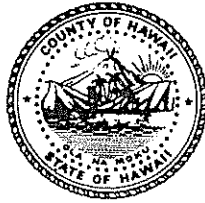


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



BJ Leithead Todd
Director

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County of Hawai'i

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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October 29, 2009

Aloha Residents and Ka'ū Stakeholders:

I am writing to encourage you to participate in the upcoming **Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CDP)** "charrette." This letter includes a brief CDP update; the enclosed flyer introduces the charrette and explains your options for participating.

Of all the steps in Ka'ū's community planning process, **this is the most important time for you to voice your opinion.** Key questions about Ka'ū's future will be addressed during the charrette, including:

- How can we build a diverse, local economy that provides needed jobs and shopping?
- How can we best support Ka'ū's farmers and ranchers?
- How can we preserve "local" access to the shoreline and forests but manage "public" access?
- How can a town center be created in Ocean View?
- Is there a role for resorts in Ka'ū's economy? If so, where, and at what scale?
- What bus routes, parks, youth programs, and other public infrastructure and services are needed?
- Most importantly, how can we preserve Ka'ū's rural lifestyle, including its natural beauty, open spaces, sense of community, and cultural heritage?

A "charrette" is simply a planning workshop where we will consider a range of paths forward, see what they look like (in drawings and maps), test them for viability and feasibility, and then agree on a preferred plan. **By the end of the week, the first draft of Ka'ū's Community Development Plan will be completed.**

The CDP will identify Ka'ū's priorities for land use, infrastructure, economic development, government services, natural and cultural resource conservation, and outline strategies for achieving community goals. The Ka'ū CDP will cover the Judicial District of Ka'ū, from Wood Valley to Ocean View – not including the Volcano Golf and Country Club, which was part of the Puna CDP planning area.

Unlike past plans for Ka'ū, the CDP will be adopted by ordinance. **Future development in Ka'ū will have to be consistent with the CDP.** An Action Committee of community leaders will work with the County to guide the implementation of the plan.

If you have already participated in CDP activities, thank you for making that investment in your community. To make sure the CDP truly reflects the community's wishes, your input is needed at each step of the process. The initial surveys and talk-story meetings helped identify community values and a vision for Ka'ū's future, which serve as the foundation of the CDP. The recent Community Summits helped document historical and current conditions and trends in Ka'ū, which provided critical information

for planners. **We need your help now at the charrette to choose the best strategies for achieving the community's vision while preserving its unique lifestyle.**

Even though the charrette lasts six days, **you can make a difference by coming for an hour or less.** The enclosed flyer includes a charrette schedule and your options for participating. Think of the charrette as a six-day "talk story" that produces a plan. Most of the sessions will use an informal, open house format, and you also have the option of dropping by between sessions.

To make it easy for families to participate, the opening and closing sessions will feature **food and also games for the keiki.** There will also be **lucky number prizes** at each evening and Saturday session, and everyone who participates will be eligible for the grand prize – a \$250 KTA coupon.

For more information about the Ka'ū CDP, please visit the project web site at www.kaucdp.info or contact project manager Ron Whitmore at 961-8137, or rwhitmore@co.hawaii.hi.us. You may also **contact members of the Ka'ū CDP Steering Committee:**

- Leina'ala Enos (Chair): 929-8641, lenos@qlcc.org
- Eldridge Naboa (Vice-Chair): 936-2189, enaboa@tnc.org
- Donna Ambrose: 640-2754; dambrose@hawaiiantel.net
- Patti Barry: 937-3124, pbarry@alohabroadband.com
- John Cross: 987-4229, jccross@hawaiiantel.net
- Bob DaMate: (808) 497-0384
- Ron Ebert: 928-0027, ebertr001@hawaii.rr.com
- Michelle Galimba: 430-4927, mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
- Loren Heck: 990-0017, elheckhi@gmail.com
- Marino Ramones: 928-8240, marjoramones@yahoo.com
- Simon Torres: 345-8225, torress003@hawaii.rr.com

I look forward to seeing you at the charrette.

Aloha and Mahalo,



BJ LEITHEAD TODD
PLANNING DIRECTOR

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Enclosure

cc: County Council Members
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Office of the Mayor
Deputy Planning Director
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Hawai'i County Resource Center, Department of Research and Development
Planners – Hilo and Kona