



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes

Approved: June 20, 2024

Revised: n/a

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024

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

- Voting Members Present:**
- Terrence Noda, Chairperson
 - David Rietow
 - Roger Kanealii Jr.
 - Kawehi Ryder
 - Jeffrey Yamauchi
 - Christopher Seymour
 - Charles Flaherty
 - Moana Rowland

- Voting Members Absent Excused:**
- Kawehi Ryder
 - Nani Pogline, Vice Chairperson

Voting Members Absent Unexcused:

- Ex-Officio:**
- Jackson Bauer, Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program
 - Rick Gmirkin, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trails

Ex-Officio Absent:

Invited Guest:

- Public:**
- Deborah Chang
 - Amy Miwa
 - James Eller
 - Conrad Okama
 - Dwayne Yoshina

I. Call to Order (6:00 PM)

II. Advisory Council CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS:

Terrence would like to address the issue of lack of quorum by tracking meeting attendance by Council members and taking attendance. If a member misses any of the next two meetings, then he would like to have a discussion to resolve any issue. Terrence would like to keep the tracking tool and asked for a volunteer to take on that kuleana. He acknowledged the excellent job that has been done by Jeff. Terrence also asked for a volunteer to serve as secretary because the A.I. generated text is hard to follow.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum): none

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Program Plan update and discussion (PBR/Nā Ala Hele staff) – no update

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

a. Program Trails updates

i. Pololū Trail [54]:

After several community meetings, it was decided that a better, but limited size parking lot was the best option for the Surety parcel. However, it was announced Surety was selling the parcel to another party. So the community will have to see if the new owner is willing to work with the community to sell the parcel to the public in order to advance the parking area option.

ii. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campground [36]:

A maintenance trip is scheduled for the first week of May. It is in good condition, except for a couple of large trees that have fallen, which is not unusual. Mauna Loa Observatory Road [56], road has been reopened and you can drive as far as the lava crossing.

iii. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area (Terrence) [27]:

Terrence is working on getting an ATV back up to the area to assist ATVSI with training on June 6th for ATV safety week. Would like to schedule a couple of trainings but are facing budget issues.

v. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park (Chris) [78]:

Chris gave a bike riding area update. Had about 12-15 volunteers help clean the area. Had a dump of household trash, tires, lawn mowers, washers, etc., but really blessed to have the state support to help keep the place cleaned up.

vi. Puna Trail [12]:

NAH has two stewards assigned. This has helped get direct feedback from the public and address behavioral issues. There was one unfortunate incident in which someone drove a new jeep about a mile up this historic trail where it

caught fire and burned completely. NAH is working to figure out how to get it removed without causing further damage.

vii. Kaulana Manu Nature Trail [12]:

Debbie Chang asked to be recognized to voice two concerns about the 1) the foul-smelling composting toilets, and 2) the appearance of an increase in the number of dead ohia trees. Jackson said the toilets were pumped out last week, but there is electrical work that also needs to be done in order for them to be functioning optimally. It has been difficult to find an electrician, but parts have been ordered. With regard to the ohia trees, Jackson said the trees tested negative for Rapid Ohia Death. He believes the dead trees may be a result of the natural aging of the forest, which is over two thousand years old. Debbie also asked if commercial tour vans and buses were stopping just to use the bathroom there. Jackson said it does happen from time to time, but that if they pull off into that area, they are considered a commercial group and a permit would be required. Most group activities are associated with schools, which is what we want. Individual cars stop from time to time to use it. If anyone sees a tour group there, take a picture and send it to Jackson for follow-up.

b. Historic Trails updates – no updates

c. Access updates

- i. Kaupakuea – no update
- ii. Other access updates – no updates

d. Administrative Tasks update – no update

e. Other NAH program updates:

These 3 agenda items are funded by an Economic Development Administration grant received about a year ago.

i. Nā Manu 'Elele Trail Steward Program:

This state-wide program now has stewards on Oahu and Hawai'i (Polulu, Puna, and Saddle Road). Our partner agency, the Department of Aquatic Resources has stewards at Miloli'i. Having a hard time hiring on Maui and Kauai because of limited job market.

ii. Nāpu'u Recreation Plan

This is a comprehensive recreational area plan that covers the Pu'uwa'awa'a and Napu'u ahupua'a, which is a huge area ½ the size of Moloka'i from mauka all the way makai to the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway. It contains a large number of historic trails, ranch roads, historic structure, caves, etc. Opportunities for protection, as well. NAH entering into contract with First Solutions. They were selected because they have access to a number of subcontractors, one in particular that specializes in progressive trail design and planning.

iii. Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan

Finished selection process. Contractor will be PBR because they have access to a number of subcontractors that have experience with interpretive plans in historic and culturally-rich areas. Will be working closely with the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail program and staff.

C. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff):

HB1856, SB2226, Relating to Traffic Regulation died in committee as did SB2810, Relating to the Pololu Valley Management efforts on Hawaii Island. Debbie Chang was recognized and stated the bills will be carried over to the next legislative session. She noted the County ignored NAH AC letter related to Waipio Valley road pedestrian access, but that Jackson and the Chairperson were successful in having language removed from the proposed state legislation that would have given the county total jurisdiction over roads and trail that had constitutionally-protected public access rights.

D. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff):

AKNHT working to get a budget after National Park Service under which AKNHT operates finally got a budget. Has 2 new hires, who are 'ohana to Pu'uuanahulu and Kona, from KUPU replacing two key trail crew members. Mahalos to Jackson. Mahalos to Debbie Chang and the community for their assistance in acquiring five properties along the AKNHT corridor, four of which have ancient historic trails. Public ownership of the corridor is now up to 63%. Rick requested that community and 'ohana members help AKNHT to identify corridor properties that may be available for purchase working with PONC.

E. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – no update
- b. Waipio Valley Access Road (Terrence, Nani, Debbie Chang) [64] – no update
- c. "Narnia" Access Subcommittee [74]:

James Eller (Bayfront Trails) is interested in assisting with this effort. James agreed to join the subcommittee. Jackson gave brief history of the properties, geography, features, and issues involved. There is political opposition coming from Senator Inouye and property owners in the area (a kumiai) said that people are causing damage and noxious conditions on private property. Parking is a sticking point. The kumiai is willing to work with the sub-committee if a plan that creates an access away from their community and has stewardship. NAH AC and guests then had an extensive discussion about the area. It was agreed that a more appropriate name would be Wauku since the Wauku river is a major feature and has many ancient stories associated with it. Conrad ??? said he is willing to collaborate with the sub-committee. Moana and Chris will research and determine the correct name for the lookout point at Narnia.E-bikes

F. HAR 13-130 Rule Revision (Nā Ala Hele staff):

The comment period for the rule revision has been extended. Please provide comments to Jackson ASAP. Some inclusions to date include defining e-bikes class I, e-motorbikes, and further clarifying the pricing structure.

G. Information/Update: Tracking Tool:

Jeff is stepping down from maintaining the tracking tool. Moana agreed to assume kuleana for the tracking tool and will be working with Debbie and Jeff to familiarize. Chuck agreed to be secretary for the NAH AC and was appointed by Terrence.

H. Council Member Concerns

Chuck asked how the “Law of the Splintered Paddle”, Kānāwai Māmalahoe, applies to the NAH program trails;

Chuck raised another concern regarding the ala loa trail mauka of the proposed Kona Estates at Opihihale

Terrence would like for the NAH AC to determine the appropriate name for the “Narnia” trail. Jackson referred to a state agency, the Hawai’i Board on Geographic Names, that is responsible for naming of places.

Terrence asked if the AC had any objections to his proposed policy to take attendance and consult with any member who misses two or three meetings in a year to see if they would like to continue on the AC. There were no objections.

I. Council member trail experience forum:

Jeff went to the Polulu valley lookout and was really impressed with the stewardship program there. Terrence recently went to Seattle and hiked several trails there. He was impressed by the number of people that were hiking as well as the good condition of the trails. There was a parking process, but there was still a lot of traffic congestion.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set next meeting agenda – no changes

B. Set next meeting date – June 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

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
GIS	Geographic Information System
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 'Ōhi'a Death
ROHVA	Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association.
SHPD	State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division
TT	Tracking Tool

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