

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting

Agenda

November 15, 2022

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

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 (Non-Action Item)

Brian Neilson – DLNR DAR, Administrator and Chair of KBRC (non-voting member)

Fred Reppun – HIMB Representative, Heʻeia NERR (voting member)

Clifford Loo - Kahaluʻu neighborhood board representative (voting member)

Liko Kaluhiwa – Kāneʻohe bay recreational boating association (voting member)

Cedric Bertelmann – Kāneʻohe Bay Fishing (voting member)

Josh Hekeka - Office of Planning

Sylvia Hussey – OHA (voting member)

Zuri Aki – OHA

Meagan Ostrem – MCBH

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa

Joshua DeMello

Elena Bryant

Kristi Kaluhiwa

Kendall Tucker – DLNR DAR

2. Meeting ground rules (Non-Action Item)

Chair Neilson explained ground rules for the meeting. Voting members will be called on to comment on each agenda item first, then the public. The chat will be left open as long as everyone remains respectful.

3. Update on Council membership status (Non-Action Item)

Chair Neilson reviewed the seats currently held by voting council members. Sylvia Hussey is appointed as interim for the OHA seat. Joe Pickard is appointed as interim for the Kāneʻohe Bay Commercial Operators seat. The Senate will confirm appointment of both seats during the next legislative session. Clifford Loo represents the Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board. Elena Bryant represents the Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board. Fred Reppun represents the Hawaiʻi Institute of

Marine Biology. Cedric Bertelmann represents the Kāneʻohe Bay fishers. Liko Kaluhiwa represents the Kāneʻohe Bay Boating Association. All voting seats are currently filled.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Member Reppun requested to defer the HIMB presentation agenda item until the next meeting. Member Bertelmann moved to approve the agenda as amended. Member Reppun seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

5. Approval of Council minutes of the October 5, 2022 meetings (Action Item)

Member Hussey recused herself from the vote due to not being present for the previous meeting. Member Reppun moved to approve. Member Bertelmann seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. Presentation by Fred Reppun: Update on research and projects conducted by Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology in Kāneʻohe Bay (Non-Action Item)

Agenda item deferred to next meeting.

7. Update from the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to evaluate and make recommendations to the Council regarding commercial activity in Kāneʻohe Bay (Non-Action Item)

Member Bryant received information on the existing permits from Bruce Swartz of DLNR DOBOR. This information includes the names of all the entities currently holding permits and the activities allowed under each permit. Member Bryant suggested the next step be to schedule a meeting where the information can be shared and discussed. Member Bryant and Chair Neilson agreed to work together on a public notice so anyone interested can attend. Member Bertelmann and Member Loo expressed interest in joining the meeting. Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa spoke of interest in attending to represent Aha Moku and that Member Pickard (not present) would be interested as well. Member Bryant will send out a doodle poll to those on the council to decide on a date and put out the public notice.

Member Bryant summarized some of the information she received including:

- 7 companies currently hold one or more permits
- All of the activities under each permit varies. Examples include swimming, snorkeling, stand up paddle, volleyball, glass bottom boat tours
- 4 permits allow kayak activities
- 2 permits allow thrill tows
- 2 permits allow water sports

The permit information includes company name, registered vessels, and activity, but not capacity. For example, the number of kayaks allowed. Member Bryant hopes to receive more details regarding capacity at the PIG meeting.

8. Update from the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to update the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan (Non-Action Item)

Chair Neilson shared background about the ongoing effort to update the 1992 Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan to address current issues and threats. A previous council member, Mo Radke, is leading the effort but not present to provide any updates.

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

Member Reppun's presentation of HIMB research projects, deferred from this meeting's agenda.

Chair Neilson will reach out to Mo Radke to provide an update on the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan.

Member Bryant volunteered to give an update if the meeting to share commercial permit information happens before the next KBRC meeting.

Meagan Ostrem requested to brief the council on current and upcoming projects at MCBH. Member Bryant asked if the council could be updated on projects at Nuʻupia pond. Meagan Ostrem shared that it is one of the projects she intends to update the Council on, but will have more to share with the council at the next KBRC meeting in January.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa suggested we discuss the new manta ray commercial businesses. There have been sightings of new spotlights where the manta rays typically go. A resolution was created from a template from Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board, Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board, and KBRC, and passed by 62 civic clubs, then sent to the legislature to support DLNR by mandating the immediate succession of all illegal commercial activities in Kāneʻohe Bay. Leimana DeMate sent the resolution to Chair Neilson. Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa suggested it be a kakou thing, in light of the recent increase in manta ray businesses.

Member Bryant suggested having someone from DOCARE be present at the next meeting to hear about the uptick in manta ray businesses.

Member Bertelmann suggested DLNR do a media message about the Christmas tree burning at the sandbar like the previous year. Chair Neilson agreed and volunteered to work with DLNR Communications to get a press release out.

10. Scheduling of next Council meeting (Non-Action Item)

Member Bryant suggested Wednesday, January 18th. Member Hussey added that it would be good to discuss the opening day activities of the legislative session and new state directors.

Kendall Tucker noted that she will be unavailable to host the in-person meeting at Key Project.

Meagan Ostrem gave a quick update on MCBH. MCBH will begin a project to clear roughly 10 acres of mangrove on the Kāneʻohe Bay side just outside the front gate. They received funding to clear the remaining part of the mangroves on MCBH property, adding to the area that is already cleared. This is a requirement to clear invasives to better natural resources, improve visibility of boundaries, and help waterbird species. It also decreases cattle egret nesting reducing aircraft interference and increasing safety. They will only be handcutting and not using any machines. The removed material will be chipped and repurposed on MCBH property for walking paths. The project is expected to take about a year. Pono Pacific is the subcontractor, a small locally owned business with a prime focus on conservation. There will be curtains in place to reduce turbidity and precautionary measures taken with biologists surveying for natives and native waterbirds. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

11. Adjournment (Action Item)

Member Reppun moved to adjourn. Member Bertelmann seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.