

**HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP)  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 6, 2010  
North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC)**

**INVOCATION**

An Oli was given by Ka'iulani Pahi'ō and the invocation was given by Taka Domingo.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Christian Kay at 9:06 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

**Steering Committee members present:**

Brad Kurokawa, Ku'ulei Badua, Ka'iulani Pahi'ō, Jason Moniz, Scott Enright, Glenn Carvalho, Craig Neff, Farrah-Marie Gomes

**Absent (Excused):** Richard Ha, Lorraine Mendoza, Marc Miranda

**County of Hawai'i:**

Christian Kay, Hāmākua CDP Project Manager, Leanna Gloor, Community Planning Assistant for the Hāmākua CDP

**Consultant Team:**

Roy Takemoto, Managing Director of the Hilo office of PBR and Associates, Inc.  
Catie Fernandez, Director of Planning Solutions with PBR and Associates, Inc.  
Debbie Chang, Island Transitions LLC  
Bob Agres, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED)  
John Higgins, Capacity Building Associate HACBED  
Padmendra Shreshta, Planning and Research Assistant for HACBED

**Acknowledgements:**

Thank you to the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC) and the Hilo Hāmākua Community Development Corporation (HHCDC) for the food and refreshments.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION GATHERING WORKSHOP

**1. Land Use and Agriculture Workshop:** Lead Consultant Roy Takemoto gave a PowerPoint presentation about the land use regulatory system as it relates to Agriculture. That presentation is available in the Steering Committee Section of the project website: [www.hamakuacdp.info](http://www.hamakuacdp.info). Mr. Takemoto answered the following questions from the community:

**Question:** How do young people get access to land when it is so unaffordable? When we were younger, we formed a hui and bought land together in the 70s. I know someone who grew up here and wants to farm but he can't afford to buy land. We have not solved the issue of young independent people wanting to farm and live on the land.

**Roy:** We should be discussing this more in the planning process. Normally when you request a subdivision, you have to install overly done infrastructure. There are laws in place now for the subdivision of agricultural land but the catch is that people cannot live on this land.

**Question:** What is the current situation re: permitting for ohana dwellings?

**Roy:** Right now, according to the current code, ohana dwellings are limited to urban zoned lands. If you want a second house you need approval for a farm dwelling which will be granted depending on the level of agriculture on your property. If the agriculture you are pursuing on the land warrants a full time employee, then you may be granted the permit for a farm dwelling.

**2. Public Access Presentation:** Public Access consultant Debbie Chang gave a PowerPoint presentation about Public Access. That presentation is available in the Steering Committee Section of the project website: [www.hamakuacdp.info](http://www.hamakuacdp.info). Ms. Chang answered the following questions from the community:

**Question:** What is the situation with Haina Landing?

**Debbie:** Private landowners are allowing the public access to drive to Haina Landing. This is an important access that I hope remains open in the future. You go down past the post office through the private power plant property.

**Question:** I am a long time newcomer, when I was young person, people just walked around and it was different from the mainland. Even now, where I live there is a road that was bulldozed by the landowner to get to his pastures. He maintains the road and the young hunters come and use the road. It has resulted in a lot of dialogue about who will maintain things – a much higher degree of dialogue than on the mainland. Is there any way to facilitate that on other properties?

**Debbie:** If people would exercise the spirit of aloha, ask permission, offer to help out that would be great. We need to teach our kids how to behave so bad behavior won't close access opportunities for others. When I grew up surrounded by Parker Ranch lands I could cut through pastures and the paniolo knew who I was and knew where to find me if something went wrong. Today there are so many more people living here and wanting to enjoy the outdoors. We cannot go back to the old times. What you describe is special but hard to facilitate in light of our current situation. Often the new land owners do not come with the same traditions and their first step is to put up fences, gates and signs.

The State of Hawai'i is the largest owner on this island. One private land owner asked why I was looking at his land for access instead of using state lands. Perhaps we need to start focusing more on access through state lands. Many of the lands are in long term leases which do not provide for public access. It takes a lot of work to gain access through state lands that are leased. If access is requested, security needs to be provided for the lessee, e.g. building fences to protect the lessees animals. It is definitely an option.

**Question:** Can't we enact ordinances that would allow young people to continue to hunt and fish? Why can't we teach these things in the school and use land access to do this?

**Debbie:** CDP cannot contradict existing law. The CDP is a planning document which will guide. We should approach it from the stand point of education – e.g. how to properly behave in the outdoors. Somehow we have to work on the behavior of people when they get in the outdoors. The bad behavior of a few spoils it for the rest. In the sugar plantation days when people would dump their trash in the gulches, was that respectful? We have to be taught mālama 'āina – just because we are Hawaiians does not mean we are born with the behavior. Hopefully the older generation is teaching the younger generation.

