

**Kaua'i General Plan Update
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
October 20, 2015
4444 Rice Street, Lihu'e
Pi'ikoi Rooms A & B**

MEETING PURPOSE:

To convene the 6th meeting of the Community Advisory Committee for the Kaua'i General Plan (GP) Update project. The topic of the meeting was Natural and Cultural Resources and Climate Change.

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kurt Bosshard	Cammie Matsumoto
Helen Cox	Gary Pacheco
Luke Evslin	Barbara Robeson
Laurie Ho	Tom Shigemoto
Sue Kanoho	Stacy Sproat-Beck

PROJECT TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:

County of Kaua'i: Marie Williams, Ruby Pap, Marisa Valenciano, Ben Sullivan
SSFM International: Cheryl Soon, Katia Balassiano, Melissa White

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Ted Blake, Chuck Blay, Diana Butler, Tyler DosSantos-Tam, Nancy Kanna, Lee Morey, Karen Ono, Rayne Regush, Carlos Rivera, Susan Remoaldo, Ben Welborn, Elliot Yamamoto

HANDOUTS:

The CAC members were given the following materials for inclusion in their binders:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting presentation
- Flyer for November Place Typing Charrettes

MEETING SUMMARY:

Cheryl Soon of SSFM International welcomed the group. The agenda included eight parts:

- 1) Objectives of Today's Meeting
- 2) Project Status and Updates
- 3) Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources in the General Plan (Katia Balassiano, SSFM)
- 4) CAC Discussion on Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources
- 5) Natural Hazards and Climate Change
 - a. Natural Hazards in the General Plan (Katia Balassiano, SSFM)
 - b. Climate Change Mitigation (Ben Sullivan, Sustainability Coordinator)
 - c. Climate Change and Coastal Hazards Assessment (Ruby Pap, Sea Grant)

- 6) CAC Discussion
- 7) Public Comment
- 8) Next Activities

RECORDED COMMENTS:**Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources Discussion**

The following comments from CAC members were recorded during the discussion period following the presentation on Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources.

Discussion Question 1: *What is the County's role in natural resource protection, given State management of large areas?*

- Much of this island is state owned and managed. They don't have the money or staff dedicated and don't enforce it. County is burdened with too much - lifeguards, fatalities, rescues.
- The State needs to invest in each of the islands. The County can't continue to prop up the state.
- Polihale state park doesn't have a paved road and it breaks rental car agreements for visitors to drive there, to a state park.
- Too much finger pointing between state and county, they need to work together.
- I have a 6 acre kuleana I want to farm on. The State won't maintain the stream and says its on the county.
- How much of this is realistic when the infrastructure is being decimated by invasives, there are water issues, and the County and State don't have resources to address it?
- GP- Boundary lines between State and County...they should be working together. Maybe a flow chart of jurisdiction/responsibility.

Discussion Question 2: *How can the General Plan support natural resource protection?*

- Will you add IAL (Important Agricultural Lands) to the Heritage resource map?
- Will this map be online in an interactive way that people can turn layers on and off?
- Can we add feral chickens to the list of threats to endangered species?
- Is there an example of TDR in Hawaii? A: no, it has been implemented on the mainland. Usually requires a neutral party to broker the arrangement.
- What is the size of the communities that have implemented TDR? A: relatively small, as it is relationship based.
- Scenic views are very important. A developer blocked views from the road with trees and removed them after the community association petitioned the county
- In Kealia Kai, ocean views are blocked, Princeville has just planted palms along the golf course. These are private lands. For the proposed house lots on the bluff, there were conditions that prohibited views of lights and houses from valley, but you can see them.

- Suggestion - during planning and permitting process, flag areas where views need to be preserved.
- Will plan have any documentation on cost and priority of improvements?

