



# **NĀ ALA HELE**

Hawai'i Trail & Access System

## **Nā Ala Hele Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes**

**Approved: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Revised: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**MEETING DATE: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**PLACE: Hilo DOFAW Office**

<b>Voting Members Present:</b>	<b>Deborah Chang, Riley Smith, Roger “Maha” Kanealii Jr., Michael Varney, Jeff Yamauchi, Terrence Noda, David Rietow.</b>
<b>Voting Members Absent Excused:</b>	<b>Dennis Vierra, Kawehi Ryder.</b>
<b>Voting Members Absent Unexcused:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Invited Guest:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Public:</b>	<b>Tony Ferreira, Allan Medford.</b>
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	<b>Clement Chang &amp; Jackson Bauer of Nā Ala Hele, Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai NHT.</b>

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Meeting called to order by Riley at 6:00 PM
  - B. Printed material distribution; State PowerPoint presentation.
- II. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES OF February 2, 2017
  - Debbie pointed out a spelling error on page 4, #8, it should be Toni, (not Tony)
  - Mike and Jeff moved to approve meeting minutes.
  - Minutes approved with correction.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None given.
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Kaulana Manu Native Bird and Plant Sanctuary (use/concerns/etc. Prior to opening)
    1. Jackson Bauer reported.
      - a. Continue to design interpretive signs.
      - b. Went with crew to clear fallen trees and brush the trail.
      - c. Still looking for a vendor to perform standing, high-risk tree trimming.
      - d. Waiting on the county for permit approval.
    2. Questions

- a. Jeff wanted to know if there is ROD? Clem responded that there is suspected ROD. When the trees are cut they will be handled as high risk and samples will be sent out for evaluation.
- b. Mike wanted to know what the requirements were for a high-risk tree trimmer. Both Jackson and Clem shared in the response. The state has a defined set of requirement for all vendors, insurance being one of them. There is also a cost threshold where if a proposal comes in at or above the cost threshold, then multiple proposals are required (3).
- c. Riley wanted to know when this project would start. Jackson responded that it's waiting on the county to approve the permitting.
- d. Riley pointed out that a delayed project start would probably have added costs if the awarded bid is several years old.

B. Update: Statewide Advisory Council Meeting.

- 1. Terrence attended the meeting with Jackson on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. The minutes of the meeting and powerpoint presentation was distributed.
  - a. The meeting was focused around the RTP program.
  - b. There was a presentation on the status of funds.
  - c. We had the opportunity ask questions of Liz Fischer who is the RTP funds administrator for the HDOT. Discussed requirements and compliance.
- 2. Jackson commented that it was a really good meeting and that all the Council members were actively asking questions.
- 3. Public attendee Alan Medford gave a brief history on the RTP program.

C. Update: Pololū meetings concerning lookout/trailhead improvements.

- 1. Debbie – There was an onsite meeting at Pololū on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In attendance some 40 from the community including Clem, Jackson, Steve Bergfeld, Dave Smith, and Cindy Evans were there.
  - a. We walked the trail down to the beach so that people could see the condition of the trail.
  - b. Lunch was served at one of the houses close to the lookout.
  - c. The rest of the meeting was held back at the Hisaoka gym.
  - d. Community concerns expressed
    - i. Overcrowding of the parking area
    - ii. Signage
    - iii. Lack of toilet facilities
    - iv. How to make improvements without over enlarging the area and attracting even more people (conflicting goals).
  - e. Dave Smith said that DOFAW would look into the engineering options.
- 2. Jackson - Since the April meeting Cindy Evans has asked for DLNR support.
  - a. In May, Dean Aoki who is the DLNR accessibility coordinator flew over and we went out to look at the site.
  - b. August 7<sup>th</sup> Dave Smith arranged for DLNR engineering to review the site. Steve Bergfeld came for that too. The first step is the suggestion is to hire a consultant to draw up a plan. The cost for such plan would need to be estimated and submitted for budget/approval. At a minimum, the site would need one ADA stall and one ADA portable toilet. The accessible area needs to be

relatively “flat”. Currently the flattest section has an 11% grade. Additionally, the area of land that is owned by DLNR is too small.

