



**NĀ ALA HELE**  
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

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

**Approved: June 6, 2018**

**Revised: June 6, 2018**

**MEETING DATE: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**PLACE:** Waimea DOFAW Office

**Voting Members Present:**

Deborah Chang, Michael Varney, Jeff Yamauchi,  
Dennis Vierra, Terrence Noda, David B Rietow

**Voting Members Absent Excused:**

Riley Smith, Roger "Maha" Kanealii Jr., and Kawehi  
Ryder.

**Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**

(none)

**Invited Guest:**

Leslie Yim Clark of Kamehameha Schools;  
Carter Collins and Toni Withington of North Kohala  
Community Access Group. Christopher Seymour  
(NAH AC applicant)

**Public:**

Dwayne Yoshina

**Ex-Officio:**

Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai NHT;  
Clement Chang, Jackson Bauer, and Moana  
Rowland of Nā Ala Hele

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting called to order by Terrence (Vice Chair) at 6:00 pm
- II. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES OF February 15, 2018. Motion to approve the minutes by Dennis and Mike, all in favor, no objections.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY - Terrence reviewed the public testimony rules
  - a. Leslie Yim Clark is with Kamehameha Schools (previously of Kamehameha Investments Corp.) but still manages the for-profit division at Keauhou. Briefed the council on a Keauhou subdivision map pertaining to a memorandum of agreement from 2003 through to today.
    - i. Since the closure of the KIC office they are refamiliarizing themselves on the legacy obligations.
    - ii. Current focus has shifted from development to culture and education.

1. 2012 the Old Keauhou Beach Hotel was closed and is being demolished. The site will be converted for use in culture and education.
  2. Active development attempts (master plan) in the region are currently on hold, not a priority.
- iii. Met with NAH back on March 15<sup>th</sup> of this year to walk the area trails. Talked about the current conditions. Mostly minor issues with residential landscape and a cattle fence that encroach on the trail.
  - iv. Reviewed the MOA trail map and areas where the trail was realigned during development.
  - v. Invite comments and suggestions from the council as incremental improvements are made and the trail is reconnected with Ali'i Drive. Send emails to Jackson who will forward them on.
  - vi. Q&A
    1. Q) Who will be tasked with notifying home owner, rancher, and how quickly? A) KIC will notify all parties as soon as possible.
    2. Q) What is the closest street for public access? A) Kāluna Street
    3. Q) Does the state own the trail through the Golf Course? A) Not known at this time regarding exemption to the deed for the Mauka Golf Course and leading down to the sea.
    4. Q) Is the trail Makai of Ali'i Drive still in existence? A) Not known at this time.
    5. Q) During your site visit did you go up to the old Kona Sugar rail alignment and what is the condition of it? A) Did not get up there. It is overgrown.
    6. Q) Is the portion of the trail that was relocated accessible to the public? A) Yes.  
The portion along Kāluna Street starting at Ali'i Drive is open. It ends at the locked gate which is located before you reach the relocated trail. It is envisioned to be opened as part of incremental improvements.
    7. C) Would like to see, within this down time of development, all the trails and historical sites identified so that when development picks up again we can preserve them.
  - vii. Further comments and requests should be submitted through Clem or Jackson with NAH.
- b. North Kohala Community Access Group update by Toni
    - i. Pololū Valley Trail. We have been tracking funding request by NAH and DOT for improvements to the lookout and trail. In addition, we have reached out to our local representatives, Cindy Evans and Lorraine Inouye. Both issues are in the conference committees right now. DOT request in the amount of \$500,000 for planning and purchase of additional parking area.

- ii. Puakea Ranch Trail. The house on the cliff was recently purchased in foreclosure. We have been in touch with the owner's representative and will be meeting with the new owner soon. They seem willing to help fix the trail situation.
- iii. Hono`ipu Landing Parcel. The 17.5-acre parcel just North of Puakea Bay was recently sold by Parker Ranch. It includes the road leading to the Puakea Bay trail head. We have nominated this parcel to the county open space commission to be put on the priority list this year. Met with the new owners. They are undecided of what they want to do with the land.
- iv. Kaupalaoa (Coastal land between Keawenui and Kaiholena). It is about 63-acres. We have also nominated this land to the county open space commission to be put on the priority list this year. It has been mentioned that there is an ancient trail along the ahupua'a border. It is not clear whether it is on the parcel or not.
- v. NAH AC Comments & Questions:
  - 1. Q) Clarification on the location of Kaupalaoa? A) It is North of Keawanui and South of Mahukona.
  - 2. C) The historic trail at Kaupalaoa is believed to be on the private parcel (Rick).

