



NĀ ALA HELE
Hawai'i Trail & Access System

Nā Ala Hele Statewide Advisory Council

DRAFT - Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 6, 2025
TIME: 6:01 p.m. – 7:13 p.m.
LOCATION: Via Zoom video conference, AND
In person, DLNR-Div. of Forestry and Wildlife, 19 E. Kawili St., Hilo, HI

ATTENDEES: Statewide Council Members
Kolea Skye Razon-Olds, O'ahu, Statewide Council Chair
Klayton Kubo, Kaua'i, Statewide Council Vice-Chair
Terrence Noda, Hawai'i island
Russell Reinertson, Maui

Ex Officio

Jackson Bauer, Hawai'i Island Nā Ala Hele Trail & Access Program Manager &
Acting Statewide Nā Ala Hele Trail & Access Program Coordinator
Kawika Smith, Kaua'i Nā Ala Hele Trail & Access Program Manager

Guests Presenters

Theresa Dean, PBR Hawaii Planner
Makena Bassett, PBR Hawaii Planner

Public Attendees

Sean Goo
Yuko Barretto
Dave Fahrenwald
Terry Galpini Prejean

Executive Summary

The Statewide Advisory Council met to review and approve the 2025 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) project table, which is critical for securing federal funding. PBR Hawaii presented feedback from a recent public open house regarding the Na Ala Hele program plan update, noting extensive discussions on trail capacity and potential non-resident user fees. DOFAW provided an administrative update on staffing, active federal grants, and ongoing revisions to administrative rules. Finally, island representatives shared status updates on local trail maintenance, access issues, and infrastructure projects before unanimously re-electing Kolea Skye Razon-Olds as Statewide Chair for the 2025-2026 term.

Meeting Discussions

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Project Table

- Jackson Bauer presented the 2025 RTP projects table for approval to secure federal fuel tax grants.
- Russell Reinertson noted the table lacked historical detail regarding trail use types and specific work appropriations.
- Jackson clarified that trail uses have not changed from previous years (excluding a few new additions on Hawaii Island) and agreed to provide detailed fund expenditure reports to individual island councils.

PBR Hawaii Program Plan Update

- Theresa Dean reported on a recent virtual open house attended by 68 members of the public, which yielded overwhelmingly positive feedback for the Na Ala Hele program.
- Public polling and breakout rooms highlighted concerns over overcrowded trails.
- Participants suggested implementing user fees strictly for non-residents/visitors, establishing donation-based QR codes, and creating a volunteer-to-access program.
- Aaron Lowe summarized a proposed 3-tier system to ensure Native Hawaiians with ancestral connections are exempt from reservation systems or fees.

Administrative Report

- Jackson Bauer announced that almost all allocated island positions (Managers, Specialists, Technicians) have been successfully filled.
- The American Rescue Plan Act grant is currently funding a trail capacity study with the University of Hawaii, a large-scale recreation plan on Hawaii Island, an interpretive plan for a 180-mile National Historic Trail, and the Nā Manu 'Elele Trail Stewards program.
- A new "green fee" passed by the legislature may serve as a future funding source, though the allocation process will be highly competitive among state agencies.

- Internal revisions to administrative rules are underway to address modern uses like e-bikes and to establish a scheduling fee system.

Island Reports

- **Hawaii Island:** The Pololū Valley environmental assessment is complete, and engineering is underway for a new parking and lookout area. Waimanu Campground tested negative for fire ants. The council reactivated a letter to the Mayor regarding the Waipio Valley Access Road.
- **Maui:** Polipoli was closed in April for storm repairs. Work continues on the remote Upper Waiohuli/Waiakoa trails. A draft management plan for Kamehamehū is still pending after six years, and final hearings for public access to the Haleakala Bridal Trail are commencing soon.
- **Oahu:** The council is monitoring military lease renewals that may impact dirt bike track access. Recreation plans are moving forward to open Maunawili and Helemano, prioritizing equestrian, mountain biking, and dirt biking access to add approximately 8,000 acres of recreational space.
- **Kauai:** CIP funding was successfully secured to purchase the remaining materials for the boardwalk project. Routine trail maintenance continues, though the council is actively seeking to increase community volunteer participation.

Key Decisions

- Unanimously approved the minutes from the previous July 3rd 2024 meeting.
- Approved the 2025 RTP Projects Table, with an accepted amendment to distribute fund expenditure breakdowns to the individual island councils.
- Unanimously elected Kolea Skye Razon-Olds to continue as the Statewide Advisory Council Chair for the 2025-2026 term.