

Minutes from Na Hoa Pili Kaloko-Honokōhau Advisory Commission – June 20, 2014

Acronyms:

NPS – National Park Service

KAHO – Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park

PUHO – Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

DLNR – Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii

QLT – Queen Liliuokalani Trust

CWRM – Commission on Water Resource Management

The meeting was held at the Kaloko Fishpond Picnic Area, Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park

AGENDA

- Welcome, Pule, introduction
- Moment of silence
- Approval of minutes
- TENTATIVE- Guest- Ruth Aloua- Research on Kaloko- Honokōhau NHP
- Chairman’s Report
 - Loko’ia conference
- Superintendent’s Report
 - Water Management Area
 - Update on nominations
 - Cultural Center EA
 - Chief of Interpretation
 - Additional collaboration
 - Wayside signs installed and current park brochure translated into Hawaiian

- Discussion topics
 - Opportunity Fair - kokua
 - 40th anniversary of Advisory Commission- Spirit Day
 - Event summary
 - Travel arrangements
 - Park brochure - any suggestions for a revised brochure?
- Subcommittee reports
 - Park visitor facilities (chair- Dick Kuehner)
 - Water resources (chair- Fred Cachola)
 - Community based management off shore Marine Resources (Chair- Keola Lindsey)
 - Commercial Use Permits (Chair- Keola Lindsey)
 - Superintendents compendium (Chair- Fred Cachola)
 - Loko'ia - Fish pond (Chair- Isaac "Paka" Harp)
- Public comments
- Summary and closure

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Cachola at 9:30 AM. Superintendent Tammy Duchesne explained the death of Joseph "Joz" Bybee, a biotech in the Resource Management Division, in an off-duty scuba diving accident the week before. Commissioner Nicole Lui chanted an oli she wrote for Joz and this was followed by a minute of silence in honor of Joz.

Introductions:

Officio Members (voting members): Fred Cachola (Chairman), Isaac "Paka" Harp, Keola Lindsey, and Kaliko Chun

Ex Officio Members (non-voting): Tammy Duchesne (Superintendent, Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP (KAHO); Designated Federal Officer for Commission), Nicole Kealohaokalani Lui (appointed by Mayor Billy Kenoi), Richard "Dick" Kuehner (appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie)

Observers: Rae Godden (acting Chief of Interpretation Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau (PUHO)), Janette Chiron (Chief Ranger, Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP), Jeff Zimpfer (Environmental Protection Specialist Kaloko-Honokohau NHP), Tyler Paikuli-Campbell (Cultural Resource Manager, Kaloko-Honokōhau), Marcel Gillet (Chief of Maintenance Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau (PUHO)), Sue Aronsen, Steve Holmes, George "Keoki" Wilkins, Wendy Wilkins and Michelle Wilkins

Commissioners, Melia Lane-Kamahele (ex officio) and Ulu Ching informed the Chairman before the meeting that they could not attend.

Approval of the minutes from the March 7th meeting

Commissioner Harp asked that the notes for the March 7 meeting be amended to state that Chairman Cachola was on Oahu to attend a swearing-in ceremony for the Hawaii Island Burial Council (reason for the Chair's absence); and the Community Based Management off shore Marine Resources Subcommittee is chaired by Commissioner Harp and the subcommittee is on hold.

*Commissioner Harp proposed that the March 7, 2014, minutes be accepted as written with the above mentioned changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuehner. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest- Ruth Aloua- Research on Kaloko- Honokōhau NHP

Ruth was unable to attend, but hopes to attend the next Advisory Commission meeting and present the findings from her master's thesis work that focused on native Hawaiian perspectives for management of KAHO.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Loko'ia conference

Chairman Cachola stated that a lot of the actions taken at the Kaloko Fishpond are described in the park's General Management Plan (GMP), rebuilding the fishpond wall, mangrove removal, etc. Rebuilding fishponds is part of the Hawaiian Renaissance from Kau to Kauai. However, permitting for these endeavors is a big issue. Because of the difficulty with permitting issues the Malama Loko'ia Consortium was established. This year the consortium met at Hana Maui (April 30-May 2, 2014).

