

## Introduction to the Working Papers

Three Working Papers are being prepared to lead toward the preparation of the draft Puna Community Development Plan (CDP). Each of the Working Papers addresses a cluster of topics corresponding to each of the three major themes that had been identified in the preceding public involvement process, including:

- Public participation and County policy, as reflected in earlier planning efforts, including the draft Puna Community Development Plan in the early 1990's, the County of Hawai'i General Plan (2005), the Puna Regional Circulation Study (2005), and the various community-based master plans produced for several of Puna's subdivisions and villages.
- The 130 Small Group Meetings held throughout Puna in early 2006 to solicit issues, concerns and ideas at the "grass roots" level.
- The two public workshops held in July and September, 2006, to provide background information on conditions and trends and potential tools to address issues, as well as to solicit additional comments and ideas from Puna stakeholders.
- The analyses and recommendations in written reports prepared and submitted by the citizen-based Working Groups.

The three Working Papers are being presented in the following order:

- Working Paper #1, *Elements of a Growth Management Strategy*, considers the past and projected development pattern that has been shaped by the nonconforming subdivisions and explores strategies and methods to influence the rate and pattern of development growth to respond to concerns expressed in the prior public involvement process. Because growth management sets the framework for the CDP, this topic is presented first.
- Working Paper #2, *Mālama I Ka 'Aina*, addresses conditions, issues, approaches and methods related to the protection and/or enhancement of natural and cultural resources, including forest lands, unique geological features, agricultural lands and activity, cultural sites, scenic areas and vistas, recreational sites and parks, and water quality of aquifers and coastal waters.
- Working Paper #3, *Moving People, Conserving Energy*, will focus on sustainable approaches to transportation system and building design, including ways to promote mass transit and alternative travel modes, reduce the demand for long commuter trips, improve roadway connectivity and safety, promote the use of renewable energy sources, and design new or retrofit existing buildings and facilities for greater energy efficiency. This topic is presented last in order to allow added time for public participation in a transportation study being conducted by a CDP subconsultant.

The ideas presented in these Working Papers are intended to stimulate thinking and raise awareness about solutions that could be applied in Puna, drawing in part from approaches that have been tested elsewhere and from emerging methods and technologies. They are meant to be building blocks for the preparation of the draft CDP, although the specifics of these ideas may change as the result of comments received before the public workshop to be scheduled later this year to present the draft CDP.