



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

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

**Approved: April 24, 2019**

**Revised: April 3, 2019**

**MEETING DATE: February 21, 2019**

**PLACE: Waimea DOFAW Office**

**Voting Members Present:**

Deborah Chang, Michael Varney, Jeff Yamauchi, Terrence Noda, David B Rietow, Christopher Seymour, "Maha" Kanealii Jr., Kawehi Ryder, Riley Smith

**Voting Members Absent Excused:**

(none)

**Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**

(none)

**Invited Guest:**

(none)

**Public:**

Alan Hata and Arthur Ruby Jr., (both Mt. bikers.)  
David Nash (O'ahu and Statewide Nā Ala Hele  
Advisory Council Chair)

**Ex-Officio:**

Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai NHT; Jackson Bauer of  
Nā Ala Hele

- I. Call to order at 6:02 PM by Riley Smith
- II. REVIEW and APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 15, 2018. Motion to approval by Chris followed by Jeff. All were in favor.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum)
  - A. Arthur Ruby expressed his support for the effort to have a mountain biking program under Nā Ala Hele.
  - B. Chris circulated three letters of public testimony in support of mountain biking. Letters were from Patrick Morer, Alana Hindle, and J.B. Friday.
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Nā Ala Hele Program update (Nā Ala Hele staff)
    - a. Program Trails updates by Jackson
      - i. Kaulana Manu bird sanctuary.

- a. New construction start date of March 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. The trail gate will be locked on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with signs posted. Construction schedule is to take about 6 months.
    - b. Q&A Debbie asked how much has the trail been used?
      - i. Jackson said he did not have any data however the soft opening period was not advertised and not posted on the NAH website.
    - c. Q&A David asked that when the trail is reopened and posted on the website, will trail counters be used?
      - i. Jackson said that he is working on NAH program wide survey project using both volunteers and automated trail counters. The survey also includes a Q&A for users to fill out. The program will last about a year.
  - ii. Waimanu day trip on November 21<sup>st</sup> involved cleaning toilets and trail work on the zigzag down to the camp.
  - iii. Pololū Trailhead and parking/bathroom project
    - a. Moana completed the abstract and sent it to SKC.
    - b. DOFAW and SKC have signed a letter of intent
    - c. SKC is working with the County on the subdivision of land.
  - iv. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area.
    - a. Vandals removed roofing from the booth.
    - b. Terrence reported that with the high winds a number of trees came down.
  - v. Kahaualeʻa Trail and NAR update. The trail is a NAH program trail but has been closed for many years due to volcanic activity. NAR wants to re-open the reserve and the trail in May of this year. We walked the trail and it is in very good condition considering the extended period it has been closed. NAR will be cleaning up the trail and NAH has been working on updating the website in anticipation.
  - vi. Onomea Trail had one tree fall during the recent high winds but otherwise is in good shape.
  - vii. ʻĀinapō trail gate and lock procedures have changed. There is now a text number to call and they will text you back with the gate lock combination. All this information has been updated on the NAH website.
  - viii. Humuʻula Trail we did a reconnaissance and the top ¼ of the trail is very bad to almost nonexistent. We are planning a trail improvement project.
- b. Historic Trails updates by Jackson
    - i. Hōkūliʻa trails. Jackson attended their advisory council meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

- a. Hōkūkano Village is owned by SHPD. The Hōkūliʻa Park and Cultural Sites Association (HPCSA) has an agreement with SHPD to incorporate and maintain Hōkūkano Village in their historic shoreline park.
  - b. Old Government Road. The opening of the trail is pending completion of signage. The signage is pending the approval of their preservation plan, and the preservation plan is pending the approval of the easement being moved at the North end of the property. The easement is being driven by the Kuleana Lot owners who met with HPCSA and expressed their concerns. As a result the easement is being moved 5ft to the South which is into HPCSA. The easement is for the Kuleana Lot owners' access.
  - c. Q&A Debbie asked who approves the preservation plan and Jackson confirmed it is SHPD.
  - d. Q&A Rick asked if the preservation agreement included treatment of the trail such as for safety purposes. Jackson said that he was not aware of any changes to the integrity of the existing trail.
  - e. Q&A Debbie asked if the preservation plan encompasses all three trails (OGR, Stepping Stone Trail, and Old Cart Road)? Jackson confirmed that it is only for the OGR. The Old Cart Road is an actively used dirt road for maintenance purposes and not open to the public. Debbie expressed confusion, as it is her understanding that the Old Cart Road was deemed to be state-owned. It continues all the way to Kaʻawaloa Flats where the Captain Cook monument stands.
- ii. Keauhou Trail
- a. KS is almost complete with improvements. They have relocated the cattle fence in order to give us the required 10ft corridor. There is just one remaining area that is waiting for their surveyors to complete. Jackson will do an inspection when notified that the improvements have been completed.
  - b. Q&A Riley asked Jackson who his point of contact with KS now that Leslie has left. Jackson to get back to Riley with the name.
  - c. Q&A David asked if KS also corrected areas where home owners had landscaped outside of their lot? Jackson said yes.

