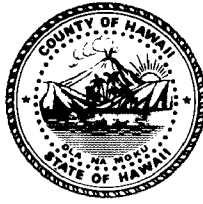


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Duane Kanuha
Director

Bobby Command
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
PUNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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June 9, 2015

Duane Kanuha
Planning Director
Planning Department
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, HI 96720

SUBJECT: Report and Recommendations on Roadway Connectivity Locations in Puna

Aloha Director Kanuha,

The Action Committee of the Puna Community Development Plan, respectfully requests that the enclosed report from the Connectivity and Emergency Response Subcommittee (CERS) of the Puna CDP Action Committee be forwarded to the Department of Public Works Director, Warren Lee for consideration and appropriate follow-up. We further request that this report be copied to the appropriate members of the Hawai'i County Council for their information.

Mahalo for your time, understanding and support of the Puna community.

Respectfully,

Patti Pinto, Chair
Puna Community Development Plan Action Committee

Encl: CERS Annual Report

Connectivity and Emergency Response Subcommittee
A subcommittee of the Puna Community Development Plan
ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2015

The Connectivity and Emergency Response Subcommittee began working in January of 2013 to gather data on possible road connectivity locations that would improve public safety, allow for emergency access and increase community connections throughout the Puna Districts. We worked over the next two years to collect community input. To this end, working with the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency we created the first and second Puna Regional Emergency Preparedness Fairs (PREP Fairs). At these Fairs we gathered community input from thousands of Puna Residents establishing where connectivity points were needed, viability, community support/opposition, alternatives, etc. This data was assembled into a report that was submitted to the PCDP and adopted on May 13, 2014. Since this report, Tropical Storm Iselle and the June 27, 2014 lava flow have also created multiple emergency response and evacuation, as well as everyday challenges to movement throughout the Puna District.

Considering input since the last report and acts of nature, our **number one priority** for implementation is to create an alternate route in Upper Puna from Volcano to Highway 130. With population increasing at the highest rates in the State along the Upper Puna Highway 11 corridor, we see it as crucial that we address the reality that there is no way to travel parallel to Highway 11 without running into existing obstructions in that there are no connections between the subdivisions. The decision to connect these subdivisions is documented in the Puna Community Development Plan, 2008, with the intention of the County of Hawaii receiving community input to determine specifically where and how to connect them. With the Volcanoes National Park being the second most visited site in the State with approximately 3.4 million visitors last year, this additional traffic load challenges both residents and visitors that need to use Highway 11. An alternate, parallel, inter-subdivision corridor will relieve the daily use of this 2-lane highway that services so many.

The Upper Puna connectivity priorities are grouped as one as we see it as essential that an entire through route be completed as well as two additional roads to connect our parallel route with Highway 11.

Puna Uka Priorities

- Kaleponi to Punahele (Fern Forest – Eden Roc)
- Punahele to Apele (Eden Roc – Kopua Farm Lots)
- Waimako O Pele to Orchid (Kopua Farm Lots – Fern Acres)
- Orchid to Uhiniana (Fern Acres – Hawaiian Acres)
- Pulelehua to Pohaku (Hawaiian Acres – Orchidland)
- Alula to 40th (Hawaiian Acres – Orchidland)
- Complete South Lauko Road into Fern Acres
- Complete South Oshiro Road into Eden Roc Estates
- (Recommendation County improve intersection of 40th and Orchidland)

These Connectivity Locations are recommendations. If one is found not to be viable, another alternative connection will be suggested.

Puna Waena Priorities

The lava activity has provided the impetus for the State and County to open connecting roads between Nanawale, Hawaiian Beaches and Shores and Hawaiian Paradise Park. Additionally, the Chain of Craters road has been readied for emergency use. The Subcommittee recommends that the Railroad emergency road be open on a 24/7 basis. We recognize that this puts a strain on the Hawaiian Paradise Park roadways and recommend that the County negotiate with HPPOA to come to an agreement on financial assistance for road maintenance or to assume ownership of a roadway that is used by the general public as an alternate to Highway 130. We also recommend that a study be initiated to open a connection between Hawaiian Paradise Park and the Kea'au Bypass junction area.

