

**SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
KAWAIHAE WORKING PAPER  
DRAFT KAWAIHAE CONCEPTUAL PLAN – January 21, 2008**

**By: AC/Townscape**

**PURPOSE:** This (Draft) **Kawaihae Conceptual Plan** presents in graphic and narrative form general guidelines for the long-range – 20+ year look-ahead – future of Kawaihae.

This Conceptual Plan is presented as an important **linking step** between the Focus Group discussion held on November 1, 2007 and the more detailed **Action Plans** that we are developing for specific plan elements. Suggested overall policies for Kawaihae are:

- Policy 1.** The Kawaihae Community shall work closely with the County and State Governments to create a balance of recreational, commercial, and industrial uses around the harbor area.
- Policy 2.** The Kawaihae Community and the County and State Governments shall work with other State and Federal agencies to restore the natural ocean currents along the coast in order to improve near shore water quality.
- Policy 3.** The Kawaihae Community shall work closely with the County and Governments to improve traffic safety for both vehicular and non-vehicular transportation along Akoni Pule Highway.

**Policy 1. Create a balance of recreational, commercial, and industrial uses around the harbor area**

**1. Seek alternative sources of water for the Lālāmilo Water System in order to increase the level of potable water service to the area to allow for new development**

The lack of potable water severely limits any new type of development whether it be recreational, commercial, or industrial. Any significant expansion of any of these uses will require a larger amount of potable water.

**2. Encourage State DOT to build the Kawaihae Bypass through the Kawaihae area as indicated on the conceptual plan map**

During the November 1, 2007 Focus Group meeting, community members preferred the most mauka alignment alternative for the Kawaihae Bypass. This preferred bypass alternative would open up development opportunities for more recreational, residential, commercial, and industrial opportunities along the bypass.

**3. Encourage the development of a regional industrial park at Kawaihae.**

One of the policy recommendations from the County of Hawai'i General Plan is to encourage the development of a regional industrial park. An industrial park in the Kawaihae area would benefit from its close proximity to the Commercial Harbor. The industrial park would also provide more jobs for residents in the region.

**4. Support DOT Commercial Harbor expansion mauka of Akoni Pule Highway**

Another policy recommendation from the County of Hawai'i General Plan is to support the expansion of the DOT Commercial Harbor mauka of Akoni Pule Highway. Current harbor facilities are nearing capacity for cargo storage and as population and economic activity of West Hawai'i increases, there will be a need for more cargo storage space and other harbor facilities.

**5. Expand commercial activities around the harbor area**

Focus group members expressed the desire for more commercial activity around the harbor area. Currently, the harbor area is dominated by industrial uses. More commercial activity would help to preserve the “small harbor” quality that community members desire and also allow for more local area businesses to expand.

**6. Expand recreational activities around the harbor area**

Currently, the DLNR has plans to improve its South Small Boat Harbor facilities as part of its Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor Master Plan. The Master Plan also calls for development of other facilities such as a boat club, restaurant, and open areas to accommodate more recreational users. The County of Hawai'i General Plan also calls for the improvement of picnic and camping areas at Spencer Beach Park. The General Plan LUPAG map also delineates land south of Spencer Beach Park and mauka of Spencer Beach park as “Open”. These “Open” lands could be used for recreational use.

**7. Decide on site locations for a community center, affordable housing, and school.**

The conceptual plan illustrates possible locations for a community center, affordable housing, and school in Kawaihae.

**Policy 2. Restore the natural ocean currents along the coast in order to improve near shore water quality**

**8. The Kawaihae community and the County of Hawai'i shall work closely with State and Federal Agencies to design solutions to restore ocean circulation along the Coast**

It will take a collaborative interagency approach that involves community participation to restore the natural ocean circulation along the coast. State agencies such as the DOT and DLNR as well as the Army Corps of Engineers should be consulted. The County and the community can help to initiate the process by bringing all the players to the table.

**Policy 3. Improve traffic safety for vehicular and non-vehicular transportation along Akoni Pule Highway**

1. **Reduce the Speed Limit from 35 mph to 25 mph along Akoni Pule Hwy. from Spencer Beach Park to the Harbor Access Road.**

Reducing the speed limit along this stretch of road will improve safety for both vehicular and non-vehicular traffic.

2. **Prohibit parking along the shoulder of the Harbor Access Road to allow more room for pedestrians and bicyclist**

Often, the shoulder along the roadway is blocked by parked cars, forcing pedestrians and bicyclist to walk or bike dangerously close to on-coming traffic. Restricting cars from parking along the highway would give pedestrians and bicyclist more room to travel safely along the highway.

3. **Form an agreement with the landowner of the old cattle loading area to utilize that area for overflow parking from local businesses**

Many of the people who park their cars along the highway are patrons of local businesses and shops. Alternative spaces for parking will be needed. A possible site for more parking is the space near the old cattle loading area. The area is directly across from existing commercial shops

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4. **Construct pedestrian paths and bikeways along Akoni Pule Hwy. through the Kawaihae corridor**

Well designed pedestrian and bike paths will not only clearly designate these areas for non-vehicular traffic, but well designed pedestrian and bike paths will also encourage more people to walk and bike along the roadway.

**In addition the ideas presented above, these other ideas should also be considered as part of the Kawaihae Plan:**

- Identify fish spawning area locations
- Preserve historic sites such as Kawaihae burial grounds, church site, and lighthouse
- Identify areas for salt making
- Identify areas for a community cemetery

**Next Steps in the CDP planning process:**

1. Review the Conceptual Plan with the South Kohala Steering Committee (January 23 and February 27, 2008) meetings and with the Kawaihae Plan Focus Group (January 26, 2008);
2. (January-February 2008) Develop **Action Plan** details for at least the following elements of the Plan:
  - Strategies for seeking alternative sources of water for the Lālānilo water system
  - Strategies for restoring the natural ocean currents along the coast
  - Plans for implementing traffic safety measures
  - Strategies for balancing recreational, commercial, and industrial uses around the harbor area
3. (mid-Feb 2008) Community-wide meetings: progress report on the CDP.  
(Feb-March 2008) Compile the background material, planning notes, conceptual plans, and Action Plans for Waimea, Waikoloa, Kawaihae, and Puakō into a **Preliminary Draft South Kohala CDP** document, and submit this preliminary draft to the South Kohala CDP Steering Committee and the Focus Groups for review.
4. (March-April 2008) Review the Preliminary Draft CDP with the Steering Committee and with the Focus Groups and revise/refine as needed.
5. (May 2008) Publish the **Public Review Draft South Kohala CDP** document and present highlights of the Draft CDP at community meetings.