Discussion Question 3: *The General Plan policies for shoreline protection focus on 1) protecting sandy beaches, 2) Promoting beach replenishment, 3) Preserving buffer areas from development, 4) Discouraging structures in the shoreline area, 5) Preserving view corridors from roads and public spaces, and 6) Providing access to the ocean. What else might be needed?*

- Active involvement and cooperation between the State and County is needed to protect the environment. We should take a proactive approach.
- This list is missing cultural practices, and sites for cultural practices.
- Something has to be built in that addresses the state's role. Realistically, where are those resources going to come from? A lot of shoreline property is state. Need to inventory state resources that go toward shoreline protection, cultural practices, etc. and have a conversation with them. Set up liaison, office to help figure out/understand process.
- Kauai is the smallest county but still needs its fair share of resources.
- Beach replenishment should be taken off the list. Do we need to spend our resources that way when erosion is inevitable?
- Everything listed here is for human benefit. Should be about environmental protection.
- If we can take care of these six items and enforce it we would be way ahead.
- Kilauea has been fighting over 10 years for access to Secret Beach due to a mistake in the subdivision that eliminated the access.
- The bike path is concrete in a protected coastal area. Kaua'i's native population can only get sanctuary there, but you put in concrete and bring tourists there, they can't practice traditionally there. Locals get the short end.
- People have to decide whether to be ok with climate change whatever it brings, and also need to consider the environmental impact of climate change
- Agree with list, but can't do it without enforcement, there are too many illegal activities - beach plantings, sandbags
- Include cultural practices and some mention of the Ala loa - cultural trails that aren't identified
- Agree policies need to be there, but if you tell the state, nothing will get done
- Have to save the resources, balance everything. There are too many quick fix policies that don't benefit in long run. Haena is an example - I can't go there to fish anymore, too crowded and reefs are crumbling.
- There are no studies to show how much the reef can handle.
- We have heard about this state- county dynamic for decades and it needs to end. Number 7 should be to provide for more active involvement of state and county to protect environment. Reach across the Windows.
- Access can have a downside if there's too much, but there's a balance to strike.

Climate Change and Mitigation Discussion

Discussion Question 4: *How can the County move forward with the “no regrets” approach to adapting to climate change? What are some methods you can suggest for connecting individuals and families in our community to the sometimes abstract but important issue of climate change mitigation?*

- Is climate change affecting beach erosion and making it go faster and more frequently? A: recent study suggests doubling of erosion rates
- If coral is bleached does it come back? A: it can come back under some circumstances
- The mitigation conversation gets stuck in long term vs short term. But remember that a lot of mitigation solutions have immediate benefits to our other goals - traffic, health, etc.
- Our island is not afraid to be out in front and set an example. It starts with education through the schools.
- The public will take it more seriously when county and state take it seriously. The golf course sea wall, Coco Palms go against these values. Planning department needs to take leadership on this and take no regrets approach.
- We are reaching maximum capacity for island in general, so everything is connected and needs to be looked at that way. Where we are already overstretched? We need to correct those areas first. Take GIS map and identify those areas, make a plan for backing out of those.
- Are there any best practices in coastal communities? A: California has a strong state directive for community adaptation. Adding freeboard to buildings for flooding and inundation.
- Consider adopting IPCC language into the General Plan as best practices.
- Put specific emission reduction targets into the general plan.
- Put abstract ideas in a local context to make it understandable.
- Kaua'i has an opportunity to avoid major problems. Our beaches are unique...we want to preserve them and identify problems and their locations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Q: If county prohibited hardening of the shoreline, would developers be thinking twice about developing on the coast? Any property owner along coastline has to accept the risk of being there. A: (Ruby Pap) The State already prohibits shoreline hardening under most circumstances, except sandbags for emergencies, and many of those never get removed. Hawaii is more strict than California on sea walls.
- I commend the focus on mitigation as well as adaptation. Kauai prides itself in leading the way and the GP should have a strong section that explains the sources of climate change, the problem, and how the county can mitigate.
- Transportation and land use are the keys, the multimodal plan will reduce emissions by 25% over next 20 years if it is implemented through modal shift and land use. We need to

implement it. 75/25 split for roads/transit development is not a policy to get there. VMT is increasing. Also development of 'Ele'ele outside of town core areas is not the way to go.

- Air travel - there is a way to address it. I pay for carbon offsets when I travel. Airlines could make that option more available and put it to plant trees in Hawaii and forest preservation. Airlines could share offset cost with travelers and raise money for natural resource preservation.
- Make sure the GP has good indicators to keep it accountable.
- The Aloha plus indicator for transportation is blank.
- California has best practices in climate change mitigation. State mandates to the counties.
- General plan needs to come up with ways to stop export our financial resources, capture them on island and put them to work for the county. Are people like rental car companies paying their fair share for use and impacts? If we could wipe the slate clean, how would we do things differently in coastal areas?
- GP would be wise to incorporate a catastrophic provision. If something major happens, how could we build it back better? Kalihiwai is a good example - reconstructed homes up on a hill.
- In coastal resources, need to address near shore resources and the reef.
- Wastewater problems - opportunity for county to look at it as a resource that can be managed.
- If the GP can allow the county to create income earning opportunities and operate like a business, that could be effective.
- Kauai has a chance to be a leader. We are not Oahu and not developed, and we can avoid some of those pitfalls. No two beaches are the same, so consider on a case by case basis where replenishment is a good investment. Identify the problem locations and not take a broad brush approach. Look at specific area for improvement.