Superintendent Duchesne spoke about the Spirit Report, the park's mission to demonstrate Hawaiian life-ways and the park is the steward of the three fishponds, so it's important for us to learn about how fishpond management is being done in other places. She said, from KAHO, Tyler, Benson and Stance attended the conference in Hana, Chairman Cachola and Commissioner Harp also attended. We are proud of rebuilding the kuapa, but we also want to have a functioning fishpond. It's important to have collaborations with other fishpond projects.

Commissioner Harp stated the group doesn't meet every year, only when there are sufficient funds. The idea is to streamline the permitting process and have a one-stop shop for completing the permitting process. The best part of the conference was learning what others have done. There is a lot of experience in rebuilding and managing fishponds; so we won't have to reinvent the wheel. This will move us towards food self-sufficiency.

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell passed around photos from the conference and explained some of them. Chairman Cachola, Commissioner Harp, and Jon and Theresa Jokiel first went to Ko'ie'ie fishpond by Kihei and then they joined Tyler, Benson, Stance and Kendall in Hana where they stayed at Uncle Francis's place. The group met in the great Hale there as well. This was a statewide coalition and he enjoyed meeting others from West Hawaii, people like David Chai and his staff who are responsible for fishponds at Hualalai, Rebecca Most from the Kiholo fishpond project and Pii Laea who is working with Danny Akaka at Mauna Lani on fishponds.

Chairman Cachola spoke about the great hospitality, learning, and sharing at the conference. He said KAHO was well represented.

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell spoke about the ho'okupu (gift) that KAHO took. They took water from each of the three fish ponds, Kaloko, Aimakapa, and Aiopio. The water was in ipu grown at KAHO. The water symbolized life and the struggles we currently involved in to protect the water.

Chairman Cachola said it was a very touching moment when the water from KAHO was poured out into the first recorded fish pond, Leho'ula, in Hawaii and the water intermingled. He is pleased Superintendent Duchesne supports KAHO being part of this State-wide conference

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell spoke about that workday at Kiholo the next day (Saturday June 21). He believes its every 3rd Saturday.

*Chairman Cachola asked Tyler Paikuli-Campbell to work on making arrangements to visit the Kiholo Fishpond.

Commissioner Lindsey stated when the time is right, it would be interesting to understand how we support the park, either as the Commission or individuals, in getting the park the resources to restore the fishpond to use. Permitting is hard, but the long-term sustainability to sustain people with the fish might be even a bigger challenge.

Chairman Cachola spoke of the fact the OHA was a major financial contributor for the Fishpond conference.

Chairman Cachola asked if Superintendent Duchesne had received a formal letter of resignation from Commissioner Samson Harp.

Superintendent Duchesne stated that she had not received a formal letter of resignation and there hadn't been any applicants to the recent announcement in the Federal Register seeking nominations. She said that we are working on publishing another vacancy announcement in the Federal Register.

*Jeff Zimpfer said he would look into the resignation process for commission members.

Chairman Cachola introduced Cynthia Nozzara who had family who once lived in the area that is now the park. He stated she is interested in joining the Commission.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Duchesne asked Commission members to look at the summaries of each of the park's Divisions. She stated she and her staff would be happy to answer any questions Commissioners had.

Water Management Area

Superintendent Duchesne said we continue to testify and meet with different groups; we have met with NELHA and Kamehameha Schools recently. We continue to talk story and attend public meetings. We attended the Board of Water Supply meeting recently. We met with Dru Kanuha and Karen Eoff at a talk-story event they convened. We will be attending the Kona Water Roundtable on July 2nd. I will be presenting to Rotary on the 1st of July. It looks like we will be presenting to the Kona Board of Realtors on July 7th. Peter Young, Riley Smith Board of Water Supply will also be presenting. The organizer of the event said she might want someone from the native Hawaiian community to present too. I think the panel would benefit from more diversity.

Chairman Cachola said he would like to combine this section with the Water Resources sub-committee report. He said the park has taken a courageous move filing the first petition to manage the Keauhou Aquifer. Some of the opposition is really amazing - from outright lies to twisting of the facts, to accusing the park of having mainland specialists coming to the park telling them what to do. The opposition is tremendous, from the mayor on down. There are seven people on the commission that make the final decision. I have been talking with one of the members who is part Hawaiian about that cultural aspects of the petition. We don't have people in the park drinking out of the tap and there is no plumbing in the park, except from what Mother Nature gave us. The environment needs freshwater, but the environment comes way down the line when it comes to water allocation.

