

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

Division of Forestry and Wildlife
19 East Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

November 14, 2025

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Subject: Early Consultation Request for Preparation of a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) regarding the Koai'a Corridor Trail System Plan – South Kohala, Island of Hawai'i Tax Map Key (3) 6-2-001:093

Dear Participant,

The Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program (NAH) in Hilo, Hawai'i is proposing the construction of a new trail system within the Koai'a Corridor on Hawai'i Island. NAH serves under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) within The State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). NAH is preparing to develop a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Koai'a Corridor Trail System Plan, in compliance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 343, and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-200. The preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) is required due to the proposed action involving the use of state lands or funds.

In accordance with HAR, Chapter 11-200. 1-18, NAH is seeking early consultation from agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be able to provide valuable insight to guide the DEA. We are requesting comments no later than **December 31, 2025** to be sent by mail or email:

Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access
Attn: Alexis Campa
19 E. Kawili St.
Hilo, Hawaii
Email: naalahahele.hawaii@hawaii.gov

If there is no response submitted by December 31, 2025, we will proceed without your comment. For further questions, please contact Alexis Campa at naalahahele.hawaii@hawaii.gov or at (808) 974-4221.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackson Bauer".

Jackson Bauer,
Hawai'i Island Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program Manager

Project Name	Koai‘a Corridor Trail System Plan
Proposing and Determining Agency	Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, State of Hawai‘i 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access, Hawai‘i Island Manager: Jackson Bauer E-mail: jackson.m.bauer@hawaii.gov Phone: (808) 657-3894
HRS, Chapter 343 Trigger	Use of state or county lands and funds
Project Location	Pu‘u Kawaiwai, South Kohala, Hawai‘i
Tax Map Key	Koai‘a Sanctuary Corridor: TMK (3) 6-2-001:093
Project Area	Approximately 317 acres
State Land Use	Agricultural
County Zoning	A-40a, Agricultural District
Property Owners	Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, State of Hawai‘i 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Overview of Proposed Project

The Koai‘a Corridor Trail System Plan will propose the construction of a trail system within the state-owned Koai‘a Corridor parcel; TMK (3) 6-2-001:093. There are currently only two Nā Ala Hele Program trails in Kohala (Pololū and Ala Kahakai); the addition of this trail system would expand recreational opportunities in an area where there are few.

There is an existing trail system within the neighboring Koai‘a Tree Sanctuary parcel, this is trajected to become an official NAH Program trail in the year 2026. The current corridor road is the only legal public access point to the Pu‘u o ‘Umi Natural Area Reserve and is utilized frequently by hikers. This plan aims to build on the existing resources by creating a safer, sustainable, and more enjoyable experience for users.

The Koai‘a Corridor Trail System Plan is intended to result in the following actions:

- Hawai‘i Island’s first trail system to be constructed with “sustainable trail building” techniques.
- Increased connectivity between the Koai‘a Tree Sanctuary and Koai‘a Corridor.
- Multi-modal opportunities for a variety of user groups.
- Broadened volunteer, outreach, and education opportunities.
- Enhanced accessibility for reforestation outplanting, research, and monitoring efforts.
- Increased public education and awareness through interpretive signage.
- Protection of cultural resources throughout the corridor.
- Facilitated rehabilitation of corridor area.
- Long-term preservation of natural resources.
- Overall enhancement of existing ecosystem.