

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

FINAL MINUTES
July 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Young called the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 12:01 p.m. This meeting was held in person at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, B2 Conference Room and online via the Zoom platform.

The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfDXhC3nziY&t=819s>

ROLL CALL

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

Members Present (via Zoom): John Pelletier, Heather Korotie, and David Huerta

Members Absent: Roselyn Molina

County Staff Present (in person): Kawelo Kalili

County Staff Present (via Zoom): Maryam Palma, Janice Hata, and Jessica Lahip

There were approximately 25 members of the public in attendance (5 in person and 20 via Zoom).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Pisicchio moved to approve the May 13, 2025, meeting minutes. Committee Member Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:40]

Vice Chair Pisicchio moved to approve the June 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Committee Member Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:20]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony at this time.

BUSINESS:

1. Keauhou Aquifer Adaptive Management Plan – Presentation by representatives of the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) on the proposed Adaptive Management Plan for the Keauhou Aquifer. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 5:05]

Ciara Kahahane, Deputy Director of the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), gave an overview of the agency's role and shared a presentation on the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the Keauhou Aquifer. She explained that the AMP is being

36 developed to better understand and manage groundwater in the Keauhou area, which supports
37 ecosystems, cultural practices, and water supply needs. The plan responds to concerns about
38 development, climate change, and gaps in current data and modeling methods. The AMP aims
39 to identify key areas, indicators, and thresholds to help monitor and respond to changes in the
40 aquifer system. A diverse advisory panel and expert groups are supporting the effort, and
41 public input will be gathered through outreach and commission presentations. A first-
42 generation plan is expected to be submitted to the commission in November 2025, with the
43 intention to update and improve it over time. The goal is to strengthen protections, support
44 informed decision-making, and serve as a model for future water management efforts across
45 the state.

46 Ciara Kahahane answered questions regarding the placement of deep monitoring wells,
47 explaining that CWRM will determine locations based on expert input and land considerations,
48 and how the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) relates to the Kona CDP. She shared that
49 while the AMP and Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) are separate, the AMP will
50 help inform future County planning. An updated statewide framework is underway to guide
51 the development of a Keauhou-specific WUDP.

52 Deputy Director Kahahane explained that the County will likely use the State's sustainable
53 yield numbers in its water plan. While she could not speak for the County's priorities, she
54 noted the updated framework will place more emphasis on protecting traditional and customary
55 practices, and counties will likely be asked to consider how their plans impact Native Hawaiian
56 interests, including DHHL.

57 Loke Aloua provided testimony regarding water resource planning in Kona, emphasizing the
58 importance of in-person engagement and inviting agency staff to visit Kaloko fishpond. She
59 expressed concerns about the outdated Water Use and Development Plan being treated as
60 current, the need to better understand how aquifers are connected, and the importance of
61 including climate change impacts in water availability estimates. She also raised questions
62 about how water users are prioritized, how water credits are managed, and how ongoing
63 developments are being reviewed. Loke encouraged the inclusion of traditional knowledge and
64 community experiences in the planning process and asked for stronger coordination and
65 communication between agencies and the public [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 43:04*]

66 Chuck Flaherty provided testimony regarding improving the clarity and coordination between
67 county and state water plans. He suggested the inclusion of a flowchart or visual tool to help
68 the public understand how different regulatory frameworks intersect and how county-level data
69 and approvals relate to state-level policies. He also raised questions about incorporating
70 enforceable water-related development standards into the General Plan to ensure effective
71 implementation. Additionally, he asked whether existing water quality monitoring data from
72 SMA permits would be used and expressed concern about unknown factors in groundwater
73 systems, such as aquifer vulnerability during well drilling. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP*
74 *53:00*]

75 Chair Young and Vice-Chair Pisicchio emphasized the need for better coordination between
76 state and county efforts in water resource management. Chair Young highlighted the
77 importance of connecting state-level planning with county-level implementation so residents
78 can support meaningful action locally. Vice-Chair Pisicchio expressed concern that current

efforts are too reactive and called for a more proactive, long-term approach that links water data, resource protection, and sustainable development. Both stressed the need to align state and county roles to ensure effective planning, and Chair Young offered to help organize future public engagement efforts. Vice-Chair Pisicchio offered to help organize additional public meetings in the future if the State team plans to engage more community members. She expressed a willingness to assist in facilitating broader outreach efforts to ensure greater public participation.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:19:40*]

1. Tree City USA
2. General Plan Discussion
3. KOSN Next Steps

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:37:19*]

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