

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2025
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

1. Call to Order (Non-Action Item)

Participants present:

Kimberly Fuller – DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources (DLNR DAR), Chairperson
Cedric Bertelmann – Kāneʻohe Bay Fishing Panel, voting member
Elena Bryant – Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board, voting member
Fred Reppun – Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), voting member
Liko Kaluhiwa – Kāneʻohe Bay Recreational Boaters, voting member
Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa – Aha Moku Council
Mahi Kaluhiwa – Heʻeia NERR
Kristi Kaluhiwa – Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
Kendall Tucker – DLNR DAR
Casey Ching – Heʻeia NERR
Brent Kakesako – Hawaiʻi Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)
Corin Thornburg – Hawaiʻi Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)
Merri Keliʻikuli - Hawaiʻi Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)
Wayne German

Chair Fuller explained the purpose of the meeting being to continue the process of reviewing the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan with a single non-action agenda item.

2. Temporary Committee to review Chapter 3 (Description of Planning Area) and Chapter 5 (Implementation) in the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan (Non-Action Item)
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/files/2015/08/kbaymasterplan.pdf>

Brent Kakesako reviewed the plan for the meeting being to present content of Chapter 3 and walk through Chapter 5 to better see where the HACBED team can provide additional support.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa requested a round of formal introductions, after which the group went around and each person online and in person introduced themselves.

Brent Kakesako provided an overview of the process and how being that the KBMP is solid, this time is being used to review the plan, see what progress has been made, and what needs to be done for further implementation. The outcome will not be changing the plan, but adding an appendix or noting an update of the status of each recommendation. This also will capture what is currently happening and which agencies will need to be re-engaged to play a more active role in implementation. The current plan is to hold this meeting in July, another in August, and receive broader community input in the Fall. In the New Year, another round of meetings will involve agencies.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa requested there be no amendments to the rules. Casey Ching clarified that the team is not looking to do any amendments to rules, but just how we can help to implement recommendations of the plan that have not been implemented yet.

Casey Ching corrected her presentation from the last meeting and clarified that because Chapter 1 is a summary/introduction of the plan and Chapter 2 is the history of the area, they are not being

reviewed. She provided an overview of Chapter 3, which touches on boundaries, physical descriptions of Kāneʻohe Bay, distinct geographic sections, and different uses within the bay. She presented about KBMP describing Class AA waters and Class A waters, with the purpose of these designations being that they should be kept in a pristine state.

- Wayne German shared that when the original plan was made, it was AAA waters. He inquired about how it changed and which agency had the authority to change it.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa added that when the community fought the building of the nuclear power plant, it was AAA waters.
- Wayne German added that it was a federal designation that instigated the Kāneʻohe Bay Task Force.
- Member Bryant shared that looking at DOH administrative rules, from July 2014 Kāneʻohe Bay was designated AA, but is not seeing the bay as a whole listed as Class A, so that may be why both are listed. However, there is nothing in the current rules.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa requested that DLNR look into this further.
- Member Bryant shared that classes are determined by DOH delegated to administer the clean water act by the Federal Government. For the 303D water quality reports, they list testing and data of different areas, with a lot of information about streams going into Kāneʻohe Bay and contaminant levels of water in Kāneʻohe Bay. She requested to flag this for future talks about water quality.
- Kendall Tucker volunteered to reach out to contacts at DOH to figure out if there was a change and why.
- Wayne German added that the classification dictates usage, so it is important to find out.
- Member Bryant responded that references for uses of AA and A are consistent with current rules that they should remain in natural pristine state as much as possible with AA as the highest classification.
- Casey Ching asked the group if the current map with the boundary separating Class AA and A is where the boundary was the separated the AAA waters originally.
- Wayne German laid out the boundaries of utilizing points of land that encompass Kāneʻohe Bay, where Pillboxes at Kualoa was used as a starting point at the northside of the bay and Pyramid rock was the other point that was utilized. However, that brings into question depth.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa requested answers regarding determination of AA to AAA, what depth and area this corresponds to, and how to get additional information.
- Member Bryant shared the latest DOH 303d report: :
<https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/files/2024/09/IR-2024-final-draft.pdf>.
- She added that KB impairments are listed on pdf page 126, but the bay is listed as low priority for the establishment of TMDLs (total maximum daily loads), which may be something the community wants to identify as a priority recommendation (to establish TMDLs to ensure class AA objectives are actually met)

Casey Ching moved on to describe military zones established in Kāneʻohe Bay, including Mokapu, MCBH, and different zones used for training and research. She presented about the different watersheds that contribute the Kāneʻohe Bay and the high variation of water flow depending on seasonality, in addition to urban development and channeling streams that influence sediment and contaminant flow. She also described new designations, including the Heʻeia NERR and Kākoʻo ʻŌiwi who contribute to different recommendations of KBMP. She also described rules that have come about because of KBMP, including the cap on commercial permits, ban of commercial activities on Sundays, formation of KBRC, and formation of specific zones for various activities.