- c. One positive note that came out of the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was that a representative of Surety Kohala Corp was there and hinted that they may be willing to donate some land on the Mauka side of the road. This location is about 2 acres and 200 yards up the road. The land is zoned Ag-20. County Parks seems to be the initial preference to receive the donation of land. It is unclear whether the Kim administration would accept this land for operations/maintenance.
  3. Mike mentioned other projects he’s worked on that included public/private cooperation in order to keep costs down.
  4. Debbie pointed out that the size of the lot is too small to subdivide under the current zoning. Riley responded to Debbie that exemptions can be granted for municipal/public needs (waiver on compliance with underlying zoning requirements/lot size).
  5. Clem added that Steve Bergfeld asked the engineering department to come up with options of what we could do with existing DLNR land if the Surety offer does not come to fruition.
  6. Riley suggested that there be a log that records and organizes all efforts starting from the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to present and into the future. Additionally, it’s a good idea to reiterate phone conversations in an email to avoid miscommunications.
  7. Mike asked that if you have the ADA stall and bathrooms at the new parking area, do you need to have them at the lower lookout. Clem responded that was a question for the engineering department or consultant. He did not know.
  8. Riley added that ADA does not mean access for only wheelchair bound individuals, but access for all, regardless of disability (sight, hearing, etc.).
- D. Na Ala Hele Update by Jackson.
1. Trail maintenance with both East and West DOFAW crew and volunteers.
  2. Waimanu Valley & Muliwai Trail May 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Worked with NARS crew.
  3. Waimanu Valley & Muliwai Trail September 25<sup>th</sup> week long and the trail will be closed to the public during that period.
  4. Ainapo Trail & Cabin day trip the week before last. Re flagged and took new GPS coordinates from the trail head to the cabin, about 2-1/2 miles.
  5. Boot brush stations have been installed at every trail but Onomea and Donkey Trail. We are working with the owner, Hawai’i Tropical Botanical Gardens, because they are doing some trail improvements.
  6. Pu’u Huluhulu; we are working with DHHL who owns half the land including the trail head and parking lot. The existing toilet is a pit toilet that needs to be phased out due to non compliance with DOH regulations. Also, because we are providing a toilet we need to provide ADA parking and access. Fortunately, the parking lot is flat so we will stripe it and provide portable toilets all in accordance with ADA requirements. That work will start October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - a. The plan and layout was shared.
    - b. Debbie asked if the portable toilets were cheaper than composting toilets. Clem answered that DHHL was more accepting of the

portable toilets and since they are rented all maintenance is included. Cost of composting toilets start at around \$15,000.

- c. Terrence expressed some concerns regarding hunter check-in at bird season. Often hunters have trailers and the location of the portable toilets will make it difficult with multiple hunters checking in. Why not place the toilets elsewhere? Jackson replied that ADA requires no more than 2% grade and the location chosen meets the requirement. Will double check if there are other options.
  - d. Riley suggested that Terrence email Jackson with a list of his concerns.
7. Puna Trail is looking good but there has been an increase of people driving on the old trail to access Paki Point. Working with Shipman Estate to mitigate the issue. We have also put up new signs.
  8. Pololū Trail, BIISC is doing a new round of surveys on how people are using the boot brush station. Also experimenting with different signs. The data they collect will also tell us how many people are using the trail.
  9. Hawai'i Birding Trail web site just went live.  
<http://Hawai'ibirdingtrails.Hawai'i.gov/>. Terrence gave a description of what birders do.
  10. Pu'u wa'awa`a, Clem, Jackson, Moana, and others from DOFAW went out to see old trails with uncle Micky Kato who is retiring. He first worked on the ranch and then for DOFAW. We drove around absorbing as much of his knowledge as possible. Lots of trails but the two we most looked at was the Kapalaoa-Pikohene trail and the Alanui Ku'i Trail.
  11. Kuamo'o Battle Field, on October 5<sup>th</sup> Moana is coming over and we are going to look at the section of the Ala Kahakai Trail leading up to the battle field.
  12. Mauna Kea Access R1, we replaced the large sign that clarifies information on permits.
  13. Waiakea ATV Park, Terrence is continuing to clear the trails to complete the ROHVA trail. The trails are for vehicles over 40 inches wide. Once that is done, Jackson can GPS it and update the web site.
  14. Hokuli'a, Clem went to their resident council meeting. The shoreline park will be done in two sections. The first being the makai section that includes the parking lot amenities. It should be open by March of 2018.
    - a. Rick asked if they ever got SHPD approval for their new preservation plan or did they follow through with the old preservation plan? Clem commented that he did not know answer in full but that they were working on breaching sections of the trail that were less sensitive, less historic value. He also commented that a year ago when they were excavating sections of the trail, they would dig as much as 6 ft. down to reach the original trail.
    - b. Debbie asked what trail this was? Clem responded that it was the Old Government Road.
    - c. Debbie asked if the parking lot is open to the public? Clem responded that the old access is still being used while the new lot is being constructed.
    - d. Riley asked who from Hokuli'a attends these meetings? Clem responded that Mike Vitousek and Kaleo Kuali'I attend.

