the Mayor
31 in Kona was productive, with strong public turnout and representation from all County
32 departments. Staff were available to answer questions on a range of infrastructure topics,
33 including park repairs. During the second half of the meeting, which featured one-on-one
34 discussions, committee member Pelletier engaged with staff about the Keauhou Regional Park,

the R1 water issue, and funding for wastewater treatment. Transportation concerns – such as bus stop locations – were also addressed. Committee member Pelletier emphasized the value of Action Committee members attending these events in person to build relationships and help advance key community projects.

Vice-Chair Pisicchio added that these discussions align with the priorities outlined in the Action Committee’s recent letter to the Finance Committee, highlighting the group’s focus on environmental protection and infrastructure improvements.

This item concluded at 12:15 p.m.

2. **Tree City, USA Update** – Update from Action Committee member Charla Thompson, followed by a discussion on potential Committee actions. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 12:36*]

This item was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Committee member Thompson shared her ongoing efforts to revive Kona’s Tree City USA designation – a program that recognizes communities committed to urban forestry. Introduced to the initiative by Vice-Chair Pisicchio, Thompson connected with forestry subject matter experts and members of the Outdoor Circle, including Director Winston Welch, who expressed strong support for revitalizing the Kona branch. The Tree City USA program offers benefits such as community beautification, increased civic engagement, and access to grant opportunities. To qualify, the County must meet four criteria: designate an arborist, adopt a tree care ordinance, allocate a minimum of \$2 per capita for forestry, and hold an annual Arbor Day observance. Although the County previously held the designation, it lapsed due to staffing changes.

Vice-Chair Pisicchio moved to approve the draft Tree City letter for signature by the Chair and submission to the Mayor by staff. Committee member Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 28:50*]

This item concluded at 12:31 p.m.

3. **Update on SB1602, SD1** – Vice-Chair Pisicchio will provide an update on the bill’s status in the current legislative session. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 29:33*]

This item was called to order at 12:31 p.m.

Vice-Chair Pisicchio provided an update on Senate Bill 1602, SD1, which allocates funding to monitor the Keauhou Aquifer through two wells – one for surface water and one for deep water. The bill, along with a \$4 million budget appropriation, had passed the Legislature and was awaiting the Governor’s signature. Committee members expressed strong support for the initiative and appreciation for the unified backing from state legislators. They emphasized the importance of this investment in advancing Kona’s water resource management and long-term planning efforts.

This item concluded at 12:34 p.m.

4. **Update on SB869, SD1** – Vice-Chair Pisicchio will provide an update on the bill’s status in the current legislative session. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 31:34*]

74 This item was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

75 Vice-Chair Pisicchio provided an update on Senate Bill 869, SD1, which proposes amendments
76 to Chapter 92 of the Sunshine Law to allow CDP Action Committees to operate under
77 neighborhood board rules. The bill had passed the Legislature and was awaiting the Governor's
78 signature. Committee members expressed optimism about the proposed changes, noting that
79 they would offer greater flexibility and enhance the effectiveness of the Action Committees.

80 This item concluded at 12:35 p.m.

81 **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

82 [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 32:21*]

83 1. Keauhou Aquifer Adaptive Management Plan Presentation

84 **ADJOURNMENT**

85 The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 36:29*]

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