

South Kohala Community Turns Out to Comment on the County General Plan

On Friday, May 15, several Waikoloa community organizations co-sponsored an opportunity for South Kohala residents to share ideas, insights, and viewpoints related to the County Planning Department's revision of the General Plan. Organizers were pleased with the number of interested participants from all South Kohala communities: Waikoloa, Puako, Kawaihae, and Waimea. Held at Waikoloa School's cafeteria, approximately 115 people turned out to give their input.

Long-time community activist Lisa Yee was the MC and started by welcoming County Councilwoman Margaret Wille. Wille gave background information for the meeting. Hawaii County initiated the General Plan as a process for the whole island in the mid-60s and adopted the first plan in 1971. Most recent plan was adopted in 2005 and is now in the process of being updated. General planning categories include Economics, Energy, Environmental Quality, Flooding/Natural Hazards, Historic Sites, Natural Beauty, Natural Resources, Housing, Public Facilities, Public Utilities, Recreation, Transportation, and Land Use. The General Plan also established a process by which the broad county-wide goals could be made more real for each local area via Community Development Plans.

Wille encouraged participants to dream big during this evening's process. She also gave information on upcoming meeting dates for budget and transportation, additional opportunities for public input.

Yee then introduced Ruth Smith, who served as the process facilitator for community input. Smith, a 30 year resident of the Big Island and DOE Educational Special in West Hawaii, served on the South Kohala Community Development Plan's Steering Committee (2007-2008). With visual overheads and handouts, Smith linked the General Plan with the SKCDP adopted in November 2008. Five key priorities were identified in the SKCDP: Affordable Housing, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, Emergency Preparedness, Preservation of Culture and Sense of Place, and Traffic and Transportation.

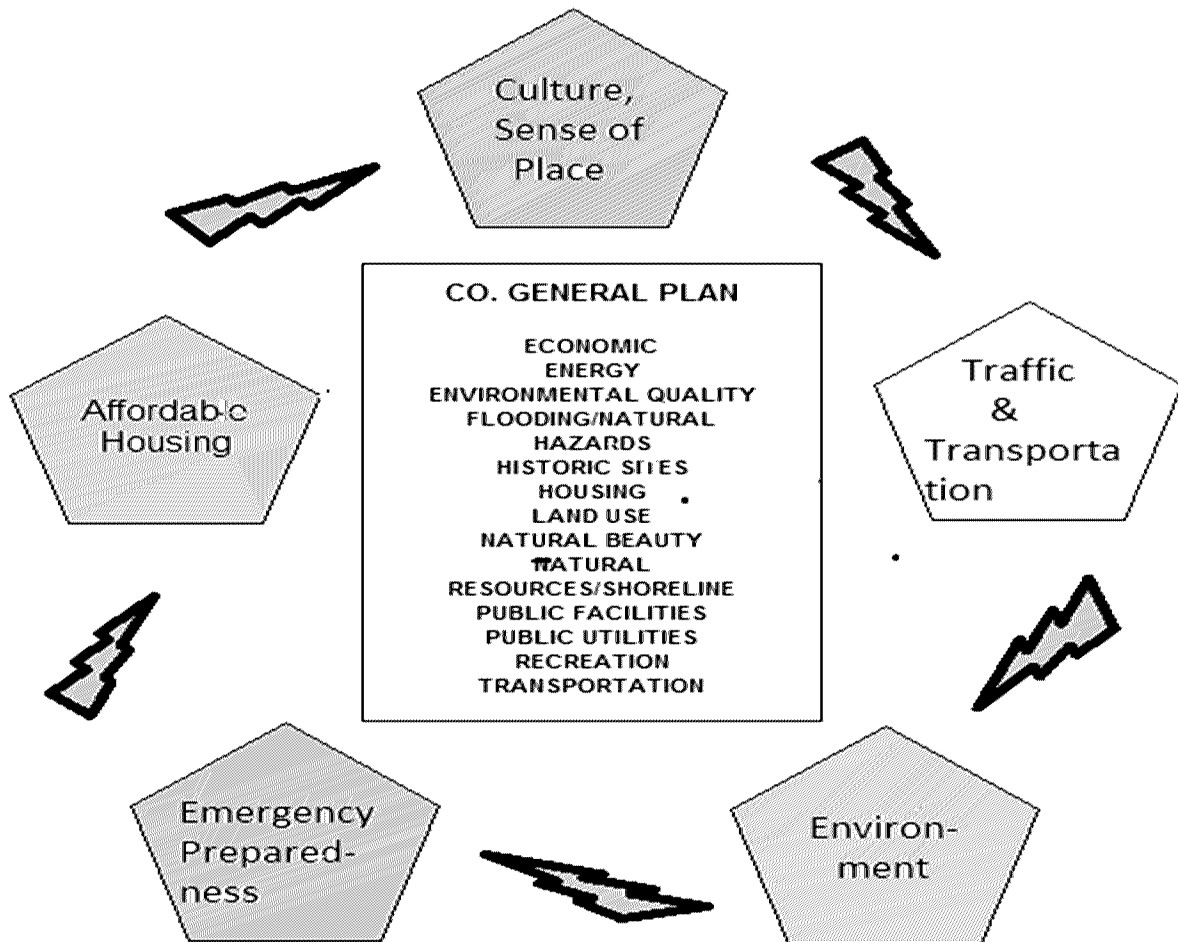
The audience was asked to reflect on this question: What you want to see in S. Kohala over the next ten years? What do you want for our community, our families, yourself? What categories in the General Plan matter to you most? Participants recorded their reflections one-by-one on post-it notes. The crowd then broke down into smaller groups where they had an opportunity to "share and compare." Once all of the ideas were posted and discussed, each group member was given 3 "votes" for their top priority from all their smaller group had generated.

