



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

DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 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: Skye Razon-Olds (Council Chair, Rock Climbing/Cultural Practitioner), Todd Cullison (Council Vice-Chair, Education/Hawaii Nature Center), Terry Galpin (OHV/Motocross), Dave Fahrenwald (Equestrian), Sean Goo (Off-Road 4x4 Vehicles), Yuko Barretto (Mountain Biking /HBL), Roy Kainoa (Pig Hunting/OahuPHA), Marian Yasuda (Trail Running/HURT)

Ex-Officio Members and Additional Guests: Aaron Lowe (Oahu Trails & Access Specialist), Michelle DiMeglio (Trail Specialist)

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Announcements: **4:02 p.m.**

Meeting came to order at 4:02 p.m. Introductions were conducted. Michelle DiMeglio introduced herself and provided a description of her background and experience with trail work and program management. Michelle will be filling gaps after Aaron's retirement at the end of the year.

II. Acceptance of Minutes: **4:10 p.m.**

August minutes were approved unanimously.

III. New Business: **4:12 p.m.**

1. Helemano Working Group

- Collaborative discussions are ongoing with cultural practitioners to define acceptable recreational activities and their limits within the Helemano area.
- Efforts are being made to engage various recreational groups, including mountain biking and Frisbee golf communities, to ensure diverse representation in the management plan.
- The council is exploring potential funding sources and management strategies to support sustainable access while respecting cultural sensitivities.

2. Honouliuli Contract and Access Update

- Permit system negotiations are focused on establishing a framework for public access to the Honouliuli Trail.
- The ongoing discussions aim to balance trail access with necessary maintenance and conservation efforts.
- Community engagement is essential to ensure that local stakeholders support the trail's reopening and ongoing management.

3. HMA Lease Update

- Terry Galpin has had productive and positive interactions with the Military. Discussions continue without any changes.



4. Na Ala Hele Rules Rewrite

- The absence of a dedicated program manager has hindered the progress of rule updates, as this role is crucial for overseeing and facilitating the necessary changes.
- Efforts to hire a new program manager are currently underway, which is expected to help expedite the rule revision process once filled.

5. HTA Trail Advertisement

- As a result of HTA's promotional campaign that the Council views as irresponsible, Skye will draft a letter from the Advisory Council suggesting that HTA reconsider its advertisement of unsafe and unauthorized use of State-managed assets. In order for the letter to be sent in a timely way, it will be circulated to the Council members electronically before it is next meeting. The item will be on the December agenda for further discussion.

IV. Trail and Access Specialist Staff Report

4:34 p.m.

Staffing Updates

- Aaron announced that the Forestry Worker 2 position will be interviewed soon.
- Two Kupu 12-month full-time positions should be filled soon.

Program Projects and Ongoing Operations

- Kamananui Valley major clearing operation currently underway with heavy equipment
 - a. The management plan is out for public review with a pending separate plan for Middle Ridge and Haiku Stairs
 - b. Leadership's decision to separate the Middle Ridge management reflects the complexity of issues surrounding Haiku Stairs.
- Manoa Cliff Trail major closure due to significant rockslide event
 - a. This landslide affects a historically important race route, impacting community events.
 - b. Engineering will evaluate risks of further rockfalls and trail stability to determine next steps.
- Public Access Development & Challenges
 - a. Kaiwi Ridge Trail easements are finalized after years of negotiations, enabling trail development to proceed.
 - b. Honolulu access negotiations progressing with Kunia Farms for permit system implementation
 - c. Poamoho road and trail maintenance efforts include heavy equipment clearing contracts and watershed improvements, resulting in significantly better conditions on Pōamoho Road and other key access routes.
 - d. Peacock Flats Trail may be added to the commercial tour-acceptable list, allowing one operator legal access to extended sections including the lookout area. This requires a board submittal, previously vetted by the council, to formalize commercial use and associated fees. Staff will prioritize preparing and submitting this to the board to expand regulated commercial trail access
 - e. Adding Pauoa Flats Trail to the commercial trails list needs Board approval.
- Chair Razon-Olds requested that the Council members to receive the management plans for Kamananui and Kaiwa Ridge.



V. Trail User Group Bi-Monthly Reports

5:08 p.m.

- Sky Razon-Olds (Rock Climbing/Cultural Practitioner): Requested information about status of Maunawili Falls review by SHPD. AIS of the entire valley is discouraged.
- Roy Kainoa (Pig Hunters Assoc.): Pig eradication continues. Removed over 75 pigs from Valley of the Temples. Will be helping communities in Pearl City and the east side of Oahu.
- Ken Suzuki (HTMC/Hikers): Provided a written report stating trail work accomplishments.
- Yuko Baretto (Mountain Biking/HBL): The Ohana Trail Project aims to establish a mountain biking trail that encourages community involvement and support. Outreach efforts will focus on engaging local mountain biking groups to gather input and foster collaboration in the planning process. The project seeks to create a sustainable trail that balances recreational use with environmental stewardship.
- Terry Galpin (OHV): Not much new happening – they were unable to operate for half of September and will shut down in November. Requested a thorough hand-down of information to Michelle regarding their operation and pending MOA before Aaron’s retirement.
- Dave Fahrenwald (Equestrian): Announced his relocation and that the next meeting will be his last. Identifying a replacement is underway.
- Marian Yasuda (Trail Runners): HURT performed maintenance on Kuaokala trail in advance of the upcoming race. HURT strongly supports advancement of Manoa Cliff rockslide assessment.
- Sean Goo (4WD): All quiet (and dry) - truck is being repaired so nothing to report.
- Todd Cullison (Education): Hawaii Nature Center: HNC and HURT held a successful keiki run on the trails of Tantalus in September. HNC is experiencing a decline in the number of keiki in their programs.

VI. Other Business

5:19 p.m.

Next council meeting scheduled for December 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in person with a farewell potluck to follow at HNC.

VII. Adjournment

5:20 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

— **Respectfully submitted,**

Marian Yasuda