

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025
6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Online or call-in via ZOOM
or
In-person at:
Windward Community College
Hale Naʻauao Rm 125
45-720 Keaʻahala Rd., Kāneʻohe HI 96744

1. Call to Order (Non-Action Item)

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm.

Kim Fuller – DLNR DAR, Chairperson (non-voting member)
Cedric Bertelmann – Kāneʻohe Bay Fishing Panel (voting member)
Frederick Reppun – Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology (voting member)
Liko Kaluhiwa – Kāneʻohe Bay Recreational Boaters Association (voting member)
Elena Bryant – Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board (voting member)
Kristi Kaluhiwa – MCBH
Rocky Kaluhiwa – Aha Moku
Mahi Kaluhiwa – Heʻeia NERR
Kendall Tucker – DLNR DAR
Jesse Boord – DLNR DAR
Casey Ching – Heʻeia NERR
Ron Tubbs
Meagan Ostrem – MCBH
Kūʻike Kamakea -ʻŌhelo - OHA

Kim Fuller reviewed the ground rules for the meeting.

2. Approval of the September 16th, 2025 Agenda (Action Item)

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

3. Approval of Council minutes of the June 24, 2025 meeting (Action Item)
4. Approval of Council minutes of the July 15, 2025 meeting (Action Item)
5. Approval of Council minutes of the August 26th, 2025 meeting (Action Item)

Member Bryant requested to approve all 3 council minutes at once. Council agreed.
Member Bryant moved to approve all 3 council minutes. Member Bertelmann seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. Update from the Temporary Committee on the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan Review (Non-Action Item)

Member Reppun shared an update about the Temporary Committee meetings held to work through the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan (KBMP). During the meetings, the Temporary Committee reviews recommendations from the original '92 plan to evaluate what has been accomplished and what needs additional follow up. The July 15th and August 26th meeting minutes just approved were from the Temporary Committee meetings. Each Temporary Committee meeting is publicly noticed and open to the public, due to multiple KBRC members wanting to attend.

During the first two meetings, participants walked through selected sections of the KBMP and reviewed what had been implemented and not yet implemented to identify where more information would be needed and which agencies would be able to provide that information to KBRC. Topics covered include water quality control, water quality monitoring, controlling erosion and sedimentation, and streams. Topics for next week's meeting include education, educational touring, and proposed land use, with the potential to dig into public open space and access, proposed land use district changes, increased access to federally controlled lands, and golf courses, if there is time. Following next week's meeting, the team will reach out to agencies that participants listed to see who may provide updated information to KBRC regarding these topics.

Member Reppun added that there is money in the grant to print out parts of the plan and advertise these meetings to encourage more community members to be involved. The budget may cover a larger public meeting venue and food provided to attendees.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa agreed that it would be a good idea to advertise with the public, to encourage people to give more input and respect the decisions, design, and purpose of the KBMP.
- Auntie Rocky Kaluhiwa asked for clarification that next week's meeting is a KBMP dedicated meeting. Kendall Tucker confirmed.

7. Update on the invasive Majano anemone outbreak and control plan (Non-Action item)

Jesse Boord provided an update on the Majano Anemone outbreak and response effort. The anemone was originally detected as a hitchhiker on nonnative coral reported by the Kawelo family in 2020. In 2021, it was removed. DAR conducted follow-up surveys, and it was detected again in October 2024 as a bigger bloom.

Response efforts have included:

- Reefwide surveys to find it nested within a 20x30 m buffer zone
- Monitoring pedestrian traffic during the Blue Angels event in August (most locals and fishers were aware of the anemone and why DAR was present)
- DAR surveyed additional mooring sites and did not detect majano in any other areas
- Received permit for reef signage and harbor signage, will be putting up signs on Reef 8
- Working with Hawai'i coral restoration nursery to outplant corals on the back side
- Continued outreach efforts to the yacht club, He'eia harbor, and dive shops
- Hosted a knowledge exchange at the Bishop Museum about soft-bodied cnidarians

- Preparing for eradication – repaired barge, filed notice of intent for pesticide use with DOH, just completed environmental review for final permit
- Funding – Timeline is in progress, waiting on Gov. signature for ACT104 to procure items for removal. Additional funding for supplies and equipment is pending.
- In last few weeks, *Monitpora foliosa* (coral found harboring the anemone) was found by HIMB summer course and yacht club - 20x20 patch growing over reef marker. DAR will continue doing surveys, as this is an indicator that it has become a bay-wide problem.

Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa inquired if the effort to increase signage around Kāneʻohe Bay includes Moku o Loʻe. The signage around Moku o Loʻe was taken down many years ago and she has recently seen illegal commercial tours going into the lagoon. She is concerned about the liability and disturbance of the research in the area. She suggested DLNR help to replace those signs and offered to follow up at the legislature about it. Jesse Boord offered to look into it if there was extra funding. Member Reppun offered to speak with Megan Donahue, the Director of HIMB, about this.

Kristi Kaluhiwa shared that there were community concerns due to the amount of boats anchored in the area during the air show and asked DAR to elaborate on what they saw.

- Jesse Boord shared that there were boats on Reef 8, but none within 100-200m of the site.
- DAR was present all of Saturday and Sunday.
- Some boats knew DAR was there for the anemone and pulled into the sand patch next to them, a low risk zone.

Kristi Kaluhiwa asked who requested that DAR be present. Jesse Boord replied that it was a request from Makai Watch and DLNR to have a presence so folks are mindful of the area.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa added that MCBH was unaware of DAR's presence on the bay and suggested that there be more communication between MCBH and DLNR in the future. She thanked DAR for their presence to prevent the spread and will report back to MCBH.
- Jesse Board shared that most people were in the sand or on their boat. There were ~50 boats, but they didn't see any behavior that would risk spreading the anemone.

Kristi Kaluhiwa inquired if MCBH marina has been educated about the anemone. Jesse Boord replied that they have given materials to different entities within MCBH, but was unsure about the marine specifically.

- Kristi Kaluhiwa volunteered to connect Jesse Boord with the marine manager to reach the private boaters that depart from MCBH.
- Chair Fuller also offered her email should MCBH want more coordination with DAR in the future.

Ron Tubbs shared that he has been present in Kāneʻohe Bay for decades and thanked KBRC members for their service. He added that Kāneʻohe Bay deserves protection and management, and he has seen significant restoration with removal of invasive algae. He shared concern that the nonnative corals and anemone are both broadcast breeders and would be difficult to keep contained. He asked if there is anything the public can do to help and offered his own boat for assistance.

- Jesse Boord agreed that given the reproductive means of the anemone, it is difficult to eradicate. This is why DAR will do localized removal to prevent broadcast spawning.

Ron Tubbs inquired about similar broadcast spawners that drift into Kāneʻohe bay and whether species that come naturally in currents are considered invasive species.

- Jesse Boord replied that DAR is seeing an uptick in aquarium releases and although there is concern about what is drift and what is brought anthropogenically, they have enough evidence to say that this particular introduction occurred from an aquarium tank dump.
- Ron Tubbs responded that he is unaware of anyone that sells the anemone and because it is illegal to bring any corals or invertebrates into the State of Hawaiʻi, he does not believe it was brought in from an aquarium.
- Jesse Boord replied that because the anemone is a nuisance species, an aquarium owner could have had an infestation in their tank and dumped it out.
- Chair Fuller added that they first documented 3 different nonnative species in a localized area with the anemone, which allows DAR to be fairly confident it was an aquarium dump.
- Member Reppun suggested that DAR participate in HIMB's Open House event to raise public awareness about the issue.

Member Bertelmann asked if this is the same anemone that is in Pearl Harbor. Jesse Boord replied that it is, but suspected to be from different introduction events (aquarium releases) and not tied to drift.

- Pearl Harbor has also found many other aquarium species, 6-7 more detected from just the last 4 years.
- Kim Fuller added that these are illegal aquarium imports and dumps on the rise and DAR is trying to address them as they come up.

Ron Tubbs shared that regarding Pearl Harbor, it may be folks that do not know the laws about bringing things in, such as transient military. He suggested educating people moving to Hawaiʻi and addressing ship-born introductions as a place to start.

- Meagan Ostrem replied that she can have a specialist share more about the Pearl Harbor introductions, but they are almost certain it was an aquarium dump due to robust biosecurity, antifouling with ships, strict protocols for ballast water. There are many processes, policies, and procedures in place to prevent these types of introductions. They have done surveys outside of Pearl Harbor, and these introduced species have not been identified in other areas where the ships tend to go. Because they are happening in places with easy access to the shoreline, they believe it was likely an aquarium dump.
- Chair Fuller shared that DAR has similar protocols and policies in place for ship ballast, ballast water, and hull fouling. DAR tracks BMPs, shipping traffic, and introductions to manage vectors of spread. DAR works with the DOD and federal agencies, but there are standards in place for ballast water and hull fouling to reduce the risks.

