

REPORT FROM LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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The PROCESS:

First: TO IDENTIFY WHAT LAND CONSERVATION CONCERNS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY (brain storm)

Second: TO EXPLORE OPTIONS AS TO HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPORTANT CONCERNS

Third: ASSESS WHICH ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY AS EMERGENCY MEASURES WHILE THE 20 YEAR PLAN IS STILL BEING FORMULATED; and ASSESS WHICH ISSUES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE COMMUNITY PLAN ORDINANCE (TO SET POLICY OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS)

Fourth: DEVISE AN APPROPRIATE ACTION PLAN FOR EACH ITEM

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES:

1. **Protect the Pu'us from any development: (Process Level 2)**
Explore how to do this in a way that, if possible would allow for continuation of ranch usage; consider how to provide some access as part of the cultural importance of the area; above all protect this area for its scenic beauty [sacred to the community]; and as part of an important watershed [differentiate between the Puus held by the state and those that are privately owned]: Suggestions so far:
 - determine if there is any way to zone conservation with an allowance for ranching in a portion of the land;
 - request recognition as a historic site –either federal or state
 - consider easements or development agreements, “partnerships with the landowner”

2. Identify how to preserve the small town character of Waimea in view of urbanization pressures and the traffic crisis (Process level 1)

SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS TO DATE: Encourage the following:

- pedestrian friendly town center; increase the “green belts”;
- get the Connector Road built now – and do not undertake any additional road or highway construction through town unless it is appropriate as part of the overall connector road plan [ie don’t build an extra highway lane through town that is not necessary if the Connector Road is built];
- encourage a “Partnership with Nature” theme for the town
- the preservation of mature trees in the downtown area [recognize important trees as “exceptional (a state commission status); as sacred to the town; as important (including important windbreaks – allow for tax breaks to the landowner ?;
- encourage more park areas along the stream, encourage repairs to the bridge that allows for appreciation of the stream
- any possible way to increase the normal flow of the stream (close to nothing now except when it floods)
- think about how development will occur along the various proposed road intersections
- establish a community garden at the park area dedicated by Parker Ranch as part of its Waimea Center Rezoning Approval
- encourage intown development with parking in the rear and “Nature” along the road; give awards for doing a good job—such as for HPA’s gallery on Kawaihae Road
- keep sprawl from going in all directions from the Lindsey road intersection –(it is planned to go out Lindsey Road towards the State Belt Road) – limit further commercialization along Kawaihae Road
- assess potential building height limitations;
- discourage subdivision and commercial development where all mature trees are bulldozed and just a few token trees are planted around the parking areas
- prevent destruction of the windbreaks around town – this affects the ecology of the area