15. We have a Tech IV level position open within Na Ala Hele. Interested applicants can find more information online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hawaiiHawaii> and search "technician IV".
  16. Na Ala Hele core staff meeting was June 26 2017. It's held once a year with all the staff to go over budgets and goals. Aaron Lowe announced that he had stepped down as the acting state-wide administrator. A permanent position has been opened and Moana is filling in as acting administrator.
  17. Outreach Booth
    - a. Ohi`a Love Festival August 27 2017 at the `Imiloa Astronomy Center. The event focused on ROD.
    - b. Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> at Keauhou.
    - c. Run for Dryland Forest 11<sup>th</sup> annual at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>.
  18. Steve has asked for our participation in putting together a paper map of the Hawai'i Island showing all the trails.
  19. CIP Requests, a list of some we put in for the coming year.
    - a. Pololū parking lot project aforementioned in this meeting.
    - b. Kaulana Manu Native Bird and Plant Sanctuary
    - c. Puakea Bay trail. Rick mentioned that the ocean front parcel with house is up for auction.
    - d. Judd Trail for metes and bounds
    - e. Also for improvements to 13 of our trails.
  20. We are looking at collecting trailhead use data at all our trails. Rick mentioned that he had remote use counters he would be happy to share.
  21. This fiscal year 2018
    - a. Ainapo Cabin, we will replace the mattresses and do some other carpentry improvements.
    - b. Waimanu, we will replace one of the composting toilets. Currently on order.
  22. Fiscal year 2019. Kilohana hunter check station, we are looking at replacing the pit toilet with portable toilets and adding paved parking. All ADA compliant.
  23. Fiscal year 2020.
    - a. Waimanu, we plan to replace a second composting toilet.
    - b. Pu'u Huluhulu, we plan to expand the striping in the lot and ramps.
  24. Fiscal year 2019 or 2020 Terrence has an idea of running an OHV only trail from behind Kulani prison to the Mauna Loa access road.
- E. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update by Rick Gmirkin
1. 49 Black Sand, we finally got permission from SHPD to proceed with trail improvements, within the resort which is a known historic trail section. This was done with Na Ala Hele in about 3 weeks. In October we have plans for more improvements on more historic sections of the trail.
  2. Kohala Hema project. We've met with KCRA. We also met with the Mauna Kea Beach Resort. They are putting up new signage that includes the Ala Kahakai logo.
  3. Ohai'ula or Spencer Beach Park, we met with the county and will make this the gateway project to the Ala Kahakai trail.

