



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes

Approved: 12/7/22

Revised: N/A

MEETING DATE: 9/28/22

PLACE:

- Remote Zoom Conference Call/Video
- Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 19E Kawili St. Hilo, HI 96720

Voting Members Present:

Terrence Noda – Chairman, Nani Pogline – Vice Chair, David Rietow – Secretary, Christopher Seymour, Roger Kanealii Jr. (Maha), Jeffrey Yamauchi

Voting Members Absent Excused:

Kawehi Ryder, Chuck Flaharty

Voting Members Absent Unexcused:

(none)

Invited Guest:

Heather Kimball – Hawaii Island Council Member District 1

Public:

Debora Chang, Bill Shontell, Kauai Lopes, Abraham, Matt Binder, Bian Ley, Ariel, Dwayne Yoshita, Klayton Kuba, Diane Ware, Toni Withington. Travis Clark, Kamiko Chun, Cory Harden

Ex-Officio:

Jackson of NAH, Rick Gmirkin of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trails, Bill Stormont of DLNR, Loke Davis of NAH

Ex-Officio Absent:

- I. Call to Order (6:04 pm)
- II. COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS

- III. HOUSE RULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUNSHINE LAW
- IV. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES OF June 16, 2022. Maha motioned to accept the minutes and Nani second. Discussion none. Chris mentioned to approve the minutes and Nani second. There was a vote and all were in favor.
- V. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS by Terrence. Review NAHA roll.
- VI. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum)
 - A. Matt Binder – spoke about the need for more hiking trails in North Hawaii especially now that Waipi'o road is closed.
 - B. Dian Ware – spoke about her concern about access to the Muliwai Trail now that Waipi'o road is closed.
- VII. GUEST SPEAKER. Terrence asked for a motion to move this subject up from the original agenda. David made the motion and Jeff second.
 - A. Heather Kimball (county council member) – Guest speaker briefed the council on the history as it affects today's situation with Waipi'o Road.
 - a. 2019 (approximate) Kim administration requested an engineering report on the road.
 - b. 2019 (approximate) the county received the geotechnical report. The county went back and forth with the consultants with questions and answers.
 - c. 2022 (early) the final report was released to the public and the Roth administration deemed that the road was so unstable that it was closed to all vehicles and pedestrians with exception made to residence and farmers of the valley.
 - d. 2022 (mid) a lawsuit was filed by an access interest group and the judge ordered the county and group into mediation.
 - e. 2022 (9/19/22) a settlement was reached and a new emergency order was issued allowing vehicles of Hawaii residence down the road. Pedestrians and other restrictions remain.
 - f. Q & A
 - i. Q) Nani asked if the road was being repaired.
 - ii. A) Heather said a more detailed report on repairs has been received and is scheduled to be released to the public in a meeting on October 26th. There will also be a briefing at the Honokaa Gym on October 5th.
 - iii. Q) Nani asked once repairs are completed, will pedestrian access be returned? Heather said when the road is deemed safe

emergency orders will no longer be in effect.

- iv. Q) Cory Harden asked if a separate trail from the road has been discussed. Heather said yes but did not know on what level.
- v.Q) Debbie asked about enforcement of the current emergency order. Heather shared her concerns but did not have answers.
- vi. Q) Travis asked about how emergency services access the beach with a chain across the road. Heather said that typically emergency services are given a key or code. She will share his concerns.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

a. Program Trails updates

- i. Pololū Trail – Trail stewardship program funded for several more years.
 - 1. Bill Shontell with Surety Kohala Co. working on the PCRS.
- ii. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campground – Maintenance trip in October. Hope to reopen reservations for camping permit. Access is subject to the Mayors emergency proclamation. Reservation system has no enforcement of residency.
- iii. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area (Terrence) – October 1st there will be ATV training. There will be tree harvesting across from the parking lot of the Australian maple in late October during the week days. This is limited harvest for evaluation of the timber. Any large scale harvest would require public input.
- iv. Kūlanihāko’i Mountain Bike Park (Chris) – Parking lot improvements have gone a long way to being more inviting of an area.
- v. Puna Trail – Continue to work with the community and Shipment Co. There is more trail usage and illegal vehicle access.
 - 1. Nani asked about the reasoning for boulders at the parking lot. Jackson explained that the boulders are intended to protect the area from the harm inflicted by vehicles. The trail is historical and predates vehicle use and was never designed for them. The land surrounding the trail is privately owned.
- vi. Makāula-‘O’oma Trails – First Saturday of the month at 9AM there is a trail maintenance. Anyone interested is invited to participate.

b. Historic Trails updates

- i. Māmalahoa Trail mitigation with the widening of the highway continues
- ii. PTA/Upper Pu‘uanahulu recent brush fire. We were able to go out there after the fire and explore trail systems without the

obstruction of fountain grass.

