



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes

Approved: December 11, 2024

Revised: December 11, 2024

MEETING DATE: October 2, 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
 - Christopher Seymour
 - Chuck Flaherty, Secretary
 - Moana Rowland
 - Roger Kanealii Jr.

- Voting Members Absent Excused:**
- Jeffrey Yamauchi

- Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**
- Kawehi Ryder
 - David Rietow

- 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:**
- Abraham Antonio
 - Elizabeth Bryant
 - Deborah Chang
 - Andi Ellis
 - Bill Shontell
 - Dwayne Yoshino

- I. Call to Order (6:00 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. Chris, Chuck, and Nani had corrections. Nani made motion to approve minutes as amended. Chris seconded. Minutes approved. Jackson said he would send out minutes to Rick and Debbie once they were 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 :
 - i. Pololū Trail [54]:
 Jackson announced that the new owner of former Surety has agreed to donate land for a parking area to the state. This ties in with the plan that Townscape has been working to develop with NAH. NAH will be meeting with land owner to go over the conceptual management plan. It is a part of a 42-acre parcel, so it will have to be surveyed, subdivided and go through appropriate processes and approvals, such as Land Court. The parcel is zoned Ag-29 acre, but because the subdivision is for a public purpose, the county Planning Dept. said they would be able to subdivide to allow for smaller parcel for parking lot. Bill provided a short description of the Land Court exemption that allows for the subdivision.
 - ii. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campground [36]:
 NAH did a routine 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 went up to see if there was any damage from Hurricane Hone. No significant damage. He 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.
 - iv. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park (Chris) [78]:

Chris said that there were a large number of smaller trees down from Hurricane Hone. The group went out and got all trails cleared and sprayed. Chris gave a big mahalo to Travis for his kokua. Not too much rubbish. Kiosk has been shot a number of time. Jackson said NAH may be able to order a new sign. Chris said he would try to do interim plan.

v. Puna Trail [12]:

No damage from Hurricane Hone. The management plan has been finalized and is on the website <https://hawaiitrails.ehawaii.gov/trails/#/> under "Puna Trail".

The plan has a lot of great actionable tasks to move forward with trail stewards and community. There is a co-operative effort with adjacent landowners, Shipman family, community, cultural practitioners, DAR, etc. While not on the trail, the ocean has proven to be a hazard area. There have been several fatalities over the years due to the strong currents. The trail stewards have actually helped saved lives over the years. One solution is to have a buoy placed to mark ocean current hazard area to deter people from entering the area beyond.

vi. Other program trail updates:

No updates on other trails. All are being maintained. 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 received draft Archaeological Inventory Survey and the Cultural Impact Assessment for the trails and trail segments. We now need to finalize the reports and the creation of land survey a

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.

c. Access updates

- i. Kaupakuea Access to Hilo Forest Reserve (Nani) [49] – Jackson met with county representatives, including Kevin Sullivan with the county Planning Department, on August 12th. What they saw was the path which was on the easement has been overgrown and another path, not on the easement has developed. The county will be meeting with the landowner to resolve this.

- ii. Other access updates – no updates

d. Administrative Tasks update – no update

e. Other NAH program updates:

- i. Nā Manu 'Elele Trail Steward Program:

This state-wide program now has about 20 stewards on state-wide and on Hawai'i island (Polulu, Puna, and Saddle Road). It's running smoothly with lots of public engagement.

- ii. Nāpu'u Recreation Plan

Implementation of this plan has begun. The contractor did a site visit throughout the two ahupua'a, Pu'uwa'awa'a and Napu'u, from September 5th through 13th and will be using this information collected to start preparing a recreational plan for the area.

- iii. Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan

NAH is still waiting for the contract to develop the interpretative plan to be approved. Once it is approved, work to develop the plan will begin. NAH will be working closely with the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail program and staff in developing the plan.

- iv. Statewide Nā Ala Hele Program Manager

Bill Stormont is now the program manager for the new Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. His position has not yet been filled, but there is temporary support, Jason Omick with the Wildlife program within the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife, which has been helpful.

Because he's very experienced with budgets and federal grants. The State-wide NAH meeting was held.

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

No legislative updates. With regard to the budget, NAH got the federal grant funding for the Recreational Trail Program, which is essentially NAH's operating expenses. Jackson invited NAH volunteers to let him know if they needed supplies for their volunteer efforts.

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

AKNHT has two focus areas at the time.

AKNHT has received funding to be able revisit the Kaupalaoa trail in Pu'uuanahulu maikai of the Queen Kahumanu Highway to redress any damage that may have occurred on the trail since AKNHT did previous repair work.

Most exciting is the funding received to perform repairs on the Old Cart Road and the ala loa aupuni trails between the Lekeleke burial grounds and Ka'awaloa on Kealakekua Bay. With the focus being on the Ka'awaloa trail below the Pali Kapu O Keoua where a large portion of the trail collapsed during and after the November 2006 earthquake.

AKNHT will be working with a community partnership, KapuKapu 'Ohana, that includes that includes Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui and The Nature Conservancy, to do the repair work. Rick said AKNHT will need to be transporting ironwood trees by helicopter, so if anyone knows of a property owner with a parcel makai of Mamalahoa Highway that could serve as a landing area, let AKNHT know. ALNHT masons will be working with the community to do workshops to repair the Ka'awaloa trail section. This is a result of consultations with community and community groups for about six months and is occurring within the context of Final Master Plan for the Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in October 2023. Rick shared that AKNHT had first been approached about eight years ago by Leeann Leslie who asked what could be done to repair the damage to the trail

Debbie asked if the public could hike from Lekeleke to Ka'awaloa along the ala loa aupuni. Rick said much of the trail was in beautiful condition, except for the portion through the Hokuli'a project which is not well marked. Debbie asked if she parked within the shoreline park in Hokuli'a, could she hike to the trail? Jackson said there have been some groups that hiked from the Hokuli'a project area to Lekeleka and to Ka'awaloa, but that it is not easy to locate the trail. Chuck asked for a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the state Dept. of Land and Natural Resources and 1250 Oceanside Partners LLC to see what actions should be happening and when.

E. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – Jackson said he had requested the Nāpu'u Recreation Plan team to identify potential sites for an OHV trail. Terrance asked about the timeline for the plan's completion and Jackson said the contract allows for a year, plus a possible extension. Jackson said the plan team is still in collection of information mode. He doesn't have any

potential sites identified outside of that area at this time. Terrance pointed out that the OHV Committee is not a part of the Nāpu‘u Recreation Plan advisory group. Jackson acknowledged this fact. Duane asked about whether hunting uses would be part of the plan. Jackson said he asked that the advisory group reach out to hunters so that hunting uses could also be considered for the plan and asked Duane to let him know if Duane had someone to recommend to advocate for hunting uses. Terrance asked if other alternative sites could be found where the OHV use would be allowed and reminded the NAH AC that the committee was formed because there is a lot of OHV ridership in Kona that’s just going out to find places to ride in inappropriate places, so we need a designated place for the riders to go to reduce impacts.

b. Waipio Valley Access Road (Terrence, Nani, Debbie Chang) [64]

Nani said she had e-mailed council member Heather Kimball to see if there were plans for a pedestrian access lane. DLNR was on the county’s advisory council, but was represented by Bill Stormont, so currently DLNR doesn’t have representation on that advisory council. Debbie volunteered to also contact Heather to see what progress has been made for pedestrian access to Waipio Valley. Terrance asked who was chair of the advisory council. Debbie said she believed Heather was, but wasn’t sure. Terrance suggested going to the mayor’s office to get more information about the advisory council. Nani reminded everyone that NAH AC had sent a letter to the mayor’s office asking for a hiking representative to be on the council, but we never heard back from them. It was noted that there are two advisory groups, one with the mayor’s office that apparently has not been meeting and then the one with whom Heather is associated.

c. Wailuku River Convergence Lookout (known on social media as “Narnia”) Access Subcommittee (Terrence, Nani, Jeff, Chris, James Eller) [74]

Nani said she had success with her assignment to find out who owns the road. The trail starts at a dead end road called Makana Rd. which is a county road. The county put up the gate where the trail starts. Nani screen-shared some maps. Jackson said he would like to know how the county is able to legally block a county road and put up “no trespassing” signs without a public process. Nani noted that there was a bill in the last state legislature that would allow the counties to block roads without a public process. Jackson asked if the NAH AC would like to ask the county why the road is blocked because allowing usage of the county road would solve the problem of people meandering through the subdivision, which has been the primary objection to this becoming a public trail. Nani contacted Eric Page at Lyman Museum to ask if he had any information about the name. He said he believed the name to be Ka’uwehu. Chris said it was on the white board of names that he had.

Debbie wanted to let the NAH AC know that the state bill to allow the county to close publicly-owned county roads was still alive in the legislature. She noted that this legislation was drafted and largely introduced by county council member Heather Kimball and the closing of Makana Rd is only one of many,

many examples of county roads that have been locked up for various reasons. Chuck asked if the proposed state bill was part of county council Resolution 630-24 that contained bills that the county council was proposing the Association of State Counties to support at their up-coming meeting. Debbie said it was.

Chris gave a presentation on his research project to find the appropriate name for this trail/area. Chris said Ka'uwehu is one of the place names in this area.

Chris said he used his Hawaiian language skills to help him in his research. He also consulted with professor Pila Wilson with the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. They agree a name should be given to this wahi pana (sacred area).

Chris then gave an amazingly detailed history of the area, place names, historical events, Hawaiian 'olelo newspaper articles, etc. related to the area.

He then gave three place names to be considered: Ka'uwehu Falls, Puka ā Maui Falls, and Pu'uloa, which are all in the Pi'ihonua watershed.

Chris said the process was to propose a name to the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (BGN). The BGN process has requirements that will necessitate extensive research, including inquiries of kanaka maoli of the ahupua'a with 'ike of the area. Chris said another question is would be whether the name should be for the place at which a hiker arrives or for the area that a hiker is seeing. Chris said he spoke with John Cross who grew up in this area and has extensive geographical experience and knowledge. He is also working with an independent researcher to assist in the effort.

Terrence noted that no one should be entering the water. He believes NAH AC should name the lookout area because that is the access being sought and that Debbie and Nani work with the county with regard to access.

It was agreed a list of names to be considered would be prepared. Jackson said there would be site visit with maps to provide more information and context.

There was consensus that a name for the lookout area would be most appropriate, but that additional research and inquiry was needed.

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

The comment period has ended. Nani was the only member who provided a comment. There will be review meeting tomorrow with the consultants. Then there will be an internal review within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Finally, the proposed revisions will go to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for consideration and decision.

G. Information/Update: Tracking Tool:

Moana said she would like to remove old information from the tracking tool that was no longer relevant to current circumstances. Terrance said that the tracking tool presented to Moana would be preserved as a .pdf for perpetuity and that there would be a separate "working document" that would be for NAH AC meetings as an Excel spreadsheet. Jackson noted that the tracking tool is an internal working document that is an internal document not available to the public.

H. Council Member Concerns

Nani noted that Abraham Antonio was present. He is the former chair of the Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Authority. Nani is concerned about the lack of trails in the area between Hawaiian Paradise Park and Hawaiian Beaches and noted that Abraham shares her concern is doing research. Jackson noted that in order to comply with the Sunshine Law, the NAH AC would have to agendaize this under "New Business" for the next scheduled meeting and invited Abraham to give a testimony as a member of the public at that time. Terrence suggested Nani and Abraham contact Jackson and get it agendaized under "new trail interest". Abraham asked what is "unencumbered state land". Jackson stated it is any state land that does not have any formal or legal agreement associated with the use of the land.

Chuck expressed a concern that the county draft General Plan does not have sufficient implementation language to assure protection and preservation of historic trails. Jackson stated that this could not be discussed at this meeting in order to comply with the Sunshine Law and would have to be agendaized for the next meeting.

Chris introduced Andi Ellis, the new Executive Director of Bayfront Trails, who is also an avid mountain biker.

Terrence has a concern about the attendance of a council member. He will be discussing the matter with Jackson.

No other member concerns were expressed.

I. Council member trail experience forum:

Nani took the Kaulana Manu Sanctuary (a.k.a. Kīpuka 21) trail experience and said it was like taking a walk through a botanical garden. She was surprised by the number of native birds that came really close to her. She noted that there was evidence of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set next meeting agenda

OIP received a complaint about the agenda being too broad. Jackson will be adjusting agenda as appropriate, basically to make the agenda to be more specific and descriptive. Jackson asked that any item that a member wants to discuss during a meeting to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to a scheduled meeting in order for it to be considered for the agenda. This to make sure we are being totally transparent with the public as to what will be discussed at meetings.

B. Set next meeting date – December 11 , 2024 at 6:00 PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:02 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