

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Agenda
April 27, 2022
6:00PM-8:00PM

Online or call-in via ZOOM
(Zoom info listed below)

or

In-person at:
The Key Project, RM 102
47-200 Waihee Rd, Kaneohe, HI 96744

1. Opening (Introductions)

Brian Neilson - DLNR-DAR, Administrator and Chair of KBRC (non-voting member)
Fred Reppun – NERR Education, HIMB Representative (voting member)
Cedric Bertelmann – Kāneʻohe bay, Fishing (voting member)
Mo Radke - Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board Representative (voting member)
Liko Kaluhiwa – Community of Heʻeia, Kāneʻohe bay recreational boating association (voting member)
Clifford Loo - Kahaluʻu neighborhood board representative (voting member)
Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa – Aha Moku, Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
Josh Hekekia - Office of Planning for Director Mary Alice Evans
Bruce Swartz - DOBOR
Doug Wadsworth – MCBH
Meagan Ostrem – MCBH
Kendall Tucker – DLNR-DAR
Casey Ching – Heʻeia NERR
Elena Bryant
William's iPhone
Kristi Kahale
Ron Tubbs
Keiki K.
Ian Masterson

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Member Radke moved to approve the agenda. Member Reppun seconded. All were in favor.
Motion passed.

3. Approval of Council minutes of November 17, 2021 (Action Item)

Member Radke moved to accept the minutes. Member Bertelmann seconded. All were in favor.
Motion passed.

4. Kāneʻohe Bay Marine Corps Base Briefing, Meagan Ostrem (Non-Action Item)

Doug Wadsworth presented about the Marine Corps Base operations as they apply to Kāneʻohe Bay.

- Key focus areas – Aircraft operations, training areas for those that deploy, resiliency (programs ensuring physical and mental health for families of marines), protection of natural resources, the location increases readiness for forces, making sure they are combat ready
- MCBH manages other areas around the island such as Bellows, Puʻuloa, etc.
- Economic impact helps the local economy
- Increase of people is predicted to occur over time, likely to grow ~15% by 2030
- Changes – With 5 units departing and less coming in...
 - o Helicopter noise reduced, 60% less helicopters and remaining ones will spend a lot of time away reduced aviation overall
 - o Decrease in total personnel
 - o Minor increase in total equipment
 - o No significant change to training area requirements
- For natural disasters, they provide resources to provide relief and help the community
- Military-civilian collaboration
 - o Seasonal closures due to turtles nesting
 - o Ulupaʻu crater, taking care of red footed booby colony at the back of rifle range
 - o Personnel are ready to collect any residue or respond to any spills that get into the bay
 - o Take care of places for their environmental and cultural importance
- Community engagement plan
 - o Challenging for DOD due to Red Hill
 - o Want to ensure community knows exactly what they are doing
 - o Going from elected officials to neighborhood boards, to organizations, to let people know about the changes going on
 - Environmental requirement to do EIS or EA
 - Currently have EA process ongoing for much of the groundwork and equipment being used -- Public comment period coming up in July
 - o Outreach
 - Want people to come aboard the base
 - Will share list of events coming up that they want to encourage public participation in
 - o Want department to recognize the importance of community
 - o Meagan will participate, and continue being present at KBRC to answer questions about how to operate and address issues that get brought up

Aunty Rocky expressed thanks to some of the MCBH people for participating on a glass-bottom boat tour and supported actively working toward a continued relationship.

Member Reppun brought up the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan and how the community has some inquiries in regards to environmental issues that MCBH may help address. He listed the following:

- Regarding spill response and notification systems, Heʻeia fishpond folks are interested in knowing how fast an oil spill could reach them and what measures can be taken to respond. It was also said that MCBH may have some equipment they can distribute to preemptively address any spill.
- Water alternatives to increase stream flow and reduce the amount currently being diverted for municipal use, of which MCBH is one of the big institutional users.
- Status update on wastewater issues
- Community access to the shoreline and cultural sites

Member Reppun volunteered to share notes from his group meetings which included the community bringing up these topics.

Doug Wadsworth approved of the list and offered a few immediate responses.

- They do not have a specific response time, but they have booms ready at waterfront operations and on Moku o Loʻe to deploy immediately upon anything happening. They have people ready to deploy the booms to collect anything before it gets bad. The response time is quick.
- There is a plan in place to redo the wastewater treatment facility to increase treatment to the R2 level allowing it to be used to water the golf course and to the R1 level allowing it to irrigate all of the base and reduce the water diverted.
- Community access is a challenge, but the public partner program allows folks to use the golf course and bowling alley. Their goal is to better engage with Koʻolau partners such as the fishponds.

Meagan Ostrem shared appreciation for the issues brought up by Member Reppun and added that as the biggest piece of land on Kāneʻohe bay, it is important MCBH contribute positively to the environment.

Member Reppun addressed a prior request from environmental compliance officers at MCBH to do an educational program at HIMB, learn more about the bay, and connect with the community. However, they could not pay the costs associated with the program. He voiced support for providing that type of learning opportunity and suggested they work together to find a funding solution. Meagan Ostrem added that HIMB previously hosted some of their folks and it was great to see the work being done and explore future partnerships. She shared support for having the environmental compliance officers do training at HIMB. Doug Wadsworth reiterated the value of this opportunity and volunteered to explore options for payment.