- d. Q&A Debbie asked if the plan is still to open that part of the trail to pedestrian public access via Kaluna Rd. Jackson said yes.
- iii. Honomu Access
  - a. Met with both the county (Kamuela Plunket) and land owner Stella Larson on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019. We determined that in fact the trail they had drawn goes through a gulch
  - b. Owner has agreed to resurvey the area to determine a better route.
- iv. 'Ō'ōkala Access
  - a. The dairy is closing down operation and one of the results of this is an increase in vandalism. To combat this the dairy wants to put up a gate and close it in the evenings. This did not set well with the hunting community.
  - b. As far as I can tell from the maps this road has been used for at least 104 years and people have come to believe it is a public access road. Truth is it is not. The road was built by the sugar company on private land. Most of the dairy is on State Department of Agriculture land but the first little section of it is on lands owned by KS who bought it from the sugar company.
  - c. We are working with all parties on various options to maintain the forest access.
    - i. The state parcel does come down to the highway on the Hilo side of the KS parcel. There is the possibility of developing a new road or opening up an old sugarcane road.
    - ii. KS has also been very open to discussion and may want to sell this parcel if the state would like to buy it. The sticking point of this option is that the HDOA first priority is to the lessee who typically holds the liability. However there was an executive order when the land transferred from HDLNR to HDOA stating that they had to maintain public access. Interpretations of this need to be hashed out.
  - d. We have a meeting set for NAH, KS, and HDOA to proceed with finding a solution to maintain public access.
  - e. Q&A – Debbie asked for clarification of the HDOA parcel and Jackson pulled out a map that showed both the HDOA parcel and roads within.

- v. Ka'ala Access above Mauna Kea Moo Dairy. This is another state lease property. We (myself and Chris Graper from Forestry) met with the owner to look at the options for access.
    - a. The best possible access is actually through a homestead subdivision and Ka'ala road which is a paved County road. You would then have to take a right onto a KS parcel before entering a small corner of Mauna Kea Moo and the forest reserve is right there. That would be the most ideal.
    - b. The other option is to stay completely within the HDOA lease land. The problem with this is it would be a road that would go straight up (steep). This would require both fencing and continuous maintenance to prevent erosion. This is the more costly of the two options.
    - c. KS again seems very willing to work with us. We have a future meeting to discuss the first option.
  - vi. Laupāhoehoe Reserve Access. I met with Natural Area Reserve specialist Lisa Shizuma. We entered through the Maulua Investments property. This access was mandated by the County as a condition of subdivision approval.
    - a. The condition of the easement is very bad to the point of undiscernible. The parking area is still good and has signage.
    - b. I will follow up with Kamuela from the County.
  - vii. Na Ala Hele Internal
    - a. We hired a new Tech IV by the name of Keni Wallace.
    - b. We also hired an AmeriCorps intern by the name of Sheena Lopes. She started January 7<sup>th</sup> and will be with us through November 2019.
    - c. We had a Nā Ala Hele core group meeting where all the other islands got together here on Hawaii island on December 6<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> 2018. The meeting was focused on our budgets and how to calculate that plus some legislative updates.
- B. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update by Rick Gmirkin.
- a. MOU between AKNHT, DLNR, and County went to the land board and was unanimously approved. It is just awaiting some signatures.
  - b. Historic Resource Study. We have some new interns out of UHH. They will be scanning in historic maps and data on historic trails around Hawaii Island. They will be creating a GIS layer for use by the County, the State, and ourselves. Hopefully this will help us be proactive on trails in the long run. The interns are focusing on areas related to either where they currently reside, their ancestry, or just their passion.
- C. Informational/Update: Tracking Tool by Deborah Chang

