



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

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

**Approved: June 16, 2022**

**Revised:**

**MEETING DATE: April 20, 2022**

**PLACE:** Remote Zoom Conference Call/Video

**Voting Members Present:**

Riley Smith – Chairman, Terrence Noda – Vice Chairman, David Rietow – Secretary, Christopher Seymour, Roger Kanealii Jr. (Maha), Nani Pogline, Chuck Flaharty

**Voting Members Absent Excused:**

Jeffrey Yamauchi, Kawehi Ryder

**Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**

(none)

**Invited Guest:**

(none)

**Public:**

Abraham Antonio, John Howerton, Loke Davis, Debora Chang, Bill Shontell

**Ex-Officio:**

Jackson of NAH, Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trails

**Ex-Officio Absent:**

(none)

- I. Call to Order (6:00 pm) Meeting was run by Riley Smith
- II. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES OF February 23, 2022.
- III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum).
  1. Deborah Change
    - a. Kaupakuea, Pepe'ekeo (#16 Tracking Tool). Deborah asked the council to consider sending a letter to the County of Hawaii for information that will hopefully get this access jumpstarted. A letter was co-drafted between Deborah and Nani.
    - b. Honomū Public Access (#New Tracking Tool). This is in regards to a quitclaim that was approved by BLNR in January 2022. The quitclaim to

the County of Hawaii a portion of the old Honomū Homestead Road and enable the eventual access to the Hilo Forest Reserve. The quitclaim has no timeline when this must be done.

c. Mahalo to Riley.

2. Abraham – GMAC supports the Kaupakuea

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Nā Ala Hele Program update (Jackson)

##### 1. Program Trails updates

a. Kaulana Manu – No update on the bird survey.

b. Pololū

i. The HTA funding plus private donations will carry the trail steward program through August 22. There is an Economic Development grant that will extend the program an additional 18 months and expand upon it as well. An additional Economic Development grant application is in the works to extend this further.

i. Nani asked if with Waipi'o Valley closed has there been any increase in visitors. Jackson said he did not know but that it has been averaging between 600-700 visitors per day.

ii. No update on the land consolidation.

c. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campgrounds

i. No update on the Waipi'o Valley road closure.

ii. Trail and campgrounds remain closed.

iii. Maintenance trip planned for May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.

iv. Carpenters trip planned for May 23<sup>rd</sup> to complete the toilet replacement.

d. Puna Trail

i. Increased use of trail to access Hā'ena Beach. Working with the community & Shipman to resolve the issues associated with the increase. Lots of people riding their ATV on the trail. The trail is historical and the ATV damage it.

e. Interpretive Signage – HTA has funded new interpretive signage at all trails.

f. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park (Chris)

i. New ADA slab poured

ii. New interpretive sign

iii. Herbicide the trails 3 weeks ago

iv. Road into the quarry is improved

g. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area (Terrence)

i. High winds and dry conditions caused about 20 trees to fall and need to be removed. This impacted about 15 miles of trail.

ii. Ridership continues to be high due to online sign-up.

iii. There has been an increase of illegal dumping to contend with.

iv. Have not had the opportunity to get up to Mauna Kea to work on the signage.

##### 2. Historic Trails Update

- a. Māmalahoa Trial – continue to work with department of highways and community decedent groups in regards to mitigation of the Queen Kaahumanu Hwy widening that damaged the trail. Contractor has cleared the trail of vegetation from Kealakehe Parkway almost to Hale Māka‘i PL.
3. Access updates
- a. Kaupakuea Access to Hilo Forest Reserve (Nani). Nani summarized a draft letter that she and Debbie collaborated on directed to the county planning department. The letter is asking the county direction what are the hold ups and actions needed to push through developing the public access to the Hilo Forest Reserve. The letter distributed to the council members is not the latest draft and Nani asked to differ this till the next meeting.
  - b. Honomū Access to the Forest Reserve (Nani). Nani summarized a draft letter that she and Debbie collaborated on directed to Chairperson of Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources. The letter is in support and requests that the Stella May Swain Trust, “Applicant” be required to clear the “Access Road Lot 1.148-Acres” as a term and condition of the above-referenced quitclaim.
    - i. Riley asked Debbie if the subdivision has been given final approval. Debbie said the subdivision was approved a long time ago. The letter asks for clarification of the terms of the quitclaim. One of which is the public access.
    - ii. Riley asked for a motion. Nani motioned that the council send the letter to the Chairperson of Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Terrence second the motion.
    - iii. The council went into discussion.
      - i. Jackson suggested that the letter be sent to the county since it is a county road and that a subcommittee be formed to follow up.
      - ii. Nani asked if it could be sent to both the county and committee Chairperson of Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Jackson said yes.
      - iii. Debbie agreed and clarified that the letter could be sent to the Chairperson of DLNR and should be directed to the county Department of Public Works Director. A copy could be sent to the county Department of planning department.
      - iv. Abraham who represents Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) asked if someone could come to their next meeting and do a presentation.
      - v. Riley summarized the changes to the letter and asked for a vote. Jackson did a rollcall and all were in favored. Motion passed.
4. Administrative Tasks update. No update
5. Other NAH program updates.

