

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

1. Call to Order (Non-Action Item)

Kimberly Fuller – DLNR DAR, Chairperson for Brian Neilson
Fred Reppun – HIMB rep, KBRC voting member
Liko Kaluhiwa – Kāneʻohe Bay Recreational Boating rep, KBRC voting member
Elena Bryant – Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board rep, KBRC voting member
Joe Pickard – Kāneʻohe Bay Commercial Operators rep, KBRC voting member
Kendall Tucker – DLNR DAR
Olivia Boucher – DLNR DAR
Brent Kakesako – Hawaiʻi Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)
Merri Keliʻikuli – HACBED
Corin Thornburg – HACBED
Kristi Kaluhiwa – MCBH
Bonnie Kahapeʻa-Tanner – Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy
ʻAlohi Nakachi – The Nature Conservancy
Casey Ching – Heʻeia NERR

2. Temporary Committee to review Kaneohe Bay Master Plan recommendations from 1992 pertaining to the following topics - Education, Educational Touring, Proposed Land Use and if time allows, Public Open Space and Access, Proposed Land Use District Changes, Increased Public Access to Federally Controlled Lands, and Golf Course (Non-Action Item)

Brent Kakesako provided a brief review about the purpose of these meetings – to walk through the recommendations from the 1992 Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan and see which recommendations are pau, not as active, or need further engagement with partners and/or managing agencies.

- The recommendation tracker was created to show the status of each recommendation, in the hopes that this is an ongoing process that KBRC can continue.
- KBRC Temporary Committee meetings are all publicly noticed and available for anyone to attend, due to interest of multiple KBRC members to attend.
- The process began in April, with this being the 3rd Temporary Committee Meeting being held.
- Next steps will be to meet with agencies to provide additional information regarding certain recommendations and their status.
- The Temporary Committee previously suggested:
 - Submitting letters to agencies to request information in a more official manner.
 - Engaging with legislators to participate in these meetings
 - Requesting BWS, Blue Water Task Force, HIMB, and other agencies to present to KBRC
- The overall goal is to walk through every recommendation by the end of June, with the grant supporting this work ending in September.

Kristi Kaluhiwa asked if the other agencies that will be reached out to have been identified. Brent Kakesako shared the list and replied that they have been identified during the past two meetings to include agencies such as OPSD, OHA, different divisions in DLNR, BWS, HIMB, and others listed.

Member Reppun shared that while a lot of water quality regulation falls under DOH, he recently heard of DAR initiating a Water Quality Action Plan. He suggested inviting folks from DAR that are working on this plan to provide additional updates.

- Chair Fuller confirmed that Ellie Jones at DAR is leading the effort and collaborating with DOH and the community to receive input.
- Chair Fuller added that DAR can be contacted for any topics related to aquatic and stream biota. They have historical data for the Kāneʻohe Bay watershed and recent data. She also suggested contacting the Heʻeia NERR Research Coordinator, Shimi Rii, since she does estuary and stream sampling.

Education Recommendations

Kristi Kaluhiwa requested clarification about the “Boating Branch” agency listed. Casey Ching responded that it is now Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) under DLNR and that throughout the plan, some of the implementation agencies have changed.

Recommendation #62 “Provide signage at Heʻeia Kea Harbor and other primary access points to the Bay on proper sanitation and litter control.”

Kristi Kaluhiwa shared that markers in Kāneʻohe Bay used to indicate reef and coral monitoring, but a lot of them have deteriorated. She suggested including these, even if they do not apply to sanitation.

- Kendall Tucker replied that signage on land is DOBOR’s jurisdiction with signage/markers in water being US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or US Coast Guard (USCG) responsibility.
- Member Reppun asked if the pillar is already there and the sign just needs to be replaced, do they need to go through USACE.
 - Kendall tucker replied that it might be under a specific permit.
 - Kristi Kaluhiwa added that it is a simple request form, but USACE should be added to the list.

Member Reppun shared that as a resident of the area, it is hard to get rid of hazardous waste. He added that it is something KBRC can push for if the rest of KBRC believes it is an issue for the bay.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa agreed that it is something we should push for.
- Department of Public Works is listed as the implementation agency for that recommendation, but participants confirmed that agency has since been broken up into various efforts (engineering, architecture, planing, designing, etc.)
- Participants suggested looking into opala.org, Hazardous waste: City and County <https://honolulu.gov/env/ref/hhr-2/>, and Department of environmental services

- Participants agreed to follow up with DPW and confirm the appropriate agency to reach out to.