- c. Access updates
 - i. Kaupakuea Access to Hilo Forest Reserve (Nani/Jackson) Letters were sent to the county. No word back as of yet.
 - ii. Other access updates
- d. Administrative Tasks update. No Update
- e. Other NAH program updates
 - i. Working with NASA to gather sea level rise along the coast and the effect on trails and other cultural sites.
 - ii. New intern starting in a couple weeks.
 - iii. Did a presentation to Miloli'i students on July 20th.
 - iv. Did a presentation at Kaulana Manu to Fantastic Foresters 'Āina Explorers, student group from Waikoloa.
 - v. Loke will be hosting an outreach booth at the 'Ikuwā Festival at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center October 15th and 16th.
 - vi. Loke will be hosting an outreach booth at the Run for the Dry Forest October 22nd at Pu'u Wa'awa'a.
- B. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff) Governor had released CIP funding money. Consultants Townscape Inc. has been selected to gather community input.
- C. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff) – No Update.
- D. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – No Update.
 - b. Volcano Solid Waste Transfer Station Access to Forest Reserve (Nani Pogline, Abraham Antonio)
 - i. Terrence met with the wildlife manager for the state and he is working on a MOU with the county to get the access opened. They are also looking for a more permanent access.
 - ii. Abraham with GMAC met with the mayor and the mayor talked to the solid waste division. They in turn moved the boulders to the back of the property but then there was trash that was dumped illegally so they returned the boulders to block the access. Also the county corporation council sited liability concerns.
- E. Information/Update: Tracking Tool (Jeff Yamauchi). Jeff asked if the council could access and update the tracking tool. Jackson had concerns about the sunshine law. Terrence had concerns about inconsistencies.
 - a. Terrence asked if the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trails was added onto the list. Jeff said he did not see anything from the last meeting.
- F. E-bikes
 - a. Discussion on e-bike use on Nā Ala Hele Trails. No Update.
- G. Council Member Concerns
 - a. Terrence addressed his concern about access to the ATV Park and

Mountain Bike Park during the period that the county will be maintaining the Stainback Hwy.

- b. Jackson spoke on behalf of Chuck Flaharty's concern about a proposed future luxury development North of Miloli'i and its impact of the Ala Kahakai Trail. The project is called Kona Estates at Ophihale. Possible future guest speaker.

H. Council member trail experience forum. No Update

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Letter of support for Waimanu caretaker homestead on DHHL lands (Kawehi). Terrence mentioned that this has been on the agenda for a while without presentation. Jeff motioned that we remove it for the future. Roger second. The council voted. There were five yes and one abstain, the motion carried. This topic can be readdressed in needed.
- B. Report of July 27, 2022 Statewide Nā Ala Hele meeting (Terrence). Terrence gave a brief update. It was discussed that each council should review their RTP trails list and make recommendations such as add or remove.
- C. RTP Program trails list for Hawai'i Island. These trail are eligible for RTP funds. Jackson read down the list of trails. Terrence wants this to be on the agenda of the next meeting.
 - a. Brian Ley asked if we could reopen the hunter/hiker safety concerns with the Palila Forest Discovery Trail. Nani motioned that we revisit this concern and Roger second. A vote was determined not needed.
- D. Set next meeting agenda (Terrence). Add the Palila Forest Discovery Trail as well as the RTP and remove Waimanu Caretaker Homestead. Any council member wanting to add to the agenda should contact Jackson or Terrence.
- E. Set next meeting date set for December 7th at 6PM the usual format.

X. ADJOURNMENT – David motioned to adjourn and Roger second. The meeting ended at 7:54PM.

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'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
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
PCRS	Parcel Consolidation ReSubdivision
PONC	Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
QLT	Queen Lili'uokalani Trust
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.

r5/22/13