



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

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 7, 2020**  
**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, Adam Hadley, Stephenie Brown, Thomas Daubert, Mike Latif, ~~Mike Lyons~~, Charlie Martin, Don McConnell, ~~Jim O'Connor~~, Ron Paul

**Community Attendance:** 16

**Call to Order:** President L'Hote called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM. There is a quorum.

**New Business:**

Ambulance AMR – Speedy Bailey, regional director for American Medical Response presented. Tito could not make it due to another commitment. Mr. Bailey has 35 years of experience in the industry. The company has been on Kaua'i since the 70's. Recently AMR had their first audit here since 1992, and auditors were very complementary of our system. AMR moved to Kilauea from Princeville in 2009 due to Sandpiper unit being sold (and there were concerns about egress from back in the Sandpiper area due to traffic calming measures among others). There are currently excellent response times, and there are no problems per se with the existing situation. The sentinel case of concern brought by Mr. Drapkin did not bear out as an issue according to facts found.

The current COVID-19 situation has drastically changed typical operational parameters. In June 2020, the Kilauea ambulance responded to 21 calls in Kilauea, 11 in Princeville, and 14 in Hanalei / Wainiha. The calls tend to follow the volume of people in an area, of which visitors are lower in Princeville right now. If an ambulance is sent out on a call, other resources are simultaneously shifted around to help reduce potential response times if another call comes up.

The Emergency Medical System is now facing a budget shortfall of \$20M. There are no plans to move any ambulances at this time, and a move would be premature until the dust settles from the current situation. There is discussion about reducing ambulance services in general as an economic savings measure. Mr. Bailey would appreciate any support against implementing such measures.

The legislation passed and implemented in July 2018 was to increase ambulance services, without supporting any particular area – that was left to the experts (i.e. ambulance service operator), which is how Kauai received another ambulance resource.

The State Department of Health is the ultimate decision maker on where ambulances are stationed. AMR makes recommendations and works collaboratively with them, but the final decision is ultimately DOH's. Traditionally, up until 2018, the legislature would decide where the ambulances end up in the bill. The new unit added on Kauai was a very different situation.

Mr. Bailey will need more time to collect the comparative 2019 numbers for June.

System Status Management – when Kilauea and Kapaa are on the move, the Lihue ambulance will shift north as far as Kilauea if needed. If the Hanalei bridge appears slated to close due to rainfall levels, AMR will shift a unit down into Hanalei and embed them there for the duration of the closure. In this way they can service the community and walk patients across the river with Fire Department help.

The response time to Haena if leaving from Kilauea vs. Princeville fire station area would be only about 5 minutes difference.

Most of the data shown by Mr. Drapkin is from the pre-2018 flood events. Things were significantly different after the flood for a long period of time, and are significantly different again now due to COVID-19.

If the \$20M budget shortfall comes to pass and ambulance services must be reduced, Kilauea's ambulance would not be affected – it would become even more critical to the overall system. The roving ambulance in Lihue would likely be the first affected. The rumor of Kilauea losing an ambulance was because the Department of Health needed to show specifically some ambulances that would potentially be reduced and Kilauea ended up on the list, even though it would never be impacted in practice.

Question – could Mr. Bailey speak to ambulance vs. fire dept. capabilities, and transport to hospital capabilities vs. emergency first aid needs on-site? Mr. Bailey says the split between fire department and ambulance is intentional to get care delivered on-site faster. Many calls to Ha'ena are beach or mountain extractions for which the fire department is critical to respond to most of those types of incidents. The fire department provides excellent first response and first aid with oxygen. The ambulance has higher critical care capabilities, but the 5 minute lag from ambulance arriving later is not really delayed care, it is time well-spent and does not impact overall level of care negatively. If the ambulance arrives at the same time as the fire department then the ambulance would take over the case and the fire department's role would be minimized. As far as transportation to a hospital, the units with a patient inside are moving about as fast as a passenger car. The time interval to get to the hospital doesn't change that much and doesn't end up being very significant given the other aspects of the rescue or event, it's the care they receive in the meantime that matters more. Mr. Bailey believes that having the fire department and ambulance assets spread out is a better overall system model.

AMR has probably seen more COVID-19 patients than any other provider. They move patients who need transport and are at the airport performing screening. There are less calls now without visitors, but there are also different types of calls and a higher level of

overall anxiety. The visitor utilization of ambulances is probably about 20 – 30%, it should be related to the number of visitors on island and that they are out doing things that maybe they shouldn't or don't have the experience to properly judge. The total ambulance volume is off about 40%. Beach user volumes are only down 5-10% despite relatively low tourists on island, so locals are going in droves.

Councilwoman Felicia Cowden was very thankful for the information.

**MOTION:** Adam Hadley moves that KNA write a letter to the Department of Health recognizing the fact sheet put together by a concerned citizen, but that we recommend the ambulance stay in Kilauea and maintain the separation of the ambulance and fire department to better support the overall north shore emergency response system. Seconded by Ron Paul. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote, with one abstention / recusal by Beryl Blaich. Yosh will write the letter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gary Pacheco reported our bank balance is now \$7,322.01. We just got a bill from the Kilauea Post Office for 1 year post box rental, paid today.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Beautification Committee:** No report.

**Planning Committee:** No report.

**Communications Committee:** Thomas Daubert reported that he had an email for maintaining the website, so we have signed up for a management service to help take care of the website (following the virus issue) for \$120 dollars. He recommends we do not renew the \$240 virus removal.