Kristi Kahale shared that the community wants to see partnership between all entities within the bay and is encouraged by the collaboration of efforts between the environmental staff at MCBH, HIMB, NERR, etc. Working together and learning from each other is a huge positive for the bay and community who uses it.

Doug Wadsworth expressed a commitment to have continuity and hopes that he can be a conduit for the community and the current CO, environmental compliance officers, etc.

5. Discussion of Activities in Kāneʻohe Bay (Non-Action Item)

Chair Neilson shared that there was no Christmas tree burning this year that he is aware of, outreach seemed to be effective.

Member Bertelmann spoke of recent kite surfing at the sandbar and concern that although they do not violate the no-wake rule, they reach dangerous speeds and there are many of them. Bruce Swartz replied that he has not been aware of any issues, but understands the concern will discuss it internally. Kristi Kahale added that there is increased safety issues in Kāneʻohe Bay because they are typically going fast along stationary boats and swimmers increasing the risk for injury, as opposed to in Kailua bay when they're not typically around swimmers. She suggested looking into what the Kailua Bay rules are as a place to start. Ian Masterson added that Kailua may have a designated area within the ORMA for kite surfers and that it could be a solution for Kāneʻohe Bay – Put out a campaign to educate kite surfers to stay out of an area or designate an area they can go away from others.

Chair Neilson asked if proposing zones for certain activities has been a suggestion from the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan update meetings. Member Radke replied it has come up, but he will share more once he receives committee reports.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that when the original master plan was created, kite surfing was not occurring so there is no designated area for it. She agreed that it poses a danger and suggested it be incorporated into the update.

Member Loo and Ian Masterson shared about the recent Kāneʻohe Makai Watch meeting and how a lot of good information and topics that come up in KBRC meetings were touched on. They spoke about how cars that park on the side of the road loaded with kayaks were talked about, as well as the kayak that washed up onshore with fishing gear. Solutions such as having a QR code to educational materials, or having a licensing system where anyone who buys a kayak gets it registered immediately were also discussed along with enforcement topics. Casey Ching added that the DOCARE Makai Watch Coordinator, Kirk Deitschman, ran the training with representatives from DOBOR, DAR, and DOCARE officers and they plan to have another meeting this summer.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that a new business woman has been bringing kayaks in and one of them needed to be rescued. She was asked to confront the woman but decided to wait. It is a danger and she voiced support for more enforcement. Bruce Swartz shared that the operation is being run from her home and she is making it easy for them by delivering equipment on the road, but not offering tours and they have not heard of instructions/briefings on the shoreline. She was interested in a permit, but DOBOR does not permit activities off the shoreline, so dropping off kayaks on the side of there road is not something they can regulate.

Member Reppun brought up a bill that says no rentals are allowed within a certain buffer area of the coast to prevent similar situations. Some of the rental organizations presented testimony in opposition and Kama'āina kids believe it is specifically targeting them. Member Reppun questioned how we get the word out more broadly that it is happening all over and a widespread issue. Chair Neilson shared that sometimes a bill gets flagged as special legislation if a particular place is mentioned and that this can be addressed in Bill language, though he isn't sure if this is the case for this particular Bill. Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa mentioned that it stays alive and can be readdressed next session.

Chair Neilson shared that another bill to conduct a study on Kāne'ōhe Bay activity looks like it will pass, although there are no funds for the study.

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SCR&billnumber=205&year=2022

6. Permitted Interaction Group update on status of the Kāne'ōhe Bay Master Plan Update (Non-Action Item)

Member Radke inquired if Makai Watch volunteers are allowed to educate members of the public that are performing inappropriate behavior since enforcement activities will need to go into the Master Plan. He referenced volunteer education ambassadorships and stewardships. Casey Ching responded that Makai Watch volunteers are not encouraged to confront any members of the public, but are trained to identify illegal behavior and report it. She encouraged participation in future Makai Watch meetings to be part of these discussions. Ian Masterson added that they discussed signage along the coastlines and inquired about accesses to ensure they have proper educational materials available. Chair Neilson added that the Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative may have made one.

Member Radke proposed to go through each of the different subcommittee topics at the next meeting. Aunty Rocky requested it not wait for three months, but perhaps in one month before summer rolls in. Member Reppun shared that the environment and education committees have reached a saturation point, where their recommendations are written up but they don't have the information to move forward. He suggested an agenda of City/State folks scheduled to answer their priority list of topics and questions. Member Radke commended what those committees came up with and sent it as a template for other committees.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa mentioned sitting in on a budget hearing and requested it be checked on that was funding allocated to DLNR for shoreline activities and shoreline protection. Chair Neilson volunteered to look at the budget and shared that marine patrol units for DOCARE were announced with specific DOCARE officers assigned to patrol marine waters.

7. Suggestions of future agenda items (Non-Action Item)

Member Radke suggested more time be allocated for committees to report back on the Kāne'ōhe Bay Master Plan.

8. Scheduling of next Council Meeting (Non-Action Item)

May 25th for next KBRC Meeting

Key Project for in-person location

9. Adjournment (Action Item)

Member Bertelmann motioned to adjourn. Member Radke seconded. All were in favor.