



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

MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 05, 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: 14+, including Councilmember Felicia Cowden

Call to Order: Yoshito L'Hote called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. There was a beautiful sunset.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Pacheco reported July's Balance \$5,716.52.

- Please consider donating to KNA at PO Box 328, Kilauea, HI 96754.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Sarah Wright reported on the recent planning committee meeting. Adam Roversi felt confident the process would be much faster than 10 years. Rezoning to R6 does not have to go to the State which will save at least a year.

Yosh reported there was a discussion with Joe Tait head of Department of Water to find ways to facilitate water. There is a bid out to do the second tank at Pu'u Pane and they are looking at doing a second well to bring more resiliency to the system. Joe is confident the second tank alone will bring enough water to the area for expanded housing. If AHK transitioned to Kalihiwai Reservoir water that would free up 1M gallons a month currently which could expand to several million gallons a month as the ag park further matures.

Sarah reported the Planning Committee will be putting together a short survey to solicit community opinion on future development in the area.

Yosh noted that the recent Kilauea water meeting was very well represented with over 30 people attending, which Joe said was more than all other community meetings combined so far. Both Kilauea and Poipu are in water deficit situations.

Communications Committee: Thomas Daubert provided the email sign up for regular communications, reach out to joekilauea@gmail.com to sign up, or for any inquiries.

Fundraising Committee: No Report.

New Business:

- KNA to renew permit for Kilauea Neighborhood Center use. Yosh will take care of it. We are still waiting for the anticipated closure for maintenance work.

Old Business:

- Gathering questions for visit by Kaua'i County Mayor Derek Kawakami at the October 3, 2023 KNA Meeting.
- Kalihiwai Reservoir: Representative Nadine Nakamura asked the Chair and Vice Chair of Water at the State who will visit the ag park and the reservoir on September 12. We have the full support of multiple official entities to develop a roadmap to manage, finance and rehabilitate the Kalihiwai Reservoir. There are other big landowners with reservoirs involved who have a lot to gain to understand a process to remediate the reservoir successfully. DLNR received \$10M this last legislative session to fund dams. Department of Agriculture is interested in taking over and facilitating preservation of working reservoirs to support ag. This also relates to affordable housing water needs and other initiatives, so it is not being considered in a vacuum.

Question on whether the Kalihiwai Reservoir is somehow being taken from the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association? Yosh explained that he is working with concerned community members and stakeholders to create a possible pathway to preserve the Reservoir as a community resource, while transferring the liability from the private homeowners of the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association. If a way forward is established, members of the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association will have an opportunity to voice their support or opposition at upcoming Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association Board Meetings.

- Kaua'i County Sign Ordinance: There has been a proliferation of signs and it is up to us to help ensure compliance with the ordinance as there is a potential for slippery slope to continue engendering further excursions from the rules. This impacts the viewplane for all upon which the ordinance was created.
- Kahili Beach access via Quarry Road: No official report. Question about the status of the road and Mr. Somers responsibilities to maintain the road, what is Mr. Somers and the County's responsibilities, and what if there is a fire? Yosh relayed that Mr. Somers was ready to replace the culvert but the County elected to pursue FEMA funding to theoretically eliminate some of the expected delay in permits, but instead the FEMA process has been taking far longer than expected. Councilmember Cowden shared that her understanding was the process was held up in SHIP-D. This will be a topic with the Mayor's visit next month.

Community Updates:

County Council Updates:

- Councilmember Cowden shared that Kauai Buses will now have an electronic pay system. There aren't enough bus drivers so there are gaps in service. They are attempting to better ascertain usage patterns which this will help track.
- There are 4 real property tax bills being drafted. There are some being worked on quickly to provide timely reprieves. Another initiative is to not allow any property

to not go up over 20% in taxes per year as a shock absorber for every property tax class. There is an opportunity to weigh in with testimony by email at: counciltestimony@kauai.gov. There is an agenda on the website with the 4 tax bills at the bottom.

- Councilmember Cowden is public safety chair, and the ambulance AMR service issue is that a small group in Board of Health has selected a Danish company "Faulk" to take over AMR (Kauai and Maui) who has been here for 44 years. The contract is up December 27. There is a deadline of tomorrow for AMR to protest this. She is surprised there was no public hearing or other input on this proposed change. Dr. Ken Fink is the new Department of Health Director who could be written to, also the Governor, Kauai County Council and the Mayor. She is trying to figure out why the change was even made as this is very fresh news.
 - Jill shared that AMR was in discussions with KFD about 2 years ago, so this may be a longer term process.
 - Beryl shared that it may be that a person directly associated with Faulk may have been directly involved with the annual bid writing process.
 - Councilmember Cowden needs to do additional research on what the particulars are, but still that this process was done with so little official engagement or public hearing is very troubling.
- Safety and Hazard Mitigation – Councilwoman Cowden has been working with our County plans for a while and there are fuzzy numbers to the point where we may not even have enough water to put out substantial fires if they were to happen here. She is working on preventative measures and meeting with the Mayor this week to cover fire flow from reservoirs and cutting back overgrowth. Also with Department of Water coming up.

