

PMAR COMMITTEE Inaugural Meeting on March 7, 2017

at HPP Community Center Library

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4 pm. Present members: Leilani Bronson-Crelly, Mary Couch, Michael Dickerson, Alexa von Alemann. Guest: Jerry Carr.

II. Agenda. The goal of this committee is to prepare a powerpoint presentation at the next general Membership Meeting in June 2018. In the meantime, we need to educate ourselves and others about the Puna Makai Alternative Route (PMAR) and how it would affect our HPP community. We want to dedicate our time on this committee to research, network, and make our voices heard by those who represent us on County and State levels.

III. Vote. Leilani Bronson-Crelly was voted unanimously to serve as the Chair. Alexa von Alemann was voted in as the Secretary.

IV. New Business

Leilani Bronson-Crelly then distributed the handout packet she had prepared. She introduced Jerry Carr, the Chair of the former PMAR Committee which he chaired from 2010 to 2011. Mr. Carr then gave us history of the project and the interaction of all entities involved. He mentioned Shipman Estate and multiple groups representing Hawaiian Homesteads (both from Panaewa and Makuu) as our possible allies. He followed the project from the inception to ultimate shelving and brought us to the present day, when the project to build an alternative road through privately owned land in Puna Makai has resurfaced.

Jerry Carr brought our attention to differences between the original PMAR plan (which started at the southeast side of Hilo and ended in Nanawale Estates) and the current, downscaled proposal starting at Milo Street (makai of Keeau Bypass) and ending at the border of HPP. The exact path of the original route was never disclosed to any of the communities that would have been directly impacted. Communication from the government agencies to these entities was lacking in the past.

V. Course of Action

The political landscape has changed and we need to reach out to new representatives - all of whom seem to support the PMAR at the present. Our input as a community of over 8 000 lot owners and close to 11 000 residents needs to be considered. The former County Planning Dept. Public Works Liaison did not want to conduct community meetings. We need to insist on them. We also need to share our findings and announcements of meetings and proposed bills that

could affect us. We will be meeting every Tuesday if possible. Also important will be well coordinated communication via social media, reaching out to our neighbors and our elected representatives.

In order to educate ourselves we need to research all that is on record for the PMAR project, define it clearly, and review the Hawaii County Puna Community Development Plan (2010-11).

We need to review HPPOA's Community Master Plan (2015) and determine PMAR's Federal, State, and County classification for funding eligibility. The federal funding would require a road 100 ft wide. This would severely impact our lot owners in the proposed area between the 5th and 15th Avenue in HPP - especially those of us who have built our homes here. We need to look at the Eminent Domain and Taking possibilities where hundreds of our residents would be affected even though this area was chosen (without our input or consent) as the lowest density part of HPP. Having a busy highway intersecting our rural community would be devastating.

In order to do as much as possible in limited time we divided our research among ourselves. Results of our first assigned tasks will be presented at the next meeting of the committee on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, starting again at 4 pm.

The members shared their contact phone numbers and e-mail. Leilani Bronson-Creely and Alexa von Alemann stated their intention to attend the March 8 meeting at the County Office in Hilo in regard of Resolution 82-17 that urges the State Dept of Transportation to **clarify** the project relating to feeder roads and alternative routes as a **"health and safety"** project, a **top priority and to issue \$ 15 million** to the County of Hawaii Dept. of Public Works before this appropriation expires on June 30, 2017.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alexa von Alemann, Secretary

March 8, 2017