As always, 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 email or share it via Facebook.

To mitigate any website copyright issues, the blog had been removed but is now back up as a space for us to internally post meeting agendas and other news items. All archived website items have been removed.

There was a request to email out some information about the census.

**Fundraising Committee:** No report.

**Election Committee:** No report.

**Seniors:** No report.

**PTSA:** Adam Hadley reported he is very happy about the new sidewalks! The project went well, but we are not sure what the school situation will be coming up.

Mr. Pacheco noted this was a Kauai North Shore Lions project. They poured over 10 yards of cement and put in new crosswalks. It was a great success and a community project with parents and volunteers. He thanks Mike Latif for providing the food for the workers.

The next project will be putting a covered walkway between the cafeteria and the school. A generous seed money donation has been made. There will be lumber and roofing needed. Volunteers will be requested. Stay tuned for more information.

**Ag Center:** Yosh reported that Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea (AHK) has successfully fulfilled the first six weeks of the USDA contract which produced 12,000+ boxes of produce distributed across the island from Ha'ena to Kekaha. We had a GAP-style audit last week as part of the program requirements, but Yosh reached out to our legislators and perhaps it made a difference as we have been told we are ok to continue the project as this is an emergency pandemic requisition. So we will continue the program through the end of August and doing another 18,000 boxes. This will bring \$1.1M total into the economy for the program.

We have made a request for CARES act money for the county for about \$600K for farm equipment and about 10 new farming and 1 office support position to expand production.

**National Fish and Wildlife / Kilauea Point** – Jennifer Waipa reported they have hired a new deputy project manager, Brooke Burrows, and a budget analyst, Scott Lee, which is a position that has been open for a long time.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge will open for visitation under a new reservation system on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Visitors can purchase an entry pass at Recreation.gov. The lighthouse itself and all buildings remain closed. Locals can still purchase a Kama'aina pass and do not need reservations. There will be limitations on time in order to reduce numbers of people inside the refuge.

Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge has been having an uptick in avian botulism. Staff are regularly out there surveying and looking for ill birds.

**Anaina Hou** – No report.

**Kahili Quarry Road Culvert** – Mike Mitchell has drafted a letter regarding the washed out steel culvert and the road to the County to address safety issues and repairs via a proposed public-private partnership.

**MOTION:** Adam Hadley moves for KNA to sign and support the Kahili Quarry repairs letter, seconded by Charlie Martin.

Question on cost sharing? It is our understanding that Mr. Somers would cover the total cost, and the community would work on the implementation to help reduce the overall cost. Yosh will talk to Mike about including this specification. Councilwoman Felicia Cowden requested copying her (Vice Chair of Public Works) and Ross Kagawa who is Chair of Public Works.

Question on FEMA declaration no longer required to implement the fix? We would need to ask Public Works how the permitting process works and whether a FEMA declaration would speed up that process.

**MOTION** passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Announcements:**

Question on Lighthouse Village? Still just waiting for tenants.

Question on Hay Subdivision? Waiting on final approvals and we expect to be completed via lateral drilling by the end of August.

Greg from Coherence Hawaii announced Bill 2774 which is making its way through County Council which would exempt developers from building affordable housing requirements for a decade. Per Adam Roversi, Kilauea is one of the town cores planned for buildouts that would fall under the exemption. Felicia Cowden said this had come up in January and in April it was deferred to July to wait for COVID-19 to evolve; she doesn't favor this bill. It was drafted on the premise to fill in some areas in Lihue primarily but there are details that are challenging. The contractors and developers don't like it due to restrictions and 50 year limits included – there are many issues that need to be resolved. She believe the trend of acceleration of influx of new residents from the mainland purchasing distressed local properties and businesses will increase, and there is the potential to make big mistakes with these types of bills due to unintended consequences. Call 241-4888 or email [counciltestimony@kauai.gov](mailto:counciltestimony@kauai.gov) to provide a statement or ask them to defer this for more time to consider it. Greg noted the feature that is very concerning is that any R10 or above is exempted across the island, not just the Lihue corridor.

\$38M will be coming for riverway improvements across the island.

Valerie noted today was the contested case hearing with Mr. Somers and he represented that we did not give substantial notice to the KNA about their build out, which was done in 2018. Valerie wants to know if we want them to re-present their construction proposal. Beryl noted that we had an extensive presentation and sent a letter. Mr. Somers is asserting that the letter provided is now old and outdated. Valerie had asked a year ago if it needs to be re-presented and Yosh said no at the time. The roof size has been made smaller due to community feedback which shifted the garage location, but it still fits in the previous owner's footprint. Yosh remembers this was a very detailed and complex presentation, and is wondering if it is finalized. Valerie and David have not completed the architectural renderings yet due to cost outlay and the ability to provide them later, but intend to comply with all the conditions the County has listed except that the contested case situation may draw this out further; this construction process has been going on for 38 months now. Ron noted that to his knowledge there is no statute of limitations on the KNA building plans approval. The KNA does not feel there is a need for Valerie and David to re-present.

**MOTION:** Bill Chase moves that we re-affirm the previous presentation made by Valerie and David Kells, seconded by Beryl Blaich. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes:**

<p><b>Upon motion duly made by Bill Chase, seconded by Ron Paul and carried unanimously, it was resolved to approve the May and June 2020 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting minutes.</b></p>
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**Adjournment of Meeting:**

**Upon motion duly made by Bill Chase, seconded by Ron Paul and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the July 7, 2020 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 9:23 pm.**