



Kaulunani Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2026

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Le Jardin Academy

917 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Kailua, HI 96734

Attendees

Kevin Sullivan (virtually), Jermy Uowolo, Matthew Loudermilk, Noa Lincoln, Alex Connelly, Terri-Ann Koike, Kris Kokame, Matthew Bauer, Niki Kunioka-Volz, Miranda Hutten (virtually), Tamara Sherrill

Staff

Heather McMillen, Kate Wiechmann, Le'a Ka'aha'aina, Koki Atcheson, Malia Staab, Lennie Espinoza, Indrajit Gunasekara, Kanile'a Smith, Millie Almony-Leong

Apologies

Desireé Page, Danielle Frohlich, Jennifer Maydan, Kialoa Mossman, David Smith, Jesse Mikasobe Kealiinohomoku, Alisha Summers

Guests

Juliana Rhee (Le Jardin Academy) Jenny Grimm (DOFAW Forestry Program Manager), Philip Kitamura (DOFAW Forestry Program Specialist)

Agenda

9:30 am Welcome & Orientation (Le Jardin Academy)

9: 40 am Opening & Kaulunani Poem (Matt B)

9:45 am Approval of minutes

Approval of minutes [August 2025](#)

By: Matt Loudermilk

Second: Jermy Uowolo

Vote: All in favor

Approval of minutes [November 2025](#)

By: Alex Connelly

Second: Kris Kokame

Vote: All in favor

DOFAW Engagement

9:50 am Comanagement/stewardship (Heather, Alex)

- Several co-management bills this legislative session
- HB2218 being advanced to finance committee, chair needs to agree to hear it
- [KUA website](#) with live updates on these bills
- [Sign up for action alerts](#)

10:40 am Forest Service updates (Miranda)

- Congress passed Mini Bus budget bill which will support continued programming for the Forest Service
- Expressed appreciation for annual reporting and Trees at Work application, interest in seeing results.

10:50 am Financial update (Kate)

- New Federal funding award 2027/8 (with Feds for approval)
- New State FY2026 funding for additional for grants and projects (see below)

10:55 am Plans for FY26 State Funds – Discussion (Heather)

- LNR172 funding source, general funds (has to be encumbered by May, reported in July) – has become stable at \$5 mil. Per year for DOFAW
- Kaulunani \$500k for FY26, \$340k going to current grant round
- Opportunity to join council’s grant committee
- Arboriculture & chainsaw safety trainings \$99k, contract for education with Tree Solutions. Overall goal is to grow capacity & safety skills of partners, with the benefit of protecting trees through proper care.

Spotlight on Schools

10:55 am Shade Trees for Schools Project Update (Malia & Lennie)

11:00 am Le Jardin Tour (students)

12:30 pm Lunch & Individual Updates

State-wide efforts

1:30 pm Legislation of Interest (Heather & Lennie)

Role of Council

- Kaulunani submits testimony on relevant bills on behalf of DOFAW.
- Offer, opportunity and request for council to submit testimony (supported by Kaulunani staff).
- Kaulunani staff cannot submit on behalf of council. Chair could submit on behalf of entire council or individual members. Need to set a mechanism for determining council members support and submittal.

1:45 pm [Green Fee](#) (Heather)

- [Care for ‘Āina Now](#) associated advocacy group

1:55 pm [Forest Action Plan](#) Planning Updates (Heather, Philip)

2:00 pm Trainings of Interest (Heather)

- “Staff training that would allow them to be better communicators / meeting facilitators”

- Ideas include: Trauma informed care, PEWA framework, one day hālau ‘ōhi‘a stewardship, communications in general (how to use op-eds, photography, leg. Engagement to change behavior)

2:10 pm Strengthening urban tree management
Coalescing of projects (Heather)

Program updates

2:25 pm Partners Conference, Nevada (Le‘a, Malia, Terri)

Tools:

ADF [Tree Care Ordinance Assistant](#)

Morton Arb. [How to Write an RFP for UCF Projects](#)

2:30 pm Community Partner Updates (Kate, Koki)

2:40 pm Responding to & Avoiding Misaligned projects (Heather)

- Tabled for a future meeting
- If projects are repeat applicants, encourage photo upload of status of previous project
- Revisit landowner permission requirements?
- Learn from Peer Certification from Ag community?

2:55 pm Maui Community Forestry Fire Recovery (Heather & Tamara)

- Hired staff members who are starting to implement projects, heavy metals in soil contamination project moving forward. Data and DBH on all trees that were removed.
- Working through dataset connection, how to make the process equitable

3:00 pm Community Coconut Updates (Indrajit, Kanile‘a)

Kapuawailana Uluniu planting (Waihe‘e, Maui)

3:10 pm Community Forestry in the News

- [Civil Beat “Community Voice”](#) - Loudermilk, Menina, Tagore)
- Civil Beat - [CRB Kaula‘i Golf Course](#)

- Future opportunities

3:20 pm Year of Our Community Forests Recap (Koki & Le‘a)

[Community Forest Festival](#) 11/16/25

3:30 pm Pau