

1 SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2 ACTION COMMITTEE
3 COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

4 FINAL MINUTES
5 May 15, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Tristie Licoan called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) Action
8 Committee (AC) to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was established with six members in attendance.
9 This meeting was held in person at the Waikōloa Village Association Community Room.

10 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc3kP1VVmBM>

12 **ROLL CALL**

13 Members Present (in person): Tristie Licoan (Chair), Scott Nagata (Vice-Chair), William Sanborn,
14 Karen Anderson, Josephine (Jojo) Tanimoto, and Ruth Smith (arrived at 5:11 p.m.)

15 Members Absent: Kevin McLaughlin and Julia Alos

16 County Staff Present (in person): Maryam Palma, Jessica Lahip, and Janice Hata

17 There were approximately six (6) members of the public in attendance (four in person and two via
18 Zoom).

19 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 2:33*]

20 Vice-Chair Nagata moved to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Committee member
21 Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22 **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:48*]

23 None at this time.

24 **BUSINESS**

25 **1. Puakō Sewer Project Update** – Committee member Karen Anderson will provide an update
26 on the Puakō Sewer Project, with potential committee decision-making.

27 This item was called to order 5:07 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:53*]

28 Committee member Anderson provided an update on the Puakō Sewer Project, which aims to
29 prevent wastewater pollution from damaging the coral reef. In response to this issue, the Puakō
30 community established the nonprofit Puakō for Reefs and developed a plan for a low-pressure
31 sewer system that would connect to the Mauna Lani treatment plant. To advance the project,
32 support is needed from the County's Planning, Environmental Management, and Finance
33 departments.

34 Committee member Anderson made a motion to request \$1 million in Capital Improvements
35 Program (CIP) funding for the Puakō Sewer Project. The motion was seconded by committee
36 member Smith and passed unanimously. Committee member Anderson will draft the funding
37 request letter, and the Community Development Plan (CDP) team will finalize it and submit it
38 to Chair Licoan for signature.

39 Additionally, committee member Anderson will draft letters addressed to the directors of the
40 Planning, Environmental Management, and Finance departments, with Mayor Kimo Alameda
41 cc'd. These draft letters will be presented at the next meeting for review and approval.

42 James Hustace Testimony [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 36:22*]

43 This item closed at 5:41p.m.

- 44 **2. Waimea Water Resources Community Meeting Update** – Vice-Chair Scott Nagata will
45 report on the Waimea Water Resources Community Meetings held on January 22, 2025 and
46 April 30, 2025 with potential committee decision-making.

47 This item was called to order at 5:25 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 39:17*]

48 Vice-Chair Nagata reported on the Waimea Water Resources Community Meetings held in
49 January and April 2025. These meetings focused on local concerns about water supply and
50 infrastructure, particularly the status of one of Waimea's three reservoirs, which has been out of
51 service for several years due to earthquake damage. Community members expressed strong interest
52 in restoring the reservoir, but progress has been hindered by funding challenges.

53 Committee member Tanimoto noted that Council Resolution No. 137-25 is scheduled for
54 discussion at the May 21, 2025 County Council meeting. The resolution requests that the
55 Department of Water Supply establish a publicly accessible website with data on water resources
56 and usage.

57 Planning staff member Maryam Palma provided an overview of the pros and cons of forming a
58 Permitted Interaction Group (PIG). While a PIG would allow more committee members to
59 collaborate outside of formal meetings, it would also restrict public updates and reduce flexibility.
60 After discussion, the Action Committee opted not to form a PIG, choosing instead to continue
61 addressing the issue through regular updates and community engagement.

62 This item closed at 6:07 p.m.

- 63 **3. Kailapa Firewise Evacuation Plan Update** – Committee member Jojo Tanimoto will provide
64 an update on the Kailapa Community Meeting held on December 27, 2024, with potential
65 committee decision-making.

66 This item was called to order 6:07 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:05:11*]

67 Committee member Tanimoto provided an update on the Kailapa community's evacuation
68 concerns. Although a firebreak was constructed using Firewise grant funding, the project remains
69 incomplete due to the absence of a required gate and pending completion of an archaeological
70 survey. The subdivision is fully enclosed by fencing, leaving no alternative exit during
71 emergencies. While the County of Hawai'i and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
72 have allocated some funding to connect the evacuation route to public roads, coordination among
73 the involved agencies has been limited.

74 Chair Licoan made a motion authorizing Committee member Tanimoto to draft and send a letter
75 requesting a joint meeting with relevant agencies – such as Firewise, DHHL, and the Department
76 of Public Works – to be held during the next Kailapa community meeting. The purpose of the
77 meeting is to confirm the gate location and address the archaeological survey requirements needed

to advance the evacuation route project. The motion was seconded by Committee member Sanborn and passed unanimously.

This item closed at 6:16 p.m.

PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:14:05*]

1. Water Resources for Waimea update
2. Puakō Sewer Project letters to department heads
3. Waikōloa Intersection/Roundabout Traffic Congestion and Second Access Road
4. Invitation to Waikōloa Heights
5. Identifying and registering all the cultural and historic sites in the Kawaihae area

Vice-Chair Nagata made a motion to send a letter to Department of Parks and Recreation requesting repairs to the Waimea Community Center, specifically addressing needs such as painting, ceiling repairs, and cabinet restoration. The motion was seconded by Committee member Anderson and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:47:00*]

- Mahalo to Pete Hendricks for his time, dedication, and service to the community and the South Kohala CDP Action Committee.
- Council member James Hustace provided update on the General Plan, the Ad Hoc Committee formed to evaluate the CDPs, and noted that the County Council's first meeting regarding the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is scheduled for May 22, 2025.
- Jeff Darrow was confirmed as the new Director of the Planning Department as of January 22, 2025.
- A joint meeting of the Action Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs was held on February 13, 2025.
- Senate Bill 869, relating to Community Outreach Boards, has passed the full Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- Environmental Notice – Pololū Trailhead Management Plan:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/The_Environmental_Notice/2025-03-23-TEN.pdf
- The Planning Department is seeking applicants for the South Kohala Action Committee and requests help in sharing this opportunity with interested community members. The application is available on the Mayor's Office website:
<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-commissions-application>
For inquiries, contact Micah Alameda, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, at Micah.Alameda@hawaiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8211.

Committee member Sanborn announced his resignation from the South Kohala CDP Action Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Licoan adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's South Kohala 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@hawaiicounty.gov.