

**HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP)
STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2011
Pāpa‘ikou Gym Annex**

INVOCATION

An Oli was given by Kai‘ulani Pāhi‘o and the invocation was given by Brad Kurokawa.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Brad Kurokawa at 5:06 PM.

ROLL CALL

Steering Committee members present:

Brad Kurokawa, Dorothy Badua, Ka‘iulani Pāhi‘o, Glenn Carvalho, Scott Enright, Craig Neff, Farrah-Marie Gomes, Jason Moniz, Lorraine Mendoza

Steering Committee members absent/excused:

Marc Miranda, Richard Ha

County of Hawai‘i:

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

Consultant Team:

Roy Takemoto, Managing Director of the Hilo office of PBR and Associates, Inc.
Debbie Chang, Island Transitions LLC
Jane Testa: Community Engagement Specialist

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to Hilo Hāmākua Community Development Corporation, Baker Tom and Steering Committee members for the refreshments.

A. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were given.

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Craig Neff moved to accept minutes of the November 6, 2010 minutes, the motion was seconded by Scott Enright, and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Scott Enright moved to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2010 meeting, the motion was seconded by Ka‘iulani Pāhi‘o, and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

C. BUSINESS

1. **CDP Process Update:** Christian Kay gave an overview of the process and an update. (See handout “Hāmākua CDP Steering Committee Meeting #5.”)

2. **Kids' Savings Project Update:** Christian Kay gave a report on the Kids' Savings Project on behalf of Bob Agres (HACBED). (See handout "Kid's Savings Project – Hawai'i Island")
SC Q&A

Glenn Carvalho: Are the amounts of 25 cents and 50 cents set? If a family has 5 children, that comes to \$1.20 or \$2.50 a day. For some families it might be expensive and I wonder if the amounts can be changed. Have the 2 credit unions in Rural South Hilo bought into this project?

Christian Kay: The idea is that the kids set realistic goals. If they meet their goals then they get the \$25 match. I will have to check and see what has been done in the past and ask if the goal can be adjusted midway through the program. Frecia Basilio has been in contact with all credit unions in the planning area and is awaiting their responses.

Farrah-Marie Gomes: Is it really the case that participation is based only on public school attendance? The program is set up for low income families. I think the goal of saving \$1.00 per day is unattainable for children from low income families. I suggest we make sure our goals are achievable.

Christian Kay: My understanding is that it is based on public school attendance but I will verify this with Frecia Basilio.

Audience Comment: Is this something where the kids can stand up and be recognized? How is it connected with the CDP? I thought this meeting and process would have to do with land use.

Christian Kay: A component of the CDP is also economic development and this is a good opportunity to support economic development starting from a young age.

3. **Presentation of Draft Community Profile:** Roy Takemoto explained how the Community Profile will be used to inform the plan and will most likely be an appendix to the actual plan. This Community Profile is currently one layer but the opportunity to look at multiple layers will be offered to the community if community members want to learn how to do it. The profile is meant to be a fact-based foundation that will be used to build policy. (See handout "Hāmākua CDP Steering Committee Meeting #5.")

Additional Comments from Roy Takemoto to the Draft Community Profile:

Physical Environment: The implication of v-shaped stream valleys is that there is a preponderance for flash floods. The plan needs to take this into account.

Native stream fauna does climb the steep valley walls. The amount and quality of streams is unique for the planning area. The implication has to do with how we take care of this resource. This is unique in the State of Hawaii, and the only other place this is found is on the Nā Pali Coast on the island of Kaua'i.

Almost all of the native forests in the planning area are managed. The implication for the plan is: "don't get in the way. Let managers do their job and let's not get in the way."

Major Hazards: We should think twice about building too close to the edge because of the preponderance of rock falls and sea cliff erosion. Perhaps we should propose a required setback from cliffs.

The planning area has a high incidence of post and pier construction. This is the type of construction that had the highest damage in the Kiholo earthquake. Structural engineers have suggested ways to retrofit such homes and perhaps a part of the plan could be to suggest this.

Infrastructure: Canadian standards suggest that the existing passing lanes on our coast meet those standards, however we can explore other low cost options with the State Highways Division, e.g. reinforcing road shoulders to allow passing.

There might be enough water now, but there might be constraints for future development. The implication for the plan is that if we require upfront investments of developers for developments, we will only get big developments. This means we must find other alternatives.