Returning to the whole group, representatives shared out their groups highest priorities, as indicated by the clusters of sticker-votes. There were many commonalities and reiterations of the priorities established in the SKCDP, plus some new items and ideas. For example, a second paved access road in and out of Waikoloa remains a high priority under the categories of "transportation" and "emergency readiness."

Waikoloa's Action Committee Representative John Mueller will be collating the feedback into a report to the Planning Department by June 6, 2015. Those interested in receiving this report can request a copy from John at johnmueller@me.com.

A BIG MAHALO to the many participants for their support, time, and efforts on a Friday night! Mahalo to the Waikoloa Community Development Corp, Friends of the Library, Waikoloa Village Association, and Waikoloa Seniors for their co-sponsorship of this meeting. And a special thanks to Lisa Yee, Stephanie Stearns, Mike Price, Bill Simonsma, Dave Hirt, Pete Hoffmann, Sharon Morris, Betty Greene, & Ruth Smith for their volunteer work on the community's behalf.

South Kohala Community Development Plan Priorities/ Hawaii County General Plan Categories



Report to the Hawaii County Planning Department regarding input to the General Plan May 2015 South Kohala CDP Action Committee

Waikoloa Village community residents and residents of other South Kohala communities attended a May 15th Talk Story for the express purpose of gathering input for updating the Hawaii County General Plan.

Using the policies of the South Kohala Development Plan and the main elements of the General Plan, 6 groups offered input regarding "Sense of Place", "Affordable Housing", "Emergency Preparedness", "Traffic and Transportation", and "Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability".

While community members had many and varied suggestions, there is significant agreement on some of the items. Items identified 5 or more times are included on the following chart and more than 65 topics mentioned fewer than 5 times each are not included in the chart. A complete chart is available. Approximately 115 residents attended the Talk Story but there is no exact number of participants who shared input.

Note: Under Affordable Housing no items totaled 5 or more times.