Recommendation #59 “Include Kane’ohe Bay in public education projects”

Kendall Tucker shared that public education projects in the bay are present with programs such as Makai Watch and elementary schools doing genki balls. Kristi Kaluhiwa added that Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy and HIMB also conduct education activities in Kāne’ohe Bay. Member Reppun shared that not a lot is happening through DOE, but many community education organizations (nonprofits, fishpond stewardship organizations) have taken on public education roles, which is something to celebrate. Kristi Kaluhiwa agreed that the community has stepped up to fill that need.

Recommendation #60 “Emphasize that substances not normally hazardous to humans (oils, paints, cleansers, solvents, batteries, litter, etc.) can be environmentally damaging.”

Member Reppun noted that although these things are damaging to humans, its unclear what the action step is.

Recommendation #61 “Combine incentives with education to recruit public participation in voluntary clean-up efforts.”

Member Reppun reiterated how a lot of nonprofits (like 808 Cleanups) have stepped up to fill the gap by stewarding different portions of the bay. Kristi Kaluhiwa agreed that for organizations like 808 Cleanups, it also addresses #61, because those organizations are inviting the public.

- 808 Cleanups may not always be active in the Kāne’ohe Bay area because they go where they are called, but if we requested their support, they would show up.
- Kendall Tucker added that 808Cleanups did a clean up with a Waiāhole 5th grade unit
- ‘Alohi Nakachi shared that she volunteers with 808 Clean ups and can connect anyone interested with their organization.
- Member Reppun added that a lot of the coastline is accessible, making it hard for the public to do clean ups and stewardship activities.

Kristi Kaluhiwa suggested incorporating upland and stream areas, since that is where people tend to dump things that eventually end up in the bay.

- Member Reppun suggested expanding beyond streams to back roads, where trash and old cars are typically seen.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa added that multiple agencies would need to be involved depending on where the property is and who is managing it.
- Kendall Tucker suggested arranging bulk pick ups with education provided for people to come to a certain point 1x/month instead of dumping it.
- Brent Kakesako suggested reaching out to environmental services as a start, but noted similarities between this recommendation
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa spoke about seeing people cleaning up the Zippy’s parking lot, but blowing debris right into the drainage which will go into the streams and the ocean. She found it very disturbing to see.

Kristi Kaluhiwa asked if when the 1992 Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan was created, folks discussed stewardship of the bay starting upland. Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa replied that these ideas weren't created in the beginning, because the original intent was to control commercial businesses that were operating illegally without consideration for everyday fishermen. Through the process, participants figured out that additional rules and regulations were needed.

Member Reppun referred back to signage mentioned in #62. He shared how storm drains in town say "goes to the ocean" with a picture of a fish and suggested we have similar storm drain signage here. He added that he was unsure if it was C&C workers or contractors, but that we should follow up with whoever is sweeping into the storm drains.

Educational Touring Recommendations

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that when the KBMP was created, the community wanted commercial businesses to only run 5 days/week to give local fishermen Saturday and Sunday. It was changed to allow commercial businesses to operate 6 days/week with locals only having Sundays. She recalled seeing many illegal commercial pontoons with tourists last Sunday and recognized familiar faces of repeat illegal operators despite the law against commercial activity. She also voiced disapproval of activities that have recently been happening at Ahu o Laka, a sacred space. She encouraged DLNR to take action.

Kristi Kaluhiwa suggested tours be required to incorporate cultural education components. Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa replied that Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club is doing cultural tours, but have been on hold the past two years because they fill up so quickly. They are applying for a grant to resume the tours, only allowing first timers.

Recommendation #92 "Tours made at a price or fee not to exceed direct operating costs (labor and fuel) of the tour for bona fide educational institutions and State of Hawaii registered not-for-profit (501(c)(3)) institutions may be made during regular allowed days of operations to the designated commercial areas."

Member Reppun asked if any of the permitted commercial tour operators do educational tours and whether they are made at a price that doesn't exceed operating costs. Member Pickard replied that he was not sure about other operators, but if community members approached them for nonprofit activities, he believes they would.

- Kendall Tucker replied that commercial operators don't have to do it at cost, but nonprofits do as well as bona fide educational institutes.
- Participants discussed whether this pertains to the HIMB boat as well as the HPU catamaran that is docked at Moku o Loʻe, which takes out students.

Member Reppun requested clarification on #92 and #93 and whether the practice of educational tours is only restricted to nonprofit educational institutions, because #93 implies that commercial operators could engage with nonprofit passengers not counting toward commercial permit limits.