**Question:** I am a hunter and have lived here for generations. I do cultural things in my back yard. I have always respected private land owners. I used to climb down the cliffs with rope to pick 'opihi. Times are changing and we cannot hold back progress. In the meantime we want to make sure that the hunters and culture are not left behind. Times are hard and we need to hunt to have food on the table. How can we protect this lifestyle? What will you do with the information we are collecting? This problem was brought up to Dwight Takamine but nothing has happened for years. The county had 660 acres in Lalakea. We used to hunt there and we did not realize that the county sold half of the land. The owner is not on this island, but he asked for a meeting with the hunters. He did not realize there were so many hunters. He wanted to just interact with the hunters and ask them for their help in keeping him informed if repairs are necessary. I am worried that we will lose access.

**Debbie:** We will not be able to open all the areas people are identifying. The information you are sharing becomes a part of the record and becomes an important message to the state and county when it comes to public lands. It helps

us to focus our energies on public access potentials. We will not be able to significantly open access to all these areas but it enables us to know where they are and also pinpoint illegal activities. We can examine areas that we can respond to quickly, but there are other issues like the opening of Pa'auhau Landing will take a long time.

**Question:** Why can't we say in the CDP that the Mayor or Council cannot sell land until they do a historic survey of what kind of cultural or hunting use was being practiced on the land. There has to be an environmental assessment done before they sell. It is public land being used by the public for food gathering.

**Debbie:** Why can't the hunting access be protected AND the land sold. The CDP is about consensus. What we have just gone through is a mini example – this discussion brings community people together to see if we can come up with an agreement. There are good ideas but maybe we cannot agree, or maybe we can figure out a path we can agree upon.

**Question:** Do you have authority over private land as the county? Does the county have authority to require private land owners to allow hunting?

Debbie: If someone wants to subdivide, then private land owners can be required to provide access. Otherwise the county does not have authority to require private owners to provide access. The CDP will rely heavily on community consensus. No statements will be made that community is not on board with. The CDP gives you the opportunity like today with the maps to indicate places that are important to the people.

**A. Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Steering Committee Chair, Brad Kurokawa called the business portion of the steering committee meeting to order at 12:00 pm and explained the aloha etiquette.

Roree Oehlman from Honoka'a, Hawai'i - Infrastructure/Power – I would like to suggest that the steering committee look into project taken on by the Bonneville Power Company in Idaho Falls. One turbine was able to provide power to the whole community of Idaho Falls and they were able to sell the excess power to Salt Lake City. It was inexpensive and unobtrusive. It only required 12 feet drop of the falls of the 25 feet of the Idaho Falls fall. It was a very effective way to provide power without burning fuel, it is renewable and it was lucrative for the company and community. It decreased energy costs for the community. The cost to install it was carried by the company. This could be an opportunity for Hāmākua.

Constance Fay: (written testimony) I want to bring members of the Āhualoa Community Association into the CDP process but am not sure how to do it.

## B. Approval of Minutes

Glenn Carvalho moved to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2010 meeting as drafted, the motion was seconded by Scott Enright, and the vote by the steering committee to accept the minutes was unanimous.

## C. New Business

1. **Meeting Protocol:** The Steering Committee discussed establishing meeting protocols around public testimony, including timing and duration. The discussion was as follows:

**Glenn Carvalho:** I suggest we keep the rules as agreed upon. In the last meeting, people were speaking about issues that were not on the agenda. We really need to keep the people testifying on that goal of discussing issues of importance to the community. I also suggest that the testimony be presented after each agenda item.

At the last meeting, people were speaking up while the steering committee was meeting and this needs to be curtailed as this is a business meeting and it should not be interrupted except for public testimony, and if the chair opens it up.

**Jason Moniz:** I would like to see a fair number of meetings conducted in the evenings because we have ranchers and farmers who will not attend day time meeting.

**Christian Kay:** After these workshops we will be holding our steering committee meetings in the evening. We will see what we can do to follow up with people who couldn't make it to the workshops.

**Scott Enright:** We originally said we would take testimony at the beginning of the meetings. I think we should give room for public testimony at the front of the meeting, and at the end after discussing agenda items. We are in fact here to get input from the community and this would give us the opportunity to do this.

**Christian Kay:** If there is a contentious issue and the steering committee decides we need input from the community the chair can decide to open it up for testimony during the meeting.

**Glenn Carvalho** moved to accept testimony after each agenda item as well as at the end of the meeting. There was no second to the motion. The motion died.

**Scott Enright** moved that public testimony be given at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, but none in the middle. Ka'iulani Pahi'ō seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

## 2. CDP Boundary Discussion

At the request of a participant of the October 9, 2010 steering committee meeting the issue of the southern boundary of the Hāmākua CDP was reviewed with the planning director. The decision was made to keep the boundary as originally decided.

