



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

## **Nā Ala Hele**

### **Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes**

**Approved: September 22, 2021**

**Revised:**

**MEETING DATE: JUNE 16, 2021**

**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, Roger Kanealii Jr.

**Voting Members Absent Excused:**

Kawehi Ryder

**Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**

(none)

**Invited Guest:**

(none)

**Public:**

Nani Pogline, Alan Medford, Chuck Flaherty, John Howerton, Steve Hurt, Toni Wittington

**Ex-Officio:**

Jackson Bauer of NAH, Keni Wallace of NAH

**Ex-Officio Absent:**

Rick Gmirkin, Ala Kahakai

- I. Call to Order 6:00PM
- II. Membership
  - A. Resignation of Deborah Chang, Mike Varney. Resignation confirmed. Debbie and Mike had a few words of mahalo and appreciation.
  - B. Welcome new members Nani Pogline, Chuck Flaherty. Nani and Chuck expressed their willingness to contribute and participate.
- III. REVIEW and APPROVE MINUTES. Terrence moved to approve the minutes and Jeff seconded. All were in favor of the minutes being approved. No objections.
- IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY
  - A. Toni – She asked for a council update on Pololū Valley and Surety Kohala's consolidation and subdivision of their Pololu property. She also shared her recount since 2018.
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Nā Ala Hele Program update (Nā Ala Hele staff) – by Jackson
    - a. Program Trails Update
      - i. Kaulana Manu – Bathrooms reopened.
        01. Riley asked the hours of the trail and restrooms. Jackson replied that they

- do not close it.
- 02. Terrence asked when the bird survey report would be published. Jackson replied it should be out soon and he would follow up on it.
- ii. Pololū Trail
  - 01. Jackson had nothing new to report to Toni on that status of the consolidation and subdivision of land. He confirmed Moana's 2018 abstract identifying valley floor trails as State-owned and that the letter sent by OCCL was in error and was since rescinded.
  - 02. Hawaii Tourism Authority to fund 4 part-time Trail Stewards, for a 6-month pilot project. Community and descendants of the area will be involved.
- iii. Waimanu
  - 01. April 8, 9 trail and camp maintenance.
  - 02. Upcoming weeklong maintenance trip in July
  - 03. Target for opening August 1
- iv. Upper Waiākea ATV/Dirt Bike Park – Terrence gave an update on the park. Removed dumped trash and tires. Sprayed herbicide. Removed fallen trees. Continued challenge with riders not proving they are registered to use trail.
- v. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park
  - 01. Memorandum of Agreement between NAH and Big Island Mountain Bike Association submitted and in-process
  - 02. Walk through with Chris on 6/15 to discuss improvements.
- vi. Other Program Trail Updates
  - 01. 'Āinapō
    - 1 May 5 cleaned cabin
    - 2 Target for opening cabin August 1
- b. Historic Trails updates – By Jackson
  - i. Trail from Lekeleke through Hōkūli'a – Site visit on May 12
  - ii. 'Ala'ē Old Government Road (trail) - Site visit with State Historic Preservation Division staff, Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement officers, County Planning staff, and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff on May 19 re. Violations for damaging old trail.
  - iii. Honokōhau
    - 01. Submitted comments for County North Kona Sewer Pump Station Draft Environmental Assessment. Will adversely impact State-owned Honokōhau Trail and the Māmalahoa Trail.
    - 02. Riley added comment as President and CEO of Lanihau Properties, West Hawaii Business Park is a solely owned subsidiary. They are working with their consultants to address the concerns and will share those DLNR Administration.
    - 03. Chuck asked if the easement of these two trails has been established under the Highways Act of 1892. Jackson's reply was a lengthy summarization of the Highways Act 1892 and when it does and does not apply. The Māmalahoa trail in this section had been sold by the state to Lanihau Properties, but the Honokōhau Trail remains owned by the State.