Sense of Place

	TOTAL
Community Center Complex	21
Commercial Development	19
Walking/hiking trails/paths	13
Hawaiian Culture	5

Emergency Preparedness

	TOTAL
Emergency Preparedness Plans	6
Health Facilities/Urgent Care	5

Traffic and Transportation

	TOTAL
Second Access/Egress Road	20
Road Maintenance	20
Extend Paniolo to Kawaihae ByPass	16
Access/Egress Road (Emergency Preparedness)	13
Intersection at Paniolo/Waikoloa Road	11
Create better low cost public Transportation	5

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

	TOTAL
Zero waste, compost, green waste, transfer	13
More solar energy, large scale solar	11
Wind Power in Waikoloa	7
Comprehensive Waste Plan and recycling at curb	7
Expand alternative energy	5

Sense of Place: The most shared input by participants reflected a desire to have a community center, fitness center, or an emergency center for a gathering place for all community members. A community center complex was suggested a number of times and could be designed to meet the needs of all three centers. Many responses regarding commercial development were general like more commercial development or more shops to those responses which specifically listing "hardware store" or naming "Target". Walking/hiking/biking trails and paths were also important to the Talk Story participants. It appears that while physical activity is important in creating the trails and paths, safety for bikers, walkers and runners is a major concern with the respondents.

Affordable Housing: The fewest number of total responses were received for this category and no one topic received 5 or more.

Emergency Preparedness: Although participants identified access-egress-emergency roads with regard to Emergency Preparedness, the 13 responses in this category were added to Transit and Transportation. Emergency preparedness plans and health concerns had 6 and 5 responses respectively.

Traffic and Transportation: 20 responses discussed the need for a second access/egress road from Waikoloa Village and 13 responses shared that same need for access/egress road for emergencies which might occur in the village or the surrounding communities. Participants shared the need for road maintenance - 20, Kawaikae Bypass - 16, traffic control at Waikoloa Road and Paniolo Avenue - 13, and improved low cost public transportation - 5.

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability: Talk Story participants have concern for our environment. Many responses shared the need to reduce waste in landfills, recycle and reuse as much waste as possible. Zero waste appeared a number of times. Alternative energy, solar and wind power are high priorities for participants.

Data compiled and report written by John Mueller, South Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee.

General Plan Input - Participant Responses

Talk Story at Waikoloa Community School

May 15, 2015

Sense of Place

Commercial Development

Promote zoning and neighborhood planning to provide adequate commercial space and a coherent neighborhood plan for streets, sidewalks, and trails

Better and more varied shopping experiences

Develop commercial center for South Kohala

More stores - Grocery, gas station, restaurants, clothing

Light industrial area

New development of individual communities

More stores and services - grocery, hardware

More restaurants

Store like Target

Expand shopping and small business opportunities more stores and restaurants

More stores and restaurants

Food truck night market

Evening farmers market

More retail in Waikoloa - Ace Hardware, restaurants, less expensive place for retailers

More shops nearby

Limit resort and commercial growth

Dog park (3 times)

Open stables

Activities and facilities for young people in Waikoloa Village.

Everyone belonging to Neighborhood Watch

We should have beautiful spaces that encourage "the Arts". Encourage all of the arts for all age groups. We need more pride in properties in Waikoloa. Some fines are warranted.

Slower growth - preserve the village "feeling"

Limit over-development in residential community. Keep community feeling for residents of

the island.

Stop Sprawl!! Implement urban growth boundaries

Community Center Complex

Central Kohala public facility in Waimea or Waikoloa off Paniolo extension near turn from bypass

Larger public facility for meetings in the community which can double as area for recreational activities

Larger meeting/recreation rooms in the Waikoloa area

Community Center Complex

Community Center Complex for activities for all ages

Community center for Waikoloa, also emergency shelter, and multi-purpose: education, youth development, recreation, and community event

Community Center Complex

Community Center

Disaster center usable as community center

Disaster shelter

Community center/gym facility

Community/fitness center for Waikoloa

Community center or larger facility in Waikoloa (public facility)

Community-based gathering places for recreation and learning

Waikoloa community center

A large fitness center w/weights, treadmills, etc.

Remodeled community center in the park

An indoor recreation facility - for gym, basketball court, volleyball court, etc.

A fitness center

Large exercise room

Theater for plays, county meetings, board meetings, musical acts

Walking, hiking, trails and paths

Walk/bike trails and bike lanes on Waikoloa Rd.

Open hiking trails even across large tracts of private land - White Road trail

Increase in park/trails both walking and cycling

Walking trails

More hiking trails/parkland

Hiking trails

Walking/running trails

More hiking camping areas in preserved natural areas Bike trails

Bike lane on Waikoloa Rd. all the way to Mamalahoa Hwy.