Seniors

- No report

PTSA

- Yosh reported Sonrisa is taking full time classes to become a full time teacher for Kilauea School.

'Āina Ho'okupu o Kilauea (Kilauea Ag Center)

- New potential employees have shown up recently, which will be a big help.
- Store is open a few hours daily. We are working to make sure the right building permits were applied for and received or if they need to be adjusted.
- Question on the County grant? No RFP has been issued yet.
- There are many meetings coming up, such as with Rep. Nakamura and the Chair of Water for the State. There is also a need to secure funding for management of the reservoir assets. Councilwoman Cowden is working with State officials to find funding for reservoir firefighting assets, standpipes in critical areas, etc.
 - AHK supported the State with an EPA grant which they ended up winning, so that is another potential source of resources for the reservoir.
- DBEDT called AHK and are interested in facilitating low interest loans for agriculture and buildings.
- Jill shared that NOAA had some grants related to climate change, water sources, etc. in the \$15-75M range which we could look into. A participant shared they just got \$650M they are trying to figure out what to do with here in Hawaii.

Anaina Hou Community Park

- Jill Lowry reported that Sep 30th the president of the monolithic dome association will be visiting. He will also go to Maui to see the ocean center dome. The County will also be invited to discuss emergency housing that is very hardened than can be done with domes which are fireproof.
- Mobile hygiene trailer has been backed up to Q4, probably October.
- They are skipping Halloween activities this year, due in part to the recent Lahaina events. There will be a kids uplifting version done.
- Numerous concerts are scheduled including Henry Kapon on September 9th and Matisyahu on September 28th. Please visit their website at www.anainahou.org for a [full list of upcoming events](#).

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge & Friends of Kauaʻi Wildlife Refuges

- Jen Waipa reported the predator proof fence at Kīlauea Point NWR is almost completed. There is a pedestrian gate at Sunset Point that should automatically close; please close it if it does not. Dogs are ok but only on a leash.
- They are working on bids for several maintenance contracts for next year.
- Hanalei Viewpoint is hoping to open in October. The subdivision is done, just some final paperwork.
- October is Wildlife Refuge Week with additional activities happening, look for announcements on their Facebook page and via the Friends Group.
- A few new staff were hired – maintenance worker and a law enforcement officer Kim Chadwich. Park ranger, biotech, and budget analyst are upcoming. Local folks are encouraged to apply.
- FRIENDS GROUP: Thomas Daubert reported that Kukui Grove is donating space for an educational display to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Hulēʻia NWR. It will be up through mid-October. Check it out across from the food court.
- The Princeville Moʻolelo series will continue on September 24th with Jacqueline Nelson of Save Our Shearwaters, and Bill Evslyn on October 10th, discussing the impacts of Monsanto products on our reef system, wildlife and community members. Visit www.kauairefuges.org for more info.

Kaulana Kīlauea

- They are working to make the park more inviting, so Dispensary Park is getting a walking path with interpretive signs describing the Kīlauea Hospital, the old mill, and other points of interest during the plantation days. There will be new kukui, plumeria, and benches. They are looking into bench designs now.
- Let Gary “Mr. P / Mayor of Kīlauea” Pacheco know if anyone willing/able to contribute to the project. Councilwoman Cowden contributed in the meeting.

Kiaʻi Kāhili

- Thomas Daubert and Yoshito L’Hote reported they are working on an RFP to develop access and usage planning in the area, to mitigate some of the negative effects and safety issues and develop plans along with the community.
- HILT first Sunday 8:30am community workday (on the Wailapa side)

Nā Kiaʻi Nihokū

- Hoku Cody reported that they received transcripts for November, still waiting on December and January. Anticipated receipt of all testimony is the end of September. The rest of the process will likely take a few months.

- Question on whether it was determined how the maps ended up redrawn from original? This is part of the case so no comments until it is resolved.
- Consuela Foundation attended a workday.
- Kilo event in September where community can observe vernal equinox from sunset to sunrise.

Namahana Public Charter School

- Sarah Wright reported they are on track to close escrow on the property at the end of this month. Next they will be looking for community support testimony.
- They will be meeting with the Department of Water to supply the facility.
- They are hiring personnel, doing more fundraising, and still targeting opening in Fall 2025.

Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay

- No report

Announcements:

- Mr. P reported that December 2nd will be the Christmas Concert in the Park. They are hoping to do the Christmas house lighting competition again as well and will be looking for prize donations.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion duly made by Thomas Daubert seconded by Gary Pacheco and carried unanimously, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the July and August 2023 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meetings.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Upon motion duly made by Gary Pacheco, seconded by Sarah Wright and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the September 5, 2023 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 8:43 pm.