

State Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Advisory Council Minutes  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Dunes at Maui Lani – Kahului, Maui  
Wednesday, June 8, 2016  
9:45 am

State AC Members Present: Terrence Noda, Hawaii Island OHV representative; Nick Saussy, Maui Council OHV representative; Donna Clayton, Maui Council Secretary; Bob Hobdy, Maui Council; Russell Reinertson, Maui Council Chair; James K. Espaniola, Molokai representative; David Nash, Oahu Council Chair; Ted Blake, Kauai Council; Alan Calhoun, Lanai Council; Debbie Wheeler, Lanai Council

DOFAW Staff Present: Fernando Pagampao, Joshua Pinheiro, Iokepa K. Dela Cruz, Duke Kuhia, Corey Rosa, Jon Han, Mycah Bailey, Andrew DeMichele, John Hoopii, Jaren Paresa-Neizman, Kaina Ryan, Fern Duval, Scott Fretz, Shia S. Mau, Kyle Parsons, Zachary Williams, Layne Fernandez, Kawika Smith, Ambyr Mokio-Lee, Jackson Bauer, Clement Chang, Moana Rowland, Torrie Nohara, Aaron Lowe, Sherry Mann

Call to Order, Introductions and Announcements:

Chair Russell Reinertson called the meeting to Order at 9:45 am. Introductions were made and a signup sheet circulated.

Acceptance of July 23, 2015 Minutes:

Following a review of the July 23, 2015 SAC minutes, it was moved and seconded that the July 23, 2015 minutes be approved without amendments.

Public Testimony:

Chair Reinertson asked the public in attendance if anyone wished to provide testimony. Hearing none, Chair Reinertson suggested moving this item to the end of the meeting to allow for comments in response to information provided. Chair Reinertson moved to Agenda Item #1 with Island Council Reports beginning with Kauai Island.

**Kauai Island** – a PowerPoint presentation was made by Ted Blake and Kawika Smith. They reported on the following projects: 1) Poho Alaka'i Trail – this is a capital improvement project approved by the legislature and the governor in 2014 for repair and maintenance. The 20 year old wood and screen boardwalk was replaced with a polyporus recycled plastic boardwalk that should last much longer. Logistics were difficult and materials had to be flown in. The entire NAH stay went over in May to work on the boardwalk. Photos of the NAH staff and materials used were included in the presentation and a video by Dan Dennison gave an overview of the project difficulty and success. 2) Nou Nou Mountain – this hiking trail was the summer YCC program project. They spent one week on Nou Nou Mountain East Trail creating water diversions, blocking off short cuts and grubbing narrow areas. Photos of the 16 YCC members and several trail sections were included in the presentation. 3) Kuku'i Trail – this hiking and

horseback riding trail was re-established by Na Ala Hele crew with a few other program personnel. Photos of the team and trail sections were included.

**Hawaii Island** - A PowerPoint presentation was made by Terrence Noda, Clement Chang and Jackson Bauer. Hawaii Island is having problems with vandalism. Photos showed vandalism on warning signs at Pololu Trail, on the kiosk info at Waiakea ATV Park, signage vandalism and moving of rocks to access private property on the Puna Trail and Hawaii Island portable toilets also were damaged. Their future objectives include trail maintenance, Pololu Trail improvements, Puna Trail vehicle restriction, Onomea Trail safety fence, improving information, signage and outreach, looking for more OHV opportunities, and assisting the program branch and division. They also reported as there are many trails on Hawaii Island their meetings can run long. They offered tips on controlling meetings that included a tracking tool that Debbie Chang put together. There is a lot of interest in ROHV activities especially in the Upper Waiakea, R1, and R10 areas and these are maintained primarily by volunteers. The bike park is also maintained by volunteers.