- Kendall Tucker clarified that commercial operators can engage in a nonprofit tour, but the two purposes cannot mix.

Recommendation #93 “The number of not-for-profit passengers taken will not count against the daily commercial permit limits but are subject to maximum vessel permit (70 or 150) capacity limitations.”

Member Pickard explained that when they came up with this recommendation, the intent was to establish limitations for each operator, 70 for small operators and 150 for large ones, without giving up free opportunities for the local community or school groups to use the boat.

Member Reppun asked if #92 allows for educational touring during regular hours, as long as its a nonprofit organization. Member Pickard replied that he doesn't remember the exact intention of the recommendation, but at the time, a company was disguising themselves as a 501c3 doing nonprofit tours when they were commercial operators.

- Member Reppun and Member Pickard shared how Kama'āina kids used this loophole to operate out of He'eia State Park by charging at cost.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa asked if there was a certain limit on the number they could charge at cost and how many tours they were doing.
- Kendall tucker added that they gave an educational briefing, but it wasn't very robust.
- Member Pickard shared that there's no objection to legitimate nonprofits. However, if there is a rule, it invites people to form nonprofits to utilize this loophole, when they are actually commercial businesses.
- Brent Kakesako suggested reaching out to DOBOR to see if this is an issue that has come up and get a status update on nonprofits that are doing tours currently.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that when Jerry Kaluhiwa was alive, they used to run glass bottom boat tours to educate the community and suggested DLNR help to bring that back.

Member Reppun asked if there is a risk of another company doing the same thing as Kama'āina Kids. Kristi Kaluhiwa replied that someone has come to a KBRC meeting with a proposal to do a similar thing, claiming there were no educational tours in Kāne'ohe Bay.

- Member Pickard shared that it shouldn't be a problem for legitimate nonprofits and they shouldn't have any restrictions.

Member Pickard shared that a law was passed 2 years ago allowing DLNR to seize boats of illegal operators as a civil infraction, but DOCARE officers were unsure of their authority and were concerned that if the seized boats, they would lose cases and officers would be liable. He added that they regularly seize fishing gear and nets, and questioned why they are resistant to enforce the new law.

- Brent Kakesako suggested following up with DOBOR and DOCARE on this.

Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that 10 years ago, it was said that fishers were the ones ruining the bay, but illegal commercial tours are the ones causing problems. She recalled seeing illegal snorkeling tours in the lagoon of Moku o Lo'e, which is a threat to research and a liability. She asked that DLNR and DOCARE work with the community to focus on illegal commercial businesses.

- Chair Fuller suggested documentation of illegal behavior and reporting to DOCARE in a timely manner would help with this issue. She suggested having a meeting to request more DOCARE presence and tying in Makai Watch, to help make sure DOCARE has sufficient evidence. She added that she will bring it up to DAR and DOCARE, but it is difficult for divisions to add capacity without funding.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa responded that she will meet with elected officials to see if they can help.
- Chair Fuller agreed that speaking with legislators is a good step which could lead to a revised statute or bill increasing enforcement presence in He'eia, facilitating action, and dedicated funding toward this effort. She added that there are new funding opportunities to tap into, like the green fee.

Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa spoke about needing the Harbor Master to work on weekends and asked about having support from DOBOR to allow the work schedule of the He'eia Harbor Master to be changed. Chair Fuller recommended speaking to the legislature and to the representatives to push this through, since it is likely funding dependent.

Brent Kakesako noted that concerns tied to educational touring and commercial tours have been documented.

Proposed Land Use Recommendations

Member Reppun suggested that some research could be done to pull up records in regards to zoning. Brent Kakesako suggested that it would be good to engage with OPSD to run through these recommendations and report back.

- Member Reppun agreed that asking OPSD to run through records of this list to provide status updates of each would be helpful. However, identifying certain locations may get tricky.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa asked if any of this would fall under DHHL.

Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa inquired about what it would mean to change zoning from urban to conservation and requested clarification.

- Member Bryant responded that she was not sure how to rezone, but could get a list of acceptable uses in preservation districts from land use ordinances, which lists activities you can do in different districts.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa asked if Member Bryant could look into the benefit of changing agriculture land to conservation land. Member Bryant agreed to look into it and summarize it for the group.