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Nā Ala Hele Update by Jackson
  - i. Kaulana Manu – We met with an additional tree removal specialist on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for their quote before selecting the winning bid. Regarding any construction issue we are still waiting on DLNR engineering.
  - ii. Mauna Kea Access RD (R1) – We have met with UH-Mauna Kea Management both on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the impact that visitor parking, overflow, and traffic direction is having on the hunters parking for vehicles with trailers on the R1 road. There will be new signs going up to discourage people from parking on R1 when all overflow parking has been exhausted. NAH only has jurisdiction over R1. Visitors parking and the side road are part of Mauna Kea Management.
  - iii. Ala KahaKai Trail – We have been replacing older signage that includes the National Ala Kahakai logo. Installed "NO VEHICLE ACCESS" signs between Puako boat ramp and Waialea Bay. State Parks has the actual jurisdiction over dirt roads. NAH only has jurisdiction over the trails.
  - iv. Pololū Trail – Dave Smith, DOFAW administrator, has sent a letter of intent to Surety Kohala Corporation. That formally starts the dialogue moving forward with the projects envisioned. As a side note, the notice of subdivision application sign that was posted near the lookout appears to have been withdrawn from the county permitting office.

- v. Hunters Check in Stations – Funding for these projects is coming through the wildlife program in September 2018.
  1. Pu`u Huluhulu. Starting improvements to accessibility at those check in stations. We have already completed striping of the accessible parking stalls and will start putting in the ramps to the check in station boards.
  2. Kilohana. There is no paved parking. The plan is to make the necessary accommodations for accessibility. Also, to close down the old pit toilet and replace it with an ADA accessible composting toilet.
- vi. Hokuli`a – Met with their archaeologist Mike Vitousek March 16<sup>th</sup>. First and second phase of their shoreline trail project is complete and opened to the public. Phase 3 – 5 will eventually meet up with the cart road. Timeline not known yet. The old government road will not be modified with development.
- vii. Hilo Forest Reserve Access Above Honomu – We sent a letter to the county but have not heard back (see additional information in Information/Update Tracking Tool by Deborah)
- viii. Outreach Events
  1. April 24<sup>th</sup> NAH booth at Kamehameha Schools Kea`au Ho`olaule`a event. The theme of the event was safety so we talked about trail safety.
  2. Waiakea High School AP Biology Class. Hiked with them at the Kaulana Manu trail.
  3. Hālau `Ōhi`a training continues. Upcoming camp at Keauhou. Graduation will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ix. Trail Building Conference in West Virginia we attended last month.
- x. Fire Arms Training Class in June. Job requirement though we don't carry firearms.
- xi. Tech 4 Position still open. Still waiting on personnel to forward applicants.
- xii. Q&A. What is holding up the permits for Kaulana Manu? A) Not really sure, last heard that there was revised pricing.
- b. ATV Park by Terrence – Removed all the large and fallen trees from hurricane Iselle from the trail plus we have started herbicide application. Some of the trails cleared immediately after Hurricane Iselle are overgrown now and we will start clearing those next.
- c. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trails Update (by Rick, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail archaeologist)
  - i. Kīholo to Puakō Trail. Started our permitting process with SHPD for maintenance. Working on creating a programmatic agreement so we don't have to keep going back to permitting every time repairs need to be made.

- ii. Interpretive Brochure. Nahaku Kalei (interpretive specialist) has been working on our very first interpretive brochure. This will be distributed (email) to the committee and community leaders for comments.
  - d. Information/Update Tracking Tool by Deborah. Complete update shown in log.
    - i. #4 Hilo Forest Reserve access in Honomū – Planning has responded to a letter I sent. There is no need for a land exchange. According to the corporation counsel the road is already cleared, graveled up to the forest reserve, and OK to do a site visit without prior notification of the landowner.
    - ii. #14 Keauhou Historic Trail System – Clerical correction. Date of MOA is 2003.
    - iii. #16 Kona Sea Ranch – Wondering if the County has placed the required signage? No confirmation at this time.
    - iv. #26 Pu’u La’au Cabins – Moving to inactive.
    - v. #28 Rullo in Opihiale, South Kona – They have requested another extension from the planning department. No knowledge at this time if it will be granted.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Council members concerns. No new concerns
  - b. New Member Applicant – Christopher Seymour
    - i. Application distributed.
    - ii. Oral resume by Christopher. He is a business owner (Hilo Bike Hub Inc.) and he is a mountain bike rider.
    - iii. Q&A by council. Primary concerns that he will commit to show up.
    - iv. NAH AC voted to recommend Christopher. All in favor, no objections.
    - v. Motion made (David & Mike) to forward the recommendation to DLNR.
  - c. Set next meeting agenda. Email Riley (AC Chair) with your requests.
  - d. Set next meeting date. Next meeting at the HILO DOFAW office on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 6:00 PM.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by Dennis and seconded by David. Motion carried at 7:58.

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	Department of Forestry and Wildlife
DOT	Department of Transportation
GPS	Global Positioning Satellite
HDOT	Hawaii Department of Transportation
KCRA	Kohala Coast Resort Association
KRDC	Keauhou Resort Development Corp
KSBE	Kamehameha School Bishop Estate
NAH	Na Ala Hele
NAHA	Na Ala Hele Advisory (committee)
NARS	Natural Area Reserve System
OGR	Old Government Road
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PONC	Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
ROHVA	Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association.
SHPD	State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division

**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.