

Planning Commission Rulemaking 2026

Rule Amendment Process

The process is divided into five phases over six months.

Each phase builds on the previous one, so we're not trying to do everything at once.

- Orientation
- Review Current Rules and Identify Issues
- Draft Proposed Amendments & Review
- Commission Review and Refinement
- Adoption of Rule Amendments

Orientation- Schedule and Scope

January - February

- Staff will walk through the existing rules and what is required by law versus what the Commission can amend
- Commissioners and staff will review the current rules and note anything unclear, outdated, or difficult to apply.
- This phase is about understanding the framework and identifying initial concerns.

Review Current Rules and Identify Issues

February - April

- The Commission will discuss problem areas and confirm which sections should be considered for amendment.
- Staff will compile commissioner feedback and identify legal or procedural issues.
- By the end of this phase, the Commission will have a clear list of topics to address.

Draft Proposed Amendments & Review

April – May

- Staff, with legal review as needed, will prepare draft amendments.
- Commissioners will review the draft carefully and provide feedback—this is still a working document.

Commission Review and Refinement

May

- The Commission will review the draft in detail and suggest refinements.
- Staff and the Commission will look for unintended consequences and make sure the rules match how meetings and decisions actually occur.
- Revisions may go back and forth between staff, legal counsel, and the Commission to reach consensus.

Adoption of Rule Amendments

- The Commission will take formal action to adopt the amended rules
- This meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2026

The public is encouraged to provide suggestions and feedback on the proposed rule amendments by sending an email to:

WPCtestimony@hawaiiicounty.gov

OR

LPCtestimony@hawaiiicounty.gov

Testimony will be provided to both commissions, so you do not need to send it to both emails.

Questions? Call 808-961-8288 to speak with staff.