

Comment #1

One of the local pastimes is complaining about Kona and about Konification...! “There has been too much Konafication going on lately...” as we love to say...! So, I am certain most people will know what I mean when I call the urban sprawl growing from Kailua towards the south...Konafication...!

Punalu‘u development was only one example...the influx of outsiders that...while building hotels and condo...do little or often nothing to help Hawai‘i to develop integratively with her existing populations. They begin importing only “Konified” jobs...ones using locals as servants, rather than to create a self-sustaining community.

I say we need to demand from our state and county governance a fair share...to build a real future for Ka‘ū. What we do in Ka‘ū is more significant to Hawai‘i than a hundred Turtle Bays. Because what I envision for the future will last a hundred times longer than any resort or fancy trimmings. We build here with living stones...what their children’s children will someday call the place where Hawai‘i began for them.

To do this...I would start not in Ocean View...tied as it is on the far south of Kona...or even in Pāhala...with so much already in place; but rather, such a movement begins in the town that Hawai‘i forgot...Nā‘ālehu...! There is where we will set the tiny marble rolling which will make Nā‘ālehu the hub of the Southern Island.

We wish to pull up Hawai‘i by its toe; and insist that built here...in Nā‘ālehu...is an extension of Hawai‘i’s adult education facilities to allow all of Ka‘ū residents...nearby...access to the accumulated experience of the world. Take what we need and leave the rest...! Permit accreditation for those skills already being used by our technicians and learning to improve those skills to serve us better in our future...! Make available a better understanding of expressive skills not just to communicate better, but to safeguard the treasures within our local population. Finally, as a longer goal, it should offer its students medical training which requires access to modern equipment for its teaching. This is to be arranged with Pāhala... and with some school funding eventually re-directed to expand and modernize its hospital.

However the mechanics of it works...the eventual goal of a suggested nursing program is to improve access to better health for all our residents...and to provide job skills...attractive to young adults...which serve them...and serve us...throughout our lives.

Yes, this will make Nā‘ālehu a “college-town;” but, it will bring in salaried positions which will be filled by locals...if not now, then soon...! It will bring in money from the county and from the state to be spent at our local businesses and at our existing facilities. This money will be used to purchase the unused land behind the library and adjacent to the city center as a place to build this new infrastructure. But mostly, it is this intent to build a community...which will give young men and women...from as far as north of Ocean View...to east of Pāhala...a reason to consider staying here...near their

families...in the bosom of their own community; than leaving to live elsewhere...because they have nowhere else...to fulfill the need to make a future for themselves. With our determination however...and if we build it...they can have a future here!

And when...in time...we have a healthy, educated population...businesses will flock to Ka'ū ...but not with demands or required terms, but instead businesses will be welcomed...as equals...and whose equitability is expected by a proficient citizenry.

It is only my humble opinion that this is...where Hawai'i truly begins...it begins with people...not as serfs or as servants...it begins as equals!

Comment #2

Comments on Ka‘ū Planning

- If people are looking at land conservation I suggest zoning the entire partial from Wittington Beach to the volcano National Park as conservation. However, the Punalu‘u area should be allowed to have continued development. To be as environmentally friendly as possible there should be no Hotel near the Beach. It can be nestled into the hill on the ocean side of the road, near the road, like the Hāpuna Prince. There can be in the upper middle income and upper income homes all around the golf course and in the area between the hotel and the ocean (not on the ocean). Each house would have a septic tank for its sewer. There can be meandering trails and electric cars transporting people from the hotel to the beach. Also, with regards to the continued development of the Punalu‘u area any condos and commercial center should be on the mountain side of the road. There can be tunnels under the road like they do for the golf course.
- To offset the upper income housing and provide housing at reasonable costs to the workers and residents of Ka‘ū, the area behind Nā‘ālehu School should be re-zoned back to urban expansion to facilitate residential lots. It was once that way and should return to that. Then there is a simple continuation of the existing subdivision that currently exists in Nā‘ālehu.
- Also to offset the upper income housing in Punalu‘u the areas around Pāhala , such as on the highway between the main junction and the macadamia orchards, should also have urban expansion zoning to facilitate residential lots, continuing from existing housing areas. This and the above bullets concentrate population areas around existing population areas. Thus, not a lot of new environmental impacts, yet something that promotes economic development.
- It is important to have in the plan specific wording – “The County of Hawai‘i in this development plan for the District of Ka‘ū supports economic development.” This is very important for Ka‘ū to be able to procure federal funding either directly through the County Government or other non-profit NGO’s, for projects that support the socio-economic development of the District. There should also be wording clarifying this statement concerning protection of the environment and adherence to the plan. Nevertheless, the specific wording should be part of the plan.
- With regards to land use in Ocean View, I think the commercial center should be restricted to the existing area designated as urban expansion. This is the area where the present shopping centers are and the surrounding lots. Then the county of Hawai‘i should facilitate commercial zoning in these areas without having to jump through excessive hoops. If the plan restricts some of the uses of the commercial zoned properties (to prevent heavy industry that could pollute the area, so be it. Yet tourist, retail and light industrial, could be concentrated in one area. Presently the road through Ocean View is slowly turning into a very long strip mall. I do not think many of the residents want a long strip mall through Ocean View. Tourist would think they are in Los Angeles, not in Hawai‘i.