Debbie Chang is researching the topic of roads in limbo. It has been challenging getting all of the data from the county.

Heritage Resources: We were able to find maps. The implication for the plan might be that we can use former mill sights as industrial areas, and former landings for public access.

We obtained info from the workshops re: historic and scenic places but we need to integrate this information into our maps.

Land Use: Streams are an issue but only streams near Hakalau are in conservation districts. The implication for the plan is that we could look at rezoning that would place streams in a conservation district, however that would affect private land owners.

Agriculture: Hāmākua Ditch is major system for irrigation. We need to build on current available data but we also need to talk with stakeholders to see whether maintenance is adequate and if there is a potential of expanding these services.

We need to work on adding value to agricultural products. The county currently requires special permits for agricultural processing rather than just allowing it on agricultural land.

Weak areas: In order to come up with an agricultural plan, we don't need more data, but we need to figure out the right questions to ask and we need to come up with new ideas. We need to figure out how it all fits together.

Values and Vision: In this picture, the larger the words, the more these topics were mentioned in the small group sessions. These 3 groups, community, environment, and economy make up the 3 pillars of sustainability. Using this input, we have to come up with a vision statement that represents where the community wants to be.

Guidelines for Plan Development Strategies: These ideas are not meant to be exclusive but are meant to be catalysts to get us going. No legal vehicle exists to differentiate areas that should be public access vs. community access (e.g. dangerous fishing areas). We need to emphasize that the users need to act responsibly when handling the privilege of access.

Physical resources: We need to get a better idea of how much funding it would take to get cane roads restored for multi-purpose use.

Gyms and community centers need maintenance: If we rely on general or CIP funding we will wait forever. We will be exploring innovative ways where the community can contribute, whether financially or in kind, where we don't give up on our facilities but find ways to maintain and improve them as communities.

In February another draft of the profile will be compiled which will be used for the regional workshop

SC Q&A:

Farrah-Marie Gomes: The section numbers listed on the presentation slide does not line up with our table of contents. The components are there but they are in different order. **Roy**

Takemoto: I will readjust the table of contents.

Farrah-Marie Gomes: What is the status of county roads that are part of the "Roads in Limbo"?

Roy Takemoto: The state created these roads and tossed them to the county who said, it is not our problem. The county recently agreed to take over responsibility for all "Roads in Limbo."

Farrah-Marie Gomes: Are we factoring in the situation with police and fire coverage?

Roy Takemoto: One of the maps is concentric circles from fire stations.

Five miles is an 8 minute response, 10 miles is a 10 minute response. In rural areas it is not practical to have stations every 5 or 10 miles, but currently the 10 mile standard is met.

Farrah-Marie Gomes: When looking at the word picture, the word "business" is very large, the word "jobs" is smaller, the word "small business" is smaller. What is the difference in meaning?

LeAna Gloor: The picture is based on the words people used in the talk story sessions. Some of them might have been referring to the same thing, but if they used a specific word, that is what we used to create the picture.

Roy Takemoto: You can send your input through Christian Kay or LeAna Gloor or directly to me. Perhaps we can publicize the various ways community members can give feedback.

Christian Kay: It will be in the next e-newsletter as well as on the website

www.hamakuacd.org.

Jason Moniz: Is there a correlation between the sizes of words? I recommend looking at the agricultural census as a source of data to get a sense of what has been around for a while.

Longevity means something if there is a successful operation. What works works!

Brad Kurokawa: You mentioned the importance of streams as resources. I am curious about the ownership of the stream corridors. Is there some way of distinguishing re: protection and buffering/being good stewards, also re: public access?

Farrah-Marie Gomes: When it comes to retrofitting houses to make them earthquake safe, we need to also provide funding opportunities. Just giving them information will not help.

Brad Kurokawa: I think it is important that we find some way of creating an inventory of cane roads that can be used as emergency routes and for connectivity. Will we have some kind of inventory? Many of them are now private property and using these roads for emergency access is becoming less and less feasible. It would be good if we can take a systems approach planning for emergencies, public access and recreation.

Roy Takemoto: We will work on an inventory and it is important that we identify emergency routes.

Glenn Carvalho: Did you get maps from John Cross? There are several routes shown in those maps. **Roy Takemoto:** Debbie Chang has met with John re: maps.

Scott Enright: Will we work to not only identify Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) but also protect them? Do you see it as part of our plan to keep land in agriculture, if so, how do we go about generating those recommendations?

