

# Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3

**July 22, 2015**

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Moikeha Building Room A

## Agenda

1. Community Meetings Re-Cap
2. Proposed Vision for Kauai 2035
3. Key Policy Issues and Opportunities
4. Next steps
5. Discussion
6. Public Comments

## 1. Community Meetings Re-Cap

- Six Meetings, one in each Planning District
- Approximately 150 people attended

Date	Community
May 14, 2015	Waimea
May 15, 2015	Kōloa
May 16, 2015	Līhu'e
May 21, 2015	Kapa'a
May 22, 2015	Hanapēpē
May 23, 2015	Kīlauea

## Community Meetings Re-Cap: Presentations

- Project overview & what to expect
- Discussion of the 2000 GP Vision for Kaua'i: what remains relevant, what needs updating
- "Describe your Community" exercise
- Customized topic discussions based on participant voting:
  - Sustainability
  - Cost of Living
  - Infrastructure
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation
  - Agricultural Lands



## Key Feedback Themes

- Sustainability is the dominant priority and is everyone's kuleana
- Emphasize strong community fabric
- Address self-sufficiency, conservation, and infrastructure improvements before allowing for growth
- Increase accountability in planning and implementation
- Enhance affordability & economic opportunity for residents
- Acknowledge the role of the Hawaiian culture and ecosystem in Kaua'i's identity
- Define appropriate agriculture and its role in self-sufficiency
- Support self-sustaining, vibrant rural communities
- Rethink "rural"



## Proposed 2035 Vision for Kaua'i

- One of the main focuses of the community outreach process to date has been to consider the existing Vision for Kaua'i and determine how to update it.
- Input was collected through community meetings, pop-up week, social media, art contests, and other means as described in the Vision report.
- Key feedback themes were derived, as well as specific feedback on the language for the vision.

## Highlights of Community Input on the Vision:

- *The great majority of participants polled formally and informally indicated that they felt the existing Vision for Kaua'i 2020 is partially accurate, but needs some updating in order to reflect the community's vision and values.*
- *Very few felt that the statement should either be accepted or rejected in its entirety.*
- *The words in the vision statement resonate with most community members, as has been observed not only in the May 2015 community meetings, but during public outreach held during the updates of the Lihue and South Kaua'i Community Planning processes.*
- *People understood and agreed with the premise that the statements in the vision are aspirational, and by necessity broad and general enough to encompass current and evolving conditions.*
- *There are opportunities to include more detailed explanations of the statements in the vision within the General Plan update, as was done in the 2000 General Plan through expanded discussion following the Vision, as well as through a list of Community Values derived directly from community input. Whether the General Plan Update is to include a similar list of Community Values, or whether those sentiments can be successfully captured in the Vision Statement and its associated description, is a matter to be discussed with the Project Team and the CAC.*

### Approach to revising the Vision Statement

Key statements and ideas from the 2000 General Plan that continue to resonate strongly have been largely preserved.

For those statements that the community felt needed updating, the revised language preserves some of the same thoughts and organizational structure, but updates it with words and concepts that better capture the community sentiment.

New ideas that were missing from the 2000 General Plan were added to existing statements where possible, and crafted into new statements where appropriate.

The next few slides provide input collected  
on each component of the Vision  
– prevailing and other views –  
during community outreach

## 1. A “garden island” of unsurpassed natural beauty

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing View:

- This statement is correct and still rings true.

#### Other Views:

- “Unsurpassed” is an exaggeration. Replace with “stunning” or “superb.”
- Include the built environment.
- Some felt that this statement is inaccurate.
- Include “natural” language, focusing on natural beauty and resources. This is the unifying theme – it’s why we are all here on Kaua’i. The other unifying theme is care for one another.
- A statement should be added emphasizing how the community values coast and shoreline access, and that this access should be protected.
- The two things we are most concerned about protecting are natural beauty and a sense of community.

## 2. A rural environment of towns separated by broad open spaces

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing View:

- This statement is largely correct and still rings true. Consider adding language that supports not just “open spaces” of any type, but scenic and broad open spaces.

#### Other Views:

- Consider adding a statement about providing enough infrastructure.
- Open space should include view planes/vistas of the mountains and ocean. Maybe say “open views” rather than “open space”.
- Language should be added that indicates opposition to invasive plants like Guinea grass.
- The East side does not comply with this statement.
- Consider adding the word “scenic”.
- This statement is oxymoronic. While the community loves its rural environment and heritage, towns are for growth.
- Add language about separation of towns with farmland and broad open spaces.
- Too much stuff is being concentrated in Lihue, which was gotten wrong in the last GP. That's why traffic is so bad. The ahupua'a model allows for more self-sustaining communities.

## 3. A vital modern society formed by the people and traditions of many cultures

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing View:

- This statement is correct and still rings true.

