



P.O. BOX 328 KĪLAUEA, KAUA'I, HAWAI'I 96754

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**MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2021  
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING (DUE TO COVID-19)**

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**KNA Directors Present:** Yoshito L'Hote, Beryl Blaich, Jeremy Burns, Gary Pacheco, Bill Chase, Stephenie Brown, Thomas Daubert, Emily Dunn, Mike Latif, Mike Lyons, Charlie Martin, Don McConnell, Ron Paul, Sonrisa Stepath

**Community Attendance:** 32+ including Councilmember Felicia Cowden and several special guest presenters.

**Call to Order:** President L'Hote called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. There is a quorum.

**COMMITTEE / COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

**Planning Committee:** Ron Paul reported no committee meetings. We were notified there is a Planning Committee meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> for the Kilauea Old Mill that the KNA was not informed about.

**Finance Committee:** Treasurer Gary "Mr. P." Pacheco reported \$6,750.74 in our bank account. We received a thank you letter from Kilauea School from Morales (acting principal) for our donation of \$500 to PTSA for school supplies.

**Communications Committee:** Thomas Daubert reported that we are working to increase and diversify communications and increase the frequency to the community. If anyone is not receiving emails from the KNA please let him know. A reminder to please sign up for the email list by sending a note to [joekilauea@gmail.com](mailto:joekilauea@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list. If any community members have any events they want to share please also email to [joekilauea@gmail.com](mailto:joekilauea@gmail.com).

**Fundraising Committee:** No report.

**NEW BUSINESS / GUEST PRESENTERS:**

**DOT:** Larry Dill reported that the Kalihiwai slope stabilization project is in the home stretch, about 2 more weeks.

Paving: The contractor is finishing up night work on the road near the 22-mile marker to Kahiloholo Road, to be finished in May. Next will be Wailapa to Kupuna Rd. starting in May – July or so, which will conclude paving work for the Kilauea area for now.

Drainage: Ponding is occurring in some areas along the highway so the north shore maintenance crew is working their way north from Anahola and will address the swale to restore proper water flow.

Intersection improvements for Kolo Road are finally moving forward – they were delayed due to the pandemic. A consultant is onboard to look at safety and operations for an alternatives analysis study. Options are a signal, a roundabout, or other traffic calming measures. DOT would like to present recommendations at a future KNA meeting.

Question about lane width. The plan is to reduce from 12' to 11' which reduces speeding and provides an additional foot for shoulder / bike traffic.

Comment on prior voting in 2019 that Kilauea preference was to have a roundabout not a stoplight.

Comment to consider smaller roundabouts (European style).

**County Engineering / Public Works:** Michael Moule reported there was a charette regarding access to Kilauea school. Lighter faster cheaper methods were employed including Kamali'i Street was converted to one-way and marked a pedestrian/bike lane.

Traffic calming was also requested in several areas, and two roundabouts at Keneke St / Ala Namahana Parkway, and Kolo Rd. The Ala Namahana Parkway roundabout concept fell through because the land was owned by the landowner behind.

Projects were considered for Kolo Rd and Kilauea Rd all the way to the refuge via federal aid road route funds with local match. This project is still moving forward. A sidewalk will be put in mauka from Kolo to Kilauea Road to the bus stop, and the existing sidewalk fixed up with crosswalks. There are mini roundabouts planned as part of this.

Comment to consider all the driveways and poor lighting in the Kolo / Kilauea intersection by Kong Lung.

Comment to consider traffic calming for Nēnē and other wildlife.

Question on the roundabout road into Stone Building? This portion is not a federal aid route and the owner of the road is in question (road in limbo) which may be why it has not been paved yet.

Trey Tanigawa reported the Kahili Quarry road is under environmental review by FEMA after the culvert was washed out damaging the road. In the meantime, design and budgeting work is happening.

Question on status of rain gutters for the Gym? They will have to get back to the KNA on the status.

Question on Hanalei Transfer Station – green waste must park car and carry the waste over to the container. Improvements recommendations from years ago has not happened. They reported they are working on design options to address this like discharging to an open top container vs. having to lift objects up and over.