Roy Takemoto: With IAL designation, there come restrictions. If we want to go over and beyond that we would need to talk with the county to see if these areas merit a special regulatory treatment apart from the rest of the island or not. If we need to be uniform countywide, then we can make recommendations but they would be beyond the scope of our plan.

Scott Enright: You were talking about the restrictions for agricultural processing. A few years ago the state drafted legislation with regards to this issue.

Roy Takemoto: That legislation pertained primarily to processing for bio-energy.

Scott Enright: Yes, but it also had provisions for eco-tourism.

Roy Takemoto: Eco-tourism has special provisions.

Glenn Carvalho: I can't see reinventing the wheel. There have been several visioning conferences in Hāmākua. I don't see any documentation from the one held in 94-95 at the Honoka'a gym. Walker Sanders might have notes. Jane Testa was very community oriented at that time and might be able to provide info. The old Mamalahoa Highway was one of the big issues coming out of it. A company in Honoka'a was going to make electric cars that were going to be used by cruise ships so tourists could get off the ship, get into an electric car and ride down the old Mamalahoa Highway. I don't see any reference to these sessions.

Roy Takemoto: If it wasn't written in a document, we don't have it.

Glenn Carvalho: That's why I mention names of people who might have the documents that came out of it. The couple who lives on the mountain road drew the mural of it. (Jim Channon)

Farrah-Marie Gomes: Being that the CDP is not just about land use, are you also getting up to date information on transportation from Tom Brown. Will those be incorporated into the profile?

Roy Takemoto: Yes

Farrah-Marie Gomes: Is there a reason why we are not including preschools and colleges in the profile? We have 2 preschools in the planning area that are not funded by the county. We also have a representation of UH Hilo in Honoka'a which represents a huge opportunity.

When it comes to medical services, Hale Ho'ola and Hāmākua Health Center provide services to the southern boundary of the planning area. There are only 2 sentences about these services in the profile. I think we should rework it being that these are the only medical services available in the planning area. We can look at collaborative efforts with medical services outside the planning area.

Ka'iulani Pāhi'o: The profile is quite extensive and you did a fantastic job to make sure you didn't miss anything. There are things to add, each of us will have more input for you after looking through it. When I was following the slides, it's obvious we haven't gotten enough feedback from community people in some areas, e.g. the lower Hāmākua Ditch group meets

regularly at NHERC – we need to get this info to you. We need to go back into the community to ask for current info.

Roy Takemoto: We are reaching a point in our work where we don't just want to collect information for information's sake, but we want to be able to target information that we can use. Whatever gut feelings you have about what is missing, please let us know. We need to have the information that is important to you.

Brad Kurokawa: I am looking at the graphic of the values and vision which is a great effort to synthesize ideas. Perhaps we can combine them so the significance is ONE rather than silos.

Glenn Carvalho: Re: not just gathering info, but info you can use – Another source for information is the pension clubs. You could speak with Richard Baker who is in charge of the clubs. Many old pensioners have lots of information about historic and culturally significant sites. One example is the old swinging bridge and Boy Scout Camp that have been mentioned. Some workers would not go up there at night because of menehune. There are burial sites and graveyards along the old Pepe'ekeo railroad which has been paved over. There are old Japanese burial sites there as well. The pensioners would be a good place to get such information.

Farah-Marie Gomes: Senior Centers could be included in section 5 as recreational facilities for communities.

Craig Neff: I must caution us against taking things from other sources. As soon as we put it in our documents it becomes to the public and the public will think this is what we believe. We have to make sure we don't just adopt what is from the State of Hawaii, e.g. windmills that are using wind from both directions. We have to keep up with technology and be cognizant of when the information was gathered and whether the information we have gathered is still relevant and current.

When it is mentioned that our planning area is doing good when it comes to police issues, we have to look at the reasons for this. It is less because of something in the communities along the coast. We have to get to what matters. Look at the statistics of the districts with high crime rates. Why is it like this? It is like this because something is going on in that community that is conducive to criminal activity. It's not that we have a better value system but because of our older plantation culture which gives us a better sense of community here. These are things that are important to us that we want to continue.

With regards to water catchment I believe we need to move in the direction of adopting a mindset of encouraging the use of water catchment systems in conjunction with county water. This mindset doesn't exist but maybe we can influence it and change it.

4. **Regional Workshop Preparations** (See handout "Hāmākua CDP Steering Committee Meeting #5.")