#### Other Views:

- Add language emphasizing the importance of the Hawaiian culture and ecosystem, including recognition of the Hawaiian culture as the island's most important natural capital. It's the Hawaiian culture and ecosystem that makes Kaua'i unlike any other place.
- Consider changing language to reflect population distribution.
- Add “cultural traditions” as well as languages

#### 4. An island of distinctly individual towns and communities, each with its own unique history and character

##### WHAT WE HEARD

###### Prevailing View:

- This statement is correct and still rings true, but all communities are connected, and cannot be looked at in isolation. Communities are joined by a common vision for the island, but also unique in their own right. Consider “unique” instead of “individual”, and acknowledge the value that residents place on a sense of community.

###### Other Views:

- Any development outside of Līhu'e constitutes sprawl and creates more traffic. This is not sustainable.
- Acknowledge that despite differing physical locations, a collective community spirit exists, unifying Kaua'i residents and bolstering community integrity.
- Community wants rural communities in the district, with attention paid to neighborhoods which themselves are unique.
- Replace “distinct” with “distinctly unique.”
- Reflect different community identities that are joined by common island-wide vision. “Unique communities joined by a common vision”
- But, differences in communities on north shore and in different communities islandwide (not just different planning districts) are to be recognized and embraced.
- Changing definition of “community” – people sleep, work, and play in different places and a lot of interaction is online now.

#### 5. A community which values its historic places and where people practice and draw strength from ancient languages and cultural traditions

##### WHAT WE HEARD

###### Prevailing View:

- This statement is correct and still rings true, but remove the word “ancient” and replace it with “diverse”. We are not only influenced and inspired by ancient languages and traditions.

###### Other Views:

- Add ancient languages and cultural traditions "of this place"
- Acknowledge the native Hawaiian culture

## 6. A rural place whose population size and economy have been shaped to sustain Kaua'i's natural beauty, rural environment, and lifestyle

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing View:

- This is critical to our vision, and maybe top priority. In practice, this part of the vision is not being upheld. There is an urgency need to shift in this direction, and people believe that Kaua'i does have a carrying capacity.
- "Sustain" may not be the right word, but it is the right idea. Consider replacing it or adding other words and ideas such as "nurture, resilience, self-sufficiency, restore, and public trust doctrine."
- Additional concepts that should be added are land use and management, specifically avoiding sprawl and creating compact, walkable development.

#### A Sampling of Other Views:

- What does it mean for Kaua'i to "sustain" itself? Is it possible?
- What does it mean to be rural now? Has it changed?
- Suggest that we replace "sustain" with "nurture"
- Statement must be more explicit to emphasize sustainability and sprawl avoidance.
- Sustainability language used must reflect how food and energy self-sufficiency are important to the Island. Also fiber.
- We are threatened already, so "restore" is a better word than sustain.
- Consider what shapes and sustains the island. Consider changes to language that would emphasize reduction of sprawl. Include language that reduces future growth of single family homes on agricultural land.
- Kaua'i is being shaped by outsiders and external forces more than by its beauty, environment, and lifestyle. We are not caring for our natural beauty.

## 7. A community which cares for its land and waters, leading the way with best management practices in the development of roads and other public facilities and in its land development and environmental regulations

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing View:

- This is an aspirational statement that has not been adhered to in practice. It emphasizes development when it should emphasis restoration and conservation. Before growth, adequate infrastructure needs to be provided.

#### A Sampling of Other Views:

- We need to maintain, not just care for, our water and quality of life.
- This is not true. Why hasn't there been a new plan in 15 years?
- "Land development" is a concerning phrase in this statement.
- Use language about renewal, restoration, and conservation.
- Care for "lands and waters"
- Replace "roads" with "transportation"
- Emphasize land and waters
- Utilization of tourist taxes to fix roads.
- Infrastructure improvements and road repairs completed before development.
- A robust public transit system.
- Infrastructure that is more improved than now (roads, sewer).

## 8. An agricultural center, producing a wide range of crops, food, and forest products for local consumption and export

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing Views:

- The emphasis should be shifted from a “wide range” to a “balanced range.”
- This statement should not imply wholesale support for all agricultural uses, but appropriate ones (concerns about GMO, dairy)
- We want both large and small farmers to be supported.
- Place more importance on self-sufficiency, agriculture that provides food, fuel, and fiber for local consumption.
- Is “agricultural center” an appropriate term?

#### A Sampling of Other Views:

- Statement requires stronger sustainable food security language with attention to balance, and preservation of both the island and its residents.
- How wide of a range of agricultural products? We don’t want a dairy.
- Appropriate types of crops should be considered.
- Kaua’i should support both large and small farmers.
- We need small farmers that have an opportunity to serve the local market.
- Support community gardens.
- Remove the word “wide” and just say “a range of crops”.
- Food shouldn’t be for export.
- This doesn’t imply use for experimentation with pesticides, does it?
- Change to “wide range of food, fiber, and energy crops”

9. A resort destination where visitors are welcomed, supported with adequate facilities, and provided with a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities.

