



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes

Approved: February 11, 2021

Revised: none

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2020

PLACE: Remote Zoom Conference Call/Video

Voting Members Present:

Riley Smith - Chairman, Terrence Noda – Vice Chairman, David Rietow – Secretary, Deborah Chang, Jeffrey Yamauchi, Christopher Seymour, Michael Varney, Kawehi Ryder, Roger Kaneali'i Jr (Maha)

Voting Members Absent Excused:

(none)

Voting Members Absent Unexcused:

(none)

Invited Guest:

(none)

Public:

Nani Pogline, Alan Medford, Steve Hert, Abraham Antonio, Erin Stamos, Meredith Speicher, Jeff McDevitt

Ex-Officio:

Jackson of NAH, Keni Wallace of NAH, Mike Millay of NAH, Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Ex-Officio Absent:

- I. Call to Order 6:07PM
- II. House rules and background by Riley and how to use Zoom
- III. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES. Debbie moved to approve the minutes and Jeff second. All were in favor of the minutes being approved. No objections.
- IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum)
 - A. Nani Pogline thanked the council for its efforts requesting from the AG's office clarification on who needs to wear blaze orange inside the Ka'ohē Game Management Area. She requested the attendance of a NAH staff member to attend the next Game

Management Advisory Council meeting December 15th. She expressed her disapproval of the proposal in front of the Hawaii County Council members about the possibility of closing Waipi'o Valley Road to pedestrians. She asked the council to consider taking up the 7 falls at the confluence of the Wailuku River, Ho'okelekele Stream, and Kahoama Stream popularly known as Narnia. She thanked Terrence Noda for all his volunteer work at the Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area. She also expressed her wish to join the council.

- B. Alan Medford spoke of his past, present, and future support/concerns for the Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area. He is also concerned about how the RTP money is utilized and expressed a wish for accountability. He talked about the park's approved management plan and asked that it be reviewed regularly to make sure it's being followed.
- C. Steve Hert asked if NAH receives Pittman-Robertson funds. Jackson said no.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Nā Ala Hele Program update (Nā Ala Hele staff)

a. Program Trails updates

i. Maintenance Update by Keni of NAH

- 01. Puna Trail. Had to add more bollards at the trail head as the public was forming vehicle trails around the existing bollards
- 02. Pu'u Wa'awa'a. New directional signs were added to direct hikers around the cone instead of straight up the steep hill.
- 03. R1 & R10 equipment operators are doing maintenance fixing up the roads and adding water bars.
- 04. Pu'u Huluhulu. The front gate was being left open. Installed a self-closing gate.
- 05. Kaulana Manu Nature Trail. Finished adding the interpretive signs, toilets, rubbish receptacles, kiosk, and the opening ceremony is this Monday.

ii. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area. Terrence updated the council on the state of the park. Herbicide has been applied. He also updated the council on the state of the park's equipment. DOFAW repaired both the kiosk and the gate at the road. Hunting activity has increased in the park. Trail ridership is up. Lack of signing in is a continuing problem. Night activity/partying seems to have increased.

iii. Pololū Trail. No update

iv. BLNR approved NAH trails

- 01. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park
- 02. Pu'u Wa'awa'a Cone Trail
- 03. 'Ōhi'a Trail
- 04. Makāula-'O'oma Trails
- 05. Palila Forest Discovery Trail. The council was surprised at this since they thought the trail was still in discussion, had not receive their supporting vote, and public testimony given was not in favor of the trail as well. There was a lengthy discussion by the council reviewing their role and purpose.

b. Historic Trails updates

i. Māmalahoa Trail - Met with DOT Hwy and Federal Hwy and NHOs about mitigation for destroying sections of Māmalahoa trail during Queen Kaahumanu Hwy widening project on Sept 24th.