Roy Takemoto: At the main event there will be round tables with interactive discussions, brainstorming and feeding off of ideas and each other. Ten to twelve people will be at a table with a recorder and a facilitator. The facilitator will lead the discussion. Prior to these discussion groups, there will be a panel of people giving background information

about the proposal we would like to discuss at the table. The proposed topics are open for discussion but we see them as priority topics based on the input we have received.

SC Discussion

Glenn Carvalho: At the moment the regional workshop is scheduled on a work day. I propose if we want people to attend and participate in the roundtable discussions, then it should be done on the weekend. People will not spend 8 hours at work, go home and feed their kids, then come to a 4 hour meeting. I strongly believe it needs to be done on the weekend if you want useable feedback.

Brad Kurokawa: At the last meeting Jason Moniz expressed his concern that we would not be able to get input from farmers or others who work on the weekend.

Glenn Carvalho: Not everyone will be able to attend, but if we want a better turnout, you need to do it on a weekend. The majority of people are not farmers and ranchers who work on weekends. Most people work 9-5 Monday through Fridays.

Roy Takemoto: How about a weekend evening?

Jason Moniz: The 4 topics don't reflect the values and vision word pictures.

Roy Takemoto: We are trying to limit the discussion to 4 topics but if people want to go over and beyond that, they can.

Brad Kurokawa: It is not meant to be all encompassing.

Lorraine Mendoza: I agree with Glenn Carvalho that having it on a weekday after work is not such a good idea. It would be better to have it on a Saturday morning. Rather than adhering to the steering committee schedule, we need to schedule according to what works for the community.

Christian Kay: This is not the only time people will be able to "talk story" about issues. At our February meeting we will do a better job of showing you how we decided on these topics.

Farrah-Marie Gomes: It was suggested we get more young people involved in the process. Saturdays cuts into their beach time and other weekend activities. If we are going to hold the regional workshop on a Saturday, we have to make it fun so they don't feel they are giving up so much. I hope we can decide tonight whether or not it will be on Saturday or not so we can commit.

Christian Kay: There will never be a perfect time, day or venue to get everyone together and it is open for discussion. Even the location is still pending. We should decide tonight so we have time to drum up support and get people to come. It should be fun, not just for the kids but for all the other stakeholder groups. The options are:

- Weekend evening
- Weekend during the day
- Weekday evening

Craig Neff: Weekend evening is a good compromise.

Jason Moniz: How many such workshops will we have?

Roy Takemoto: Just one.

Christian Kay: We may revisit this format later in the process.

Glenn Carvalho: I agree with Craig that maybe an early evening on a Saturday would be best. I feel that it needs to be longer than just four hours since we are planning only one. We are going to need proper publicity to get a good turnout.

Christian Kay: This is just the start of the next planning phase and won't be the only time people have a chance to participate. This is what we are envisioning to kick off the planning phase.

Vote re: which day to hold the regional workshop on: Glenn Carvalho moved to hold the regional workshop on a Saturday. The motion was seconded by Lorraine Mendoza, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Vote re: the time of day for the regional workshop: Jason Moniz moved that the workshop be held from 4 PM to 8 PM, the motion was seconded by Scott Enright. It was followed by a discussion.

Lorraine Mendoza: Is this good for ranchers and people involved in agriculture?

Jason Moniz: This is a good compromise.

Lorraine Mendoza: What is your experience from community association meetings and such? Is the turnout good in the early evening? I think it comes down to marketing and integrating fun elements like Hāmākua Trivia and door prizes.

Christian Kay: It depends on how heavily we push to excite people.

Community members present at the meeting gave the following comments:

- Daytime is good because people are more fresh.
- I liked the Pāpa‘aloha workshop because it was during the day.
- 5 PM is a good time.
- Early evening on a Saturday would be best, either 4 PM to 8 PM or 5 PM to 9 PM
- I like early evening but prefer starting at 2 PM and going until 6 PM

Vote: The vote to hold the workshop from 4 PM to 8 PM was unanimous.

Discussion on the date of the regional workshop:

March 5th, first Saturday of the month

Farrah-Marie Gomes: One of the 2 first Saturdays are out for me but I won't know until February 15th.

Ku‘ulei Badua: Does this mean our scheduled steering committee meeting will be the workshop?

Christian Kay: Yes

Jason Moniz: I am in the same situation as Farrah-Marie Gomes and don't know yet if I can attend.