4. Saturday September 16, we are meeting with the Puako community to hear from them on how they envision the trail going through their community.
  5. Completed field work with our contractor and documented the trail between Hapuna Beach and the Puako boat ramp. They also documented the Puako to Waimea trail on the Makai side of the highway and about 1-1/2 mile of the Kaeo trail through the Puako petroglyph field to where the pahoehoe ends.
- F. Informational/Update: Tracking Tool by Debbie. Items in red were talked about in the last meeting, items in Green are pending.
1. Item 7, Mauna Kea Moo, Clem's update is that he has the contact name and will call regarding access to a section of the Hamakua forest reserve.
  2. Item 12, Kaupakuea, Pepe'ekeo, Clem's update is that Forestry has been up there working and he will contact David Penn for further progress.
  3. Item 14, Clem's update is when Moana is out next he will set up a meeting with the KRDC representative. Sometime in October.
  4. Item 5, Hokuli'a Trails,
    - a. Debbie asked if this is a program trail. Clem confirmed that it is, but it is not opened yet.
    - b. Debbie asked if there was a management plan by NAH for the old government road from Kuamo'o to Hokuli'a? Clem's response was that it meets the criteria but it is not a program trail. There is a land owner that he is trying to get in touch with to see what the possibilities are.
  5. Item 20, Mauna Loa Observatory Road, Debbie asked if this was a program trail? Clem responded yes. He also mentioned that bicycles are allowed on the trail. Commercial bicycle activity is not.
  6. Item 23, Debbie will change the status from a non-program trail to a program trail. Mike wanted to know if prior to 2006 if the trail went all the way to Honokāne Iki. Jackson said no, it only goes to the Pololū valley floor.
  7. Item 27, Pu'u La'au Cabin, Debbie suggested changing the status of this to inactive since it had not been spoken of in a number of years. Clem suggested leaving it active for now.
  8. Item 29, Rullo in Opihihale, Debbie asked Rick if he had spoken with the Planning Dept. because Rullo's current application expires this year.
  9. Item 34, Waipi'o Valley, Debbie suggested changing the status of this to inactive since it had not been spoken of in a number of years. Clem suggested leaving it active and he will check with Tracy Tam Sing.
  10. Item 35, Waipunalei, Debbie suggested changing the status of this to inactive since it had not been spoken of in a number of years. Terrence thought that the agreement was made and access would be granted by KS. Clem said he would find out. Status will remain active.
  11. Item C, Foti Alae Subdivision, Debbie asked for an update? Rick mentioned that Foti is trying to further subdivide the Makai parcel.
- G. Council member concerns.
1. Terrence asked Clem about Pu'u Wa'awa'a. Why is it that the hunters cannot use ATV or UTV but the ranchers can? Clem said to contact him next week and he will check with Wildlife-DOFAW. It's not a program trail.



2. David reflected on the presentation we had of ROD and wondered how the county is preventing the free distribution of mulch from spreading ROD. Riley suggested contacting the Solid Waste Chief (Greg Goodale).
3. Debbie shared a letter from the state attorney general answering questions that she asked Cindy Evans who in turn asked them. It has to do with being cited for criminal trespassing where there are signs stating "no trespassing." The charge is "criminal trespass in the 2nd degree." The law covers both fenced and unfenced government owned agricultural lands. Her question was how does this law affect the public when they use either an historic trail or old government road known to be government owned in an area that is posted "no trespassing?"

H. Next Meeting

1. Thursday November 16th
2. Location Waimea at 6:00PM

I. Motion to adjourn.

1. Terrence and Jeff motioned.
2. Meeting ended at 8:03 PM.

Acronyms:

ADA	Americans with Disability Act.
BIISC	Big Island Invasive Species Committee
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
DHHL	Department of Hawai'ian Home Lands
DLNR	Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOFAW	Division of Forestry and Wildlife
HDOT	Department of Transportation (State Hawaii)
KCRA	Kohala Coast Resort Association
KRDC	Keauhou Resort Development Corp
KS	Kamehameha Schools
NAH	Na Ala Hele
NARS	Natural Area Reserve System
OGR	Old Government Road
ROHVA	Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association.
SHPD	State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division
GPS	Global Positioning Satellite

**Na Ala Hele  
Hawai'i Island Advisory Council**

**I. Public Testimony:**

- a. **Those providing testimony at our meetings are guests of our Council. They are not Council members. They are invited to provide testimony. However, they do not have the right to question us, participate in our meeting, nor dialogue as we discuss our agenda.**

- b. Shall be limited to 3 minutes, for each person.
- c. Written copies of testimony should be provided and included in the Minutes of meeting.
- d. Oral testimony must be provided in person.
- e. Testimony for a person that is not present can be turned into the Secretary for inclusion within the Minutes. It cannot be read at the meetings, as we will not have the opportunity to question the author. Electronic submittal of testimony will be allowed if provided to DOFAW 12 calendar days prior to meeting date. Otherwise, hard copies may be distributed at meeting.
- f. If testimony is being provided on behalf of an organization, it is required that the Board of Directors of the organization or a majority of the members of the organization must have voted in favor of the testimony. If this has not occurred, then it must be considered as solely the opinion of the person providing the testimony.

**II. Agendized presentations to the Council:**

- a. Time allowed for presentations is 10 minutes.
- b. It is likely that the Council will ask questions after the presentation is made. This Q&A period may continue for 10 – 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Chair of the Council.

**r5/22/13**