Question on dissipaters in the roadway drainageway and collectors that were wiped out in the flood. Will any of these be replaced? Michael Moule responded that the culvert was rotten and that was the main issue. A redesign with appropriate piping and sizing will solve the issue. They just finished the Wainiha Powerhouse road project that had been waiting since the 2018 storms (some pipes were upsized as the originals were clogging with debris).

**Beall Corporation:** Daniel Metsch manages Ahuimanu, the new shopping center. Kauai Juice, Hawaii Life Real Estate, North Shore Chiropractic, Kilauea Fine Jewelry, Compass Realty, Avalon Gastropub Restaurant, Wyland Art Gallery, Stay Hawaii Real Estate, Kenji Burger, the Kauai Athletic Center Kilauea Phys Ed will be moving in. The restaurants will take a little bit longer than the retail stores but expected to open around September. The community room has a permit to be finished out, timeline TBD.

Question on moving the Ahuimanu sign over to allow for better visibility along the roadside.

Question on tenants who are using noncompliant signs (i.e. A-frame signs), please ensure sign compliance.

**PAL (Permanently Affordable Living):** Jim Edmunds (with Larry Graff and Greg Crowe) reported that he moved here in 1985 when KNA meetings were in the Kilauea dining room. They have been in real estate a long time but wanted to work on affordable housing as a nonprofit. They have had about 50 projects of which 6-7 are on the front-burner currently. They have negotiated a JV agreement to build 17 new affordable units in the Kapahi area in mid-summer if all goes well, and they are working on 4-17 other units that should happen later this year. There is a robust priority points system to select who is eligible for affordable housing.

Councilmember Cowden reported the County is receiving \$22M towards rent assistance for 60% and under area median income and it can go towards landlords for payments in arrears or rent moving forward. This should be ready in late March.

**Illegal Cutting Waipua:** Mauna Kea Trask reported that Charles Somers donated \$28K towards the Kilauea School for computer licensing software, as well as other donations for HILT, North Shore Urgent Care, and The Hanalei Initiative for wastewater studies. Mr. Trask has asked the community not to cut vegetation in the Waipua conservation easement area of 80 acres and 69 acres respectively (mauka parts of the river valley). Under the easement, it is not permitted to cut grass, trees or other vegetation in the area. The conservation easement is held by HILT. Some people are illegally entering and cutting in the easement - perhaps potentially to help sell properties with view planes into the area. Mr. Trask is asking for a community-based solution which may include education for landowners and their principals along the area.

Question on what harm is happening per the conservation easement? Some people along Waipua street have had their properties and views long before the easement was established. Mr. Trask stated that trespassing and cutting is expressly prohibited per the easement. Councilmember Cowden took pictures along Waipua and noted that fresh plantings of bamboo are now growing in areas that block view planes that may not have been there when the easement was put in place, and some community members believe their view is intentionally being blocked.

Comment that there is anecdotal evidence from people who live along the rim over the past several years that Mr. Somers may be intentionally planting fast growing bamboo and that blocking the views may be the primary goal of this activity - which is resented.

Question on how many homes along the area in question are currently for sale? Mr. Trask noted two homes had clear cut areas directly in front of them and they were sent letters informing them of the easement requirements and requesting a stop to any violation activities.

Councilmember Cowden provided a picture of the bamboo hedges and shared that some longtime respected kupuna are concerned that this may have been done intentionally and ruined historical views and access to the waterfall. There may also be some lingering community resentfulness due to the process by which the easements were established and that they ultimately prohibited long-time community access to natural resources in ways that were originally unanticipated when the concept of the conservation easement was first developed.

Mr. Trask reported that Mr. Somers is interested in community engagement and supporting through his resources and through more involvement. He is participating in supporting many organizations including Kia'i Kahili. He was interested in understanding to what extent the community would support prohibiting cutting in the easement area per the rules.

**Grass Volleyball:** Mike Lyons reported that he is interested in setting up some volleyball activities as a fun outlet. Many of the details are TBD.

Question – how much space is required for a court? He will check into that, similar size to indoor court. How often to do this with the kids? Not sure, maybe one weekday and/or one weekend day? Jill Lowry offered the former playground area at Anaina Hou if scheduling permits.

Sonrisa reported the Kilauea School had a volleyball league and the kids miss doing it. Mike has already spoken with Farrah and Heather Cornell.

