

Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance, Inc.

Bringing people together to create a better future for Kaua'i

ALLIANCE IN ACTION

Volume 10 March 2005

KPAA Program Highlights.

The Drug Action Team and its four committees continue to work hard to implement the *Kaua'i Community Drug Response Plan*. This is a complex issue and action is being taken in many areas, including prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and re-integration of substance abusers leaving treatment or prison back into the community. A federal grant of \$1.4 million has provided resources to create new or expanded services needed. Progress made over the last year will be reported at a Drug Summit hosted by the County of Kaua'i, tentatively scheduled for June/July.

The Parks Action Team has been focused on legislation to secure funds for a Ha'ena State Park Master Plan and restoration of three state park positions cut last year. The parks group has been pleased to note the responsiveness of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to the community input on the Koke'e State Park Master Plan offered at their January meeting in Lihue.

To address solid waste issues, funds are being sought from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a project to work with businesses and nonprofits on recycling and reuse options. This will help reduce the volume of waste sent to the landfill.

Work on the public education goal is just getting underway, and KPAA has begun to hold focus groups and discussions with community and business members to determine how best to support the schools and the Department of Education. With the assistance of Myles Shibata, Randy Moore, who is coordinating the DOE's implementation of ACT 51 statewide, was invited to provide an overview of Act 51 and what changes it will mean in the schools.

Affordable Housing Presentation at March Membership Meeting. After an update on KPAA activities at the March 1 membership meeting, county, state and business speakers provided an update of actions being taken to address Kaua'i's affordable housing shortage. Bernard Carvalho and Ken Rainforth reported on a 2003 housing survey that showed Kaua'i will need 2,390 new units (homes and rentals) to serve all household income groups. Slightly more than half, or 1,320, will be needed for households with incomes that are below 80% of Kaua'i's median income, or \$56,300 for a family of four. They discussed the barriers to developing new housing – which includes increasing rents and decreasing availability of housing units, the cost of land and construction, lack of government funding for new projects for “gap” clients (80-140% of median income), and funding to upgrade existing infrastructure and build new infrastructure. They are working closely with the State on an affordable housing initiative that will attempt to eliminate or mitigate some of the barriers. They also summarized the work of the Kaua'i's Affordable Housing Task Force that is focused on near-term solutions to our affordable housing crisis. They described the County's actions to reform the permitting process to expedite affordable housing developments. The first group to utilize the new process was Habitat for Humanity, who received their permits in just one month under the new system.

Senator Hooser provided a summary of bills introduced in the Legislature this year to help with the affordable housing crunch.

Nadine Nakamura offered a five-year forecast of affordable and market housing planned for Kaua'i. Over the next five years, over 300 affordable homes and lots are planned and nearly 800 market homes are planned. She described the Kaua'i program offered by the Hawaii Home Ownership Center that is helping educate potential home buyers so they are better able to secure financing for and maintain a home.

Directory of Community Organizations. If you are a nonprofit, community group, or government agency and are not yet listed in KPAA's new online Directory of Community Organizations at www.kauainetwork.org please contact Rayne Regush at the KPAA office, 632-2005.

Land Use Forum, On February 16, KPAA partnered with the American Planning Association-Hawai'i chapter (APA) to host a discussion of a position paper APA prepared on *Renewing Hawai'i's System of Land Use Planning & Regulation*. APA member Robin Foster provided an overview of the position paper, and a local panel of speakers – Tom Shigemoto, Michael Belles, Barbara Robeson, and Keith Nitta – offered their views. We found there is a diversity of opinion regarding how much control the state should have in local zoning issues, with some wanting local control and some advocating for an improved role in statewide planning. It was pointed out that zoning regulations, especially the coastal zone ordinance, are often difficult to understand because of their complexity. While the continued need for the State Land Use Commission wasn't agreed to by all, it was pointed out that the LUC provides an additional opportunity for the community to have its voice heard on land use issues.

Welcome to New Members

KPAA welcomes the following new members and appreciates their support of our mission and goals:

Regular Members – Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce; Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity; League of Women Voter's of Kaua'i County; and State of Hawaii, Kaua'i Office of Veteran's Services.

Supporting Members – Crystal C. Caday-Bargayo; Manulele Clarke; Roger Jacobs; Nani Larsen; Ron Margolis; Thomas D. McCloskey, Jr.; Deborah Rice; and Russell Seacat.

Announcements

County of Kaua'i Brownfields Project, Do you know of property on Kaua'i that may be contaminated by hazardous substances or pollutants, but may have strong redevelopment potential? The County of Kaua'i wants to hear from you! A Public Information Meeting on the County's Brownsfield Project will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the Mo'ikeha Building, Rooms 2A and 2B, the Planning Commission Conference Room.

Brownfield sites are properties that may have the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that complicates redevelopment of the site. The County is currently in the process of identifying contaminated sites with strong landowners' interest and redevelopment potential. Learn about the Brownfields program, find out about funding opportunities, and provide feedback on potential sites.

For special accommodations, please call 241-6390 at least five (5) days before the public informational meeting. For more information, contact: Glenn Sato, Project Coordinator, County Office of Economic Development, 241-6393.

Dancing with the Tiger: How to Sustain Your Business While Sustaining the Environment. On Friday, April 1 from 4:00-6:00 PM, Dr. Brian Nattrass and Mary Altomare, internationally renowned authors and advisors on environmentally sustainable business practices, will speak at Kauai Community College Technology and Multi-Media Room. (Location is tentative, call 245-7363 to confirm.)

Dr. Nattrass has consulted with Fortune 500 businesses such as Starbucks and Nike; resorts in Whistler and Vail; and government entities such as the City of Seattle, NASA and the U. S. Army. He has been featured in articles in Newsweek, TIME, The New York Times, Small Business and Venture. Mary Altomare has been instrumental in helping to define the strategic vision of dozens of organizations throughout North America, Central America and Europe, including the World Bank. Their clients are achieving a sustainable competitive advantage as well—through broad-based innovation and productivity improvements. They are showing that “doing good” can also mean “doing well.” See www.sustainabilitypartners.com.

The presentation is being sponsored by the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Kauai Community College, Kauai Economic Development Board, and the Office of Economic Development. A donation of \$20 is suggested, but anyone will be welcomed. For more information, call the Kauai Chamber of Commerce at 245-7363.

6th National Conference on Family and Community Violence Prevention. The Sixth National Conference on Family and Community Violence Prevention will be held on April 6-9 at the Sheraton Waikiki. This year's theme is *Navigating Pathways to Violence Prevention: Exploring & Strengthening the Links between Families and Communities*.

The conference will provide insight into violence prevention with multicultural perspectives and multidisciplinary approaches. It will feature plenary sessions, symposia, workshops, and a poster session. The conference is designed for any individual interested in serving youth, families and communities. Registration fees range from \$45 to \$100. Kama`aina rates are available. For additional information, visit www.fcvp.org, or call toll free 1-888-496-2667.

Questions about KPAA? Comments? Please contact us!

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Aloha: It's Kaua'i's Spirit