

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

4 DRAFT MINUTES
5 September 18, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Tristie Licoan called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) Action
8 Committee (AC) to order at 5:01 p.m. A quorum was established with seven members in
9 attendance. This meeting was held in person at the Waikōloa Village Association
10 Community Room.

11 The full YouTube video of this meeting can be found here:
12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X86ehqxqcSA&t=5s>

13 **ROLL CALL**

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

16 Members Present (via Zoom): Karen Anderson

17 Members Absent: Ruth Smith & Kevin McLaughlin

18 County Staff Present: Jessica Lahip, Kawelo Kalili, and Maryam Palma (via zoom)

19 There were approximately three (3) members of the public in attendance (three in
20 person).

21 **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 3:44]**

22 Public Testimony #1: A resident expressed concern that overgrown trees are
23 blocking ocean views and creating fire hazards, urged the committee to adopt tree-
24 height limits similar to Kohala Ranch, and asked them to reconsider their previous
25 decision against such regulations.

26 Public Testimony #2: Kendra Bruno described ongoing district water challenges,
27 recent wildfire-mitigation discussions with Fire Chief Todd and community partners,
28 noted uncertainty and lack of updates about the stalled library project after a brief
29 conversation with a state library representative, and offered to connect if further
30 questions or updates are needed.

31 **BUSINESS**

32 **1. Mahalo Letters** – Vice-Chair Scott Nagata requests the committee sends letters of
33 appreciation to schools for their willingness to serve as evacuation centers. [SEE
34 YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 22:10]
35

36 Vice-Chair Nagata proposed sending appreciation letters to schools and facilities that
37 were voluntarily opened as evacuation centers. The committee discussed refining the
38 draft letter, confirming all appropriate recipients, and noting communication needs
39 such as Wi-Fi access at evacuation sites.
40

Motion by Committee Chair Licoan: Table the item for the next meeting. Seconded by Committee Member Alos and passed unanimously.

2. Puakō Sewer Project Update – Committee member Karen Anderson will provide an update on the Puakō Sewer Project. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 38:23]

Karen Anderson reported that the Puakō Sewer Project is progressing positively, with Councilmember James Hustace's support, County Council approval of a \$1 million revolving fund, no major technical barriers, and favorable initial environmental and cultural surveys. Progress remains limited because the County lacks staffing and financial capacity, and state legislators will not provide additional funding until the County takes a lead role. The community is pursuing private and philanthropic funding to advance the project while advocating for County support and compliance with environmental and cesspool-conversion goals.

3. Water Resources Update – Vice-Chair Scott Nagata will provide update on resources for South Kohala. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 51:34]

Vice-Chair Scott Nagata reported that construction of the Lalamilo Reservoir, the island's largest, is progressing steadily despite previous delays. Work on Waikoloa Reservoir #1 is also advancing, ensuring improvements to water storage and distribution for the community. He emphasized that these projects are critical for long-term water reliability and emergency preparedness in South Kohala.

Public Testimony #3: Resident Matt Chalker highlighted ongoing repairs and limitations at the Waikoloa Village well, noting high costs for rehabilitation or new drilling to support firefighting and community water access.

4. Waikōloa Public Library – Committee will discuss the status of the library followed by potential decision making. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 56:59]

The committee discussed supporting the Waikoloa Village Public Library and considered potential actions such as sending a letter of support. It was clarified that the library is a state-funded project, with the county only involved in ancillary planning, such as shared parking for a community center. Committee members acknowledged the long-standing nature of the project and agreed to continue discussion on how best to support the library within the community.

5. Revitalization of Kawaihae's Cultural and Historic Resources – Committee member Jojo Tanimoto will provide an update followed by potential decision making. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:00:46]

Committee member Jojo Tanimoto provided an update on revitalizing Kawaihae's cultural and historic resources, including trails, fishponds, and other historic features that are not currently documented. Previous general plan updates did not notify the community, limiting opportunities for input on these resources. She proposed efforts be made to update the CDP document to accurately reflect and preserve Kawaihae's cultural and historic heritage.

Motion by Committee Chair Licoan: The action committee approve the creation and submission of a letter to the Planning Department and/or County Council encouraging

the support for the revitalization of Kawaihae's cultural and historical resources in the drafted General Plan. Seconded by Committee Member Lau and passed unanimously.

6. Kawaihae-Kailapa Evacuation Road – Committee member Jojo Tanimoto will provide an update followed by potential decision making [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 1:09:29*]

Motion by Committee Chair Licoan: The action committee approve the creation and submission of a letter to the Planning Department on behalf of Jojo. The letter will address the general policy and advocate for transportation and circulation improvements for the Kawaihae-Kalāpa evacuation road and other emergency situations. Seconded by Committee Member Wilcox and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON MATERS NOT ON AGENDA [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 1:16:30*]

Public Testimony #4: Sharon Gilbert testified about safety concerns and potential hazards on the Kawaihae-Kailapa evacuation road, noting past incidents and the need for repairs to prevent accidents.

THIRD-PARTY REPORTS; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 1:25:38*]

1. Letter of support for Waikōloa Public Library
2. Update from Mayor's Board and Commission Chairs Meeting
3. Waikoloa Second Access Road - Update from Matt Chauper
4. Waikoloa Community Center & Gym
5. CDP and CRC Notification on Infrastructure Affecting Historic and Cultural Resources
6. Priority items from Committee members Lau and Wilcox
7. Waimea Community Center Rehabilitation

ANNOUNCEMENTS [SEE YOUTUBE *TIMESTAMP 1:45:48*]

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Licoan adjourned the meeting at 6:48 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@hawaiiicounty.gov.