- Permanently open Railroad between Hawaiian Beaches/Shores and Hawaiian Paradise Park
- Initiate a viability study to create a road between HPP (Railroad) and Milo Road

Puna Kai Priorities

In tandem with our recommendation that Railroad between Hawaiian Beaches/Shores and Hawaiian Paradise Park we recommend that the new emergency access route connecting Nanawale Estates to Hawaiian Beaches/Shores be open on a 24/7 basis. We recognize that few people who are not residents of these subdivisions will choose to use this route as an alternate for Highway 130, that it would be used primarily by local residents to travel between the subdivisions and also to provide emergency ingress/egress.

We also recommend that an alternate route into and out of Nanawale Estates be created to Highway 130 on the Forest Road right of way.

When the lava covered Apa'a Road at the Cemetery in Pahoa it blocked the main access for residents of Kaohe Homesteads. We understand that the County intends to re-open this road and recommend that this project be implemented as soon as possible as the Kaohe residents are left with only one ingress/egress route and that one is circuitous.

- Permanently open Railroad between Hawaiian Beaches/Shores and Nanawale Estates
- Connect Nanawale Estates to Highway 130 on Forest Road
- Re-open Apa'a Road where it is covered with lava

Summary

The Puna Community Development Plan Subcommittee on Connectivity and Emergency Response (CERS) remains dedicated to continuing our work to implement these points of connectivity that are so urgently needed in Puna. Both the public and emergency service providers need to have better access, safer routes to schools, social and community connectivity and alternate routes in and out of subdivisions. These projects must not be deferred. We need to create partnerships with the County and the Puna communities to bring these connections into reality.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO CONNECTIVITY LOCATION PROPOSALS

Critical, viable, level of service oriented input regarding criteria

May 2013 to April 2015

#3, #19, #41 Kaleponi to Punahele

This essential Connectivity Location has long been an issue between the subdivisions of Eden Roc and Fern Forest. The two subdivisions share a Volunteer Fire Department and fire truck and the only access between the two subdivisions has been blocked by a concrete barrier. Completion of this one small Connectivity Location will create an emergency route that could be of assistance to all residents from Volcano to Eden Roc. Communications between the two subdivisions have been initiated. A site visit has been requested of Public Works.

#7 South Lauko Road to Puhala in Fern Acres

Fern Acres subdivision has only one access road. This well populated subdivision would not be able to evacuate in the event of an emergency. Creation of this one Connectivity Location will provide a second ingress/egress road for Fern Acres and will also create a safer route to and from Mountain View School. The Fern Acres Community Association has already begun work with their County Representative and the Department of Public Works to complete the surveys and feasibility studies needed to begin construction on this project.

#24, #29 Railroad Connection between Hawaiian Beaches/Shores and Hawaiian Paradise Park, and its alternate, Old Government Beach Road.

The Subcommittee received a letter in May 2014 from Gail Armand expressing concern about the consequences to lower Puna should Highway 130 be blocked by a lava flow. She wondered what planning was underway to deal with the potential hazard and proposed several solutions. Members of the Action Committee and community members have investigated the possibility of constructing the Connection Locations of Railroad and Old Government Beach Road. Both present significant obstacles that include community opposition, crossing Hawaiian homelands, construction in the inundation zone (Old Government Beach Zone) to mention a few. These Connectivity Locations must remain as options in the event that Madame Pele makes them necessary.

#26 Pulelehua to Pohaku

Sherri Carden provided comment on this Connectivity Location stating that the roads are in a flood zone and that they would be subject to serious flooding in heavy rains. Should this CL be constructed, it would require significant infrastructure to deal with the potential for flooding. Ms. Carden expressed support for the Connectivity Location. Is an alternate possible?

#46 & #47 Kaohe Homesteads: North Road to Cemetary Road & Alaneo Road to Hwy 130

When the lava flowed over Apa'a Road it left Kaohe Homesteads with only their back way in and out. This route was also circuitous. The County has reported that re-opening Apa'a Road is a high priority. Needs monitoring.

#28 Orchidland Blvd. to Koloa Maoli (9 Road)

It has been reported that the lot required to make this Connectivity Location possible has a house on it and therefore it is not a viable Connectivity Location. Is there an alternative Connectivity Location.