Superintendent Duchesne said we briefed the governor, who is not supportive. We received the results back from the isotope study that shows there is between a 10 and 30% connectivity between what falls mauka to makai water resources in the park. This is preliminary data. Just yesterday, we received a hostile letter from the Board of Water Supply. We are hoping that CWRM will visit here in October. The purpose of the visit is to help them to decide if they should take up the issue. On our website we have a table related to water research done in the park with 78 studies. We posted this in response to someone who wanted to know what research was done in the park. We wanted to make it clear we had nothing to hide. We also posted a set of frequently asked questions on our website.

Commissioner Lindsey asked how does water impact cultural practices?

Superintendent Duchesne said one of the criticisms we get is when someone asked former Superintendent Billings, "how many people do you think there are that are practicing their culture in the park?" her response was "We do not track that." People use her reply as proof nothing is happening. We say to that "We are not the NSA". We don't want to get into people's

business. One reason we are trying to learn more about the fishpond so that we can come to a responsible way to manage the fishpond. This will allow people to use and access the fishpond.

Chairman Cachola stated reading in the BWS letter that cultural practices have been suspended at the park, really hurts.

Commissioner Chun said asking natives what they are doing would be offensive.

Commissioner Harp said you can't suspend traditional and customary practices.

Superintendent Duchesne mentioned the recent opposition at the Kona Community Development Plant Action Committee meeting where 15 organizations or individuals opposed our petition and only 1 individual supported the petition.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that water is the second most important element for us to live. The situation implores us to connect this element with the situation being proposed, the threat of the inability to practice Hawaiian culture. Sometimes you need to break it down real simple for people. It would be helpful if that information did exist.

Cultural Center EA

Superintendent Duchesne said, at the last meeting there was a request that the response letter to the State Historic Preservation Division Officer (SHPO) for the Section 106 process regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cultural Center be completed in 90 days. The letter was sent out and the park received a response from the SHPO. She said that she and Tyler Paikuli-Campbell met with Michael Vitousek from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) to discuss SHPO's concerns regarding potential indirect and direct impacts to historic properties and cultural landscapes.

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell said prior to our last Na Hoa Pili meeting, we had a letter from the SHPO saying they had some concerns about direct and indirect impacts to historic properties. We had a face-to-face meeting on-site with Mike and when we left that meeting, we were under the impression that we had addressed their concerns. So we followed up with a letter; and we assumed wrong. We received another letter back saying they need more information about the project. They want to know more about what the project will look like, things like height, etc. They don't need an exact floor plan, but something more than we have in the conceptual plan that we have in the EA. They are concerned that the project might damage resources that are beneath where the Center will be build and they are concerned with visual impacts.

Commissioner Harp suggested that Makani Hou members need to be brought in to move the process forward.

Marcel Gillet suggested that an artist be brought in to draw up what Makani Hou members are envisioning so that this can be shared with SHPD.

Superintendent Duchesne said that the NPS and native Hawaiians should meet before they meet with SHPD so that we go there united.

Chairman Cachola said he wished the drafters of the Spirit Report would have drawn out their vision for the center. Their vision was a representative fishing village of West Hawaii, from Milolii to Mahukona.

Superintendent Duchesne said SHPD needs to know what the Center will look like and where the posts will be placed.

Commissioner Harp asked if SHPD approved the initial bulldozing of the site for the Center and if they approved filling in the area with silt.

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell said when we know where structures will be built, we will do testing.

Chairman Cachola said he hopes the SHPO will be as diligent when it come to the 5,000 home being proposed to go in across the street from the park.

Chief of Interpretation

Superintendent Duchesne stated the Chief of interpretation position closes June 28. In your packet you will find copies of the front page of the announcements. The position description was re-written to benefit the park.

Chairman Cachola spoke about the hiring practices mentioned in the Spirit Report on page 59 "The Congress further believes that it is appropriate that the preservation and interpretation at that site be managed and performed by native Hawaiians, to the extent practical, and that training opportunities be provided such persons in management and interpretation of those cultural, historical, and archeological resources."

Superintendent Duchesne said not all of the language in the Spirit Report made it into the park's enabling legislation. Unfortunately we do not have the tools like exists for hiring veterans.

