



O‘ahu Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Advisory Council Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

TIME: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

PLACE: O‘ahu Division of Forestry and Wildlife Makiki Branch Office Conference Room. 2135 Makiki Heights Dr. Honolulu, HI 96822 and via Zoom

Members:

PRESENT: Todd Cullison (Council Vice-Chair, Education/Hawaii Nature Center), Terry Galpin (OHV/Motocross), Ken Suzuki (Hiking/Hawaii Trail and Mountain), Dave Fahrenwald (Equestrian), Sean Goo (Off-Road 4x4 Vehicles), Yuko Barretto (Mountain Biking /HBL), Roy Kainoa (Pig Hunting/OahuPHA),

Ex-Officio Members and Additional Guests: Aaron Lowe (Oahu Trails & Access Specialist), Aziz Agis (NAH Outreach and Education Associate) Theresa Dean (PBR Hawai‘i), Curtis Mottoyama

II. Call to Order, Introductions, and Announcements: 4:08 p.m.

Meeting came to order at 4:08 p.m. Introductions were conducted.

III. Acceptance of Minutes: 4:10 p.m.

March Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. New Business: 4:12 p.m.

1. Stakeholder Engagement & Public Meeting

- Staff provided updates on outreach to trail user groups, including accessibility-focused, OHV, and mountain biking communities.
- Small-group scheduling has been difficult; feedback via written and verbal input is encouraged.
- Announcement: A virtual public open house is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 5:00–6:30 p.m. for early feedback on the Nā Ala Hele Program Plan.
- Council members are invited to lead breakout groups by island.
- Theresa emphasized this is an early engagement; a draft plan will be reviewed at a later date.
- DOFAW and other program staff have been invited to provide input.

2. Nā Ala Hele Program Plan Development

- The current plan (last updated in 1991) is being revised.
- Theresa: The updated plan will address ADA compliance, inclusivity, mobility, and climate change impacts. An outline exists; a draft is forthcoming.
- Debbie Chang is assisting with structuring the plan.
- Aaron: PBR Hawai‘i is contracted to prepare the draft, expected later this year or early next.
- Terry asked if this meeting was the first opportunity for public input—Theresa confirmed.



3. Commercial Mountain Biking (Kealia and Maunawili Trails)

- Kealia and Maunawili are the only trails listed for commercial biking under the 2010 policy.
- Staff recommend denying Kealia permit requests due to safety concerns and overgrowth.
- Maunawili may be viable if maintained.
- Parking enforcement at the Pali Hairpin Turn Trailhead (2-hour limit) is under DOT jurisdiction.
 - Aaron and Todd support requesting a time extension or lot expansion.
- Council discussion included:
 - Impacts on the community and environment
 - Potential conflicts with equestrian and hiker use
 - Permit revenue potential (\$7/bike, \$5/person; may double)
 - Enforcement issues with unauthorized operators
 - Support for requiring sustainability certification for commercial operators
- Recommendation: Invite the current applicant to present a business and operations plan for Maunawili Trail use.

4. Trail Maintenance and Volunteer Updates

- Staff:
 - Signage and vegetation cleared at Kulana‘ahane, Hau‘ula Loop, Kaunala, and Maunawili Ditch
 - Ongoing signage improvements and little fire ant mitigation
 - Appreciation extended to HURT and volunteer groups
 - Recruitment of new trail stewards underway
- Terry (OHV): Focused on water diversions and erosion control; requested signage; successful Easter event reported
- Dave (Equestrian): Reported gas-powered bikes on Maunawili Ditch Trail; youth group complied when addressed
 - Aaron suggested using weed wrenches and contacting DOCARE if issues persist
- Sean Goo (4WD): Reported trenching on Kuaokala access road; Aaron noted equipment is currently deployed at Poamoho
- Todd (Education): Shared that Hawai‘i Nature Center summer camp enrollment is low; requested help spreading the word

V. Trail and Access Specialist Staff Report –

4:26 p.m.

- Aaron clarified that commercial trail use requires insurance, a reservation system, and an annual permit.
- Suggested implementing a one-year trial to assess commercial viability.
- Permit fees: \$5/person, \$7/bike; annual permit: \$100 (increase expected)
- Aaron will provide the applicant with expectations for presenting a trail operations plan.

VI. Trail User Group Representatives Reports –

4:56 p.m.

- Roy Kainoa (Pig Hunting): No report
- Ken Suzuki (Hiking): Asked about Pali Lookout parking limits; Aaron confirmed DOT jurisdiction



- Yuko Barreto (Mountain Biking): Working on jump ramps at Pupukea; supported community input on commercial biking
- Terry Galpin (OHV): Shared trail maintenance and Easter race event updates
- Dave Fahrenwald (Equestrian): Concerns about weed growth and motorbike use on equestrian trails
- Todd Cullison (Education): Promoted Hawai'i Nature Center youth camps
- Sean Goo (4WD): Shared road condition concerns at Kuaokala

VII. Other Business –

5:30 p.m.

Next council meeting scheduled for July 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment –

5:35 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

— **Respectfully submitted,**
Aziz Agis