#31 Kamoamoa to One Ele

A petition has been received from residents in Sea View Estates stating that this Connectivity Location would not be welcomed by Sea View Estates Residents as it would bring much unwanted traffic into their subdivision. Considering the community opposition to this Connectivity Location, its status will likely be downgraded and removed from current consideration.

#36 Wright Road to Stainback.

The Subcommittee on Connectivity and Emergency Response received a letter (dated May 22, 2014) from William Aila of DLNR to the PCDP outlining the undesirable impacts on forest preserves should a road be constructed. A response letter was sent out in June acknowledging the expressed concerns and stating that the subcommittee agrees that this proposed connection presents many environmental concerns. It was explained that the Subcommittee's mandate is to present ALL suggested connections and to investigate and respond to comments from the community.

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CL#	Map #	Subdivision/Community	Connectivity Issue	TOTALS	Number of People Served						Health Safety & Emergency	Education Technical Social Issues	Non-vehicular transportation	Mass Transit	Land Use Environ-ment	No/Low Impact Design	Safe Routes to Schools	Community Alliances	Short Term Actions to long term projects	NOTES AND GUIDE TO CRITERIA WEIGHTING 0 = unknown or not applicable 1= does not address 2= slightly addresses 3= addresses 4 = strongly addresses 5 = very strongly addresses	
						Connect to County Road	Open 24/7	Meet AASHTO guidelines	Little or No Community opposition	Improve traffic circulation	No major drainage issues										
			PUNA WAENA																		
6	4	Hawaiian Acres	Complete Enos Road to Old Volcano Trail, Ao & Kea Rds in Hawaiian Acres	57	4	3	3	0	3	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	4	4	3	4	gives many residents additional access to highway
10	4	Hawaiian Acres/Keaau Ag Lots	Connect 40th to Ipuaiwa Hia Rd. in Keaau Ag Lots	34	3	1	3	0	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	lower priority
13	4	Fern Acres/Hawaiian Acres	Connect on Anthurium between Fern Acres and Hawaiian Acres	42	3	1	3	0	3	3	3	4	3	3	1	3	3	2	3	4	
15	4	Fern Acres/Hawaiian Acres	Connectivity between Fern Acres and Hawaiian Acres on Orchid	48	4	1	3	0	2	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	
16	4	Fern Acres/Hawaiian Acres	Connectivity between Fern Acres and Hawaiian Acres on Rose	44	3	1	3	0	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	
23	5	Ainaloa	Connect from Ainaloa Blvd. to 40th Ave.	41	4	1	3	0	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	would require right of way across privately held parcel, #1 priority for Orchidland, 2nd route to hwy for Orchidland, Ainaloa, Hawaiian Acres
24	5	Hawaiian Paradise Park	Connection between HPP and Hawaiian Beaches/Shores side (Railroad)	50	5	3	3	0	1	5	3	5	3	4	2	3	3	2	4	4	Significant community opposition, also, boulders at HPP border
25	5	Hawaiian Paradise Park	Connectivity on Hilo side and midway through HPP (Railroad Ave.)	45	5	1	3	0	1	5	3	5	2	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	Significant community opposition, also, boulders at HPP border
26	5	Hawaiian Paradise Park	Orchidland from Hawaiian Acres, Connect Pohaku Drive to Pulelehua Road (11 Road)	40	4	1	5	0	2	4	1	4	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	Significant flooding issues, would provide access to two highways
27	5	Orchidland Estates	Connecting Pulelehua Road on 40th Ave from Alula (D RD) to Kioele Rd. (E)	39	3	1	3	0	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	Redundant to #1 & #7
28	5	Orchidland/Hawaiian Acres	Koloa Maoli connect with Orchidland	41	3	1	3	0	2	4	3	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	3	Concern: shared maintenance from wider public use
39	5	Orchidland Estates	37th in Orchidland could use improvement to improve emergency access	39	3	1	3	0	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	
48	7	Hawaiian Shores/Beaches-HPP	Improve Government Beach Rd. between HS/B & HPP	48	5	5	5	0	3	3	1	4	3	5	1	3	3	1	3	3	
			2010 Census Population Numbers																		
		Ainaloa	2,965																		
		Eden Roc	942																		
		Fern Acres	1,504																		
		Fern Forest	931																		
		Hawaiian Acres	2,700																		
		Hawaiian Beaches/Shores	4,280																		
		Hawaiian Paradise Park	11,404																		
		Kea'au	2,253																		
		Kurtistown	1,298																		
		Leilani	1,560																		
		Mountain View	3,924																		
		Nanawale	1,426																		
		Orchidland	2,815																		
		Pahoa	945																		
		Volcano Village+Golf Course	2,575																		

