

Puna Community Development Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
Kea`au Community Center
October 17, 2007

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Submitted by: Prema Qadir

Aloha Puna CDP Steering Committee Members and Larry Brown,

Enclosed, for your review, are the references to language used to describe the policy for public testimony at the Puna CDP Steering Committee meetings (in chronological order), January thru October 2007.

I am concerned about how the description for public testimony has been morphing over time, specifically the most recent version of the policy for public testimony for the October 17 & 18, 2007, Puna CDP Steering Committee meetings, which reads as follows:

"PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Testimony shall be limited to items on the agenda. Oral public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and at the discretion of the Committee, at the end of each agenda item. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of each Public Testimony portion of the meeting."

I believe that the phrase "AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE" violates the Hawaii Sunshine Law, which was specifically designed "to protect the people's right to know," and also TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO HAVE INPUT INTO DECISION-MAKING."

According to Hawaii Sunshine Law, the Puna CDP Steering Committee is **REQUIRED**, by law, to accept oral and written testimony from the public, **ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON ITS MEETING AGENDA.**

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I would like to propose the following language:

"PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS:
Testimony shall be limited to items on the agenda.
Oral public testimony will be taken:

- 1. At the beginning of the meeting.*
[Up to 3 minutes per agenda item]
- 2. After discussion of each agenda item.*
[Up to 3 minutes per agenda item]

Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of each Public Testimony portion of the meeting."

The language used to describe public testimony should be consistent from month to month, just like the language that is used to describe County accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Please agendize this issue so that it can be resolved once and for all.

Mahalolo!

Prema Qadir, Puna Resident

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Puna CDP Steering Committee Agenda

Policy for Public Testimony

(Descriptions, in chronological order, January thru October 2007)

DATE	DESCRIPTION
JAN 18, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS
FEB 15, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS
MAR 15, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS
APR 19, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS
MAY 17, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: (3 min per speaker)
JUN 21, 2007	<p>CHANGE IN POLICY REGARDING PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: (15 min.)</p> <p>Larry Brown will explain proposed changes in policy for accepting public testimony on Steering Committee agenda items for approval by the Steering Committee and Public Testimony Guidelines.</p> <p>The proposed changes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral public testimony will be accepted only at the end of the meeting as agendized. Typically, oral public testimony shall be limited to not more than three minutes total per speaker, or as otherwise amended by the Steering Committee Members, and shall be limited to the published agenda items for that meeting. 2. Requests by the public to speak during the meeting prior to the public testimony agenda item will not be recognized. 3. Steering Committee Members, including Puna CDP planning consultants, Deputy Corporation Counsel, and the Planning Department Puna CDP project coordinator shall be allowed to call on members of the public in attendance to provide additional information or comment they deem appropriate to an ongoing discussion. 4. Persons wishing to provide testimony for the record should submit that testimony in writing to the Steering Committee before adjournment of the meeting.

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<p align="center">Puna CDP Steering Committee Agenda Policy for Public Testimony (Descriptions, in chronological order, January thru October 2007)</p>	
JUL 19,2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Oral public testimony will also be taken at the end of Steering Committee discussion and prior to voting on any agenda item.
AUG 16, 2008	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Oral public testimony will also be taken at the end of Steering Committee discussion and prior to voting on any agenda item.
SEP 20, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Oral public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and shall be limited to items on the agenda. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of Public Testimony on Agenda Items portion of the meeting.
OCT 4, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Oral public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and shall be limited to items on the agenda. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of Public Testimony on Agenda Items portion of the meeting.
OCT 17, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Testimony shall be limited to items on the agenda. Oral public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and at the discretion of the Committee, at the end of each agenda item. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of each Public Testimony portion of the meeting.
OCT 18, 2007	PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS: Testimony shall be limited to items on the agenda. Oral public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and at the discretion of the Committee, at the end of each agenda item. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony must submit a completed request form to the Chair prior to the completion of each Public Testimony portion of the meeting.

SOURCE: Hawaii Island Plan - Puna - Steering Committee - Agendas
<http://www.hcrc.info/hawai-i-island-plan/puna/steering-committee/agendas/>