



Summary of and Responses to Key Themes of Community Input on the Kaua'i General Plan Discussion Draft

How this Summary Was Prepared:

This summary is a synthesis of public input, including some agency comments, received in writing at community open houses and via mail and e-mail during the General Plan Discussion Draft review period, which ended on December 16, 2016. The summary is organized by topic, includes “input themes”, and explains what was revised in the Departmental Draft.

I. Input on Vision/Goals/Policies and Process

Process: Request for more time to review, including requests for extension until February 14, 2017 (multiple requests sent by representatives of Neighborhood Associations of Kaua'i).

Changes to the process:

The Planning Department extended the comment period by two weeks and held additional open house events and youth outreach during that time.

Introduction, Vision, Goals & Policies:

Input themes: Concern that the vision and policies are rosy and need stronger groundedness in reality (through implementation section). Some headings should be reworded, a few key concepts missing. Responsible growth that acknowledges realities of being able to progress (including existing deficiencies and limitations). Concern about use or lack of data and information about data sources.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

A key growth trends section, along with infographics, was added to provide context for policies and include more data regarding growth. A more detailed description of each policy was provided in Chapter 1 to connect policies to the vision as well as the sector actions. In Chapter 2, more information about how the policies are implemented “on the ground” via

permitting actions, plans and studies, partnership needs, and projects was provided up front. Chapter 3, Implementation, was expanded to include a Kākou Committee, a real-time implementation dashboard, and community education program.

II. Input on Sectors

The Watershed:

Input themes: Strong support for protection and conservation of the watershed. Maintain and restore stream flow as critical to watershed health. More specifics needed on how County will support State and private initiatives in water quality, watershed management, and invasive/endangered species. Address hunting, fishing, and ocean recreation more explicitly. Make connections between infrastructure and water quality (cesspools, etc.) and phase out cesspools. Restore access to treasured places. Consider permanent in-stream flow standards for all streams to protect native species and deal with water rights issues, especially on the West Side. Acknowledge toxoplasmosis as serious issue. Include information on biosecurity.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

In the Mauka/Upper Watershed Subsection, added connection to State’s “The Rain follows the Forest” initiative and action to support goal of doubling amount of managed watershed acreage. Information regarding in-flow stream standards and new actions related to the topic were added to Chapter 2, including a new section in narrative entitled “Kaua’i’s Perennial Streams and Instream Flow.” In Threatened and Endangered Species subsection, acknowledged that these species are our natural heritage. Toxoplasmosis was identified as a health threat. Chapter 4 includes a recommendation to deal with water flow issues on the West Side through future partnership processes and future community planning. A recommendation to support increased funding for Agricultural Inspectors was included. A stronger acknowledgement of Kaua’i’s cesspool issues was included in the Critical Infrastructure Sector in Chapter 2, along with cesspool statistics and program information from DOH.

Housing:

Input themes: General support for focus on increasing inventory of housing for local families. Need for more clarity on how affordable housing will be provided that is on the lower income scale (particularly at or below 100% of median income), and how infrastructure will be addressed. County needs to assist developers in moving projects forward in desired growth areas or lengthy process will inhibit implementation. Support for ADU’s and farm worker housing, as well as unconventional housing types (containers, tiny homes). Concern that TVR impacts need to be better addressed.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Explained how infrastructure planning can be improved to support the type and location of new housing as desired in the General Plan. Made more explicit the need for public/private partnerships to move forward development in new communities. Clarified that the policy is to support attrition of non-conforming TVRs and made the public safety connection more clear.

Energy Sustainability:

Input themes: Strong support for existing direction articulated in plan.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Acknowledged that air transportation sector emissions will have to be addressed in regard to Climate Change mitigation. Added action to support carbon pricing at the State and Federal levels and greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the County.

Transportation:

Input themes: Support for transit and alternative modes – increased bus/shuttle service, private sector investment in shuttles, ride share/Uber. Widespread support for regional bike paths, with some concern regarding design of potential North Shore path. Urgent need to address East side traffic through KTSP. Interest in limiting rental cars and capping vehicle travel. Strong opposition to expansion of Princeville Airport. GP should recognize that the proposed \$3.1 billion in road improvements is unlikely to happen. Emphasize how well-crafted land use and transportation policies can help manage growth.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Narratives for the Transportation Sector were rewritten to better explain how the sector actions implement the County's Multimodal Transportation Plan and address congestion issues. Recommendations to expand the Princeville Airport were removed, and the new action explicitly does not support expansion but calls for area to become hub for shuttle services.

Shared Spaces:

Input themes: Historic character of towns must be addressed and protected. Need to acknowledge and address parking and access to existing popular areas. There is a great need for family-friendly shared spaces/ gathering spaces – not just the beach.

