



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

**MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Kilauea Neighborhood Center

KNA Directors Present: Yoshito L'Hote, Jake Bernard, Jeremy Burns, Gary Pacheco, Bill Chase, ~~Stephenie Brown~~, Thomas Daubert, Mike Latif, ~~Jill Lowry~~, ~~Mike Lyons~~, Nathan Myers, Kalena Pacheco, ~~Sarah Wright~~

Community Attendance: 6+ including Councilwoman Cowden.

Call to Order: Chair L'Hote called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. There is a quorum.

COMMITTEE / COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Gary "Mr P" Pacheco reported we have \$6,989.13. There are no payments or receipts. Don McConnell filed our 990 for taxes for free.

Please send donations to PO Box 328 in Kilauea if anyone wants to contribute!

Question – do any organizations contribute anything for our bi-monthly e-newsletter updates? No, most or all are nonprofits just sharing events.

Insurance needs to be paid.

Planning Committee: No report.

Question on topics the Planning Committee is involved in? Those are FLAT grant, PAL affordable housing, other development on the plateau, and Kauapea historical existing easement access trail (near Benji's place) which was part of the subdivision entitlement.

Question on Kauapea trail status? It is currently expected to go to trial per the latest judge's ruling. Public input process is expected in the future.

Question on 30-foot county easement along Kauapea gully? Mr P described the history and how Dave Steward convinced the landowners to provide the land easement to the County. Currently it is uncertain whether Parks or Public Works is responsible for maintaining the easement area. Mauna Kea described how Parks used to be a subgroup of Public Works, and Public Works is by default responsible for maintaining easements unless they are specifically assigned to Parks.

Communications Committee: Please send any interest in signing up for the Kilauea Neighborhood Association announcements, questions or potential meeting topics to joekilauea@gmail.com. There is a bi-monthly email announcement letter provided to the community.

Fundraising Committee: No report.

NEW BUSINESS / GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Invitees for this year: County Mayor, DOT, Representative Nakamura (Floor Majority Leader), Kilauea Gym hardening for hurricanes, Department of Water, real property tax, others?

Councilwoman Cowden noted that they've had 1200 appeals on real property tax which is a result of recent rapid inflation and tax changes to the residential investor class that have affected many more homeowners than anticipated. County budgeting is coming up very soon. She requests community members come to Council meetings and listen to the concerns and testify.

Mauna Kea explained the 1978 Constitutional Convention provided for taxation. The de facto land classification in the 60's was agricultural. Water litigation has made it so water cannot be diverted the way it was in plantation times. Subdividing land is much more challenging these days to, for example, split 3000 acres of former plantation holdings. Ni'ihau has a custom flat tax rate extended, and can still control who has access to the island, which means they can keep Native Hawaiians from visiting ancestral lands. Council has the ability to rent control, but we don't do it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anini Beach Small Scale Beach Nourishment and Sand Dune Restoration Project – Mauna Kea Trask: This is a follow up to the previous meeting presentation. Mauna Kea looked at the beach area and noted erosion behind the seawall near the boat ramp. There is no requirement for approval or formal input at this time.

Real Property Tax resumed: further discussion on real property tax changes and unintended consequences. Examples of anecdotal cases provided.

Question on what tax code modeling and exception process development was employed? Formal modeling was not used, which is part of the problem. Councilwoman Cowden will investigate modeling vendor options on her imminent upcoming trip to Washington DC.

Needs include list of affected ohana, modeling vendors & success stories, coalitions to drive new approaches.

Councilwoman Cowden will have a standing agenda slot going forward to report new business and take questions.

UPDATES:

Seniors: Seniors Valentine Aloha Celebration by invite only, with a bus to Kauai Beach Resort.

Kilauea School PTSA: No report.

‘Āina Ho‘okupu O Kilauea / Kilauea Community Agricultural Center: Yosh reported that we are working to finish the Market/Deli space in the next month or two.

AHK is hiring for a Store Manager, and a couple of farm operators.

The wind a couple weeks ago damaged two of our big greenhouses. The rain is back.

Anaina Hou: No report.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge / Friends of Kaua‘i Wildlife Refuges: Jen Waipa reported that the predator-resistant perimeter fence is 65% complete.

5 pigs that penetrated the old fence were culled in Nihoku.

They are hiring for an equipment operator – open until February 16th.

Cesspool conversions at Kilauea Point are now completed.

A maintenance assessment was done for the Lighthouse to create a 5 year maintenance plan and contract.

A detailee biologist is here from Alaska.

There will be a fee-free day on February 18th for President’s Day. Red-footed boobies are gathering sticks now for their nests – a really neat site to see!

Thomas Daubert from the Friends group reported that members at various levels can now receive unique member-only experiences at the refuge (for example: guided tours of the Refuge and sunset experiences at Kilauea Point NWR).

Kaulana Kilauea: Mr. P reported that they are planning on either the 1st week or 3rd week in December for the Christmas concert later this year. Carswell is selling their business; the usual 40x60 tent could potentially be purchased but takes a crew to set up. Other tent vendors such as Lee’s Tent may be pursued as well.

Kia‘i Kāhili: No report.

Na Kia‘i o Nihokū: No decisions yet.

Namahana Charter School: No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr P announced that there will be scholarships for anyone from the north shore pursuing accredited education. Last year the Lions gave out \$63K in scholarships to all ages. Visit kauainorthshorelions.com for the application.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the January 2023 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting minutes was completed by email.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Upon motion duly made by Treasurer Pacheco seconded by Director Daubert and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the February 7, 2023 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 9:06 pm.