



PBR HAWAII
 & ASSOCIATES, INC.

NOTES
Ala Kahakai Virtual Community Stakeholder Meeting
March 20, 2025 -- 4:00 pm (HST)
Zoom Meeting

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DATE: March 20, 2025

MEETING DATE: March 20, 2025

PRESENT: Jackson Bauer / Nā Ala Hele
 Laurel Ainsworth / Nā Ala Hele
 Aric Arakaki / National Park Service
 Catie Cullison / PBR HAWAII
 Natalie Hanson / PBR HAWAII
 Makena Bassett / PBR HAWAII
 Lokelani Brandt / Hoa‘āina Heritage Services
 Heather Hoagland / 106 Group
 Julie Davis / 106 Group
 Alyssa Rupp / 106 Group
 Barbara Schaefer / E Mau Nā Ala Hele
 Brenda / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Deborah Chang / E Mau Nā Ala Hele founder
 Dave Booth / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Elizabeth Shaver / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Kamuela Plunkett / PICASC USGS
 Philip Brown / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Robert Cheshire / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Roy Ha‘o Santana / Ho‘okena trail maintenance, Huaka‘i Lā
 Day Marchers founder
 Ken Van Proyen / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Stephanie S / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Abel Nazara / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Lehua Alapai / Nā ‘Ōiwi & Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest
 Keoni Fox / Ala Kahakai Trail Association
 La Crivello / Public Access Open Space Natural Resource
 Commission
 Lily Anne Souza / Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers
 Leina‘ala Lightner / Kalaemano Interpretive Center
 Boyd Bond / Kohala trail steward
 Amoo Kainoa / ‘Upolu point (Kohala) trail steward
 Nicole Lui / Ka‘elemakule ‘ohana (Kona)
 Kaleo Paik / Ala Kahakai Trail Association

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

- **Project Overview and Objectives:**

- Jackson Bauer facilitated introductions and presented the project scope, emphasizing the role of community outreach in enhancing the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail experience.
- The 106 Group provided an overview of the interpretive planning process, highlighting its context, as conceived in the 2009 Comprehensive Management Plan.

- **Stakeholder Perspectives on Trail Significance:**

- Participants shared profound personal and cultural connections to the trails, emphasizing the trails as:
 - Conduits for intergenerational knowledge transfer and cultural preservation.
 - Tangible links to ancestral history and ‘ohana lineage.
 - Symbols of freedom, connectivity, and community; highlighting the importance of addressing historical injustices and ensuring equitable access.
 - The trails as a representation of reciprocal relationships with the ‘āina.
- The concept of *kuleana* (responsibility) emerged as a central theme in trail stewardship.
- Direct thoughts from community members:
 - **Debbie Chang:** She was raised in a family that relied on hunting and fishing to supplement the family table, learned so much from their elders on how to catch and prepare food; Trails are an avenue to reconnect to one’s own and one’s family’s history, and to preserve that knowledge and those practices
 - **Kaleo Paik:** “It is the history of my ohana in physical form. When I walk on the trail, I am retracing the steps of my kupuna.”
 - **Lehua Alapai:** Kekaha lineage. Connecting resources, connecting homelands, connecting stories. Past, present, and future. Trails represent increased mobility on the land and in our bodies
 - **Roy Santana:** Roy grew up with trails on private property, but now with the knowledge that the Highways Act trails mean freedom of access. Roy also founded the Huaka‘i Lā Day Marchers group for stewardship of the Ho‘okena section of the trail. He wants to see larger steps taken to elevate trails into the Na Ala Hele inventory. Jackson noted that his desires are being worked on simultaneously with the interpretive plan
 - **Boyd Bond:** The trails represent connectivity and freedom; the connection of one place to another and one time to another (past to today to future); also creating memories and knowledge to pass on. He talked about the issue of private property and “no trespassing” that arose after his childhood and his hopes for Ala Kahakai to liberate the trail; freedom of the physical body and the mind
 - **Nicole Lui:** Trails bring her back to her kupuna all the way to Kinimaka and the Judd trail; trails are a connection to her kupuna and the

continuance of their work on the trails/roads in the past to hers in the present.

- **La Crivello:** Trails have a tangible and intangible meaning to her; she views trails as an important indicator of how kupuna thought and is an important reminder of the lifestyle of the past, especially today where we are trying to revert to and be inspired by it; the trails are a physical representation of relationships and connectivity; ‘āina is also a connection and that which feeds, and trails are a constant reminder of where they go and a symbol of relationships between seemingly unrelated things
 - **Elizabeth Shaver:** The trails and the ‘āina are ‘ohana--there is no separation between the kanaka ‘āina and the kingdom; “Ua mau ke ‘ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono;” sovereignty of the land and kanaka. The interpretive plan should communicate the history of Hawai‘i and why things are the way they are now, and why aren’t Hawaiians on the trails as much as they were in the past anymore?
- **Interpretive Planning Considerations:**
 - The team discussed the importance of:
 - Carefully selecting and presenting culturally sensitive narratives.
 - Developing interpretive materials that resonate with diverse audiences.
 - Fostering ongoing community engagement and relationship building.
 - Creating a distinctive visual identity that reflects the unique character of the trail.
- **Site Visit Reflections:**
 - The team noted the diverse landscapes traversed by the trail corridor and the challenges associated with its stewardship.
 - Visual observations emphasized the importance of capturing subtle details and conveying the emotional impact of the trail.
- **Next Steps and Engagement Strategy:**
 - The team will distribute a PowerPoint presentation containing key discussion points and questions for further consideration.
 - Options for ongoing stakeholder engagement include:
 - Formation of a stakeholder group for regular consultations.
 - Individual interviews and discussions.
 - Distribution of project updates.
 - An in-person site visit (which will likely include a stakeholder meeting) is planned for late May.
 - Nicole Lui and Amoo Paik expressed desire to be included in the upcoming group meeting/ Site Visit
 - In response to a question regarding the project’s funding sources, Jackson and Aric responded that the funding is a federal grant from the Economic Development Administration, as part of the COVID stimulus funds.
 - Participants expressed a strong desire for transparency and timely progress.

Ala Kahakai Virtual Community Stakeholders Meeting

March 20, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

ACTION ITEMS:

- Distribute meeting slide deck and questions to all attendees.
- Develop a proposed structure for the stakeholder group.
- Coordinate scheduling for individual stakeholder interviews.
- Confirm and communicate details for the in-person meeting in late May.

This is our understanding of the topics discussed and the conclusions reached. Please give PBR HAWAII written notification of any errors or omissions within seven calendar days. Otherwise, this report will be deemed an accurate record and directive.