10. A resort destination whose government and industry leaders respect the island’s residents and their need to have a community life where visitors are not always present and who find effective ways to protect residents’ customary use of special places for religious and cultural observances, fishing, hunting, gathering, and recreation

### WHAT WE HEARD

#### Prevailing Views:

- These two statements are redundant, and priorities need to be reshuffled. Residents’ community life, use and access rights should come first, and are independent of Kaua’i’s identity as a visitor destination.
- Emphasis on Kaua’i as a tourist destination should be secondary.
- Keeping tourism sustainable and at a reasonable level is important.
- Adequate facilities for both residents and visitors are important, and many of our facilities need improvement.
- Protect access to trails, beaches, and coastal areas.

#### A Sampling of Other Views:

- We are not providing adequate facilities. Some of our best assets are beaches and beach parks, and they are in terrible condition.
- In Statement 9, include language about Hawaiian culture and resources.
- The goal is to preserve the environment – putting a dairy above Poipu would destroy the main tourist destination and pollute the waters.
- Change Resort to “tourist”
- Why does the second statement start with “resort destination”? Remove that part and leave the rest.
- These statements place too much emphasis on Kaua’i as a resort destination and not enough on residents. We are not only a resort destination.

11. An island whose government supports the labor force and small business owners, firmly holding to essential policies and regulations while eliminating unnecessary red tape

#### WHAT WE HEARD

##### Prevailing Views:

- Remove “unnecessary red tape” language and emphasize sustainability.
- Government supporting sustainable jobs and businesses is really important. Insert sustainable in place of essential policies.
- Statement must either include accountability language, or have an additional statement focused on accountability added to the vision statement.

##### Other Views:

- Statement requires “in right commercial district” distinction.

## Ideas Missing from the 2000 GP Vision

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Opportunity and Cost of Living
- Compact, Multimodal Communities
- Growth Management & Adequate Infrastructure
- Community Health & Values
- Resilience & Climate Change
- Schools
- Renewable Energy
- Natural & Cultural Resources
- Arts & Culture
- Social Justice
- Ahupua‘a System and Malama ‘Āina
- Kaua‘i as a Model for the World

## Proposed Vision for Kauai 2035

### *IN 2035, KAUA'I WILL BE . . .*

1. A "garden island" of unsurpassed natural beauty, rooted in principles of aloha and malama 'āina, and remarkable in its thriving native ecosystems;
2. A place where the values of preserving the natural environment and vibrant community life shapes Kaua'i's population size, land use patterns, and economy;
3. A resilient community that shares kuleana in planning for the future, preparing for environmental changes, and providing for the needs of people from keiki to kupuna;
4. A leading example of efficiency and sustainability in providing infrastructure that serves residents' needs and fosters healthy lifestyles;
5. A place where rural landscapes are preserved through compact, walkable, vibrant towns and villages separated by scenic and functional open spaces;
6. A community with high quality of life, where each community provides safe facilities for walking and biking, places to gather and socialize, and venues for arts and culture.
7. A place where communities are enriched by a diversity of housing types and income levels, where people can live and work in proximity to one another;

## Proposed Vision for Kauai 2035 (cont.)

### *IN 2035, KAUA'I WILL BE . . .*

8. A vital modern society that honors its native Hawaiian heritage, values historic places and is shaped by diverse languages and cultural traditions;
9. An island of unique towns and communities that are united in a common vision and in care for their community and 'ohana;
10. An agricultural center that supports a diversity of farming practices and produces food and other products that contribute to kua'i's self-sufficiency;
11. A place that protects residents' access and customary use of shoreline areas, mountain trails, and special places for religious and cultural observances, fishing, gathering, hunting and recreation;
12. A destination that welcomes visitors, providing adequate facilities and a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities; and,
13. An island where businesses, cottage industries, and entrepreneurs thrive, supported by sustainable government policies and regulations.

## Discussion on the Proposed Vision

## Overview of Issues and Opportunities Analysis

The major components of the analysis ask:

- What are the primary issues?
- What opportunities exist for the General Plan to address these issues?
- How was this topic addressed in the 2000 General Plan?
- What are the implications for the General Plan planning process?
- What existing plans and policy documents address this topic?

*The Issues and Opportunities Analysis looks at these Key Policy Topics for the General Plan Update:*

- Kaua'i Kākou
- Growth Management and Land Use
- Economic Development
- Agriculture and Food Sustainability
- Tourism
- Open Space
- Affordable and Workforce Housing
- Climate Change and Hazard Preparedness
- Infrastructure and Public Services
- Multimodal Land Transportation
- Energy
- Community Health
- Cultural and Heritage Resources
- Natural Resource Management and Conservation
- Parks and Recreation
- Government Operations and Fiscal Management

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## Next steps

- The Issues and Opportunities analysis will be circulated in advance of the September CAC meeting
- and community feedback will inform the policy development strategy
- Topic areas will be addressed through CAC meetings, agency consultations, consultant studies, and analysis
- The website will be updated with topics for future meetings
- Next CAC Meeting: July 28
  - Theme: Place Typing for Kaua'i
  - Featuring a presentation by Opticos Design Inc.

CAC Questions / Comments ?

Public Participant Questions / Comments?

**KAUA'IKĀKŌU**

KAUA'I COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

**MAHALO!**



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