

HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ACTION COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

DRAFT MINUTES
June 3, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tisha Mahealani Maikui called the meeting of the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:04 p.m. This meeting was held in person at the Honomū Gym and online via the Zoom platform.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZLpQQ3eGNQ>

ROLL CALL

Members Present (in person): Tawn Keeney, Robert Nishimoto, and Ben Dalalaidao

Members Present (via Zoom): Tisha Mahealani Maikui (Chair), Maile Lavea-Malloe (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Brad Kurokawa

County Staff (in person): Jeffrey Deason, Maryam Palma, and Jessica Lahip

County Staff (via Zoom): Janice Hata

There were approximately thirteen (13) members of the public in attendance – five (5) in person and eight (8) via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Committee member Keeney moved to approve the April 1, 2026 draft meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by committee member Nishimoto and passed unanimously. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 7:06]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public testimony was received at this time. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 9:44]

BUSINESS:

- 1. Teppy Mountain Application (PL-SPP-2024-000075) Permitted Interaction Group Report** – The group members will provide their report of the testimony they provided at the recent Windward Planning Commission Special meeting. The

committee may vote to dissolve the permitted interaction group if no further action is expected. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 11:59]

Chair Maikui called this item to order at 5:16 p.m.

Staff clarified that the purpose of the agenda item was to receive the report and that no further action was required at this time. Staff further explained that the permitted interaction group (PIG) would effectively dissolve following the presentation of its report unless future action was directed by the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

Jim McMamon provided testimony and thanked the committee members who participated in drafting testimony and explained that he and his wife had intervened in the contested case proceedings. He expressed concerns regarding the use of agricultural lands for industrial-type activities and discussed the Windward Planning Commission's approval of the Falls on Fire annual festival and heavy equipment baseyard. The testifier stated that community members often have limited awareness of special permit applications and emphasized the importance of public involvement. Additional concerns included public safety impacts, noise, and the removal of a proposed permit condition that would have limited amplified music after 9:00 p.m. Committee members briefly discussed whether permit conditions adequately addressed community concerns. No action was taken.

Jim McMahan testimony [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 12:55]

2. Kaiwilahilahi Stream Bridge Repair – The Action Committee will discuss sending a formal letter to the Department of Public Works Engineering Division requesting an update on the Kaiwilahilahi Stream Bridge Repair Project. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 19:51]

Chair Maikui called this item to order at 5:24 p.m.

Council Member Heather Kimball provided an update received from the Department of Public Works (DPW), reporting that repairs to four bridge columns remained underway and that additional structural damage discovered during construction had extended the project schedule. The anticipated completion date has been revised to the end of 2026. Council Member Kimball also shared that DPW continues to explore options for reopening a portion of the bridge to pedestrian traffic to assist residents of the nearby senior housing facility in accessing services located across the stream. Committee members expressed appreciation for the update. No testimony was received, and no action was taken.

3. Hāmākua Trails Program Review Feasibility Study – Presentation by Council Member Heather Kimball on the proposed Hāmākua trail project, including an overview of the proposed route and a discussion to gather committee input on the

development of the feasibility study scope of work. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 22:51]

Chair Maikui called this item to order at 5:28 p.m.

Council Member Kimball presented an overview of the proposed Hāmākua Trails Program Feasibility Study. The presentation described a potential multimodal trail corridor connecting Hāmākua communities while highlighting historic plantation infrastructure, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, economic development potential, and alternate emergency evacuation routes. Council Member Kimball emphasized that the project is currently limited to a feasibility study and that no trail construction is being proposed at this stage.

The proposed feasibility study would evaluate existing corridors, cultural and environmental resources, public safety considerations, emergency preparedness opportunities, land ownership and access issues, stakeholder engagement, conceptual engineering requirements, trailhead locations, and potential funding sources. The study would also identify implementation strategies and long-term maintenance considerations.

During the presentation, significant audio and connectivity issues affected both in-person and remote participants. Several portions of the presentation were interrupted due to loss of audio while presentation slides were being shared. Staff and participants worked to troubleshoot the issues, and Council Member Kimball ultimately continued with reduced use of screen sharing to improve connection quality.

Committee members requested copies of the feasibility study materials and discussed public access, easements, landowner participation, infrastructure costs, maintenance responsibilities, parking, restroom facilities, and the potential use of e-bikes along the trail. Council Member Kimball indicated that the feasibility study would address these issues and that public and private funding opportunities would be explored. No testimony was received and no action was taken.

4. Hawai'i County Council Bill 66 (Draft 2) – The AC will discuss Bill 66 (Draft 2) and may take action, including the consideration of submitting testimony. [SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 56:17]

The Committee received an update regarding Bill 66, Draft 2, which would adopt the Hawai'i County General Plan 2045. Staff reported that the County Council had approved the measure earlier that day and that it would next be transmitted to the Mayor for consideration. Committee members discussed whether the Action Committee should submit a letter encouraging the Mayor to sign the bill. Discussion focused on the extensive public testimony received throughout the General Plan

process, opportunities for future amendments, and concerns previously raised by the Committee regarding various sections of the plan. Council Member Kimball shared observations from the County Council hearing and stated her understanding that future amendments would likely be pursued after adoption of the General Plan. Members discussed the importance of remaining engaged in future amendment discussions and ensuring that community concerns continue to be represented. No motion was made and no action was taken.

Kevin Hill testimony [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:11:20*]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Christian Baker testimony on General Plan 2045. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:27:05*]

A discussion followed between Mr. Baker, Council Member Kimball, and Committee members regarding the General Plan amendment process, local land use authority, special permit approvals, and efforts to restrict or prohibit AI data centers through future legislation and zoning amendments. Committee members emphasized the importance of continued community involvement in future planning and land use decisions.

THIRD-PARTY REPORTS; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

No reports were provided. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:26:30*]

PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS

- Abandoned houses
 - Houseless encampment area near the Honoka'a Post Office
 - Possible Amendments to the GP
- [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:44:20*]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Hawai'i County has received the Tree City USA designation in recognition of its commitment to urban forestry, tree stewardship, and community investment in maintaining and expanding tree resources throughout the county.
- The Environmental Notice: Halepōhaku Fuel Storage System Upgrade – Final EA (FONSI) – Proposed by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to upgrade the fuel storage system at Halepōhaku (Hāmākua, TMK: 4-4-015:012). The project involves replacing underground storage tanks with aboveground tanks to meet regulatory requirements and support ongoing Maunakea operations.

- The Planning Department is seeking applicants for the Hāmākua CDP Action Committee and requests assistance to get the word out to interested community members. The application can be found on the Mayor's office website at: <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-and-commissions/boards-and-commissions-application>

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Maikui adjourned this meeting at 6:51 p.m. [*SEE YOUTUBE TIMESTAMP 1:50:55*]

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's [Hāmākua 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.