Bike lane Waikoloa Rd

Bike trails for easier travel, scenic trails with stories of Hawaii/Big Island on signs

Recreation running and bike trails

Hawaiian Culture

Preserve Hawaiian land - limit commercial and residential development

Incorporation native Hawaiian values and language

Identify sacred and spiritual places including trails

Preserving historic structures and places

Preserve/enhance existing cultural and historic sites

Library

Library with conference room

Waikoloa Library

Branch library for Waikoloa

Village State library

High School

High school in Waikoloa

High School

High school

Planned location of H.S. High school

Police

24-hour police station

Increased police presence in coordination with neighborhood watch group

Improved police presence besides giving out tickets but enforcement of speed limits in and near communities

Swimming Pool

Swimming pool for whole community

County pool in Waikoloa area (Olympic size)

Others

Improved/expand park facilities

Quality technical school in South Kohala

Badminton, bocce ball, cricket, miniature golf -adult playing field Meaningful part-time job experiences for our young teens, etc.

Affordable Housing

Senior Housing

Affordable housing for seniors

Affordable senior housing and facilities within the community- housing-transportation-medical facilities

Affordable senior housing

Independent Living

Help for independent living for seniors. Help seniors stay in their own homes. Dependable help

Assisted living arrangements for seniors

More housing lots available

County should receive more money from Transient tourist taxes

Transient taxes from HI stay in HI

Multi family zoning

More affordable living for graduating students wanting to stay and start careers on the island but can't afford it

Traffic and Transportation

Second Access/Egress Road for emergencies and traffic reduction in Waikoloa

Second road out of Waikoloa

Another exit from Waikoloa Village

Complete 2nd road into and out of Waikoloa Village

More real roads out of Waikoloa

A second paved road to Queen K for emergencies and access.

Get a 2nd paved road out of the Village

Second paved exit from Waikoloa Village

Another paved and always open road out of Waikoloa Village

Another permanent access out of Waikoloa Village

2nd road in/out of Waikoloa Village that's a two-way road open 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week

Paved road to exit Waikoloa in case of fire

Emergency exits/roads

Maintain fire road (Hulu St.) currently un-travelable

Build a second emergency access road

Pave and use emergency road to beach and as 2nd road out

Paved, unlocked emergency access roads

Emergency road paved

Open and pave fire road to Queen K Hwy.

Paving Waikoloa emergency exit road

Paved secondary road for emergencies or general use

Pave Waikoloa fire exit

Improve the emergency exit road from Waikoloa Village to highway

Open Paniolo down to Mauna Lani

Hulu Puako connector road

Get a paved road in/out of Waikoloa from the world's largest cul-de-sac

Paved additional road out of Waikoloa Village when there is a fire

More than one emergency exit road in case of fire - no exit for the upper most area of the village Paved access and egress

Pave road from Waikoloa Village to main Highway - fire safety

Waimea bypass road to harbor

Another road out of Waikoloa by skate park toward Waimea Extension of Paniolo to Kawaihae bypass

Additional paved road out of Waikoloa (Hulu to lower highway)

Build a road connecting Waikoloa to Kawaihae Road

Paniolo needs to be a complete street from Waikoloa to Kawaihae Rd as promised in the 70's

Paniolo Blvd. needs to be extended to Kawaihae Rd. (bypass) as designed in 70's

Paniolo Blvd. needs to go to Kawaihae Rd as originally planned in the late 60s to early 70s

Paniolo needs to be a "complete street" from Waikoloa to Kawaihae Rd (Bypass) as promised in 70s

Paniolo Rd needs to be extended as a "complete street" (bike lane, sidewalk, 4 lanes, shoulders, etc. to Kawaihae Rd (Bypass) as promised in 70s

Connect Paniolo to Kawaihae Rd.

Complete Waimea-Kawaihae Bypass

Kawaihae Bypass Road so there is another way to get into and out of Waikoloa Village

Road from the Village to Kawaihae Road Pave the emergency road and open permanently

Kawaihae Bypass with turn-off toward Waikoloa and turn-off to Mamalahoa near Waimea as major road to connect to Saddle Road Waikoloa Rd connector to Hulu.

