

HACA-HARC EXECUTIVE JOINT MEETING

6:30 PM | March 18, 2021
Hawaiian Acres Community Center
Closed Press

PURPOSE:

A closed joint executive session to discuss the Road Improvement District and potential execution in the coming months.

FORMAT:

Seated meeting with relevant COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Minutes will be recorded to comply with HACA bylaws. This event WILL NOT be filmed or otherwise digitally recorded.

AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order: HACA President Doug Schabell
- II. Roll Call: Introductions by HACA, HARC, and Puna Councilman Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder
- III. Improvement District Overview: Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder
 - A. The Process
 - B. What it is / is not
- IV. Survey Readout: Doug Schabell
- V. Discuss Improvement District: Doug Schabell presiding
Discussion limited to 2 mins per person. Discussion starting with HARC and alternating between each of the boards. If necessary, we can follow up using the same format.
 - A. Discuss Improvement Options
 - B. Open canvas for supporters from community and other outreach ideas
 - C. Formulate talking points and messaging to promote within the community
- VI. Time for Q&A: Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder presiding
- VII. Next steps and assignments, if applicable

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- I. **Call to order:** 6:36pm
- II. **Roll Call:** See sign-in sheet. HACA and HARC board members present.
- III. **HACA & HARC introductions:** Agenda & Road Improvement District Questionnaire Results materials passed around
- IV. **Improvement District Overview: Puna Councilman Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder**
What's already happened:
 1. 2019 Community Discussion to determine options (see questionnaire) of potential Improvement District
 2. Road Improvement District Questionnaire sent out to community
 - a) 714 responses (593 'for' an improvement option | 121 against)
 - (1) 285 voted for Option 2
 - (2) 188 voted Option 3
 - (3) 120 voted Option 1
 - (4) 121 voted for No Improvement
 3. Next step is for the board(s) to indicate approval for Puna Councilman Matt to bring resolution to the County to conduct a Feasibility Study (FS).
 4. The FS requires the County to analyze the economic, technical, legal, and scheduling considerations to pave roads up to County code and provide a **financial analysis of the cost**. The County is unlikely to include an estimate for gravel roads, but it can be requested. Additionally, there are a few opportunities for the community to weigh for or against the FS, and the County can also approve or disprove conducting it.
 - a) **If FS is conducted and project is approved:**
 - (1) The community would then need to vote to adopt the project (or part of the project as feasible) and lay out how the community will share the cost among landowners.
 - (2) From that point, the County will offer a bond to cover the cost that the community would reimburse over a set amount of time.
 - (3) The cost of the FS will be added to the total cost estimate.
 - (4) Unlikely the County would do the work, but other private companies would bid for the contract. Bids for the project should be within +/- 10% of the FS estimate.
 - b) **If FS is conducted and project is NOT approved:**
 - (1) TBD but there is potential for the cost of the FS to pass onto the community. Puna Councilman Matt to discuss with the County if there is budget to bear the cost prior to starting the FS.
- V. **Other Key Discussions**
Prior Assumptions for County Responsibility

1. Connectivity Route? **Not comprehensive enough**
 - a) 1990's recommendation via Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP) to ensure all neighborhoods connected (Orchid Land to Ainaloa to Hawaiian Acres to Fern Acres and so on).
 - b) Would not pave 1 road, 8 road all the way to G road and lettereds road as previously assumed, likely would only cover creation of a 300 ft connection between HA and Fern Acres along 1 road. Not necessarily paved either.
 - c) Hold up between an imminent domain area and where the 'connection' be (top, bottom, middle) for the community to decide.
 - d) Recommend letter to governing body from board/community along with other neighborhoods to reinvigorate progress on this.
2. Emergency Access? **Unlikely to happen**
 - a) AKA the County pave and maintain F road and 1 road so there are two ways out of the neighborhood and a flow through between neighborhoods in case of an emergency.
 - b) Corporation Counsel (lawyers for the County) are unlikely to recommend this due to the way our neighborhood is formed: Multiple undivided interest in all roads opens the County up to potential litigation for any of our 4,000 landowners.
3. Mass Transit Master Plan Route? **Potential, but not soon**
 - a) 2020 General Excise Tax increase (.05) goes to Mass Transit Project, which includes maintaining proper roadways for transit routes.
 - b) Pre-Covid Puna Councilman Matt brought forth a transit plan for a full loop through Hawaiian Acres to Fern Acres but did not receive overwhelming public support. Plan remains dormant.
 - c) However, the County is unlikely to touch private roads for reasons discussed above.
4. Water and Drainage Issues
 - a) Discuss severe impacts flooding brings to the community, especially in certain hotspots. Brainstorm how the Improvement District would address this and other ways to handle it.
 - (1) Landowner property taxes do go to the Country specifically for drainage, however the County is overburdened with drainage projects everywhere.
 - (2) Potential Mandatory Road dues would allow us to address this and other issues not only through more capital but increased bargaining power with vendors and collective pressure on lawmakers. Hawaiian Acres is the only neighborhood on the island without mandatory dues.
 - (3) FEMA Money Allocation. Unclear why money went where it did after various hurricanes. Suggest a visual display (e.g., drone footage, photos, sizzle reel, Powerpoint

presentation) of the state of our roads and flooding would help State and Federal lawmakers understand the severity of our current conditions.

5. Miscellany

- a) HARC Meeting held on April 17 @ 2pm in Kurtistown Church and via zoom (not April 10 as previously announced). Puna Councilman Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder will be attending. Meeting open to all. Details on the HARC website.
- b) Reiterate the importance of improving our roads:
 - (1) Public Health and Safety. Our roads shave off life-saving minutes to hours from emergency response (1-2 hour response time instead of 20 minutes matters in a life-or-death event), including the fact that some ambulances / fire / police vehicles can't make it over some roads entirely.
 - (2) Economic Opportunity. With the rising cost of living, Hawaiian Acres is experiencing unprecedented growth into our neighborhood and the need to give everyone acceptable access to travel to and from work or school safely is a priority. As it stands now, about a quarter of employers offer fewer than 5 days of paid sick time per year. Missing out on work for 1 day due to road floods or car trouble could mean all the difference for a working family. Additionally, improved roads allow mass transit and bicycle access for those without reliable car transportation.

VI. Joint Board Vote

- A. Motion put forth by HACA board member Jim Hoffman, motion seconded by HARC board member Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers:

"We agree that HACA and HARC boards request Puna Councilman Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder bring forth the Road Improvement District, wherein project scope is as described by the 3 options under the Road Improvement District Questionnaire, to the County."

- B. **Unanimous "Yes" vote** by all HARC and HACA board members present by a show of hands.

Adjourned meeting at 8:30 pm

Submitted by Lisa Bevier-Sakimura