**Maui Island** – Torrie Nohara thanked Russell Reinertson for his great work as Council Chair, the NAH staff and John Han. A PowerPoint presentation by Russell Reinertson highlighted the Maui Island work as follows: 1) West Maui Greenway - the vision is a 25-mile multi-use trail utilizing existing cane haul roads from Ukumehame to Lipoa Point. The National Park Service, NAH Maui council member, Donna Clayton and the Maui Bicycling League held a 2-day workshop in February attended by county council members, county department heads, user groups and landowner reps. The result was a plan to begin with a Phase I section from Olowalu to Lahaina and the Public Works Dept. has asked for and received \$300,000 for the planning and design of Phase I. Portions of the full 25-mile route cross private, county and state lands and ownership and management are still being worked out; however, the Count of Maui has agreed to take on the ownership and maintenance of the greenway as sections are completed. 2) Waihee Ridge Trail photos of the erosion at higher elevations due to heavy use were shown. There are also parking problems annoying some neighbors. NAH trail crews are working to keep the trail passable while the EA is being developed. Planned work includes rehabilitating portions of the trail, installing steps and possibly a walkway in some places. A parking lot has been graded, along with shoulders on the narrow access road and an electric gate on a timer is being installed to manage access to the trailhead. 3) Polipoli/Kula Forest Reserve – In Oct/Nov Trails Unlimited (a USFS Enterprise Team) and the NAH staff worked on the heavily eroded Waiakoa Loop Trail using the Sutter 500, a new multi-function trail dozer. This work provided the staff with an opportunity to train on the Sutter 500 while doing trail repair. Maui Mountain Biking volunteers and the NAH staff are also working on the Upper Waiohuli Trail to maintain, repair and improve the multi-use trail. 4) Kahakapao Recreational Area – After the Grand Opening on June 6, 2015 this area has become the premier riding destination on Maui. Regular on-going maintenance has been contracted to the experienced local trail builders with Flow Farm Pacific. They are doing excellent work. The Maui Mountain Biking Coalition and NAH staff plus other volunteers provide additional maintenance support. The ride tomorrow is in this area. 5) Waia'ilio Trail – DOFAW is moving

forward with plans to create a Game Management Area for archery hunting in the remote area of Kanaio. A review of the historic Alexander Maps of 1885 indicates 4 trails running mauka-makai. The council is trying to locate these trails on the ground and work to reopen these historic trails.

**Lanai Island** – Bob Hera kept Lanai council going for many years. Alan Calhoun stepped up to keep the council going and even got his wife to join the council. One of their council members, Mike Donoho, Pulama Lana’I VP of Natural Resources, is an employee with the large landowner on Lanai, Larry Ellison, and this is an important connection for the council. Alan reported on their trails as follows: 1) Kanepu’u Interpretive Trail – Two volunteer groups visited during the month of April - 9 members of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club from Oahu worked April 2 and 3 (ages from 55 to 78) and did a superior job, and instructors from the Hunter Safety Education Program participated in the work to hunt program from April 13 to 17. They usually participate twice a year. 2) Polihua Self-Guided Trail – they continue to monitor the condition of the trail weekly for animal entry, irrigation needs, and interpretive signage condition. Now that the Four Seasons Resort at Manele has reopened, they are experiencing increased traffic on the trail. 3) Sugar Cane/Punawai Trail - they are exploring the possibility of obtaining an abstract for this early sugar plantation irrigation works trail. 4) Trail Inventory – they are in the process of reviewing the island trail inventory with Pulama Lanai’i and knowledgeable members of the community for possible corrections, additions, deletions and the relationship to public access. 5) Alan reported that Lanai received a new Morbark Beever M8D wood chipper and the group has worked hard to locate native trees and remove the Christmas Berry from around them on the Kanepu’u Interpretive Trail. They look forward to adding wood chips to the Polihua Self-Guided Trail as an aesthetic walking guide for visitors.

**Molokai Island** – James K. Espaniola serves as the Molokai contact. The council is inactive at the moment but interest is growing. All of Molokai’s NAH trails are road trails taken care of by DOFAW staff.

**Oahu Island** – David Nash and Kyle Parsons presented a PowerPoint on the following: 1) 4.25 miles Ohana Trail completed around the base of Olomana Peaks by OmtbO. 2) HURT celebrated 24 years of running races on Oahu. 3) Oahu added a 4 wheel drive member to the council. There is very limited property on Oahu for OHV users. 4) Facebook page is great for updates and reporting. 5) New fencing on the helicopter landing zone at the Kahuku Motorcross track was completed. 6) A new north shore development will maintain public access to the existing trail and is working with NAH/NARs to grant a public access easement. 7) New bathrooms and tree removal completed at Manoa Falls Trail. \$40,000 to \$50,000 was spent on tree removal alone. 8) Oahu’s challenge is parking, parking, parking. 9) Local politicians bending to NIMBYs endangers access. 10) Homeowner doing damage to trails resulted in closed trails at Makiki. The council would like to see legislation to stop homeowners’ damaging trails. 11) The Old Pali Hwy. rockfall led to closure discussions but they are trying to find a way to safely reopen the trail. 12) Ongoing development on the Ewa Plain is a threat to old alaloe. 13) The council also struggles with signage damage and removal.