Road Maintenance

Updating road systems (adding additional roads) fixing and repairing

Repair main roads

Increased and better roads Resurface Paniolo Rd.

Pave Paniolo

Repave Waikoloa Rd and Paniolo Avenue

Road maintenance and upgrade

Fix roads in Waikoloa Village

Fund and maintain safe vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian roads and sidewalks

Bike lanes-Waikoloa Road widening

Widen Waikoloa Rd to 4 lanes with bike zone shoulder

Paved shoulders on Waikoloa Rd.

Paved shoulders on Waikoloa Rd for bicycles

Designated bicycle paths rather than having bicyclists ride on shoulders - particularly Waikoloa Road

Safe Waikoloa Road for cars and bicycles (paved shoulders) (traffic signal at Paniolo Ave.

Sidewalks on all streets of Waikoloa ADA compliant

Safer, better sidewalks and streets

Sidewalks for safety

2 lanes both ways on Hwy

Increased and better roads and sidewalks

Complete Streets & boulevards

Intersection of Paniolo and Waikoloa

Traffic control at Paniolo and Waikoloa intersection

Safe way to either exit main intersection of Waikoloa Rd and Paniolo Avenue

Lights at corner of Paniolo and Waikoloa Road

Traffic lights at Waikoloa and Paniolo

Stoplight at Paniolo and Waikoloa intersection

Traffic light and Paniolo and Waikoloa Rd. definitely not a roundabout

Traffic light at Waikoloa Rd./Paniolo intersection

Traffic signal at Waikoloa Rd. and Paniolo Avenue

Signal at our intersection

Install roundabout on Waikoloa and Paniolo intersection

Traffic circle Waikoloa Road and Paniolo Ave.

Mass Transit

Good public transit

Improve mass transit

Better massive transit options for Waikoloa transportation.

Better public transportation - Buses on a regular schedule
Full public transportation connecting to entire island and to and from airport
More busing to Waimea and the coast
Regional transit hub in Waimea with sub-hubs in Waikoloa, N. Kohala and Kawaihae (part of master plan)
More reliable public transportation to beaches and buses on time to Waimea Schools
Improve mass transit (bus) from Waikoloa/Kohala/Resort areas to airport
Create low cost public transportation
Reasonable priced public (short haul) transportation
More Transit - Better bus service - More diverse options on transit - Rail?
Smart Growth & transit oriented development

Other

Easy beach access for all
Smaller (lower) flow thru to Paniolo Ave in Waikoloa
Road Safety (1) Slow down (2) Children at play (3) More speed limit signs Less vehicle traffic, too many fast vehicles, better traffic control
Connector Road from Mamalahoa to Queen K. Hwy between Waikoloa Rd. and Kaiminani
Extend Saddle Road
Saddle Road extension alignment #5
Road on N. side of village that would connect to Queen K. (2nd entrance/exit)
No north exit from Waikoloa Village - Don't want more traffic
Plan new roads and streets to eliminate speeding
Traffic signal at Paniolo Ave. and Lua Kula
Waikoloa Road entire 4 lanes so safe passing slow vehicles
Want expanded boat harbors (Puako, Kawaihae)
High-speed rail from Kawaihae to Kona

Emergency Preparedness

Better plan for fire prevention and facility to fight fires
Create sustainable and effective hazard plans (fire, tsunami, hurricane)
Fire protection plan
Emergency preparedness for homeowners

Need more focus on disaster and emergency preparedness! Many isolated communities!

For fresh water supply during emergencies wells should have solar/wind power that will operate wells during power outage

Urgent care facility

Local access to health care

Better health facilities-hospitals

Urgent care unit 24/7

Health Care & access to specialists

Medical economic Assistance for seniors

Increase number of people on community emergency response team (CERT)

Have more fire wise and wild fire education teams

Develop green belt/playing field for fire break on mauka windward boundary of Waikoloa at minimum

Create and maintain a large firebreak around Waikoloa Village

Wildfire prevention

More efficient Ham Radio for Waikoloa CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Keep WVA empty lots free of fire fuels

Implement green belts & preserve open space

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

Waste

Zero waste initiatives

Zero waste

Zero waste

Zero waste composting recycling

Green waste recycling

Green waste disposal

Large compost area

Waste recycling at curb

A way to implement hauling and congregating green waste

Recycling

An easy to follow and support recycle program

Recycle program

More recycling for metal, paper

Comprehensive plan for recycling, landfill management

Curbside recycling

Reduce amount of waste to land fill

More days at Puako transfer station. Not enough space there for green waste (only 1 container)

Open Puako transfer station seven days a week

Convenient transportation and recycling center in Waikoloa Village

Recycle manufacturing - tech industries non-polluting

How about a recycling center in the Village?