- When financial literacy and financial services for the District of Ka‘ū are discussed and organized, Ka‘ū Federal Credit Union should be part of the plan. This is because:
 - Ka‘ū FCU is a Community Development financial Institution as designated by the Department of Treasury.
 - Ka‘ū FCU is a Low Income Community Credit Union as designated by the National Credit Union Administration (the Credit Union’s Federal Government regulator).
 - Rather than re-inventing the wheel, Ka‘ū FCU has certain financial literacy and financial services for all the people of the district. It’s best to build on existing foundations.

- **When the County is considering programs that require financing or any sort of financial services to the communities of the Big Island, working through Credit Unions should be a top priority. That’s because Credit Unions are local community based and do provide most of the financial services consumers require.

Comment #3

IDEAS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR OVERALL KA‘U PLAN

1. Build reservoirs into slopes (see attached) below Wood valley & Pāhala. During heavy rains, at least five creeks or rivers are overflowing w/fresh water rushing to the ocean from above watershed. By diverting this resource at these times, the water could be saved for new development or agriculture needs during times of drought.

Only one bulldozer w/a ripper would be needed to excavate great ponds or small lakes out of an appropriate hill site. The excavated material is used to form the burn on the downhill side making this a very economical solution. Also, any housing developers would have to pay for pumps/filters/valves pipes and initial cost of developing these systems. These reservoirs could be purified w/aquatic plants.

2. The best agricultural land ie. Land w/soil and that contains predominated nitrogen fixing plants be preserved for agriculture. Nature has already been at work enriching the soil and land below Pāhala w/numerous plants that fix nitrogen. Monkey pod and other various acacias/hale-Ko‘a/Ko‘a/kamachile/desmondium and kiave all do their part.

- 2b. Land grants to persons who have completed state funded courses in agriculture.

3. Industrial sites w/attached technology schools should be chosen and set aside. Such sites should utilize land that is covered w/lava, not good agricultural land, and preferably down in depressions out of site and not upwind of residences. A major junk yard could be hidden in this manner where high school kids could get jobs taking a part and storing used auto parts for retail or rebuilding of used or wrecked cars.

Other small industries could be housed in inexpensive rectangular block buildings created by the state and leased out to woodworkers, automotive, fishing, small appliances, and sheet metal/metal shop food preparation/take out. A small industrial complex/teaching center whereby the state helps creates useful jobs which in turn create tax revenue for the state.

4. Section off state land into five acre mini farms. Selling at below market value and low interest, low monthly payments to qualified agriculturist/animal people thereby state receiving revenue where there once was none.

GOALS FOR KA'U

1. Make Ka'ū the most diversified agricultural and aqua cultural system in the world. Create living seed banks for timber trees, fruit cultivars, vegetable heirlooms, medicinal plants intercropped with nitrogen fixing plants and trees reducing need for chemical fertilizer and costly inputs.

Use sheep, chickens, turkeys and bees to increase yields and provide meat and dairy products.

