



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

**MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2022
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING (DUE TO COVID-19)**

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

KNA Directors Present: Yoshito L'Hote, Jeremy Burns, ~~Gary Pacheco~~, Bill Chase, ~~Stephanie Brown~~, Thomas Daubert, Mike Latif, Mike Lyons, Charlie Martin, Kalena Pacheco, Ron Paul, ~~Sonrisa Stepath~~, Stephen Squire, ~~Sarah Wright~~

Community Attendance: 13+, including Representative Nadine Nakamura and Councilwoman Felicia Cowden.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Ron Paul called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. There is a quorum.

COMMITTEE / COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Kalena Pacheco reported we have \$4,765.74. No payments this month. Please send donations to PO Box 328 in Kilauea if anyone wants to contribute!

Planning Committee: Ron Paul reported planning committee did not meet last month. Governor Ige released \$2.6M for water department improvements in Kilauea, the plan is still unclear.

Communications Committee: Thomas Daubert would like anyone with community announcements to contact him, as we publish these twice monthly. As always please send any interest in signing up for the Kilauea Neighborhood Association announcements, questions or potential meeting topics to joekilauea@gmail.com.

Fundraising Committee: Mike Latif and Stephanie Brown will be assisting chair Sonrisa Stepath on this task as needed - no report.

NEW BUSINESS / GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Representative Nadine Nakamura: Rep. Nakamura gave an update on the legislative session. Some highlights: close to \$1B approved for housing, \$600M for Hawaiian Homelands land and lot development program, and \$300M for the rental housing revolving fund (with up to half of that to be used for working families, 60-100% AMI). Bills were passed that help the Kilauea community including: \$250K for design of architectural

barrier removals and \$500K for covered courtyard and appurtenances design for Kilauea Elementary School. \$200K for Princeville Library improvements. \$8M for Hanalei Bridge repair work. And many other improvements. There will be an increase to the minimum wage gradually over time, starting at \$12 as of Oct 1, 2022 and going up in \$2 increments every year until 2028.

Question on tax on income / investment properties? Can this be elevated to such a level as to discourage outside investment that continues to remove resident housing for workers? Rep. Nakamura shared that property taxes are County purview, whereas estate tax is State level.

Question about people who live here but claim residence elsewhere in places that avoid income taxes. Real property taxes are relatively low, income taxes are relatively high, and these both are being avoided. Rep. Nakamura clarified that schools are funded by GE tax and income tax in Hawaii. The County has a real property ladder tax system which could be adjusted. Councilwoman Cowden clarified that the County scheme doesn't allow for distinguishing between residents and nonresidents. Another suggestion was to consider adjusting conveyance taxes.

Question on the effects of raising taxes which flow down to affect renters and ultimately raise their rents.

Suggestion on adjusting overnight lodging so that you must live in the house for a period of time before you can vacation rental it.

Question on whether we can invest in bike paths and other public community amenities, and bike lanes or alternative pathways? Rep. Nakamura highlighted the Haena State Park access system changes as a model for how to implement changes in other areas. The highway has had disaster after disaster so most of the funding has gone towards repairing these issues. She also highlighted the Hanalei parking study which is considering walking paths and may be a model for further community development.

Question on any bills that didn't go so well? Rep. Nakamura was concerned about the hemp bill which didn't really address many of the needs of farmers. Also a renewable energy bill that capped renewables to 65% with 35% firm power required which makes things very hard for Kauai which is on the cutting edge of renewable energy. Overall the session went very well and many bills Rep. Nakamura advocated for got into the budget such as making sure low income Medicaid people now have access to preventative dental care coverage, and extremely low income people with families to get \$500 rent credit - this was bill HB2233 (people in the Temporary Aid for Needy Families program who are working).

Question on the Kalihiwai Reservoir? Rep. Nakamura said there are meetings upcoming to talk about future plans for that area. There were not any legislative actions this year.

Question about gentrification and greatly increased new folks with locals being forced to leave the island. There is a Republican running in Kilauea. Has the legislative makeup significantly changed? Rep. Nakamura said there will be 10-12 seats for sure out of 51 turning over which may lead to bigger changes, it remains to be seen, but all are up for re-election.

Question on the status of the Kilauea Gym hardening for hurricane shelter? Councilwoman Cowden said it has been funded and work is expected to begin in January.

MOTION to support Representative Nadine Nakamura as candidate to represent the Kilauea community by Mike Latif, seconded by Secretary Burns. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Lihue Airport Master Planning Process – Jeremy Burns:

Rep. Nakamura penned a letter to the federal government supported by Kouchi and Morikawa and our other representatives not to include expansion as the de-facto plan. She believes the community opposition will be enormous.

Councilwoman Cowden has a resolution in place before the Council to point out this existing set of alternatives developed which all have at least 3 gates added expansion is in conflict with our DMAP, infrastructure planning, and other community planning directions.