Prioritize improvements to existing parks. Strong concerns about need to protect access to treasured places and natural areas. Access has been lost by private landowner acquisition, as well as liability concerns resulting from accidents and deaths (Keālia Slippery Slide, Hoopii Falls and Kīlauea Falls). Do a better job addressing Kīpū Kai and protection of Māhā’ulepū. Support for having tourists pay for access to parks, generate more revenue. Protect and restore salt pan activities near Salt Pond Beach Park. Desire for improved access to Polihale.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Included historic character concerns in Town Centers Subsection. Addressed access to privately owned recreational areas, including Māhā’ulepū, in new subsection in Chapter 10: Access to Recreation. Hunting, surfing, fishing, etc. were identified as activities whose access must be protected. A more robust section on parking issues at beach parks was included. Also included were actions to support master planning for Polihale State Park and for Salt Pond Beach Park (to protect salt making activities). The Shared Spaces Sector includes stronger language to support and improve daily recreational opportunities for youth, such as the development of skate parks and more playgrounds. Included action to support expansion for Na Ala Hele trail system and other recreational opportunities on State Land such as ATVs and a public shooting range.

Heritage Resources:

Input themes: Label more features on maps, and more discussion of burials. Concern that scenic roadway corridors were eliminated. Include information on historic and scenic roadways.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Placed scenic roadway corridors on the Transportation Map. Included action to ensure Archaeology Inventory Study and Burial Council recommendations are considered/implemented before final approvals are granted. Included language regarding Highway 83 and Holoholo Kōloa Scenic Byway. Included language to ensure views from mauka to makai and makai to mauka are protected.

Public Safety & Hazards Resiliency:

Input themes: Need to move development and infrastructure away from hazard areas; increase regulation in shoreline zone, support for more distributed infrastructure. Support for limiting TVRs in extreme tsunami zones to help ensure safe evacuation.

Support for the climate change adaptation section to acknowledge the need and plan for how to move critical infrastructure to higher ground (roads, landfill, settlements, fuel tanks).

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

In Hazards subsection, included language to address evacuation concerns regarding visitors especially in areas with evacuation routes are limited, such as on the North Shore, with a high concentration of day visitors and non-conforming TVRs. Also added stronger hazards disclosure action for TVRs. Included action to minimize coastal development in areas of high risk of erosion, flooding, tsunami inundation and sea level rise. Natural Hazards and Climate Change Resilience analysis, information, and recommendations were also added to all planning district sections in Chapter 4.

Health and Equity:

Input themes: Support for including health in future planning efforts. Suggestions for elderly and houseless issues, as well as health facilities. Expand discussion of youth issues and how to address them. Need discussion on drugs and youth, teen pregnancy, and obesity.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Added actions to include community health concerns in future community plans and to support implementation of the Kauai Community Health Improvement Initiative. Mapped priority equity areas which show high concentrations of low-income families and families with children receiving assistance. Added narrative language and actions regarding drug abuse and treatment, and access to family planning services.

Agriculture:

Input themes: Need to promote and encourage farming for products of all types. Funding and support is critical to help farmers get land, start/grow businesses, and distribute to local markets, schools, etc. Embrace ag as part of our identity and clearly define sustainable ag. More emphasis on organic farming practices, and restrictions on GMOs.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:



Included actions to enhance county role in agriculture development by supporting Agricultural Specialist position in Mayor's Office and to support small business training at KCC. Addressed need for a food production and education center (commercial kitchen incubator) at KCC to support locally produced food in Chapter 2.

Tourism:

Input themes: Agreement that island can't sustain continued tourism growth. Find ways to grow tourism revenue and lessen tourism impact without increasing tourists (cap at 25,000 per day). Strong support for not expanding existing resort areas (but support for some resort on West side) and for encouraging bus/shuttle use by visitors. Concern that impacts of tourism on Hanalei-Wainiha-Ha'ena area have diminished the rural character and quality of life, and that further tourism development should be restricted in the area. Support to phase out non-conforming TVAs outside VDAs. Recognition that tourism is a major industry and long standing employer for residents. Concern that Average Daily Visitor Census estimates are significantly low, and that more tourism sector growth controls are needed.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

The Tourism subsection narrative was expanded to better describe contribution of visitor inventory on real property revenue and include information on ADVC projections and trends. Narrative acknowledges that visitor impacts on the North Shore and Po'ipū are particularly great and burdensome for local residents. Included action to explore a maximum annual visitor carrying capacity. A "use it or lose it" provision for future resort entitlement was included.

Economy and Education:

Input themes: Reduce reliance on tourism. Distribute job opportunities and ability to work at home. Court more non-polluting industries that provide good jobs. Expand KCC and provide more student housing options around KCC to attract students. Address impact of PMRF. Address pre-Kindergarten needs.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Integrated opportunity industries as identified by draft CEDS (new economic opportunity areas) into Economy Sector. Included actions and narrative language regarding PMRF. Information on home businesses provided in narrative. Improved education subsection to address access to "quality" education and include projections on school enrolment. Preschool needs



and training opportunities were addressed in Access to Quality Education Subsection. Added new designation to Future Land Use Map to include a University Zone over KCC and support student body expansion and housing.

Solid Waste:

Input themes: Strong support for recycling of all types and ideas for partnerships/revenue generation. Address the need for a new landfill.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Included landfill action in subsection and clarified that a future curbside recycling program should focus on residentially generated green waste and recyclables.