*Commissioner Harp said he would like to make a motion that the NPS Director give hiring preferences similar to those afforded vets for hiring at KAHO. Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Chairman Cachola declared the motion passed.

Superintendent Duchesne said to the furthest extent possible, we will hire a Native Hawaiians for the position.

Commissioner Lindsey said until we get traction on the motion, we need to get the word out about this position.

Superintendent Duchesne spoke about the park's internship program and thanked Chairman Cachola and Commissioner Harp for attending the fishpond conference in Hana. She said she and Tyler Paikuli-Campbell visited the fishpond at He'eia.

Tyler Paikuli-Campbell spoke about the Maui conference and the need to understand Kaloko Fishpond so fish can be harvested and they will be looking to Makani Hou Hou and the Advisory Commission for support.

Wayside signs installed and current park brochure translated into Hawaiian

Rae Godden said some wayside signs that were designed a while ago have been installed on the path to the visitor's center.

We had the opportunity to hire an emergency hire and we hired a native Hawaiian Kahaka'io Ravenscraft. He and his aunt, Keli'ikanoe Mahi, translated the park brochure into Hawaiian. A university professor will also look over the translated brochure before it is final.

Short recess from 11:13-11:19

Commissioner Kuehner showed drawings and spoke about possibilities for signs for both trails in KAHO and for Ala Kahakai. The signs could be at trail intersections. Currently it's hard to see Ala Kahakai trail signs. Perhaps the signs could be set in concrete so holes would not have to be dug.

Chairman Cachola asked what is the next step for the sign ideas.

*Janette Chiron said the Sign Committee could take up the issue.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Opportunity Fair - kokua

Janette Chiron spoke about a planned Opportunity Fair. We would like the park to be known as a place for learning and cultural experiences not just recreational experiences. We would like to know if the Advisory Commission would be interested in participating in such an event. We are looking for groups and institutions to contact. We are especially interested in reaching out to Hawaii youth and educational groups. The park wants to let groups know that we want to provide the place and opportunity for cultural practice and learning within the park

Chairman Cachola said make sure to include complex people for science, math and language.

Janette Chiron asked people to give her names and contact information over lunch.

Commissioner Harp suggested that park make sure it puts up signs warning people of dangerous situations in the park such as the dry stack Kaloko Fishpond wall.

40th anniversary of Advisory Commission- Spirit Day

Rae Godden spoke about the 40th anniversary celebration of the Spirit Report, Spirit Day, planned for July 23. We hope to gather, honor and sustain the descendants and ‘ohana of this area. We are hoping people can spend the night after the Advisory Commission meeting on the 22nd. The celebration will go from 9 AM until noon. We are hoping for short presentations from people who can share a bit of story about the place and the beginning. We are hoping people will speak about the fishing and other practices of this place. We would like to honor the people that were involved with the Spirit Report and we are trying to contact them. We have contacted Mike Whatley hoping he can locate people who helped to guide the creation of the park. We will have kani kapila music and hula. We want to feed all who come. We will have pupu style kalo, ‘ulu, ‘uala sweet potato, poke, dried fish, coconut, haupia, pineapple, banana, mamaki tea, etc.

Superintendent Duchesne said NPS will provide lodging for Commission members who live more than 50 miles away.

Chairman Cachola said Steven Morse and Governor Waihee who helped write the Spirit Report are still with us. We need to invite as many who contributed to the report to attend as we can.

Park brochure - any suggestions for a revised brochure?

Rae Godden said that a group from Harper’s Ferry will be coming to both KAHO and PUHO next week to work on our new expanded brochures. They will be taking photos, gathering photos, maps and material for our new brochure. It will be one size larger. We encourage all to provide comments and suggestions. We might include an artist’s rendering of a loulu palm forest. Pollen cores show that this area was once covered in a loulu forest. The brochure will take 1.5-2 years to complete and will have to sustain us for a long time. The PUHO brochure is 20 years old.

Commissioner Harp, regarding use of the yet-to-be-completed Cultural Center, he said he spoke with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation about liability. He suggests signage warning people of the danger of using the area and then ask people to sign a waiver absolving the NPS of any liability.