No plastic bottles allowed! Reuse Recycle

Plastic bottles or any other item we don't recycle should not be imported to the island -
THINK GREEN!

Sewage treatment

No cesspools, tax incentives to replace cesspools

Septic tanks and drain fields that follow CDC standards

Develop sewer infrastructure

Sewer system (not septic tank, cesspools) for residential areas

Non-chemical -preserve water, gray water use.

Organic cleaning processes

Solar Power

More opportunities for residential solar energy

Solar power everywhere possible

Incentives to switch to solar power energy

Solar panels: large scale

Solar powered pumps for wells for affordable water

Alternative Energy

Utilize the enormous energy resource available to make our island self-sustainable in terms

of energy (geo-thermal, solar, wind) wave, etc.

Want sustainable food and energy production- will create jobs and sustain us

Reduce dependence on imported oil by expanding alternative energy sources

No fossil fuels, photovoltaic, underground utilities

Renewable energy sources

Alternative energy -wind, solar, wave, water, safe geo-thermal

Develop alternative energy in homes and businesses wind, solar etc.

Find and use more alternate energy sources

Create/enhance alternative energy sources

Wind power

Waikoloa has wind. We need electrical windmills

Be energy efficient/sustainable environmentally GREEN! Independent LEEDS certified new builds

All building permit/business or residential should include a mandatory solar and photovoltaic systems

New street lamps or skirts

Fewer streetlights!

Cut use of electricity and lessen light pollution

Less offensive streetlights

LED Street lights (like Hilo & Waimea)-saves energy-less light pollution

No geo thermal fracking in S. Kohala

Establish open space around all communities

Support for small farmers to move toward sustainability of food sources on island

Preserving endangered trees

Stables and area publicly accessible - wildlife preserve - theatre (cinema, performing arts)

Items that are made on Big Island to make them recyclable and have a large label making it clear it's RECYCLABLE!

More electric vehicle hook-ups

Smart cars, electric vehicles, no new development without infrastructure, high quality public transportation, new Kawaihae Road.

Outliers:

Want slacker hunting regulations. On invasive species (goats, pigs, turkeys, etc.)

Want shooting/target practice range (police and hunters need this.)

Everyone belonging to Neighborhood Watch

More youth/college student programs to help up & coming generations unite and begin to build good, healthy community

"Bridge Builder" multicultural events to include all minorities in South Kohala

Professional credentials for county employees

Better ethics practices for county employees Privatize the Waikoloa golf course

Be able to view the ocean while traveling on Queen K Hwy. Not blocked by berms like on Maui High speed internet service at reasonable cost

For the whole island to go back to a designation like Orchid Island Cultural (Heritage) or "Volcano Island)

Missing from the General Plan: re: •food supply from mainland •other items from mainland •Energy supply from mainland

Missing from the General Plan Categories. Local Sustainability •Food supply •Water supply (depends of energy)•Energy supply •Local jobs that don't depend on tourism

Economy •Local Processing Industry •Agriculture Industry (e.g. 3d printing for manufacturing •Infrastructure •machine shops, Inst and controls

What about at the State level?

What do we need from Oahu or Maui?

What can we provide to Oahu or Maui? Clean out storm drains on Haena St., Haia St. and Ele'ele St.

Restrict helicopter tourism

The thirty meter telescope must be built for economic reasons (jobs) and learning for future generations

Transportation - A professional prepared transportation plan including forecast traffic volume, capacity requirements, commute patterns, etc. •be consistent without changing the plan every two years •be diligent in implementing the plan without wasting time and money such as widening of Honokohau to airport •publish and promote