

Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance, Inc.

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

ALLIANCE IN ACTION

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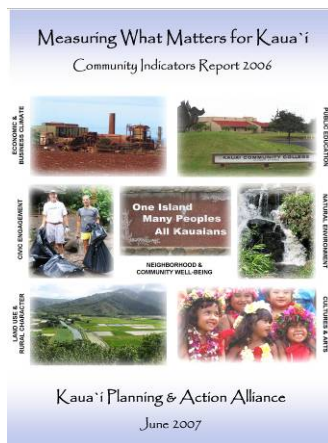
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Community Indicators Report Published



KPAA has just published *Measuring What Matters for Kaua`i - Community Indicators Report 2006*. The result of a two-year long project, the report provides findings on 55 indicators in seven areas of importance to Kaua`i's future, reflecting the island's quality of life, resiliency and sustainability. Data were gathered from government agencies, nonprofits, and from a telephone survey of Kaua`i residents. Among the many findings in the report are the following:

Between 2000 and 2005, the poverty rate on Kaua`i rose by 1.3%. Over the same period, the annual rate of inflation exceeded increases in annual family income. So if you feel your dollar is being stretched more and more, you are probably right. In 2000, 77% of Kaua`i families could afford to buy a home; by 2005, that number had dropped to just 40% of families.

Do you feel traffic is an issue? Think about the fact that Kaua`i has 78,511 registered vehicles for a population of 62,640 – and only about 88% of our population is old enough to drive. Even factoring in our daily visitor count of about 19,326, the island has more than one vehicle per person of driving age. It is encouraging to see that from 2001 to 2005 bus ridership increased 13%.

Between 2000 and 2005, 1,359 new lots and CPR units were created on ag land. During that same time, 1,620 new residential lots were created. As has been widely reported, 5,000 residential units and over 6,100 resort units are currently pending and could be built within five years. Lihu'e is expected to see the greatest growth in residential units while the Koloa district will experience the most growth in resort units.

On a more positive note, 59% of residents feel the island's aloha spirit is the same or stronger than ever. And 63% of residents contribute volunteer time and 88% donate to charitable causes.

Also included in the report are 28 "opportunities for action" – suggested actions that could be taken by government, business, nonprofits, and by individuals to make sure the trends of the indicators are more in line with the General Plan's community vision.

The 88 page report contains far more information than can be included here. The findings offer a snapshot of the island's progress in implementing the vision reflected in the 2000 General Plan

Update. The purpose is to provide useful information for government, nonprofit and business decision-makers. In the future, data on the indicators will be tracked and reported every two years in order to identify trends as the island develops, grows and changes.

On Wednesday, August 1, KPAA will present the report findings to the County Council. Watch for it to air on Ho`i ke! To download an 8 page executive summary or a complete copy of the report, go to www.kauainetwork.org/pdf/IndicatorsRpt-FINAL9-reduced.pdf.

New Goals for KPAA

At its annual meeting in June, KPAA members approved new initiatives for the organization. These initiatives, which will be phased in over the next two years, are to:

- ◆ Identify growth management tools and strategies
- ◆ Promote transportation alternatives and traffic mitigation strategies
- ◆ Expand affordable housing
- ◆ Increase Kaua`i's sustainability

In addition, KPAA will continue work on these initiatives approved in 2003:

- ◆ Improve Kaua`i's parks
- ◆ Increase community support for public education
- ◆ Mitigate substance abuse
- ◆ Track and report on community indicators

Legislature Approves Grant-in-Aid for State Park Improvement

Thanks to the help of Senator Hooser and Representatives Morita, Sagum and Tokioka, the Legislature approved a grant-in-aid for KPAA make improvements in two state parks. Through the grant, KPAA will hire a contractor to reconstruct portions of the first two miles of the Napali Coast Wilderness State Park trail. Hui O Laka will undertake renovations to the CCC camp in Koke`e State Park. The project is on hold until funds are released by the Department of Budget and Finance. A grant-in-aid to maintain portions of the remaining 9 miles of the Napali Coast trail was not approved this session; another request will be submitted in a future session.

Kaua`i's Community Drug Response Plan

The County of Kaua`i has provided KPAA a grant to continue coordinating substance abuse mitigation efforts and to update the *Kaua`i Community Drug Response Plan*, prepared by KPAA in 2004. Four action team committees representing over 80 service providers, business leaders and citizens are serving in the areas of prevention, enforcement, treatment, and re-integration of recovering drug users into the community. Since 2003, this coordinated effort has been implementing solutions to reduce the impact of drugs in our community.

We're Recruiting for Classroom Volunteers!

Another school year is beginning and KPAA is recruiting volunteers to assist elementary school teachers in our public schools. Volunteers are needed in Kilauea, Kapa`a, Hanama`ulu, Lihu`e, Ele`ele and Kekaha. A training session for volunteers is planned for August. Last semester, we had 17 Community Volunteers in the Classroom who were trained and placed in schools, providing them a rewarding experience and offering valuable enrichment for the children. To volunteer, call Sarah Shiraki, CVC Program Coordinator, at 632-2005 or download an application from KPAA's website www.kauainetwork.org.



KPAA's Annual Report Available Online

The 2006 annual report for Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance is available online at www.kauainetwork.org/pdf/2006AnnualRptFINAL4Reduced.pdf. The report provides an overview of last year's activities and supporters.

Mahalo to KPAA's New and Renewing Members

KPAA welcomes the following General and Supporting Members who have joined or renewed their membership since June 7, 2007. We appreciate their continued support of our mission and goals!

Renewing General Members

Hale 'Opio, Inc.
Hanalei Roads Committee
Kaua'i Humane Society
Kaua'i Community College
Sierra Club Kauai Group of the Hawaii Chapter

Renewing Supporting Members

Fujita & Miura Public Relations
Grove Farm Company, Inc. - *Patron Member, Kamani Level*
Kaua'i Business Education Partnership – *Patron Member, Kou Level*

New Supporting Member

Senter Petroleum, Inc.

Show Your Support of KPAA's Initiatives – Become a Member

To join KPAA and to provide support for our work, simply go to http://kauainetwork.org/section.php?sub_cat_id=12 for an application and more information.

Questions about KPAA? Comments? Please visit or contact us!

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***Aloha: It's Kaua'i's Spirit
One Island, Many Peoples, All Kauaian***

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