- a. #6 Judd Trail. No update but please put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b. #16 Kona Sea Ranch. Does the Council want to send a follow-up letter to the county? Riley suggested email to forward the original letter saying we are still waiting on a reply.
- c. #3 Waiākea ATV park. Is this a hunting area? Jackson said yes.
- d. Q&A Terrence expressed some confusion or mix-up of owner's names. Is it possible to put the name below the title? Debbie expressed some difficulty in maintaining current names, as the parties change frequently.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. David Nash (Chair of Oahu Trail Council, Co-Chair of State Trail Council) spoke about what is going on in the State legislature this year. Particularly about the opportunity to significantly increase funding for NAH by 50% for the next two years.
  - a. Q&A Debbie asked for the Bill #. David Nash to get that to the Council.
  - b. Q&A Riley briefed everyone on the process and narrow timeline on voicing support and the venues to do so (in person, online,). Notice is given out only 48 hours before a bill is presented.
- B. Discussion on renewal of current officers for another year. The discussion was positive toward keeping the current officers for the upcoming year. First to motion in favor was Debbie followed by Maha. The vote was unanimously yes with no opposition. So, Riley to be Chair, Terrence Vice Chair and David Secretary.
- C. Recommendation to add the “Ke Ala o Kūlanihāko’i(Kūlani Trails)” system at Waiākea Timber Management site off Quarry Road as a Statewide Nā Ala Hele Program Trail for bicyclists.
  - a. Chris presented a handout of his PowerPoint presentation and went through each page in detail.
  - b. A motion by Mike was made that we propose to NAH to add Ke Ala o Kūlanihāko’i (Kūlani Trails) as a program trail. Maha seconded the motion.
  - c. Council discussion
    - i. Q&A Riley asked background of name “Ke Ala o Kūlanihāko’i” Chris said that “Kūlani Trails” was a shortened version of the proper name.
    - ii. Q&A Mike asked if electric mountain bikes would be allowed.
      - a. Chris expressed opposition in that the speeds within the trail system are fairly slow.
      - b. Jackson added that electric bikes are considered a motorized vehicle and that the only current program trails allowing motorized vehicles are the Upper Waiākea ATV/Dirt Bike Park and the Mauna Kea ATV/Dirt Bike Riding Area. All other program trails are off limits to motorized

vehicles. Motorized vehicles is not the intent of the proposal.

- iii. Q&A Debbie asked Jackson if his team had the resources to absorb the proposed program? Jackson replied that if it was all up to them then the answer is no. However, the intent is that the program would be community managed much like the Upper Waiākea ATV/Dirt Bike Park is. A formal MOA would be drafted defining responsibilities between the various parties involved.
- iv. Terrence expressed some of the hurdles the Waiākea ATV Park went through.
  - a. The tree planning forest manager said we could not ride between the trees which left only preexisting roads to ride on. This was to protect the forest tree roots.
  - b. All trails must be ATV accessible by the Fire Department in the event of an emergency.
- v. Q&A Debbie asked if there was an intent to develop more trails within the park? Chris said that the park trails as it stands is sufficient for both the traffic and maintenance so the answer is no. It takes 1.5 to 2 hours to bike the entire park.
- vi. Debbie expressed concern over the wording of our proposal in that it should expressly include mixed use or pedestrian use.
  - a. Chris suggested “Bicycle use with mixed pedestrian use”. Debbie expressed her support.
  - b. Jackson suggested “NAH program trail managed for bicycle use”. That way you are not excluding other uses.
  - c. Terrence suggested “Trails to be used by bicyclists”.
  - d. Jackson added that in the packet he will present must include who can and who cannot use the trail.
  - e. Terrence suggested “Trails to be used for non-motorized use and for bicycles”. The Council’s response was positive.
  - f. Debbie summarized the Council’s proposal to read, “We recommend that the DLNR chair add the Ke Ala o Kūlanihāko’i Trail System at the Waiākea Timber Management Area as a State Nā Ala Hele program trail for non-motorized use, including bicycles”.
- vii. Riley called a vote on Debbie’s wording. All were in favor and no opposition.

D. Council member concerns.

- a. Terrence asked about the progress of GPS data of the program trails. Jackson said that online some of the program trails feature a map you can download.
- b. David mentioned that Mauna Lani Resort yesterday removed the 49 Black Sand public access sign. Rick said he would look into this.

- E. Set next meeting agenda. Riley and Jackson will work on this.
  - F. Set next meeting date. Next meeting date will be Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup> in Hilo at 6:00PM
- VI. ADJOURNMENT. Riley asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Maha followed by Mike. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM.

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
OGR	Old Government Road
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.