

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

4 DRAFT MINUTES
5 August 21, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Tristie Licoan called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) Action
8 Committee (AC) to order at 5:07 p.m. A quorum was established with seven members in
9 attendance. This meeting was held in person at the Waimea Community Center.

10 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:

11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-DD7gZrNiE>

12 **ROLL CALL**

13 Members Present (in person): Tristie Licoan (Chair), Scott Nagata (Vice-Chair), Bambi Lau,
14 Owana Wilcox and Julia Alos

15 Members Present (via Zoom): Josephine (Jojo) Tanimoto & Kevin McLaughlin

16 Members Absent: Ruth Smith and Karen Anderson

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

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

20 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 4:56*]

21 Vice-Chair Nagata moved to approve the May 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Committee member Lau
22 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

23 **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 6:03*]

24 None at this time.

25 **BUSINESS**

26 **1. Civil Defense Agency Update** – A representative from Civil Defense will share updates
27 regarding the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan and future emergency preparedness plans as it
28 relates to South Kohala.

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30 This item was called to order at 5:14 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 7:11*]
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32 Representative Talmadge Magno from Civil Defense provided an update on the County's
33 Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is reviewed every five years. He explained that the plan
34 identifies vulnerabilities across Hawai'i Island, including flooding, wildfire, and tsunami risks,
35 and that FEMA has already approved a draft pending State review. Community members
36 raised concerns about the lack of an evacuation road for Kawaihae and Kailapa, flooding at
37 commercial areas, and congestion during the July 29 tsunami evacuation. Questions were also
38 raised about resort evacuation coordination, harbor management, signage for shelters, and

communication to both residents and visitors. Talmadge noted that Civil Defense continues after-action reviews and will incorporate feedback.

James Kong provided testimony recommending signage to direct people to emergency shelters.

Council Aide Kendra Bruno provided testimony that Waikoloa School was not officially designated shelter but was opened by the principal and superintendent during the tsunami evacuation to accommodate evacuees, highlighting both community responsiveness and coordination challenges.

Motion by Committee Chair Licoan: Submit a letter to Civil Defense requesting a copy of the after action report for the July 29 tsunami event as well as asking how can the SK CDP AC improve their communications with Civil Defense and all other entities that have a part in any evacuation plan. Seconded by Committee Member Tanimoto and passed unanimously.

This item closed at 6:10 p.m.

2. **Kailapa Firewise Evacuation Plan Update** – Committee member Jojo Tanimoto will provide an update on the Kailapa Firewise Evacuation Plan.

This item was called to order at 6:10 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:03:42*]

Committee Member Jojo Tanimoto reported that the Kailapa subdivision remains without a designated evacuation route despite longstanding requests. She described issues with fencing, gates, and reliance on neighboring subdivisions for emergency access. The group discussed the responsibilities of DHHL and the State to support the development of alternate routes. Concerns were also raised about increased traffic in the harbor area and the lack of progress despite community advocacy since the 1990s. Members expressed frustration at the lack of response from Hawaiian Homelands and requested county-level support to push the issue forward.

James Kong provided testimony that responsibility for establishing an evacuation route in Kailapa should be pushed to higher authorities, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior, to compel the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to take action.

Motion by Committee member Tanimoto: Submit a letter to DHHL, DOT, Lili‘uokalani Trust, and Hawai‘i Wildfire Organization requesting their support for the Kailapa homestead community in pursuing and advocating for the second evacuation road of the Kailapa subdivision. Seconded by Committee Member Bambi Lau and passed unanimously.

This item closed at 6:24 p.m.

3. **Kawaihae Site Preservation** – Committee member Jojo Tanimoto will provide an update on site preservation efforts in Kawaihae.

This item was called to order 6:24 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:17:10*]

Committee member Tanimoto reported ongoing work with the Cultural Resource Committee and lineal descendants on preservation concerns in Kawaihae. The Cultural Resource

Commission has formed a permitted interaction group to conduct a site visit and develop recommendations. It was noted that several historic sites in Kawaihae are not listed in the South Kohala CDP despite existing documentation. The committee agreed to await the permitted interaction group's report before considering a recommendation to update the CDP and will revisit the matter at a future meeting.

This item closed at 6:29 p.m.

4. Waimea Community Center Rehabilitation – Vice-Chair Scott Nagata will provide update on the rehabilitation of the Waimea Community Center.

This item was called to order 6:30 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:23:05*]

Vice Chair Nagata reported that the Waimea Community Center rehabilitation project is listed under the County's capital improvement plan under a general park maintenance line item. There is an architect currently drafting plans for a new roof, but funding is uncertain for the next phases of the project. The committee noted the center's heavy daily use by nearby schools, and as an emergency shelter, and agreed that interim improvements would be ineffective until the roof is addressed.

Motion by Committee Chair Licoan: Submit a letter to relevant community politicians requesting to approve and expedite funding to fix the roof of the Waimea Community Center due to safety reasons and the high utilization by the community. Seconded by Committee member Wilcox and passed unanimously.

This item closed at 6:36 p.m.

5. Puakō Sewer Project Update – Committee member Karen Anderson will provide an update on the Puakō Sewer Project

No update provided as Committee member Anderson was absent.

6. Waimea Water Resources Update – Vice-Chair Scott Nagata will provide update on Waimea Resources for Waimea

This item was called to order 6:36 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:29:38*]

Vice Chair Scott MacArthur reported on recent community discussions regarding water resources in Waimea, held in coordination with the Department of Water Supply. The Department has prioritized restoration of the Waipio Reservoir No. 1, currently out of service, with bidding for rehabilitation expected to move forward and construction anticipated next year at an estimated \$13 million cost. Updates were also provided on the planned Lalamilo Reservoir, which will be the largest in the area with a 10-million-gallon capacity. Committee members discussed potential funding opportunities, the role of user water rates in financing projects, and the need to account for upcoming subdivision developments when evaluating future capacity. Questions were raised about security at reservoir sites, and members suggested continued communication with the Department of Water Supply for follow-up updates. No formal action was taken.

129 This item closed at 6:50 p.m.

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131 **PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:47:32*]

132 1. Waikoloa Road and Paniolo Ave intersection update

133 2. Waikoloa Heights Development

134 3. Waikoloa Community Center update

135 4. Water Resources for Waimea update

136 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:56:41*]

137 • Road closure for the Waimea Paniolo Parade on September 20th, 2025.

138 • Maika‘i Waimea Event on September 27th, 2025.

139

140 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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