

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

In Person Meeting
Waikōloa Dry Forest Preserve
Quarry Rd. Waikōloa, HI
January 14, 2025

Present: Kalena Blakemore (Chair), Natalie Kurashima (Chair-Elect), Kirk Derasin, Timothy Flynn, Jennifer Grimm (Ex-Officio), Jordan Jokiel (present by phone for items 1-3.4, then left meeting), Adam Laeha, Cheri Mardon, Bart Potter, Aileen Yeh, and Malia West.

Staff: Tanya Rubenstein, Brittany Lawton, Skye Haraga, Katie Friday (U.S. Forest Service)

Guests: Jen Lawson & Rob Yagi (Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative), Aliza Gebin (Pāpā Forest Project), Parker Powell (Hi'ipaka, LLC), Toni Bissen (Pū'ā Foundation), Irene Sprecher (Forest Solutions, Inc), Sara Tekula (Kula Community Watershed Alliance), and Joe Imhoff (Kula Community Watershed Alliance/Skyline Conservation Initiative).

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM.

Motion to move agenda items 3.4 and 3.5 before item 3.1. Moved by Member Flynn; seconded by Member West.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Jokiel, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West, Yeh;
Oppose: none; Abstain: none.**

Motion passed.

2. Review and approval of August 14, 2024, meeting minutes

- The Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC) reviewed the meeting minutes from the August 14, 2024, meeting.

Motion to approve the August 14, 2024, FSAC meeting minutes. Moved by Member Flynn; seconded by Member West.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Jokiel, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West
Oppose: none; Abstain: Yeh.**

Motion passed.

3. Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Management Plans – Committee will be reviewing and voting to recommend approval of submitted management plans.

3.4 Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative (WDFI) Expansion, Waikōloa, Hawai'i

- Guest Lawson introduced Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative Expansion Management Plan.
- Member Laeha suggested identifying specific cultural organizations WDFI will engage with in the plan.

Motion to recommend for approval of the Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative Management Plan. Moved by Member West (with comments); Seconded by Member Potter.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Jokiel, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West, Yeh
Oppose: none; Abstain: none.**

Motion passed.

3.5 Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration, Waimea, O’ahu

- Guest Powell introduced Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration project and summarized the FSP Management Plan.
- Members suggested including Hawaiian Hoary Bat mitigation in the Management Plan to account for the bat pupping season (June 1 – September 20) when felling trees.
- Member Laeha noted an issue with table formatting and references in the management plan.
- Member Laeha asked about cultural objectives noted as “not achievable.” Guest Powell clarified that it is not a priority for conservation department, but recognized and aware in their work. Guest Powell also noted that Waimea Valley has a separate cultural program that manages the various cultural sites on the property. Guest Powell stated an Archaeological Plan is being developed.
- Members engaged in discussions around invasive species removal, pest and disease (i.e. Koa Wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum*), Black Twig Borer (*Xylosandrus compactus*), Rapid Ohia Death (*Ceratocystis lukuohia*, *Ceratocystis huliohia*), existing preservation plan, and volunteer participation. Members suggested collaborating with Hawaii Agricultural Resource Center for screening of koa seeds and resources for wilt resistant koa.

Motion to recommend for approval of the Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration Management Plan. Moved by Member Mardon; Seconded by Member Derasin.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West, Yeh;
Oppose: none; Abstain: none.**

Motion passed.

3.1 Pāpā Forest Project, Captain Cook, Hawai’i

- Guest Gebin introduced Pāpā Heritage Forest project and summarized the FSP Management Plan. Guest Gebin also shared about Root and Rise Hawai’i and its programming integrated in the Pāpā forest project area. They asked the committee about the ideal native plant density in this forest project area with variable ‘ōhi’a canopy cover.
- Members engaged in discussion about:
 - o Ideal native plant density. Members suggested identifying the type of system (i.e. kipuka or grid) for planting strategy, categorizing planting areas by canopy cover, planting with consideration to light gaps and species selection, and referencing the NRCS forest prescriptions for regions.