Lorraine Mendoza: Can we lock in both first Saturdays?

Vote: Scott Enright moved to hold the regional workshop on March 5, 2011. The motion was seconded by Ka'iulani Pāhi'o. Eight of the present steering committee members voted in favor of the motion with one opposing vote by Jason Moniz. With that the motion was passed to hold the regional workshop on March 5, 2011.

5. Creating Waipi'o Valley Gathering Subcommittee

Ku'ulei Badua: The meeting will be handled like the Waipi'o Circle meeting. Everyone present will have a chance to share. Lunch will be served. A ride into the valley will be offered at 9 AM for the CDP team and Roy Takemoto's team.

Christian Kay: This is on the agenda today because 2 of our steering committee members have suggested this. Under sunshine law we can create a subcommittee of maximum of 5 steering committee members. Ku'ulei Badua, Ka'iulani Pāhi'o, Brad Kurokawa, Lorraine Mendoza, and Craig Neff will make up this subcommittee. (See handout "Hāmākua CDP Steering Committee Meeting #5.")

Craig Neff: The sacredness of Waipi'o is important, but also within our planning area, there is a very important spot and that is Mauna Kea. I think we need to at least address things having to do with that area as well as the military training area of Pōhakuloa. I don't know if it is important to others in this coastal area but to me it is important to have something in our planning document about it.

D. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jeff Melrose: I just want to ask a couple of questions. The profile was excellent. The challenge is what you do with it. The use of streams depends on sustainability – taking water out or using for energy. From a protectionist perspective you would say "don't touch it." But from a sustainability perspective, we need to use them.

One challenge with issues like agriculture is that you will see it as a district issue, but you can't because market, transportation and expertise is to be found outside the planning area, competition is outside the planning area. Understand what your assets are, what is distinct in Hāmākua, where is agriculture at today and why. If you can define why, you can create a conversation. If you jump into the issue of IAL you miss the reality of what people are doing. I suggest we do not create an IAL designation out of this conversation.

Steve Shropshire: Land use is really important and significant, however it is important that we understand we have a County of Hawaii General Plan. The goal of this exercise is to come up with a template for growth for the next 2-5 decades. One of the outcomes is that the community evaluates the General Plan to see if the designated areas for growth are adequate. If not, let's have this discussion. At the regional meeting it is important to have the General Plan posted so we can point to areas, e.g. Laupahoehoe is lacking in areas for expansion.

Are we going to grow? If so, where are the appropriate areas for growth? Is the infrastructure adequate?

Mark Ignacio: Shared his experience with County Traffic Division, then with the County's Fire Department for 18 years in Honoka'a, and 5 years in Laupāhoehoe, and how this enabled him to get to know the terrain. "We have a special place here with a lot of change in the last 5 years. A week and a half ago, there was that world stand up paddle board competition. On the Monday after the competition, I gave a friend a tour on the old Mamalahoa Highway, my friend was very impressed and it was the first time he was on the back roads of Hāmākua. He said it is actually called Hā'akua. It's good to have a plan but let's do it slow and get it right."

Pat Moore: Thank you for the efforts. One of the things I would like to see re: data are the plausible scenarios the community may face in the future. If the historic trends in traffic continue, what will it look like along the coast? If the trend with agricultural lands being rezoned into residential land continues, what will that look like in the future? I would like to have plausible scenarios to look at based at historical trends.

E. FUTURE AGENDA SETTING

1. Evaluation of January 4, 2011 Meeting

Positive input:

- Thank you for starting on time
- SC turnout was positive
- SC members had Community Profile in advance to review
- Positive community input

Suggestions for improvement:

- Turnout was not good. Glenn Carvalho suggested that steering committee members post announcements around the different towns they live and work in.

2. February 1, 2011 Steering Committee Meeting at NHERC, 5 PM – Suggested Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Draft Values, Vision, and Priorities Statement (Farrah-Marie Gomes requested this be sent to steering committee members with enough time to read it.)
- b. Waipi'o Gathering Report Back
- c. Final Regional Workshop Preparations - Christian requests feedback especially on the topics.

3. Announcements: Richard Ha has announced that he will be resigning from the steering committee being that his focus is on renewable energy and he doesn't have adequate time to be involved.

4. Adjournment: Farrah-Marie Gomes moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ka'iulani Pāhi'o. The vote to adjourn was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

DRAFT