NEXT ACTIVITIES:

- The next CAC meeting will be on November 30, 2:30-5:00 pm at the Moikeha Building, Rooms 2A/2B, Planning Commission Room. The topic will be Economic Development, and the agenda will include a presentation by Collaborative Economics, a Makers Panel, and a Manufacturing presentation.
- Place Typing Charrettes will be held November 2-6 with Opticos Design, Inc. The schedule is as follows:
 1. Hanapēpē/'Ele'ele:
 - Presentation and Bus/Walking Tour: November 2, 3-7 pm
Meet at Hanapēpē Library
 - Closing Presentation: November 4, 12:00 pm
Meet at Hanapēpē Library
 2. Waimea/Kekaha:
 - Presentation and Bus/Walking Tour: November 3, 9 am-1 pm
Meet at Kekaha Neighborhood Center
 - Closing Presentation: November 4, 12:00 pm
Meet at Waimea Courthouse (next to Waimea Neighborhood Center)

3. North Shore:

Presentation and Bus/Walking Tour: November 5, 8 am-1 pm

Meet at Kilauea Neighborhood Center

Closing Presentation: November 6, 5-6:30 pm

Meet at Church of the Pacific

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

J.C. - Although difficult, we need to tie "hazards" together, i.e. impact of environmental impacts on tourism-we may become a less attractive destination.

Adaptation is an odd word. Sounds like we can "negotiate" with climate change. Newsflash-the climate really doesn't care. Unfortunately, we don't "adapt"; climate change procedure unless we mitigate.

C.B. - Concerning climate change and sea level rise:

All portions of Kaua'i's shoreline will be impacted, however, the only parts of the shoreline that will be a problems are those occupied and modified by humans. Kaua'i will need to pick their problems to be solved. Most of the island will be fine as long as development is controlled/planned. County needs to identify the problem area and concentrate on resolving these problems.

F. M. - CAC Discussion

- 1) Is the State responsible for managing the beaches?
- 2) Understand the division of the State role and the County role.
- 3) The focus of the General Plan policies for the County are confused with State policies. The State is mandated to get on items 1 & 2. They have failed miserably in allocating funds, not using them as promised (Kekaha) and ending up spending elsewhere. Finally doing some sand replenishment! It actually worked and most recently announcing no more funding they never fulfilled their original premises.

This again is about funding and enforcing. Discouraging structures in the shoreline, Really?!? This sounds very much like a taking. Who is funding this?! Eminent Domain.

B.W.:

- I think the General Plan should have a post-disaster redevelopment component. I.e. if homes or businesses are destroyed by 50% or more within a coastal area due to a large Tsunami event, then I think that development density should be reallocated away from the shoreline to a safer region of the island. Move the density to high ground and don't let history play out repeatedly. Mother Nature will always win in the end.
- I would like to see extensive, user-friendly online mapping resources as an outcome of the General Plan. One which will allow users to add or remove GIS mapping layers to assess zoning and environmental aspects of regions and individual properties.

- Wastewater - municipal solutions are needed islandwide to protect our groundwater, rivers, and near-shore waters. Too much wastewater is leaking into our waterways. We need sewer systems not more Individual Wastewater Systems. Especially in higher density town cores like Kilauea and Hanalei.
- Near shore resources (reefs & fisheries) should also be addressed in the GP.
- The GP should identify County/Community assets -- i.e. beaches, parks, natural environment, etc and come up with a system to levy use fees. I.e. camping fees, park fees, etc.
- We need to figure out more ways for the County government to make money - water fees, sewer fees, park fees, for-profit joint ventures, etc.
- I am believer of Transfer Development Rights (TDRs). More should be done on this to come up with a viable system for Kauai.
- We should limit future grown in all flood zones.

Thanks for the great work you are all doing for the future of the island.

Prepared by: Melissa White, SSFM International