Recommendation #1 “Kane‘ohe-Kawa Stream Confluence (Bayview): from Urban to Conservation”

Member Reppun requested to ask OPSD to look further upstream for Kane‘ohe – Kawa and He'eia to see what the land use designation is.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that from her perspective, the whole Ko‘olaupoko moku should be put into conservation, but understands that cannot be done. She suggested engaging with the lineal descendents of other ahupua‘a in Ko‘olaupoko to get their opinions. She suggested Aha Moku could facilitate this.

- Member Reppun agreed that Aha Moku should be looped in when OPSD provides an update.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa suggested adding Aha Moku as one of the organizations that should be engaged in this process.

Brent Kakesako summarized that the group will follow up with Aha Moku, bring in lineal descendents of each ahupua‘a, and look upstream of some of these land use designations.

Golf Courses

Recommendation #76 “Relocate the He’eia Kea (Nanatomy) golf course to a more environmentally suitable site.”

Recommendation #77 “Prohibit golf course development in the Waikane stream watershed.”

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that recommendations #76 and #77 have been accomplished. Member Reppun suggested creating a map of all the golf courses that were about to go in, just for folks to see how bad it would have been.

Kristi Kaluhiwa suggested keeping this recommendation for the future so the conversation does not come up again for development of a golf course in Waikane. Member Reppun replied that all of this will stay as it is, it will just be noted as an accomplishment.

Recommendation #75 “Do not permit the Bayview golf course to expand.”

Participants discussed if Bayview has room to expand. Waikalua Loko I‘a now has the portion that the golf course was hoping to buy.

Recommendation #73 “Develop a policy on golf course projects, addressing the cumulative effects on Kane’ohe Bay.”

Recommendation #74 “Require golf course projects to conform to statewide environmental standards for location, design, construction, management, and monitoring.

Member Reppun addressed recommendations #73 and #74 as not being done. He shared that while #74 is about enforcing laws, the urgent issue of water use is coming up now. MCBH is trying to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant to irrigate, but it needs to line up with a decrease in the amount that BWS is pumping out of the mountain. It would be helpful to get BWS to come to a KBRC meeting, or for KBRC to make a recommendation to BLNR.

- Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa suggested KBRC write a letter to health and human services, because the military wants to comply but DOH is not allowing them to use recycled water. She volunteered to speak to Lisa Kitagawa for advice.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa added that the Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board is writing a letter of support to the board of health to work with MCBH
- Member Reppun agreed that was a good step, but suggested KBRC emphasize to BWS and the Water Commission that regardless of the wastewater treatment plant, MCBH should not be using potable water for their golf courses in the meantime.
- Kristi Kaluhiwa shared that their golf course is brown, so they’re not irrigating it currently.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa suggested writing a letter of support for MCBH reusing their water.
 - Kendall Tucker and Member Reppun agreed that it would be good to put as an agenda item for the regular KBRC meeting.

Member Reppun suggested asking BWS about the total use of water by golf courses and of each golf course surrounding Kāne‘ohe Bay.

- Auntie Rocky agreed and shared that wai was the main subject of a meeting held yesterday. Water feeds the fishpond and into the ocean, and is needed for the lo‘i and the farmlands. She agreed it should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Brent Kakesako asked the group if there is still a need to engage with CWRM. Member Reppun replied that they likely don’t have the time, but for the information needed regarding golf course water use, it would need to come from BWS.

Member Reppun noted that recommendations #73 and #74 have the same action step – starting with water use information for KBRC to adopt a stance on total water use of golf courses in Kāne‘ohe Bay.

Brent Kakesako provided a recap of the meeting and progress so far.

- This meeting covered recommendations under Education, Educational Touring, Proposed Land Use, and Golf Courses.
- The first round of Temporary Committee Meetings are completed.
- The team will reach out to the agencies that were mentioned during the Temporary Committee meetings to address the recommendations they were flagged for.
- Pausing Temporary Committee meetings for the Winter to give participants a break, to follow up with these agencies, and to come back in the spring with responses and resume walking through recommendations.

Member Reppun shared that the grant has money to go towards food, outreach materials, printing, and more that can support a larger meeting. He added that it would be great to get the word out and more people involved in this effort. Brent Kakesako added that HACBED can rethink their support next year, whether it is through continued Temporary Committee meetings or larger community meetings.

Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa requested the team send information to the Aha Moku office so that she can work with them to organize meetings with ahupua‘a representatives. She suggested holding 1-2 meetings in the Kāne‘ohe Bay area, one in Kahalu‘u and one in Kāne‘ohe for folks to come and provide input. She volunteered to work with Leimana DeMate on this.

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.