Their special focus projects are the old government road Waimanalo to Pali, Old Pali Highway closure due to rockfall, creating a local professional trail builder resource (OR and TN conferences) OmtbO and NAH, and completing the loop around Olomana Peaks to make a full 10-mile trail. Photos of various events and trails were included plus an old photo of the Old Pali Road in the early 1900s. Going forward Oahu Council would like to discuss the idea of bringing the Hawaii Tourism Association into the trail conversations and perhaps create a trail day for politicians once a year to encourage their understanding and importance of trails and funding. They believe Tort reform to relieve the state of liability is needed, would like to add a roundtable portion to this meeting and build connectivity between islands' advisory council members.

#### Historic and Ancient Trail Program Report:

Moana Rowland gave an overview of her path to her position as State NAH Abstractor beginning with her degree in Hawaiian language which led to translating title reports, then on to work with a title company and then NAH. She reminded the group that the 1893 Highways Act, proclaimed by Queen Liliokulani, states roads belong to government. Her research work is driven by staff and council member requests. She presented a PowerPoint on the other duties of the NAH Abstractor including: provide assistance to all DOFAW programs to locate legal documents and maps for access, provide comments to County subdivision reviews, work with state attorneys to determine if state may claim an interest in historic and ancient trail features or public access within lands that are the subject of Quiet Title Actions or other civil proceedings, and provide out-reach education of Highways Act of 1892. Photos on sites she has researched were included in the PowerPoint. Moana would like to move her position to professional from clerical, add staff and digitize records.

#### Federal Recreation Trail Program Report – FHWA Representative:

In Liz Fischer's absence, Aaron Lowe reminded the group that the 1 cent at the pump for OHV use adds up and could be used for some of the upcoming projects mentioned today. The FAST Act signed into law December 2016 replaced the Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") and this funding can be used for the Recreational Trails Program ("RTP"). Aaron presented a PowerPoint on the use of RTP Educational funds and STBG funds for trails education under the RTP funding requirements. He also recommended connecting with the Department of Health and Department of Transportation for DLNR lands for funding assistance.

#### DOFAW Administration Report – Acting Program Manager Aaron Lowe:

Aaron gave an overview of his path to his current position as Acting Program Manager including his 20 years as an Oahu Trails Specialist. He is a huge outdoor advocate from his teen years to present and has a degree in Forestry Conservation from the University of Hawaii plus has toured trails around the world. He noted the increase in trail use is amazing but at what point do we need to deal with capacity issues.

DOFAW has been without a full time administrator and work has been handled between Scott Fretz on Maui and Sherry Mann on Kauai. David Smith has now been selected as the new administrator and the new branch manager on Oahu will be Marigold Zoll.

Budget: The same budget of approximately \$1 million statewide is anticipated for 2017 as for 2016 with \$250,000 allocated per island (Maui, Molokai and Lanai count as one island). Use of budget funds requires a lot of time to watch matching fund requirements, deadlines, reporting, etc. Aaron is looking for trends to perhaps ask for higher allocation and ways to spend funds in a timelier manner. Money unspent since 2014 does rollover and new equipment has been purchased. He recognized Torrie Nohara for ability to spend money! He stated that using CIP funding on Kauai for the boardwalk and on Maui for the planning and design of the West Maui Greenway Phase I is a good sign. There is a need to fund more OHV activities and if new locations for OHV use can be found, there may be a way to encumber funds. If there is no activity on an island, their \$250,000 or portion thereof can be relinquished to another island which has a need.

Acting Program Manager Aaron Lowe called for a lunch break at noon and the meeting was called back to order after all were served to continue discussions during lunch.

New Web Site: The new web site has replaced the old one using RTP and other funds. While the cost was \$80,000, \$40,000 of that amount was paid for through on-line permitting. The goal was to integrate new technology and updating is possible and NAH is in control of the site. It works on all devices and is readable on all devices. The GPS function allows users to find trail heads easily, a big help for NAH. You can search the site by island and by activity. Aaron would appreciate suggestions and good quality photography so the staff can update the site.

Staffing: Aaron presented a PowerPoint slide showing staffing proposed years ago and projected needs. We still need more staffing to meet the goals.

Expanding OHV and Access: A PowerPoint slide of the Draft Opportunity Statement for National Designation of a North Oahu Coastal Trail Recreation Area prepared for Senator Brian Schatz was shown. The presentation ended with two photos from years ago showing CCC workers building a trail from scratch and an old horseback group.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date was proposed for June 2017 with an exact date to be determined closer to the meeting. Torrie Nohara proposed moving the meeting to July as staff is busy in June each year wrapping up paperwork for the year. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chair Reinertson at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Donna Clayton  
Maui Council Secretary  
June 10, 2016