

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



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County of Hawai'i

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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October 3, 2025

Office of the Mayor
County of Hawai'i
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Bldg C
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Subject: Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee – Request to Reinststate Hawai'i County's Arborist Advisory Committee

Aloha Mayor Alameda:

At the meeting of the Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, the Committee voted unanimously to submit the attached letter to the Mayor's Office.

Sincerely,


[Charles Young \(Oct 9, 2025 07:36:28 HST\)](#)

Charles Young, Chair
Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee

CDP - Kona\Action Committee\Meetings\2025\2025 Communications

Enclosure: Communication No. 2025-22

cc via email: Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba, Hawai'i County Council Chair (District 8)
Rebecca Villegas, Hawai'i County Council (District 7)
Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience
Le'a Ka'aha'aina, Tree City State Coordinator

Dear Mayor Alameda,

The Kona Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee respectfully asks for your leadership in reinstating Hawai'i County's Arborist Advisory Committee (AAC).

The Exceptional Tree Act of 1975 requires every county to establish this committee, and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has clarified that without it, Hawai'i County cannot complete its Tree City USA application. Other counties have long carried this designation with pride, and we believe Hawai'i County should stand alongside them in demonstrating its commitment to stewardship.

Tree City USA status showcases a basic framework for community forestry work that communities can leverage to maintain and increase funding for community programming. The AAC must be reinstated by the end of this month and hold their first meeting shortly after so that we can show their activity before the upcoming Tree City application deadline.

If you need help finding members, we suggest reinstating past members of the AAC as their knowledge of the committee's prior work may help new members onboard more quickly. We also recommend reaching out to the Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry Program (www.kaulunani.org) for a list of potential members that satisfy the AAC's member requirements. Previous members of the AAC may also have recommendations for willing community members with active participation in ecological sciences.

Your leadership in reestablishing the Arborist Advisory Committee will ensure Hawai'i County meets state requirements and joins the statewide legacy of communities proudly recognized as Tree City USA.

Mahalo for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee