



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

**Nā Ala Hele**  
**Hawai'i Island Advisory Council Minutes**

**Approved: April 10, 2025**

**Revised:**

**MEETING DATE: December 11, 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
  - Chuck Flaherty, Secretary
  - David Rietow
  - Jeffrey Yamauchi
  - Christopher Seymour
  - Moana Rowland

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

- Voting Members Absent Unexcused:**
- none

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

**Ex-Officio Absent:**

- Invited Guest:**
- Theresa Dean (PBR)
  - Mckenna Bassett (PBR)
  - Irene Sprecher (Forest Solutions)
  - Robbie Justice (Forest Solutions)

- Public:**
- Joy Yoshino
  - Greg Engh
  - Brian Ley
  - Peter Mills
  - Larry Rose
  - Steve Holmes
  - Deborah Chang
  - Noah Gomes
  - John Vamvakitis
  - Diane Ware
  - Jacob Keana‘āina

I. Call to Order (6:00 PM)

II. Advisory Council CHAIRPERSON’S ADDRESS:

Jackson requested agenda B.e.ii. to be moved to before B.a. because we have a presenter. Terrance agreed.

III. Review DRAFT MINUTES of 10/2/24:

Chuck made motion to approve minutes. Nani seconded. Chris made several ‘olelo grammar corrections. Minutes were approved.

IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Three minutes maximum): Diane Ware was acknowledged as a public testifier. She referred the council to her written testimony on the General Plan agenda item.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Plan update and discussion (PBR/Nā Ala Hele staff) – Theresa and Mckenna gave the PBR program update. She shared her screen to give the presentation. She pointed out this is the first update since the NAH was developed and approved in 1991. PBR is about a year into the project. She posted the General Fact Sheet in the chat. The Program Plan is state-wide and will have objectives, strategic tasks and evaluations to determine levels of success. Since it began, PBR has gathered background info such as legal environment, trail inventory, ADA compliance issues, internal surveys at the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Advisory Councils, identifying gaps between where the program is and where it should be, stakeholder interviews, lineal and cultural descendants, traditional and customary practitioners, considered Ka Pa‘akai analysis, Kai trail stewards, Highways Act of 1892, etc. Early 2025 will be engaging more deeply with users groups and community. PBR will also be looking into doing an existing conditions analysis, a financial and organizational staffing analysis. The University of Hawaii Manoa research team has also been contracted by the Division of Forestry and Wild in a parallel project to do a fully consider the questions and solutions regarding financial and organizational staffing. Their results will be incorporate into the plan. Chuck asked how the Highways Act of 1892 would be enforced through the plan. Teresa

said that the program plan is trying to understand where the gaps are and how. institutional agency wise they can help to either add resources, more abstractors, better collaboration with the Bureau of Conveyances, etc., so that there is more support from bringing in more historic trails into the program. Debbie commented that the Highways Act of 1892 is highly complex and there is a need to really focus and clarify how it plays into the program itself because it is a really significant law of NAH. Terrance wanted to know how the plan would address the creation of new trails. Theresa said the plan would involve both existing trail and the potential for new ones. Terrance thanked Theresa and Mckenna for their presentation and work.

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

- a. Program Trails updates : Jackson gave a quick update. All trails are being well maintained and Jackson acknowledge the good work of staff and crews. Don't have staff on the westside, but the eastside crew is filling in nicely.
  - i. Pololū Trail [54]: The new landowner will be subdividing and donating an area for a low-impact parking lot for a better lookout placement and trailhead. A portable toilet will be in place soon.
  - ii. Muliwai Trail/Waimanu Campground [36]: Trail being maintained well. Removing brush and treefalls.
  - iii. Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Riding Area (Terrence) [27]: Terrance is heading up the volunteers for this area. They will be going up to do clearing and maintenance.
  - iv. Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park (Chris) [78]: Chris is the volunteer leading this effort and the Big Island Mountain Biking Association. Chris said clearing from hurricane completed and this is a good time to go biking.
- v. Puna Trail [12]: Jackson said maintenance going well. NAH met with the State Historic Preservation Division and Shipman, which is the adjacent property owner to plan for a project early next year to build a causeway over a muddy spot, right as the trail gets to the beach. It will be traditional style with rockwork, dry stack, rock work, a causeway so that people don't have to walk in the mud. It's a traditional style of trail building in the Puna area. One of the groups will be the Kea'au middle school, along with other volunteer groups as well. Nani asked if a portable toilet could be put into place because people were eliminating around the trailhead area. Debbie asked if the Polar Mule Station is a historic property and if there be an archeological inventory survey prior to development for public parking or usage. Jackson said ther's already been an archaeological inventory for that area. Nothing will be changed with the mule station because it's been painted and reroofed by previous landowners. Nani asked if a portable toilet put in at Kehena beach because of the obnoxious smell and safety issue there. Jackson said that is a park area, so NAH has no jurisdiction. But NAH has been working with the Shipman family to find a legal, appropriate location for a portable toilet. Also, Jackson will be asking the trail stewards to remind people of appropriate behavior.

- vi. Other program trail updates: No other trail updates. Everything going smoothly.
- b. Historic Trails updates
  - i. Judd Trail [8]: Archaeological Inventory Surveys and identification of alignment have been completed. Trail is under the Highways Act of 1892 and, therefore, are publicly owned right-of ways. NAH did a site visit and identified encroachments along the alignment between Ali'i Drive and Kuakini Highway. Some schools groups have been assisting in clearing and there will be more scheduled in the future.
  - ii. Hōnaunau to Ho'okena Trail – Archaeological Inventory Surveys and identification of alignment have been completed. Trail is under the Highways Act of 1892 and, therefore, are publicly owned right-of ways. Community has been having clearing workdays.
- c. Access updates
  - i. Kaupakuea Access to Hilo Forest Reserve (Nani) [49] - Nani has not heard back from the county. Keola Childs asked what is the county's role in that access? Jackson explained that the county was supposed to provide an access to the Forest Preserve as a conditional of subdivision approval. Jackson pointed out it exists on paper, but nothing has actually been completed on the ground to date. Keola and Jackson said they would consult further after the meeting to see what can be done to complete this condition of approval. Nani pointed out Kevin Sullivan with the county Planning Dept. has been the contact in the past.
  - ii. Other access updates – no updates
- d. Administrative Tasks update – Jackson noted that NAH's new program employees, Jonay and Madison had introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Just closed Jacob's GIS position, so will be looking to fill it now. Jackson is waiting on a list from the state Human Resources department so he can begin moving forward to fill that position.
- e. Other NAH program updates:
  - i. Nā Manu 'Elele Trail Steward Program: The trail stewards at Polulu have been doing a great job. The number of rescues in the prior year were 10, but the number is 0 this year.
  - ii. Nāpu'u Recreation Plan -Irene Sprecher and Robbie Justice of Forest Solutions gave a presentation of the details of the Nāpu'u Recreation Plan and its process. They have been collecting feedback for almost three months and that process is wrapping up. Jackson will send the survey out to NAH Council members. The feedback will be assembled and a first draft plan should be out about six months from now. Nani asked whether hunters and their concerns are being included and received. A map of the area was screen-shared and reviewed with the Council. David asked how the name Nāpu'u relates to this area. Irene said it is the name the 'ohana call the larger land area. There are endangered species there, a forest preserve, hunting area, hiking areas, etc.

Keola asked how the variety of users will be interfaced. Who can go where and what can they do? Jackson said that is what the plan will be determining. Keola asked how the area will be staff with “rangers”. Jackson said it will be a budgetary issue and so community support and testimony will be needed at some point. David shared his experiences in the area. Chuck asked if the ‘ohana of the area are leading the effort. Irene said they are very engaged in the process and plan. Terrance asked how the Pu’uwa’awa’a Advisory Council is involved. They submitted a recreational goals document to be considered.

iii. Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan – PBR Hawai’i has been engaged to develop this plan to provide history and culture of the entire alignment, “How to tell the stories.”

iv. Statewide Nā Ala Hele Program Manager – this position still remains unfilled.

- C. Budget/Legislative Update (Nā Ala Hele staff): Legislature is between sessions now, but the new session starts in January 2025, so relevant e-mail updates will start being sent then. The NAH Council is not allowed to lobby, but members can as individual citizens.
- D. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Update (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff): Rick had a couple of updates. AKNHT is working to develop a community-based management plan for the Kauleoli unit south of Pu’uhonua O Hōnaunau, about a 95 acre parcel. Community meetings will start in the latter part of March 2025. Goal is to get ancestral and lineal and cultural descendants’ knowledge of traditional and customary practices in order to prepare the most appropriate management plan. Chuck asked if this was the area makai of Ki’ilea Farms and Rick confirmed it was. AKNHT has acquired some parcels of land in Ki’ilea Farms in order to preserve the ancient ala loa “King’s” trail. Also, their GIS specialist, La Crivello, is working on fine-tuning GIS data on the North Kohala portion of the trail and is working with the community to develop additional interpretative venues and stories.
- E. Subcommittee Reports:
  - a. OHV Subcommittee (Terrence Noda, John Howerton) – Terrence said the OHV is worried that a place to develop an OHV will not be found. They are hoping an inventory of places can be developed, even as small as a 10 acre lot would be sufficient.
  - b. Waipio Valley Access Road (Terrence, Nani, Debbie Chang) [64] – County councilmember Heather Kimball got back to Debbie and said that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has not submitted the name of a person to replace Bill Stormont on her steering committee. That steering committee is different than the advisory group the former mayor had created and which did not often meet. The advisory group had tried to get someone to represent pedestrian access interests, but the mayor never responded. With regard to the steering committee, Terrence spoke with Bill. There is a catch-22 situation in which Heather is waiting for DLNR to submit a name, while DLNR is waiting for Heather to make a request for a name. Terrence asked Debbie to

contact Heather to let her know that a name will be submitted by DLNR for steering committee upon Heather's request. Terrence said Heather should address the letter to DLNR Chair Dawn Chang. Debbie said she would send an e-mail to Heather with that information so that Heather make take appropriate action and will copy Terrence and Nani. Nani suggested that NAH write a letter to the new mayor, Kimo Alameda, to request a meeting with him to update him on the Waipio Valley pedestrian access issue. Jackson expressed concern about compliance with the Sunshine Law. Terrance and Nani asked if the Council could just resending the same letter that has already been approved with the only change being the new mayor as addressee. Terrance and Jackson agreed that could be done. Jackson said he could make the recipient change and send the letter. Terrence thanked Nani for walking the Council through to this decision.

- c. Wailuku River Convergence Lookout (known on social media as "Narnia") Access Subcommittee (Terrence, Nani, Jeff, Chris, James Eller) [74] - Chris sent an e-mail with some maps that had been collected from a source from the sugar cane era. Information being collected show where water flowed down from the the Wailuku River into a section, including a water resource book apparently published for the state that provided more history about such things as erosion and how the river was diverted to maintain its flow into Hilo. Chris thinks it would be interesting for the Council to be able to see these maps and asked that they be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Jackson said he would have to make sure this was appropriately authorized. Chris believes they are near completion of gathering all available information about the area history and names. Someone will need to develop a proposal and work with Jackson and see what can be done and where what options there are. Chris is very close to getting a name, so the focus will be on that and reporting findings back to the committee and then the council

- F. HAR 13-130 Rule Revision (Nā Ala Hele staff): No updates. It is still in process. It's with the management team on Oahu. Hope that it is completed by June 2025. NAH council will have opportunity to review at that point and then the Board of Land and Natural Resources must approve.
- G. Information/Update: Tracking Tool: Terrence thanked Moana for taking on the responsibility to the tracking tool.
- H. Council member trail experience forum: Nani shared her experience hiking the Pu'u O'o Forest Reserve trail on the east side of Saddle Road. She surprised at what a lovely trail that is, with giant Koa trees in an 'ohia forest filled with bird song. Thankfully, there was no much sign of rapid 'ohia death.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council attendance and proposed requirements (Terrence)
  - a. Discussion – Terrence lead a discussion to create rules to address council members missing multiple meetings. He stated his appreciation for the members who attend the meetings and the personal effort and time they invest in the council. Terrence noted this was our fifth meeting of the year and that

there are only about six meetings per year. Terrence asked the council's opinion as to whether or not a council member should remain on council if they miss 3 meetings per year because they would not likely be appropriately informed of the council's actions nor would it be fair to the remainder of the council. Chuck made a motion: "That the Advisory Council members who miss 3 or more meetings without justification during a single one year term not be recommended for term renewal." Chris seconded the motion. There was further discussion about whether or not the rule should be for any absence, excused or not, but no motion to amend was made. Chuck called the question. A roll call vote was taken. Nani, Chris, Chuck, Moana, Jeff, David, and Terrence voted in the affirmative. No other members were present to vote. Motion passed.

- B. Lower Puna Trails (Nani) –Nani noted that Brian Lay, who had left the meeting, wrote a suggestion in the chat if some sort of deal could be made to convert the property between Hawaiian Paradise Park and Hawaiian Beach Shores into a hunting area, it would be nice to several parking areas along with ATV trails throughout the property. Having this access would allow hunters to properly keep the pig population under control and hopefully out the surrounding residential areas. Jackson said that was a good idea, but that he is not aware of any plans for those properties to be hunting areas. If plans were to be made there would have to be discussions at NAH's management level. But if that ever happens. Jackson would advocate for a hunter access, parking, ATV trail, etc. if it ever comes to the point of planning. Nani noted that Abraham Antonio, who requested this beyond the agenda, was unable to make it tonight, but he did speak with Ian Cole, the East Hawaii wildlife biologist about opening the lands up for hunting to alleviate the destruction that pigs are causing to adjacent properties. Nani requested this be kept as an agenda item. Jackson said it would be on the next meeting's agenda under Unfinished Business.
- C. Hawai'i County General Plan (Charles) – Chuck noted that he had previously spoken to Diane Ware was the Outing Committee Chair of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Island Group. He stated he had discussed the issues raised in Diane's testimony with her and shared her concerns. Terrence asked Chuck to provide an overview. Chuck explained the General Plan is the primary guidance on planning for the county. It is revised every 10 years or so, but the current General Plan comprehensive review began back in 2015. In 2019, a draft General Plan, labeled General Plan 2040 was published by then-county Planning Director Michael Yee. However, in 2023, Planning Director Zendo Kern published another draft General Plan, labeled General Plan 2045. As Diane pointed out in her written testimony, the GP2045 removed significant policies and actions that would have benefitted public access, trails, and recreation. For instance, GP2040 required a county public access and trail program, while GP2045 did not. Chuck said he would be willing to draft a letter to be submitted to the Leeward and Windward Planning Commissions to urge the Commissions to urge them to adopt the language from the GP2040 that contain far more specific and implementable language as described in Diane's testimony in order to better ensure that public access and trails would be better promoted than the current draft GP2045 provides. Jackson noted that this would not be lobbying, but that the council would only be providing comments. Chuck also shared

that the Planning Commissions were urging more public comment to assist them. They are all volunteers , just like this council, and this is a pretty complex, comprehensive document. So they're asking for people who've got subject matter, expertise or knowledge to assist them. In in making the plan stronger and better. Chuck asked if anyone else would be interested in assisting in drafting a letter with comments for the Commissions. Terrence noted that Sunshine Law would not allow for other council members to be involved at this time and suggested that Chuck draft a letter to be presented at the next council meeting as an agenda item subject to discussion, amendment, and decision. Terrance asked the council to read Diane's testimony because it really outlines the issue. Keola pointed out that there are six community development plans in the county and that he hopes the council will address the these in its letter.

- D. Set next meeting agenda - the next meeting agenda will include all new business discussed and any agenda items council members may wish to be addressed. Chuck asked Jackson to look at a subdivision being proposed in Ka'u, Na'alehu Hills, and an Old Government Road described in the subdivision application to see if it is appropriate for being agendized.
  - E. Set next meeting date – February 12 , 2025 at 6:00 PM
- VII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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

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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