**KNA Bylaws:** Thomas Daubert reported that the Board held a planning meeting and desires to share information more quickly to the community. One idea is to ratify minutes electronically and post the final version before the next meeting – but we would need to amend the bylaws to do an email vote to approve the minutes. We are looking at our bylaws in general and for this specific issue. The plan is to have an official vote at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **UPDATES:**

**Seniors:** Beryl reported most of the Seniors have been vaccinated and they are eager to get back together and are wondering if there are any particular needs they can support.

**PTSA:** Sonrisa reported Kilauea school is running at a huge deficit and she is working to get a list of needs. In addition to KNA, the North Shore Lions and Gather Credit Union made donations.

There is a trip fundraiser for \$5K for vacation travel and stay expenses going on right now. Each child has 5 tickets to attempt to sell.

PTSA will do a parade through Kilauea Town on May 28<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping businesses can do support deals / discounts of some sort for graduates and their families.

Question on whether any in-person graduation activities will be allowed? This is uncertain.

**'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea / Kilauea Community Agricultural Center:** Yosh reported this is a slow time of year for nonprofits so we had to furlough some workers, but things are picking back up.

**Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge / Friends of Kauai Wildlife Refuges:** Jen Waipa reported that March 13<sup>th</sup> is a fee-free day at the refuge. There will be a pollinator kit giveaway (75 on refuge, 75 through Friends of Princeville Library) targeting pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

A boot scrub station and bridge repair has been completed at the beginning of the Okolehao Trail above Hanalei NWR.

The wetland management plan for Hanalei NWR has been finalized and will be published soon.

There were 129 albatross (mōlī) nests on the refuge this year, which is a good number.

Thomas reported as Friends of National Wildlife Refuges that the Friends group is on various social media @fkwrkauai and you can see albatross nesting up close online. There are shopping opportunities online at fkwr.org. The annual Dan Moriarty scholarship program is now available on the website with more information – applications close April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Anaina Hou:** Jill Lowry reported she has safety concerns, a few meetings ago a gentleman was making threatening statements to staff and recycling crew. A police report was filed and the playground was shut down for a while and then the gentleman returned the day before last making additional threatening statements. There have been other concerning actions and activities happening in the area as well as additional threats of violence. President L'Hote noted we are asking the Chief of Police to attend the next KNA meeting.

There are several more upcoming movie nights planned. Please visit the website for details. <https://anainahou.org/social-awareness-film-festival/>

The Haven is going well. They are transitioning Thursdays for 6-12 year olds as Keiki Day.

**Kaulana Kilauea:** Gary Pacheco reported they had a meeting today and reserved the wooden stage for Saturday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 for the annual Christmas Concert in the park. Proposed date for Santa sleigh ride around the town is Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Kia" Kahili:** The group continues work with the County and Mr. Somers to address the reopening of the access road to Kāhili Beach.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Gary Pacheco reported the Kauai North Shore Lions are providing scholarships again, they have about \$50K to award. Visit their website at [kauainorthshorelions.org/scholarships](http://kauainorthshorelions.org/scholarships) for more information.

Bruno Ewald reported that he is pursuing a special use permit to continue operations. He also shared that a community member shared that his ju-jitsu school in Kilauea was going to take residential space from the residents of Kauai and turn it into commercial space. He is saddened by this perspective and would like to reach more kids on the north shore with this activity, as he has done for the past 30 years. He hopes to make it a formal and legal space at the County and State level. This application is for a use permit which sunsets and does not run with the land. The space has already been used for this purpose the past 10 years and will not increase any burdens on the community (i.e. traffic). A community member was concerned about the broader zoning issues of extending use permits for commercial uses in areas zoned residential. The primary KNA concern is that the Planning Department did not forward this new use permit to the KNA early enough to properly collect community input and respond. Land owner Donna Apisa has recused herself from the hearings on the matter.

**MOTION** made by Gary Pacheco and seconded by Bill Chase to support the use permit for Bruno's ju-jitsu studio. Discussion on respecting the potential for a slippery slope with changes in the laws. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote. President L'Hote will write the letter of support.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Upon motion duly made by Ron Paul, seconded by Bill Chase and carried unanimously, it was resolved to approve the February 2021 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting minutes.**

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

**Upon motion duly made by Bill Chase, seconded by Ron Paul and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the March 2, 2021 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 10:03 pm.**