Wayne German asked what the exclusionary zone is for the military.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa responded that 500 yards, where the big white cans are, is the bayside boundary.
- Wayne German added that during the time of the Kāneʻohe Bay Task Force, they had some conflicts with officers at MCBH.
- Participants responded that they allow people to traverse it and the relationship with MCBH has since improved.
- Wayne German expressed concern about the military authority to shut down the bay as an exclusionary zone in times of emergency, since he observed that during 9/11.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa offered to follow up on these questions with MCBH, but shared that as long as no training is going on, community members should be allowed to traverse.

Member Reppun shared additional information about the designation of certain areas.

- The Heʻeia NERR is a federal and state partnership with the community.
- Kākoʻo ʻŌiwi is a lessee of HCDA, state-owned land, where it was acquired to preserve land from development.
- Many other parcels have gone through a similar process at the city level such as Waiahole Beach Park acquired by the city in the late 90s, Heʻeia Kea acquired by the city, and lots of other parcels tied to city parks.
- Member Reppun suggested these be listed out somewhere to represent major wins in terms of stewardship and protecting those lands from development. In addition, tracking down some of the other efforts that were happening as part of a community push to protect the bay.
- Member Bryant noted the stewardship of Heʻeia Fishpond by Paepae o Heʻeia
- Member Reppun also suggested city-owned lands in Waikane and MOUs such as Hoʻi Hoʻi eʻa, as well as Waikalua Loko Iʻa.
- Member Reppun suggested that although we don't know the full story behind most of these, having them listed as an appendix as things that have been implemented would be good.
- Wayne German inquired if land under Kāneʻohe Yacht Club is C&C or state land, leased or owned. Participants were unsure.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa added that the MOU signed between Paepae o Heʻeia and MCBH for Ola Nuʻupia Hui could be noted.

The facilitation team reviewed the list of organizations that were named to help implement recommendations from Chapter 5 of KBMP. Brent Kakesako shared that as we continue to review the recommendations, we may have to re-engage with these group or engage with other groups or agencies.

The group walked through **Long-Range Planning Recommendations** as an exercise to see what has been accomplished, what needs follow up, what no longer is needed, and which agencies need to be looped in.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that creating KBRC made a difference in establishing authority in the bay, but that it would be better to have more support from the state.

- Member Reppun responded that OPSD was moved under DBEDT, which withdrew their support to KBRC and has limited the ability of the council to follow up on implementation. They should be re-engaged.
- Kendall Tucker replied that Josh Hekeia typically sits in from OPSD as a non-voting member.
- Member Reppun shared appreciation for him sitting in, but noted that OPSD used to be more engaged when KBMP was created and had a number of planners they would send to meetings to provide support for KBRC.

Kristi Kaluhiwa shared that implementing Makai Watch was another thing to celebrate.

Regarding a master plan for Kāneʻohe Bay Fishponds, Kristi Kaluhiwa shared that they have all been identified through the KBMP.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that she would like to see OHA more engaged in these meetings. She added that although Chair Neilson is doing a good job as Chair, she would like to see the community taking turns to Chair KBRC. That was the original plan but an amendment was made for DLNR DAR to be the Chairperson.

- Member Bryant agreed that it would be good to have an OHA rep to represent Native Hawaiian voices and those interests, in addition to adding a seat for a Native Hawaiian practitioner or cultural expert to serve as that voice. She noted that OHA has a hard time filling seats.
- Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa and Fred Reppun agreed that it would be good to fill the OHA seat and if not, designate someone else.
- Member Bryant also agreed that the Chairperson should rotate. She added that despite asking DOCARE to present multiple times, they have not been successful and sharing chairing responsibilities could be a good way to get them to the table.

Wayne German shared that KBMP kept the peace and put a stop to most of the inappropriate operations in Kāneʻohe Bay. However, it is happening again and needs to be addressed. Enforcement is needed on weekends.

- Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa added that they originally asked for Saturdays and Sundays to be closed, but then it was changed to only Sundays.

The group discussed the next grouping of recommendations to prioritize.

- Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa voted for Land Use (Proposed State Land Use District Changes).
- Kristi Kaluhiwa voted for Public Open Space and Access in reference to Ahu o Laka.
 - Wayne German also voted for this topic.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa also voted for Education recommendations.
- Member Bertelmann voted for Water Quality Monitoring
 - Wayne German and Elena Bryant also voted for this topic.
- Wayne German suggested Erosion and Sedimentation be looked at.
- Fred Reppun voted for streams.

Participants discussed the next meeting will be on 8/26 from 6pm – 8pm.

3. Adjournment