Wastewater:

Input themes: Strong needs for wastewater infrastructure to support development and to replace cesspools. Support for composting toilets (distributed infrastructure). Urgency about need to provide regional wastewater systems for South Kaua'i, North Shore, and Wailua Homesteads. Concern about ongoing/worsening water quality impacts from cesspools. Hanalei Bay and the South Shore are areas of anecdotal concern for water quality due to cesspools. Map needs to show Princeville private sewer system.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Information regarding in-flow stream standards and new actions related to the topic were added to Chapter 2. Chapter 4 includes a recommendation to deal with water flow issues on the West Side through future partnership processes and future community planning. Toxoplasmosis was identified as a health threat in the Watershed Sector. A recommendation to support increased funding for Agricultural Inspectors was included. A stronger acknowledgement of Kaua'i's cesspool issues was included in the Critical Infrastructure Sector in Chapter 2.

Implementation:

Input themes: Strong need for performance measures, priorities, accountability, and timelines. Support for community plans that address and resolve specific issues and focus on input of people who actually live in the district. Support for creating a stakeholder and citizen group to discuss land use and implementation and increase transparency. Need to be able to track



progress, adjust course, and have accountability if progress is not made. Identify who is responsible for each action and enforce implementation of policies/actions. Support for a “Kaua’i Think Tank” (or Kakou Committee) – bring Fed/State/County and citizens together for brainstorming and consensus building. Allow for out of the box thinking.

Changes to the Discussion Draft:

Chapter 3 was revised to reflect the desire for specific targets by including performance measures and outcome measures for all 20 policies. However, the chapter also explains why hard targets were not included in the General Plan. An action matrix illustrating policy connection and lead agencies/partners was also created and is included in the Appendix. The Implementation and Monitoring section was expanded to include a recommendation to create a “Kakou Committee” to help guide the evaluation and monitoring of the General Plan in a transparent and consistent manner. The Departmental Draft’s recommendation is for the Kakou Committee to evaluate progress made every two years. Additionally, implementation measures can be updated in real time via an online dashboard. A section on the need for improved community education to improve the quality of public input and expand youth input was included in the Chapter 3 as well. A new section providing a framework for “Evaluating Incremental Actions for General Plan Consistency” was added and based on a template provided via public input.

Land Use and Future Land Use Map:

Input themes: Support for compact and directed growth, but also concerns regarding urgency of for local families. Support for directing most growth to Līhu‘e and limiting it north of Wailuā Bridge due to congestion concerns. Concern about “entitled” lands and no sunset date on permits. Implement a “Use it or lose it” policy. Concern and confusion about place types and legibility of the map, as well as definitions of land use designations.

Changes to the Discussion Draft Future Land Use Map (see PDF “Map Revisions 01152017”):

Overall changes: Improved map designation colors to improve legibility of map. Deleted “Neighborhood Edge” designation due to confusion regarding differences between residential community designation and neighborhood edge designation.

Specific changes:

- *Added provisional resort area to existing resort designation in Kikiaola to reflect widespread support for resort but also provide for a community planning process to deal with existing concerns about the scale and character of a future resort development on a large parcel.*
- *Refined designations for DHHL lands west of Hanapēpē and in Anahola to reflect DHHL plans and reduce the urban district footprint to an area consistent with DHHL priorities.*
- *Split support for buildout of designated resort area in Princeville was reflected by keeping GP 2000 resort designation but including “use it or lose it” provision.*

Changes to the Discussion Draft, Chapter 4

Expanded and added land use designation definitions with more information and moved this up front. Explained what the major changes are from the GP 2000 Land Use Map. Included language explaining what “Small Town” and “Large Town” are. Added “use it or lose it” provision requiring non-entitled resort-designated areas to attain full state and county zoning resort-related approvals by the year 2022, or within five years of community plan approval if an area is conditionally designated. Required short-duration expiration dates should development not be constructed as permitted. Also clarified there is no support for spot-amendments expanding already-designated resort areas.

III. Miscellaneous

Desire for detailed and specific community planning actions.

The Planning Department received a lot of input calling for community-specific actions and proposals to be included in the General Plan. Section 4 was updated to clarify that the General Plan sets high level policy, which is then implemented through Community Plans. These plans, through a public process, will identify and develop more detailed solutions for community-specific issues. All district-level recommendations and vision statements are preliminary and broad, and will inform future community planning.

Why isn't there a sector/actions for the Environment?

The “environment” is not easily summarized into one sector. It includes and crosses through multiple sectors and the organization of the General Plan seeks to reflect this complexity. There are numerous actions addressing environmental



issues. These include all the actions for the following subsections: Upper Watershed; Aquifers, Water Bodies, Streams and Drainage; Shoreline and Coastal Waters; Threatened and Endangered Species; Energy Sustainability; Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Global Warming and Climate Change Adaptation; and Access to Recreation. Moreover, the environmental impacts of shared spaces, critical infrastructure, and transportation are also addressed in their respective sectors.

Need clarification/definition of terms used in GP.

A glossary of terms was added to the document.