Benefits non-invasive/jobs/better health thru better nutrition lowering medical costs.

2. Help alleviate welfare system and EBT program.
 - 2a. State to provide cement raised garden beds 5'x20' x 3 ½ feet high that enable people to grown their own organic produce.
Benefit = People feel better about contributing and w/better nutrition reduce visits to the hospital.
 - 2b. Provide A-frame chicken house so people can have their own eggs just by providing 2-4 hens to each EBT family this can drop EBT by \$25.00 a month; the cost of four dozen organic eggs.

OTEC AT SOUTH POINT

In the early 80s, Dr. John Craven (founder of OTEC in Kona), did preliminary studies at Ka-Lae and determined that South Point had the potential for an OTEC site. The only draw back was the airport was too far away.

In an overall plan of Ka'ū, and airport should be included for the future. Probably as in Kona, this should be next to the ocean and preferably on existing a-a lava land.

One of the main benefits, besides jobs, is that OTEC has the potential to take once arid land and turn it into productive anable land just by running black hose w/cold water running thru across the land and letting condensation on the outside of the hose water the plants all the other benefits as with the Kona plant are also available.

Provide a better boat ramp at South Point.

Comment #4

KA‘U: A COMMUNICATIONS COLLEGE

This is a concept for a seed college that could be duplicated anywhere in the world.

Using the latest in technology and incorporating the Don system of mentor, tutor and counselor a College can be formed with at least 6 accredited Professors. The accommodations would be much as a youth hostel with the addition of a cafeteria multipurpose room. The Students would be expected to maintain the buildings, grounds, and gardens when on campus. This would allow for very low tuition and as you will see an exceptionally broad education.

The keys are the availability to your Don from anywhere in the world, and the technology to accomplish that goal. Mac book and other Live Video Conferencing Systems are becoming available. This allows up to four people to have visual and audio contact with a phone capability much like Skype. These laptops run Windows and Mac programs. They have wireless networking, multimedia features and DVD burning. In other words, a Student can speak to and see his Don and other networking Students or resources from anywhere there is a telephone tower.

The students must qualify to apply by taking a Myers Briggs test and being able to surf to 2/3 of their human potential. This eliminates pure left or right-brained individuals. They must have reasonable College Application Test Scores and the usual screen for High School grades and department.

When accepted a student is given a very complete aptitude and ability test. The first six month is spent on campus, orienting to the campus life, and developing the “Major” which will be individualized for each student to maximize their potential. Loving what you are doing is a great carrot. Much of what they are doing is what they want for their life. Students should be helped to have a clear purpose as to what they want to accomplish first, odds are that they will be successful.

The Students will do the required courses on line, with the supervision of their Don. The most important live classes will be in communications. Discussion, debate, semantics, written communications and graphic communications will be everyone’s “Minor”. Becoming accomplished at Study Habits, Systems Analysis, “Brain Storming”, and of course the technology which this experiment is based is necessary.

They would be introduced to Wikiuniversity,
<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/wikiuniversity,U>. of Hawai‘i extension, MIT
OpenCourseWare ocw.mit.edu. They know Google and Yahoo.

The Educational Philosophy of this college:

- A. Students who are doing what they are suited for, like to do and are able to accomplish, will be on the road to contributing to society.
- B. By combining the Don system of individuation with a global one-room school house we have a built in networking system. The other Students as well as the Don are available for support, ideas and information.
- C. The Students are expected to spend two thirds of their college years elsewhere in the world. They would be studying specific courses on other campuses, working as interns in industry, the Peace Corps, teaching, or in other endeavors. They must come back with a “paper” describing their “adventure” and be prepared to make a verbal presentation and discussion.
- D. This four month period where they are once more experiencing Ka‘ū campus life is as important as seeing the outside world. It is renewal and refocusing of purpose and goals after being in the “Real World”. Students are immersed in open discussions.
- E. The graduates should be excellent communicators in whatever field they pursue. They should be creative problem solvers, who can think laterally and skilled in group dynamics.
- F. Some will become Administrators with the skill background far superior to most college graduates.
- G. The teaching of any particular political or religious dogma should be avoided. Open discussion and respect for individual opinion on all subjects is very important.