CL#	Map #	Subdivision/Community	Connectivity Issue	TOTALS	Number of People Served	Connect to County Road	Open 24/7	Meet AASHTO guidelines	Little or No Community opposition	Improve traffic circulation	No major drainage issues	Health Safety & Emergency	Education Technical Social Issues	Non- vehicular transpor- tation	Mass Transit	Land Use Environ- ment	No/Low Impact Design	Safe Routes to Schools	Community Alliances	Short Term Actions to long term projects	NOTES AND GUIDE TO CRITERIA WEIGHTING 0 = unknown or not applicable 1= does not address slightly addresses 3= addresses 4 = strongly addresses 5 = very strongly addresses
			PUNA KAI																		
29	6	Hawaiian Shores/Beaches	Connection between HPP and Hawaiian Beaches/Shores side (Railroad)	54	5	1	5	4	3	5	5	5	2	4	2	3	3	1	2	4	
30	8	Puna Palisades Estates	Second exit from Kipuka St. to Highway 137 in Puna Palisades	42	3	3	3	4	2	5	5	4	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	
31	8	Seaview Estates	Kamoamoa Road to Highway 130 on the HELCO Power Line	47	3	3	2	4	1	4	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	4	Petition against CL received from some residents
32	6	Nanawale	One additional access road to Hwy 132, Forest Rd.	51	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	2	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	
46	7	Kaohe Homestead	Connect from North Rd. to Cemetary Rd.	51	3	5	5	4	4	5	3	5	1	4	1	1	4	3	1	2	County agreed to re-open Apa'a, need to monitor
47	7	Kaohe Homestead	Connect from Alaneo Rd. to Hwy 130	43	3	5	5	4	4	3	3	4	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	
48	7	Hawaiian Shores/Beaches-HPP	Improve Government Beach Rd. between HS/B & HPP	48	5	5	5	0	3	3	1	4	3	5	1	3	3	1	3	3	
	8	Kehena																			
	6	Vacation Land																			
	6	Kapoho Beach Lots																			
		<u>2010 Census Population Numbers</u>																			
		Ainaloa	2,965																		
		Eden Roc	942																		
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		Volcano Village+Golf Course	2,575																		

CL#	Map #	Subdivision/Community	Connectivity Issue
			<u>PUNA UKA</u>
34	1	Golf Course	Connect between Keauhou Bird Ctr. Rd. to Mahiai
35	1	Golf Course	Connect between Pi'i Mauna and Tree Molds
36	1	Volcano Village	Continue Wright Rd. (State 148) to Stainback
37	1	Volcano Village	Connect Io Place to Maile Rd
38	1	Volcano Village	Connect Haunani to Ainahou (apparent easement toward mauka end)
42	3	Fern Forest/Eden Roc	Connect Leila Rd. to Ahi Ave.
43	3	Fern Forest	Open Kahikopele between Eden Roc and Fern Forest *
43	3	Fern Forest/Eden Roc	Connect from Alanaulani Rd to Kahikopele
44	1	Ohia Estates	Connect Old Volcano Rd. to Hwy. 11
45	1	Royal Hawaiian Estates	Connect Old Volcano Rd. with Ali'I Anela and Ali'I Koa to Hwy 11
			<u>PUNA WAENA</u>
39	5	Orchidland Estates	37th in Orchidland could use improvement to improve emergency access
48	7	HPP/Hawaiian Shores/Beaches	Improve Government Beach Rd. between HS/B & HPP
			<u>PUNA KAI</u>
46	7	Kaohe Homestead	Connect from North Rd. to Cemetary Rd.
47	7	Kaohe Homestead	Connect from Alaneo Rd. to Hwy 130
48	7	Hawaiian Shores/Beaches-HPP	Improve Government Beach Rd. between HS/B & HPP