8. Update on reef damage of Navy P-8A aircraft grounding in Kāneʻohe Bay (Non-Action Item)

Chair Fuller shared that DAR is still talking with the Navy about mitigation.

- The Navy is interested in offsetting damage where the grounding occurred. They are exploring options for invasive algae removal paired with urchin outplanting.
- Navy is gathering baseline data in proposed restoration site and consequential actions will be determined by baseline data
- Baseline data will be gathered next month to continue to negotiate actions

9. Update from the Division of Aquatic Resources in pursuing Ch. 91 Rule Making to ban commercial aquarium harvest statewide (Non-Action Item)

Chair Fuller shared an update from Chair Brian Neilson, that DAR is in the process of developing aquarium fishing rules with plans to take proposed rules to BLNR at the end of the month or in October. DAR will request to hold public hearings for testimony on the proposed aquarium rules. Draft rules will be shared with petitioners once proposed rules are reviewed by the Deputy Attorney General.

Member Bryant asked for clarification about whether petitioners would be able to review the proposed rules prior to them being shown to the public. She had not heard of any of the petitioners having the opportunity to review draft rules and requested DAR to follow up with David Sakoda. Chair Fuller responded that she would follow up with David Sakoda.

- Kendall Tucker asked if the BLNR request is to pursue rulemaking or begin public scoping. Chair Fuller replied that it was not necessarily to go over the draft rules, but if the rules need more review, there is still time to discuss it with David Sakoda since the agenda has not been set.
- Member Bryant recalled that Chair Neilson said petitioners would receive an advanced copy of the rules as shown in the minutes of the last meeting. She strongly supported petitioners having the chance to review draft rules beforehand or it would not be received well by the community.

10. Update on Legislative proposals related to Kāneʻohe Bay for the 2025-2026 Legislative session (Non-Action Item)

Proposed legislation to amend Section 200D-2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish the selection process for the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Chairperson, specifying that the chairperson be chosen by council members on a rotating basis.

Member Reppun asked if this has already been proposed as a legislative item by DAR. Chair Fuller confirmed that it has, but they may still need to find a legislator to back it.

Member Reppun requested to look at the language of the proposed legislation and asked for clarification on when and where KBRC may have the opportunity to shape or provide input on the language.

- Chair Fuller suggested going to the legislator to work directly with them and review what they input, so that there is no misinterpretation of the bill or the group's intention.
- Member Reppun replied that KBRC could reach out to potential legislators to see who might propose it, but it would be good to know from DAR's perspective what would

work best for them since this rotation would alleviate the workload on DAR. He suggested the group discuss further before going to the legislature.

- Chair Fuller offered to put it on the agenda.

Kristi Kaluhiwa asked if we could reach out to our representatives for Kāneʻohe to seek their support first, Senator Keohokalole or Senator Awa.

- Member Reppun suggested asking Chair Neilson to reach out to those legislators to attend the next KBRC meeting to discuss this further.

Member Bryant provided some background on how this item came to be proposed. She shared that Chair Neilson drafted proposed legislation that she was able to review, but she wants other KBRC members to review it to make sure they are okay with it.

- Chair Fuller offered to follow up with David Sakoda to ask if DAR can distribute the drafted legislation to the rest of KBRC. She will forward it to KBRC members once she receives permission to do so.
- Member Bryant clarified that Chair Neilson said they intend to find a Kāneʻohe legislator to introduce the package.

11. Community concerns (Non-Action Item)

Member Bertelmann provided an update that there was a meeting today regarding witnessing dead fish in Kāneʻohe Bay following the Blue Angels show. Various species were seen freshly dead and rolling around on the bottom. A month later, the same fish die-off was seen in the same area. Participants at this meeting talked about ways to monitor the area, but nobody could pinpoint what the cause was. They correlated it with some irregular levels of oxygen, salinity, and CO2 on buoys nearby. They are coming up with a monitoring plan to find out why this might be happening.

12. Announcements (Non-Action Item)

Member Reppun shared that HIMB is holding an Open House event for the community on October 18th. Flyers haven't gone out yet, but folks in this group are welcome to come. They will be running shuttles from WCC to Heʻeia Kea, then take the boat to Moku o Loʻe. Tours will occur from 9am – 3:30pm on a rotating schedule.

13. Adjournment

Chair Fuller will follow up with KBRC members over email to schedule the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.