- a. currently down to 1 crew member in Waimea and 1 in Hilo.
- B. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff). No update
- C. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff). No update
- D. Subcommittee Reports:
  - 1. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton).
    - a. Terrence reported significant increase in ridership on R1, Waimea side, and cinder pit. The parking lot is typically full and the majority is from Kona. This increase is directly related to the counties recent strict enforcement of no OHV on Mana Road.
    - b. John Howerton agreed that something needs to be done sooner than later.
    - c. Jackson, Terrence, and John to coordinate a visit to the proposed sites.
- E. Information/Update: Tracking Tool (Jeff Yamauchi). Jeff could not attend the meeting.
  - 1. #22 Kohala Kai. Chuck asked if there was any update. Rick reported that there has been recent activity with National Historic Trails and they have been in touch with the owner in hopes of creating a conservation easement.
  - 2. #6 & #24 Hōkūli`a Trails and Kuamo`o Battleground. Chuck asked if these are to become program trails. Jackson said yes. They are working on paperwork requirements. Rick added that there is an independent volunteer trail crew maintaining these trails.
  - 3. Riley said that if anyone has anything to clarify or add they should email it to Jackson who will forward it onto Jeff.
- F. Ka`uwehu (aka "Narnia") (Nani). Nani not interested in pursuing the subject further.
- G. E-bikes.
  - 1. Terrence asked Jackson if they intend to incorporate Ebikes into the revised NAH guidelines. Jackson said yes.
  - 2. Chris agreed and suggested that Class 1 be allowed on trails that currently allow bikes and Class 2&3 be allowed on OHV trails.
  - 3. The council had an active discussion.
- H. Council Member Concerns
  - 1. Terrence commended DOFA for the quality of trail maintenance given the pandemic and budget shortfalls.
  - 2. Nani asked that Waipi`o Valley closure stay on the agenda and possibly drafting another letter asking for clarity of future use.
  - 3. Nani mentioned that the hunter's access behind Volcano Solid Waste Transfer Station has been block by the county. She asked that this be put on the agenda.
  - 4. Chuck would like to invite county council member Heather Kimble to the next meeting to speak on the Waipi`o Valley closure. Riley suggested that Heather put something down in writing so the council members know in advance what she will speak of.
  - 5. Terrence suggested that we change the agenda topic from Waipi`o Valley Road to Waimanu Valley Access since that is a program trail.
- I. Council member trail experience forum
  - 1. Terrence hiked the Tantalus trail on Oahu and shared his experience.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Letter of support for Waimanu caretaker homestead on DHHL lands (Kawehi). Kawehi

- could not attend the meeting. This will be forwarded as an agenda for the next meeting.
- B. Resignation of Riley Smith from Na Ala Hele Advisory Council. Riley had previously sent out a letter of resignation to the advisory council.
  - C. Election of Council Officers.
    - 1. Chair. Riley nominated Terrence as the next council Chair and Chris second the nomination. Riley invited other council members who wished to fill the role of Chair to step forward. A discussion was had. Jackson did a rollcall vote. All were in favor of Terrence as new Chair.
    - 2. Vice Chair. Terrence invited other council members who wished to fill the role of Vice Chair to step forward. Chuck nominated Nani as Vice Chair and David, Maha second the nomination. The council had a discussion. Jackson did a rollcall vote. All were in favor of Nani as Vice Chair.
  - D. Set next meeting agenda. Jackson invited members to email him with any agenda items.
  - E. Set next meeting date. June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in person in Hilo and Zoom.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT. Chuck motioned to adjourn and Maha second. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53PM.

ADA	Americans with Disability Act.
AMP	Area Management Plan
BIISC	Big Island Invasive Species Committee
BLNR	Board of Land and Natural Resources
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
DHHL	Department of Hawai'iian 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
GMAC	Game Management Advisory Council
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
NELHA	National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OCCL	Office of Conservation and Coast Land
OGR	Old Government Road
PONC	Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
QLT	Queen Lili'uokalani Trust
ROD	Rapid Ohia Death

ROHVA  
SHPD

Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association.  
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.

r5/22/13