ii. Hōkūli'a

- 01. Attended Advisory Council meeting (virtual) on August 31st.
- iii. Makalawena-Akahipu'u Trail Site visit to Gomes Ranch on September 11th for proposed NRCS fence improvements. Trail looked at by Jackson and Rick. Debbie asked Jackson about his recommendations. Jackson recommended that the preservation of olden style gates at the trail. Also not to use heavy machinery to clear the fence line but to do it by hand.
- iv. Saddle Road Extension - Site visit on Nov. 9th for Section 106 consultation on proposed highway construction. Waikoloa ancient trails looked at by Jackson and Rick. Recommendations are due Friday November 13th.
- c. Access updates
 - i. Waipi'o Valley Road. County Council subcommittee on transportation is proposing Bill 217 that would restrict pedestrian use of the road. NAH testified against the bill. The council had a lengthy discussion on the subject. The council at large was against the bill. Maha motioned that the council write a letter to the county subcommittee on transportation and Mike seconded that motion. All were in favor of the motion. Debbie agreed to write a letter to the county council with the help of Maha and David.
 - d. Administrative Tasks update. Kupu 'Āina Corps has provided two interns for 2 months.
 - e. Other NAH program updates
 - i. Debbie asked for an update on the discussion of the portion of the Māmalahoa trail that was destroyed during the widening of the Queen Kaahumanu Hwy. Jackson forwarded the question to Rick. Rick gave a brief update on the ongoing discussions.
 - ii. Riley asked about fencing activity going on, South of Pu'u Lani Ranch. Jackson said it is a pilot program installing electric fence to herd goats being used to reduce ground brush.
- B. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff) – Jackson gave an update and review.
 - a. October 1 was the start of Federal fiscal year and NAH budget cycle.
 - b. HTA gave NAH a grant that starts on this date. The grant is specific to trail brushing and descriptive signage.
 - c. Due to Covid-19 there are restrictions on spending and possible furlough two Fridays a month.
- C. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff) by Rick
 - a. Kauleoli, South Kona – TMK 3-8-5-005:031 (ALKA owned)
 - i. Maintaining vegetation along 0.5 miles of the Alanui Aupuni, or Ho`okena – Hōnaunau Trail.
 - ii. ALKA staff archeologists are conducting detailed trail documentation of the Alanui Aupuni.
 - b. Pu'uanahulu, Kiholo State Park, North Kona – TMK 3-7-1-003:002
 - i. Maintaining vegetation along 0.5 miles of the Alanui Aupuni, or Kīholo-Puakō Trail, in the vicinity of Keawaiki.
 - c. Kaiholena/Pao'o, North Kohala – 3-5-8-001:011 & 3-5-7-001:005
 - i. Reducing fire fuels within coastal kiawe forest. Primarily weed eating along jeep roads and eliminating previously created slash piles around archeological sites.
 - ii. Working with Kohala Lihikai and Kohala High School students on identification and documentation of ancient and historic trails.
- D. Information/Update: Tracking Tool (Jeff Yamauchi).
 - a. This is Jeff's first meeting taking over what was previously Debbie's project. Jeff gave an outline of his vision to carry on and expand the report.

- b. Item #24 Māmalahoa Trail. Debbie asked if someone could give the TMK# as reference.
- c. Item #36 Waipi'o Kings Trail. Debbie asked if someone could give a TMK# as reference.
- E. Recommendation to add existing Palila Forest Discovery Trail within the Ka'ohē Game Management Area as a Nā Ala Hele Program Trail for pedestrian uses.
 - a. Terrence motioned that we deny the trail and remove agenda item E. Riley second the motion.
 - b. David suggested that Terrence amend the motion to simply suggest that NAH remove the trail from its program as a clearer statement. Terrence agreed and amended his motion which David seconded. There was a lengthy discussion. The council's vote was 4 yes, 2 no, and 3 abstain. The motion did not pass.
- F. Recommendation to Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Wildlife Program to amend Game Management Area rules to require all users to wear blaze orange.
 - a. There was a lengthy discussion on council's position moving forward.
 - b. Debbie suggested that the council pursue answers to its letter to the AG office. The council agreed.
- G. Council Member Concerns
 - a. Terrence requested that the 7 falls trail on the Wailuku River popularly known as Narnia be on the next meeting's agenda.
 - b. Terrence asked if Debbie would consider staying with the council for another six months in a transitional capacity. Debbie said she would be willing.
 - c. David encouraged the council members to go out there and hike a trail every quarter. He also asked Jackson if there was a format for which the council members could share their experience with the others outside of the meetings.
 - d. Mike Varney asked that the Papaikou beach access trail be on the next meeting agenda. Debbie said it was on the tracking tool as "Q". Riley said the county council has it on their agenda to condemn the access trail for County acquisition.
 - e. Chris expressed objection to the name Narnia trail and asked the council for clarification of the area.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. New Advisory Council Member Applicants
 - a. Jeff McDevitt – Jeff outlined his past participation with PATH and expressed wanting to join an organization that was more trail oriented. The council members had the opportunity to question the applicant.
 - b. Erin Stamos – Erin outlined enthusiasm as a trail walker, past volunteering in the NAH office in Hilo, and researching of historic trails and restoration. The council members had the opportunity to question the applicant.
- B. RTP Discussion (Terrence) – ***This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting***
 - a. Council members roles and responsibilities; Federal DOT Recreational Program Trail Requirements.
 - b. Budget for Trails; Recent Expenditures
 - c. Hawaii Island: OHV Expenditure (30% required)
- C. Set next meeting agenda – Jackson outlined the topics for the next meeting.
 - a. "Narnia" trail
 - b. IV F (Rules to require all trail users to wear blaze orange)
 - c. VI A (New Council Member applications)

- d. Add Terrence's RTP discussion to next agenda
 - e. Waipi'o Valley/Road access
 - f. Proposal for New Council Member Training by Debbie
 - g. Pāpa`ikou Access
 - h. Council member trail experience forum
 - i. Council membership and leadership
- D. Set next meeting date – No date was selected and Jackson will poll the council in the New Year for a date.
- E. ADJOURNMENT – Terrence motioned to adjourn and Debbie seconded. The meeting ended at 8:52PM.

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
DOCARE	Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
DOFAW	Department of Forestry and Wildlife
DOT	Department of Transportation
GPS	Global Positioning Satellite
GMA	Game Management Area
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
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OGR	Old Government Road
PONC	Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
ROD	Rapid Ohia Death
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.