



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele
Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes

Approved: October 2, 2024

Revised: October 2, 2024

MEETING DATE: June 20, 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
 - Nani Pogline, Vice Chairperson
 - David Rietow
 - Jeffrey Yamauchi
 - Christopher Seymour
 - Chuck Flaherty
 - Moana Rowland

- Voting Members Absent Excused:**
- Roger Kanealii Jr.

- Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**
- Kawehi Ryder

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

Ex-Officio Absent:

Invited Guest:

- Public:**
- Deborah Chang
 - Patty Hatzistavrakis
 - Amy Miwa
 - Laura Acasio
 - JackLyn Garnick

I. Call to Order (6:01 PM)

II. Advisory Council CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS:

Terrence noted we are having better attendance, but would like to remind the council attendance is being tracked and that if two consecutive meetings are missed, he would like to have a discussion to resolve any issue.

III. Review DRAFT MINUTES of 4/23/24:

Terrance asked for motion to approve. Nani made motion to approve. Chris seconded. Terrance asked if there was any discussion. Jackson said he would send out minutes to Rick and Debbie once they were approved. Terrance called for a vote. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum): none

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Program Plan update and discussion (PBR/Nā Ala Hele staff) – no update from PBR Hawai'i, the consultant working on the Na Ala Hele program plan.

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

a. Program Trails updates: Jackson introduced our new staff person, Travis Figueira, as new technician since August 2023. Jackson credited Travis as being the one making things run so smoothly, coordinating with our crews, finding supplies, etc.

i. Pololū Trail [54]:

Jackson reminded everyone that the draft plan is on our website as a pop-up when you go to "Pololū Trail". The hope is to somehow acquire some land at the plateau and move the parking to create a substantial parking for formal parking of 20 cars or less. The property has a new owner, so now we're in discussions with the new landowner. The new owner plans to retire in Kohala, so they want to have good community relationships and to preserve the view planes and sacred places there. The trail stewards are doing a great job, so that's been working out well, too.

Nani asked what was happening with access to Waipio Valley. Jackson said people are finding ways to do it, such as friends dropping off people. There is also a shuttle for people who get permits at Waipio Valley Artworks. Jackson has not heard complaints about access.

ii. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campground [36]:

NAH did a maintenance camp trip on May 6-10th. It was typical trail and campsite maintenance, clear vegetation, trail work, etc. NAH also did a training as well with part of that training on the trail.

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

Terrence is working with the ATV group to go up next quarter to clear all of the trails and the end the trainings after that is done.

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

Chris thanked NAH staff and crew for the incredible job they did cleaning up the quarry area, which must have required hauling truckloads of junk. There have been winds and rain **felling trees**, so they cleared those. Otherwise, it's the same maintenance schedule with a couple of guys going up to clear the trails. Chris also thanked NAH staff and crew for all of their help.

vi. Puna Trail [12]:

NAH is working to develop a management plan for the trail and surrounding area. The draft plan is also on the website <https://hawaiitrails.ehawaii.gov/trails/#/> under "Puna Trail".

vii. Other program trail updates:

Jackson acknowledged the great job Travis and the crew have been doing maintaining all of NAH's trails.

b. Historic Trails updates – no updates

i. Judd Trail [8]

NAH had professional surveyors go out and survey the portion of the trail between Ali'i Drive and Kuakini Highway. Most of this section of the trail was given and contained within its own Tax Map Key land area, created when the final subdivision plat map was approved for the original development. The surveyors restaked the TMK and the easements crossing the trail in order to identify any encroachments. A large number of encroachments were identified. The Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the easements applications, but none of the applications for the easements have been submitted, paid for, and recorded with the Land Division. Jackson is working to make sure the applicants and Land Division complete the process so that trespass and encroachment issues can be resolved. There are walls, driveways, fencing, water pipes, backflow valves, etc. built across the trail and cars are parked on it. Vegetation needs to be cleared as well. The bottom portion of trail towards Ali'i Drive was not part of the subdivision and was surveyed as well. An Archaeological Inventory Survey and Cultural Impact Assessment are being prepared, so there will be a great story to tell when we go to interpretation.

ii. Hōnaunau to Ho'okena Trail

This is the Old Government Road. NAH will have surveyors and archaeologists survey and document the trail. It is in good shape, so the archaeological evidence makes determining the alignment easier. It already owned by the state under the Highways Act of 1892. There are also volunteers that have been clearing the trail for some time. The next steps are to go the Board of Land and Natural Resources and get its alignment approved. Once that is done, then the county can assign designate the Tax Map Key area and assign it a number. Then the easement is recorded with the Land Division. It's all about identifying the alignment and clearing the state's title to the trail, as with all other state-owned trails though the Highways Act of 1892. Also, NAH did an event on June 1st with the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Association for National Trails Day hiking the trail from Hōnaunau to Ho'okena. Jackson said it was a great experience.

c. Access updates

- i. Kaupakuea – Nani contacted Kevin Sullivan with the county Planning Department to discuss trail access and is waiting to hear back from him. One of Kevin's responsibilities are cultural and historic resources in the Planning Department. Jackson said he will be going to a meeting with him to discuss access issues, so they will follow-up with this trail as well.
- ii. Other access updates – Chuck asked if Rick and Jackson could speak with Kevin Sullivan about concerns that the draft General Plan now under review does not have adequate measures to implement trail identification, preservation, and access in the Biocultural Stewardship and Transportation sections of the draft General Plan. Jackson said he would like to make meetings with Kevin more routine so any trails issues could possibly be elevated within the county administration.

d. Administrative Tasks update – no update

e. Other NAH program updates:

NAH had a donor who paid for two trainers to come to Hawai'i island who are foremost trail designers, Tony Boone and Mike Ritter.

They came to train all of the NAH staff and crew and Chris and James Eller were also able to participate. Everyone got national certifications making the participants trail leaders. It was a really worthwhile 4 day workshop involving both classroom and field work, a very practical experience. There is a movement in the trail world to develop sustainable trails that are designed to last with minimal maintenance. It requires reading the land, reading the slopes, reading the soil types and building it accordingly, so that you're not building trails that need to be repaired or maintained and create a better flow.

Chuck pointed out the ancient trail system had taken many of these considerations into account as they developed over the centuries.

NAH hopes to have another training next year for those who weren't able to make it.

This sustainable trail development process also helps to better understand what tasks are needed and funding required to accomplish tasks. For instance, Maui was able to secure sufficient funding to develop a culturally-based trail system.

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. The program is working out well

overall. This program is fully funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration through 2026.

Nāpu‘u Recreation Plan

The same grant is funding this comprehensive recreational area plan that covers the Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a and Pu‘uanahulu 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 entered into a contract with First Solutions with the first kick-off meeting just held. They were selected because they have access to a number of subcontractors, one in particular, named Progressive, that specializes in progressive trail design and planning.

Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan

This is also funded by a Economic Development Administration grant. The 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. NAH will be working closely with the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail program and staff.

iv. Statewide Nā Ala Hele Program Manager

Bill Stormont is stepping down at the end of the month. He will become the program manager for the new Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. He will be presiding over his last state-wide meeting. Terrance is on the state-wide Advisory Council as both chair and representing the motorized group. The state-wide Advisory Council must meet at least once-a-year to maintain federal funding. It consists of all island chairs.

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

No update.

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

Rick reported for AKNHT. They have been a great deal of work at Kauleolī [II] working on further widening the buffer and clearing vegetation along the sides. Jackson worked with the team as well. They had a great day working up in the fire zone in North Kohala with a crew of 12-15 people out of Idaho called “Flourish” that comes once a year. They found the alignment of the Ala Loa trail going through that section. A nice long section was cleared and documented, including GIS locations.

Their primary effort is the unit management plan for our Kauleolī [II] unit in South Kona.

And this is where, basically, we're creating a management plan. This will be a co-stewardship plan, which is something new for the National Park Service here in Hawai‘i, but there are many good examples of these in other national parks. The stewards will include lineal and cultural descendants, neighbors, and other partners and interested parties. Ideas about what people want to do on that land, such as access, landscaping,

camping, etc. It's a real honor that the AKNHT will be one of the first ones in the National Park Service.

Chris said he heard the Kapalaoa property was for sale and wanted to know how that was going to affect the Ala Kahakai trail.

Rick said that the property was in process as a potential purchase using the county's Public Access and Natural Resource Preservation Fund with descendants working on this effort.

Debbie shared that the PONC commission was meeting on July 8th to rank properties as far as preference goes. The Kapalaoa property is one of the top 10, so she and Rick urged that people to e-mail letters of support of purchasing this property. Public testimony should go to the e-mail address listed on the PONC agenda meeting notice. ponctestimony@hawaiicounty.gov Re: Sugg. 24- 04, Kapalaoa, N. Kona, Hawaii. TMK (3) 7- 1- 003: 004, 005, 006, & 011.

Jeff asked about flooding in the area from 'Ōhai'ula (Spencer Beach Park) to Mau'umae Beach to Paniau [N]. Rick said there was a lot of damage. Rick said they would probably need to work with NAH and Queen Emma to reroute some portions of the trail. Also, they would like to look at replanting with native plant species.

E. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – Jackson suggested the next step be to wait until the Nāpu'u Recreation Plan is completed. Terrance said that the problem is no one wants it in their backyard.
- b. Waipio Valley Access Road (Terrence, Nani, Debbie Chang) [64] – no update
- c. "Narnia" Access Subcommittee [74]:

Chris wanted to propose to the NAH AC draft a letter to the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (BGN). He has been in contact with professor William Pila Wilson with the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. They agree a name should be given to this wahi pana. Chris provided a list of possible names and their pronunciation. Jackson suggested asking the BGM to provide a suggested name. Terrance expressed concern that it isn't clear if we are talking about a name for the access or for the body of water. He pointed out that only people with hunting licenses on authorized to cross the river.

Chuck made the following motion: "I move that the Narnia subcommittee draft a letter to the Board on Geographic Names seeking an appropriate name." Nani seconded the motion.

Discussion: Terrence summarized by stating it was his understanding that the subcommittee will draft a letter to the BGN in order to understand what is required to request a name for that location and that the letter will be presented at NAH ACs next meeting. The subcommittee currently consists of Nani, Chris, Jeff, and James Eller. Terrance noted that any member of the public can join the subcommittee and encouraged them to do so, if interested.

Chris called for a vote on the motion.

Terrence conducted a roll call vote. The vote was unanimous.

Chris stated he wanted to make a motion that the NAH AC no longer use the name "Narnia" to refer to this area because he believes it is not proper and could be considered disrespectful by many people. He provided a comprehensive history of the origins and uses of the word "Narnia" and noted that none of them had any Hawaiian or Polynesian references.

Terrence was concerned that people would not know what area to which NAH was referring if another name was used.

Chris was concerned about the name as it appears on the agenda.

David suggested the area be listed on the agenda as 'Waluku River Convergence Lookout (known on social media as "Narnia") Access Committee'.

Jackson said he would make the change on the agenda.

No further official action was taken on the agenda item.

Jackson went to the area and took some photographs of the area from the parking areas people are using and the community being impacted. There was an extensive discussion of access issues.

Terrence asked to become a subcommittee member and it was agreed he would join it.

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

There hasn't been any progress to report. Jackson said comments can still be submitted to him. Some inclusions to date include defining e-bikes class I, e-motorbikes, and further clarifying the pricing structure.

G. Information/Update: Tracking Tool:

Moana said Debbie came to assist her and help her get familiarized with the tracking tool. Moana will be working on moving forward. Moana said she would like to make some of the entries more concise and less redundant. Jackson expressed concern that relevant and/or important history could be lost. He also reminded the NAH AC that the tracking tool was not a public document, but was for the use and benefit of the NAH AC. Debbie said history would be available on the tracking tools from previous meetings. Jackson noted that the tracking tool is a live, working online document. He recommended that the current tracking tool be put into a historical .pdf document and that the "live" document containing current actions be available online for the NAH AC. There seemed to be a consensus that this is how the tracking tool would be administered.

H. Council Member Concerns

Jeff expressed concern about member absences. Terrence noted that he had already implemented a policy in which he would contact any member who missed two consecutive meetings to discuss their ability to serve on the NAH AC.

There were no other council concerns.

I. Council member trail experience forum:

Nani shared her experience with an ATV tour going up Mauna Kea R-10, better known as Skyline. It was one of the most beautiful trips she has ever taken. It looks down on Mauna Loa and over to Haleakala. There are silver swords everywhere. She screen-shared photos with the council of silver sword blooms and keiki.

Chris went on a 4-wheel drive up ʻĀinapō Road with his son. He said it was a beautiful drive, though slow going. Lots of yellow ʻohia.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set next meeting agenda

Agenda will add consideration of the letter being drafted by the Wauku River Convergence subcommittee.

B. Set next meeting date – October 2, 2024 at 6:00 PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

“Next Steps” noted from meeting:

Next Steps

1. Narnia Subcommittee (Nani, Jeff, Chris, James Eller, Terrence) to draft a letter to the Geographic Board seeking an appropriate name for the area currently referred to as "Narnia".
2. Moana to update the tracking tool, highlight areas to be deleted in blue, and send it back to Jackson for review.
3. Terrence to provide Nani with the contact information for the community association regarding the Wailuku River Convergence Lookout access issue.
4. Narnia Subcommittee to contact the Geographic Board and understand their requirements for requesting a new name before drafting the letter.
5. Jackson to send a PDF copy of the current tracking tool to the Council members before Moana makes changes.
6. Council members to send any suggestions for revisions to the NAR 13-130 rules to Jackson.
7. Jackson to follow up with Kevin Sullivan regarding the General Plan's lack of emphasis on trails and access.
8. Deborah to provide the TMK numbers and suggestion number for the Kapalawa properties to the Council members.
9. Council members to write support letters to the PONC Commissioners and the Secretary regarding the Kapalawa properties.
10. Terrence to join the Narnia Subcommittee.
11. Terrence to contact Council members who miss two consecutive meetings to check on their engagement and participation.

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