Secretary Burns shared the Lihue Airport Master Plan website:

<https://www.lihmasterplan.com/>

The Civil Beat Article:

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/05/expansion-plan-for-lihue-airport-is-riling-residents-already-tired-of-over-tourism/>

and The Garden Island article:

<https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/05/24/hawaii-news/opposition-to-airport-master-plan-takes-off/>

The next public hearing meeting is yet to be scheduled but it will be sometime in Summer 2022.

There is a Change.org petitions being circulated:

<https://www.change.org/p/say-no-to-expansion-of-lihu-e-airport?redirect=false>

David Dinner commented this is Superferry level importance and Farmers Markets may be a good venue to spread community awareness.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kalihiwai Reservoir – Yoshito L’Hote: Mr. L’Hote met with Joel Tites the new head of the Water Department as well as John Sabo from H2O who advises the State of California on water development and usage to start a conversation about how to address water in Hawaii and specifically starting with Kauai and the Kalihiwai Reservoir.

Rep. Nakamura advised that we develop a list of who all will benefit from saving this reservoir and better managing the water. Mr. L’Hote shared that these groups are very experienced at Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and we need a 50 year plan to help inform these activities including broad stakeholder benefits and controlled expansion plans.

Question on control of waters in Hawaii via private landowners whereas States generally control the water in other locations. Any interest in governing organizations to take on this responsibility. Maka’ala conveyed that many decisions will need to be made as part of the PPP including what will happen to the land under the reservoir which is a parcel lot of record. In California development is controlled by water-in and water-out. This has not

been the case generally thus far in Hawaii. The public can access and visit the Kahiliholo Reservoir where water levels are currently very low and walk on the levy.

Councilwoman Cowden has noticed a number of funding opportunities coming out of Building Resilience in Small Communities (competitive grants) which the County is very good at writing for and can be done through a nonprofit. There are also capacity and capability building projects applicable to Kalihiwai and Hanalei.

MOTION to support Councilwoman Felicia Cowden as candidate to represent the Kilauea community by Mike Latif, seconded by Bill Chase. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

UPDATES:

Seniors: No report. If any seniors need fresh produce from the ag center contact Joyce or Ellie or Chair L'Hote.

PTSA: No report.

'Āina Ho'okupu O Kilauea / Kilauea Community Agricultural Center: Chair L'Hote reported our refrigeration all went down 2 weeks ago which has been a bit of a crisis. We built a new wash station and created a new walk-in fridge that we will hopefully have up and running in a couple of days. AHK is also working with KIUC to upgrade our broken refrigerated container to be more energy efficient. AHK has started a new "meat club" for purchasing small quantities of locally-raised various meats and poultry – contact AHK for more information or to join. We will have a special for Father's Day, \$25 membership fee includes equivalent value in pork, with a barbeque promotional for current and prospective members.

Anaina Hou: No report.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge / Friends of Kaua'i Wildlife Refuges: Jen Waipa announced that there will be closures on Saturday June 18, and July 2.

Fence construction for the predator-proof fence is ongoing. The Mokolea Point and Kāhili sections are nearly complete – the Kilauea Road section is next.

They have been able to hire 2 new maintenance staff. There are 3 more positions open. They have hired a new park ranger Laurel Smith, come and meet her.

They are working with the contractors to finish the landscaping and highway striping at the viewpoint overlook. There are some internal operations planning and final permitting to release the site from the rest of the surrounding subdivision. Opening tentatively this Fall – perhaps Oct / Nov.

There are great opportunities for volunteering including weeding and sunset watching. The Moli are ready to fledge and wedge-tail shearwaters are laying eggs and red-footed boobies have recently hatched and tropicbirds are courting with circular backwards flying. Molly Hall participated in the weed and feed event and really enjoyed it and recommends it to the community.

Thomas Daubert with the Friends of Kauai Wildlife Refuges Group reported there is a new website at www.kauairefuges.org. Please sign up for their newsletter for additional information!

The organization provided \$20K to 7 young people this year! This is nearly twice the total amount of prior award distributions and is made possible thanks to donors who supported the fund this year.

The organization is participating in the Charity Walk this year – please consider supporting them. Every donation and registration fee will be matched by proceeds from the event.

Tomorrow is World Ocean Day – please forego the plastic straws and utensils!

Kaulana Kīlauea: No report.

Kia’i Kāhili: Yosh reported someone drove through the boulders to go camp on the point and were met by Jen Waipa and asked to leave. This was another reminder of the need for housing on our island.

Na Kia’i O Nihokū: No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

The May 2022 Kīlauea Neighborhood Association meeting minutes were approved by email.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Upon motion duly made by Thomas Daubert seconded by Bill Chase and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the June 7, 2022 Kīlauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 8:42 pm.