The following are reasons against extending the boundary:

- The steering committee was recruited based on this boundary.
- If the boundary that has been in place for one year already is moved, all of the maps would have to be changed.
- The community in the proposed area of extension did not get a chance to give initial input as to community values and envisions for the future. This would mean that values and vision would be imposed upon them that they did not have a part in formulating through initial input.
- Changing the boundary would also have political implications in that it would involve Council District 2. This district would be included in a future South Hilo CDP should the funds be allocated for it.
- The lower sections of the proposed extension, e.g. Pu‘u‘eo, are zoned urban and not rural. This area uses the Hilo sewer and is zoned for higher density residential including apartments. The people who live there identify more with Hilo. The mauka areas of Pu‘u‘eo are of a more agrarian character. Most of the lands are zoned agriculture 20 and qualify as important agricultural lands per the County’s LUPAG designation.

Based on all of this, the planning director suggested that the current boundaries of the planning area be kept. The planning director is happy to speak with any steering committee member or the stakeholder proposing the change if they would like to discuss it further.

**Brad Kurokawa:** Jenö Encöncio requested a change of boundary. Is it certain that he was referring to changing it all the way to the Wailuku River?

**Christian Kay:** I verified it with him and he did want it to the Wailuku River. He wanted it included as important agricultural land in order to protect it. He stated that he understood the Planning Director’s reasons for not to extending the boundary.

**Brad Kurokawa:** My question was, “What was the primary use of the land in the suggested boundary change, and it is agriculture?” I am okay with the decision but would have preferred to look at the land use trend and decide based on that.

### 3. Regional Workshop Planning

Roy Takemoto of PBR presented his thoughts about the Regional Workshop. The workshop will consist of three components:

1. Verification of information already collected by topic area

2. Interaction and testing the data moving us to next session of brain storming
3. Starting to formulate the CDP vision of this community. What does a vision statement sound like?

The input given thus far is being compiled in a booklet with maps and a narrative explaining the maps called the Community Profile.

In the Regional Workshop, there will be brain storming sessions around strategy areas, e.g. public access, agricultural strategies, eco-tourism strategies (e.g. How do you promote Old Māmalahoa Highway, town revitalization and how old towns get together to realize the visions they have for their communities?), watershed partnerships, infrastructure (e.g. use of old cane haul roads), land use strategies (revitalization of industrial areas like old mill sites), hazards (e.g. building too close to cliff edges blocking lateral access to cliffs). We would like input from the Steering Committee regarding these strategy areas.

The question we will be asking is: “Do we have enough information to address the issues we are trying to get to?” At the end of the workshop, we can get a feel of the consensus on a rough draft of the vision statement using the keypad technology in which the whole audience participates and lets us know what the whole group feels about this statement.

In December, Roy will provide the steering committee with the potential strategy areas as well as the rough draft of the community profile.

The Honoka‘a Gym has been tentatively reserved for the end of January and the beginning of February. It could be held from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM similar to these workshops.

#### **E. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Pat Moore indicated that might be worth considering having the Regional Workshop closer to Hilo. The attendance at the Pāpā‘ikou workshop was much higher than today at Honoka‘a.

#### **F. Future Agenda Setting**

1. **November 20, 2010 Meeting Agenda Items:** The next workshop and steering committee meeting will be at the Papā‘aloha Gym. Agenda items:
  - a. Deeper analysis of the vision and values gleaned from the community input phase.
  - b. Discussion about regional workshop and whether or not to hold a steering committee meeting in December.
  - c. Presentation of the logo alternatives and deciding on which one to use.

|

- d. Review of status of the work plan.

## **G. Closing**

### **1. Evaluation of November 6, 2010 Meeting**

#### **Positive comments:**

- NHERC is good place to hold a meeting with a large room and smaller meeting rooms.
- The food and refreshments were great. Thanks to QLCC and HHCDC
- Maps and input sheets were improved
- I love these meetings that people are putting so much time and effort into them

#### **Comments for improvement:**

- There were a lot of blanks on the cultural and historic sheets which shows we are not getting the input we need. We should look at what we are missing. Perhaps these people are not able to get to the venue. We need to get the input from people who are familiar with the cultural and historic information we need.
- There was not enough time to make comments at all the stations.
- I was disappointed with the turn out. I keep emphasizing that Saturday day time is not a good time for farmers and others who work on Saturday. We need to consider moving the meetings to an evening meeting.
- It would be good to get more young people to attend.
- There was a lot of great information from some of the old timers re: public access. They were using the maps but it would have been great to use Google Maps so we could zoom in and see an areal on a larger scale. It would have been good to use technology.
- We should also use the aerial photos used at the last meeting.
- I would like to see other people attend, e.g. people who provide infrastructure, people who take care of access to Waipi'o.

### **2. Announcements: None**

### **3. Adjournment**

Jason Moniz moved to adjourn, Craig Neff seconded the motion, the vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.