04. Terrence asked Jackson if horses and buggies are still allowed on all trails. Jackson said he did not know the states precedent for private land but that on state land you can ride a horse.
- c. Access Update – none
  - d. Administrative Tasks Update - none
  - e. Other NAH Program Updates
    - i. Working on contract with HTA to develop interpretive signs at trail heads.
    - ii. Commercial trail permits were opened back up on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Maximum number per tour is capped at 10.
    - iii. Jackson’s former position (Trails and Access Specialist IV) is still unfilled and the legislature has frozen funding for the year.
    - iv. Terrence asked when Mike Millay’s position would be filled. Jackson replied he did not know since all unfilled positions had been frozen. Bill Stormont out of Hilo is filling in for now.
  - B. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff) – Terrence asked for an RTP update. Jackson referred back to previous conversation. There is still funding however every June there is a spending freeze due to yearly audits. Come July 1st he can start spending again and encouraged Terrence to present a list of supplies needed for the ATV Park.
  - C. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Rick) – No update
  - D. Subcommittee Reports:
    - a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – John had a meeting with Jackson checking out a couple potential areas to look at. Jackson said that right now they were in preliminary stage thinking out of the box on potential areas, concerns, and suitability. Next stage is to go look at some of these spots.
    - b. Chuck asked what a UTV was. Utility Terrain Vehicle. Terrence gave an in-depth explanation of the various types off road vehicles.
  - E. Information/Update: Tracking Tool (Deborah Chang as former member, Jeff Yamauchi as current Council member in charge)
    - a. For the purpose of the new members Jeff gave a briefing on the tracking tool.
    - b. #Q – Pāpa’ikou – Debbie reports the mayor’s office has put this acquisition on hold.
    - c. #4 – 49 Black Sand Beach – Mike gave an update from the county saying they had sent a violation letter to the resort (Mauna Lani). A copy was distributed to the council members.
    - d. #16 – Kaupalaoa, North Kohala – Jeff asked if this had been resolved. Jackson said yes. Jeff to change the color from green to black. Toni mentioned that the property on the Makai side of the highway has since sold and the owner is interested in placing the land into conservation.
    - e. #20 – Kona Sea Ranch – Jeff asked if this was dead. Jackson stated that the council drafted a letter and never heard back.
    - f. #40 – Waipi’o – Jeff asked what was going on with the access to the valley. Jackson briefed the council on the counties interest in restricting access but that it was complicated and has since put it on hold or filed. Chuck said he would follow up on this and forward that information to Jackson. David reminded the council of the NAHA February meeting where Debbie reported that the county council had voted to defer the action.
    - g. #28 - Palila Forest Discovery – Terrence asked about signage regarding the blaze orange garment following the letter from AG office. Jackson said the signage is in progress and will be happening. Terrence asked if the AG letter could be posted on the hunter’s bulletin

board. Jackson said he does not manage that board and directed Terrence to speak with the wildlife manager based out of Waimea.

F. "Narnia" access –

- a. Jackson reported that previously he had given wrong information. The area is currently not leased however it is undetermined where the forest reserve starts and that is restricted
- b. Nani suggested that it be referred to as Pi'ihonua Falls. Pi'ihonua is the area Ahupua'a. She also voiced her support for public access and could it be added to the tracking tool.
- c. Chris chimed in about the name of the falls in Hawaiian contexts.
- d. Riley stated that it is not the council's position to label an area. He advised Nani to do the research for the council to advise NAH.

G. Council Member Concerns

- a. Terrence referred back to #28 - Palila Forest Discovery and asked if we could post the AG letter on NAH bulletin board. Jackson said no. Official signage is coming.
- b. Jeff asked Jackson if he could provide a priority list from the Tracking Tool. Jackson replied that the council member could follow up on issues county efforts have stalled.
- c. Nani asked that a hunting access trail in North Hilo on the agenda for the next meeting. The trail crosses over private land.
  - i. Jackson said the trail is at the top of Kaupakuea Homestead Rd. The county was supposed to put in the trail as part of the subdivision and has not done so. He also sent a letter to the county about this.
  - ii. Debbie said this is #15 on the tracking tool.
- d. Chuck asked that when we make inquiries are we doing it as private citizens or as board members. Jackson said we make inquiries as private citizens unless it's a position of the Advisory Council (voted on by the Council) then a letter from the Council, signed by the Chair is drafted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council member trail experience forum. David explained that this is a spot where council members can share their experiences on the trails. David also suggested that the next meeting be in the field. Riley suggest that David come up with a list of three potential trails at the next meeting.
- B. Set up next meeting agenda. Jackson and Riley will work on the next agenda.
- C. Set next meeting date will be Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Chuck motioned to adjourn. Terrence second the motion and all were in favor. The council adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ADA	Americans with Disability Act.
AMP	Area Management Plan
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
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
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