- Plant pest and disease. Members discussed about the māmaki (*Pipturus albidus*) death on property with possible causes suggested as herbicide use, root rot, twig borers, or damage to shallow roots.
- Native species to outplant. Member Flynn noted the ‘Āwikiwiki (*Cannalia galeata*) and *Hibiscus waimeae* listed in the plan are native to O‘ahu and Kaua‘i respectively. Member Flynn suggested including related species that are native to Hawai‘i Island. Members suggested the following species for consideration: naupaka kuahiwi (*Scaevola chamissoniana*, *S. gaudichaudii*, or *Scaevola kilaueae*), koai‘a (*Acacia koaia*), kāwa‘u (*Ilex anomala*), and neleau (*Rhus sandwicensis*).
- Invasive species clearing. Member Blakemore suggested cutting invasive species around the stone walls carefully and leaving in place to maintain the integrity of the walls. Removing vegetative debris during clearing may damage the rock wall structures. Member West suggested including mitigation around walls in the plan. NRCS Archaeology Review for funded NRCS project may provide information to reference.

Motion to recommend for approval of the Pāpā Forest Project Management Plan. Moved by Member Laeha; Seconded by Member West.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West, Yeh;
Oppose: none; Abstain: none.**

Motion passed.

3.2 Punahoa Heritage Forest, South Hilo, Hawai‘i

- Guest Bissen and Sprecher introduced Pū‘ā Foundation, the Punahoa Heritage Forest project, and summarized the FSP Management Plan. Guest Bissen shared that Parcel 11 is the first Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources (PONC) property approved with the County of Hawai‘i. They noted project partners include Pū‘ā Foundation, United Church of Christ, the Nature Conservancy, and Hawai‘i.
- Member West suggested the use of the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation resource (<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>) to identify federally listed Threatened and Endangered species that may be found in the TMK boundaries of any property.
- Member Laeha asked about the quantification of carbon sequestration. Guest Sprecher noted carbon sequestration is not a priority for this project but is acknowledged as an outcome of management practices. Guest Sprecher also noted an assessment could be done with the University of Hawai‘i.

Motion to recommend for approval of the Punahoa Heritage Forest Management Plan. Moved by Member Yeh; Seconded by Member Flynn.

**Approve: Blakemore, Kurashima, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Laeha, Mardon, Potter, West, Yeh;
Oppose: none; Abstain: Derasin.**

Motion passed.

3.3 Pūlehu – Chevalier, Kula, Maui

- Guests Tekula & Imhoff introduced the Pūlehu project and summarized the FSP Management Plan. They shared the importance of the project in the aftermath of the Kula wildfires.
- Members discussed erosion control on the property. Guests shared the following erosion control practices to be implemented at the project site: mulching (spread 3” thick, sourced from waddle on property), log terracing, and native species outplanting. They noted success using this mulching method on another property in the same area, despite major rain events and areas with steep slopes. Member Potter suggested silt ponding to catch runoff and soil during heavy rain events. Guest Tekula & Imhoff noted this practice would be synergistic with the existing terracing from historical use of the property to grow potatoes and the experimental plot installed post fire.
- Member Flynn asked about sharing a “How to” guide to inform other landowners of the reforestation practices and successes of this project. Guest Tekula shared that a presentation was given on the project at Coalitions & Collaboratives Conference in Colorado and that the FSP Management Plan is meant to serve as a “guide” for others.

Motion to recommend for approval of the Pūlehu Management Plan. Moved by Member Flynn; Seconded by Member Laeha.

Approve: Blakemore, Derasin, Flynn, Grimm, Mardon, Potter, Kurashima, Yeh, West, Laeha;

Oppose: none; Abstain: none.

Motion passed.

4. Announcements

4.1 Forest Stewardship Plans and Projects funding through the Inflation Reduction for landowner cost share payments for climate mitigation and/or forest resilience.

- Staff Rubenstein shared update on federal funding and plans to form a Request For Proposals review committee. Members interested in joining the committee are West, Flynn, and Mardon.

5. Forest Legacy Program and Projects Update – Committee will be provided with status updates on the following programs and ongoing projects.

5.1 FY22 Hana Highway Rainforest, Hana, Maui

- Staff Rubenstein updated the committee that the project is still ongoing, with work underway for the acquisition of Phase I.

5.2 FY23 Kaneohe Pali, Kaneohe, Oahu

- Item not discussed

5.3 FY24 Maunawili Forest, Kailua, Oahu

- Staff Rubenstein updated the committee that the project is still going and that the state is working with TPL. There is strong community support for the state to acquire the property and the funds have been acquired. TPL must renegotiate with the landowner since they did not accept the initial offer. Complications of this project come from the different appraisal values of the golf course, the different parcels for various users (community organizations and state), and examining and mapping the kuleana lots.

6. Future FSAC Meeting Discussion

- Item not discussed.

Motion to adjourn the FSAC meeting made by Member Blakemore.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.