



O'ahu Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Advisory Council Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

TIME: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

PLACE: O'ahu Division of Forestry and Wildlife Makiki Branch Office Conference Room. 2135 Makiki Heights Dr. Honolulu, HI 96822 and via Zoom

Members:

PRESENT: Skye Razon-Olds (Council Chair, Rock Climbing/Cultural Practitioner), Todd Cullison (Council Vice-Chair, Education/Hawaii Nature Center), Ken Suzuki (Hiking/Hawaii Trail and Mountain), Sean Goo (Off-Road 4x4 Vehicles), Yuko Barretto (Mountain Biking /HBL), Terry Galpin (OHV/Motocross), Marian Yasuda (Trail Running/HURT)

Ex-Officio Members and Additional Guests: Michelle DiMeglio, Jenna Masters, Evan Broberg, Dakota Mengel, Lee Cobian, Maree Medeiros, Theresa Dean, Mike Algiers

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Announcements: **4:00 p.m.**

Meeting came to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were conducted.

II. Acceptance of Minutes: **4:04 p.m.**

February Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Program Plan Presentation **4:06 p.m.**

Theresa Dean and Maree Medeiros provided an overview of the draft NAH Program Plan

- Four-year plan revision nearly complete; focuses on modernizing trail management, staffing, and community engagement. The plan serves as a high-level strategic document guiding staffing, training, and investments rather than addressing individual trails
- Goals now emphasize historic preservation, climate change protection, and collaboration with landowners.
- Structure Revision: Seven chapters update legal frameworks, staffing roles, and introduce a new trail classification system. Emphasis on centralizing functions to reduce duplication across island branches while allowing for local flexibility. Encourages greater volunteer involvement with recommendations for cooperative agreements, funding, and protocols to support stewardship
- Funding Opportunities: Trail project funding extended through fiscal year 2027; federal funding options for mitigating natural disasters discussed.
- Next Steps: Next meeting on June 16, 2026; members to review draft program plan for feedback submission. Public review timeline set with virtual presentation and two-month comment period targeting May through July 2026 before final plan delivery by year-end.
- Council members encouraged to review internally to manage public feedback effectively before broader rollout

IV. New and Open Business: **4:38 p.m.**

- **SCORP:** The council discussed the status and impact of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan on trail and recreation management priorities. SCORP conducted every five years with 2021 as last completed version and recertification option available. Recertification extends validity from five to ten years, potentially avoiding costly full updates; decision pending but preferred due to prior heavy community engagement of 600 participants.



- SCORP covers all DLNR-managed outdoor recreation areas, including parks, beaches, and trails, serving as a roadmap for funding and project priorities. Current SCORP results showed highest demand from motorsports community, followed by other recreation types like disc golf and pickleball. Council noted need to increase trail and mountain biking community involvement in future SCORP updates to better represent trail interests in resource allocations.
- Clarified that NHL Native Hawaiian organizations have an exemption from Section 106 cultural consultation if conducting restoration work. This reduces bureaucratic delays for recognized Hawaiian groups engaged in stewardship, supporting cultural and environmental resource protection efforts
- Key legislative developments related to co-management and stewardship of natural and cultural resources were reviewed. HB 2218 supports formal co-management agreements between DLNR and Native Hawaiian groups to strengthen stewardship of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The bill facilitates transition from revocable permits to formal MoUs or MoAs, enhancing grant eligibility and long-term stewardship stability. Recreational activities are included within the co-management scope, expanding beyond solely cultural or religious stewardship.
- **Helemano Working Group**
 - Skye Razon-Olds continues her involvement in the group. No meetings have happened recently.
- **Honouliuli Contract and Access Update**
 - Contract work should start – no update on easement

V. Trail and Access Specialist Staff Report

4:55 p.m.

- Trail project tracking document updated and distributed for member review prior to meetings to enable more informed discussion and prioritization. Every attempt will be made to keep the sheet up to date.
- New staff introductions and role clarifications were provided to support transparency and communication with council and community. Staffing for trail maintenance and coordination has increased with multiple new field crew members and service corps participants. Current crew includes Jesse Wilson, two CUS service corps members, and a Student Conservation Association member, with an RFP out for additional hires. Total crew expected to reach nine or ten members including potential hires for vacant specialist positions.
- Significant storm damage has caused closures and repair needs on key trails including Kealia, and Manoa Falls. Some repairs require engineering assessments and may involve contract work; others are manageable with in-house crews prioritizing safety hazards first. Temporary closures planned and communicated, with ongoing efforts to reopen trails as conditions allow. Will send link and information on federal BRIC funding opportunity for mitigation work to DLNR staff responsible for trail repairs.
- The council received detailed updates on trail conditions, maintenance efforts, staffing levels, and funding timelines impacting trail accessibility and safety.

VI. Trail User Group Reports:

5:12 p.m.

- **Terry Galpin (OHV/Motocross):** Hawaiian Motorcycle Association (HMA) park faces extended summer closures for Army training impacting rider access and financial stability. Army also managing lease and infrastructure responsibilities; current permit is a one-year revocable permit renewed recently. Requests pending for DLNR support to cover water and trash service costs, which currently burden HMA financially. Positive developments from meetings with Army leadership include potential for Army to resume road maintenance duties at HMA, projected to save DLNR approximately \$300,000. Joint public relations opportunities planned to acknowledge Army support and strengthen collaboration



- **Skye Razon-Olds (Council Chair, Rock Climbing/Cultural Practitioner):** More iwi has been uncovered during the storm. She will coordinate collection of individual council members' draft comments on the Nā Ala Hele Program Plan and consolidate them for submission to PBR consultants.
- **Todd Cullison (Council Vice- Chair, Education/Hawaii Nature Center):** Hawaii Nature Center praised Na Ala Hele crew for timely trail clearing enabling educational activities to continue during wet periods.
- **Ken Suzuki (Hiking/Hawaii Trail and Mountain):** Volunteers and community members have played a critical role in clearing storm damage and supporting maintenance efforts across multiple parks and trails.
- **Sean Goo (Off-Road 4x4 Vehicles):** Too wet for any off-road opportunities.
- **Yuko Barretto (Mountain Biking /HBL):** Mountain biking volunteers assisted with road clearing and erosion control during storms, enhancing safety and access. She emphasized the importance of managed recreation spaces to direct riders and reduce unauthorized trail use in sensitive or inappropriate areas.
- **Marian Yasuda (Trail Running/HURT):** Two trail events canceled due to trail damage. Will be working closely on trail repair and restoration with NAH.

VII. Other Business

5:20 p.m.

Next council meeting scheduled for June 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

5:22 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

— **Respectfully submitted, Marian Yasuda**