Commissioner Harp said he knows the NPS staff’s plate is full, but proposed a motion. “The Commission requests the Director of the National Park Service to provide additional funding, emergency or otherwise, to hire one position with the specific focus of implementing the focus of the park as stated in the park’s enabling legislation. Further, the Commission requests the opportunity to review applications and qualifications of applicants for the position, followed by interviewing and ranking the applicants, and then transmit the Commission’s recommendations to the Director.” This would be one position.

Commissioner Chun seconded the motion. She asked how do you see this position not being in conflict with the superintendent.

Commissioner Harp said we need to choose the right person and want the NPS to provide additional funding to KAHO for the position.

*The motion passed unanimously.

*Commissioner Harp will draft the motion and the justification.

Subcommittee reports

Chairman Cachola had a question about the park's jurisdiction in the water.

Janette Chiron said the park has jurisdiction over the water column within the NPS boundary, but the State owns the submerged lands and waters within the park boundary.

Commissioner Chun asked about the day-use moorings.

Janette Chiron said there are 10-12 moorings within the park and they were put in without State approval but now the State manages them. She will provide more information on day-use moorings.

Chairman Cachola said the park boundary was set in the water so that the park could demonstrate ahupuaa management.

Commissioner Chun spoke about State's Community Based Management regulations from 2012 for Milolii and Hookena and asked if we want to ask the Director and DLNR to remove the moorings?

Commissioner Harp said removing the moorings might cause more damage.

*Commissioner Chun wanted to know who the moorings belong to and Janette Chiron said she would look into it and get back to the Commission.

Commissioner Chun and Janette Chiron discussed paddle boarding and permits and that groups that charge money need a commercial-use permit. Janette Chiron said under former Superintendent Geri Bell the park determined it did not have the capacity to manage commercial activities within the water portion of the park, although we have the authority to do so if necessary. Those activities are currently managed by the State and the United States Coast Guard.

Commissioner Lindsey said the Commercial Use sub-committee needs to look at what commercial activities are appropriate for this park.

Superintendent Duchesne said there is a recent Director's Order that doesn't allow unmanned aircraft to be launched in National Parks.

Commissioner Harp said he is encouraged that the wall crew is doing more than working on the wall.

Public comments

Keoki Wilkins spoke. He grew up in Hawaii, but has been on the mainland for the last 20 years. His family in part Native American. He has worked with Indian tribes in the San Diego area and those tribes are interested in a cultural exchange with Hawaiians. On the mainland, he worked on issues related to water rights and water quality. A US Supreme Court case determined that Native Americans were first when it comes to water rights. The Department of the Interior is mandated to protect Native American water rights. If you stick to it (the petition) the law is in your favor.

Sue Aronson spoke. She is very concerned about the wastewater treatment plant and the dumping of the wastewater into the seepage pit that eventually flows into the harbor. She would like to see a better solution to disposing of wastewater. She spoke of Steve Holmes' interview with the West Hawaii Today reporter regarding Kona's wastewater treatment plant and the article that appeared in West Hawaii Today.

Steve Holmes spoke about the judge's recent decision regarding the use of injection wells on Maui to dispose of treated wastewater and the hydrological connection that now requires them to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Keoki Wilkins said he and his sister are stating a non-profit corporation and asked if advisory commission member would like to see water quality monitoring in the park. The commissioners said yes.

*Sue Aronson proposed a water resources meeting for community members and the group decided on July 31 at 5 PM at the West Hawaii Civic Center.

Chairman Cachola wrapped up the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 PM.

Action Items

*Chairman Cachola asked Tyler Paikuli-Campbell to work on making arrangements to visit the Kiholo Fishpond.

*Jeff Zimpfer said he would look into the resignation process for commission members.

*Janette Chiron said the Sign Committee could take up the signage ideas proposed by Commissioner Kuehner.

*Commissioner Chun wanted to know who the moorings belong to and Janette Chiron said she would look into it and get back to the Commission.

*Sue Aronsen proposed a water resources meeting for community members and the group decided on July 31 at 5 PM at the West Hawaii Civic Center.

Motions

*Commissioner Harp proposed that the March 7, 2014, minutes be accepted as written with the changes he mentioned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuehner. The motion passed unanimously.

*Commissioner Harp said he would like to make a motion that the NPS Director give hiring preferences similar to those afforded vets for hiring at KAHO. Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Chairman Cachola declared the motion passed.

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Notes taken by Jeff Zimpfer