

The Garden Island – Thursday, June 9

Bike-way focus shifts to Hanama‘ulu segment

By Lester Chang - The Garden Island

With Kaua‘i, work underway to develop the second leg of a proposed 16-mile bicycle and pedestrian coastal pathway to beautify East county officials are turning their attention to the next phase.

Representatives from MDG, Inc. and county officials will be holding the first of three public-informational meetings for a four-mile pathway from the Ahukini State Recreational Pier near Lihu‘e Airport to Lydgate Park in Wailua on Wednesday, June 22, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at King Kaumuali‘i Elementary School in Hanama‘ulu.

The meeting comes on the heels of recent actions by county leaders to award a nearly \$12-million contract to Jas. W. Glover leaders to design and build a 4.3-mile leg of the coastal trail from the county Lihī Park by the Pono Kai Resort in Kapa‘a to Ahihi Point, commonly known as "Donkey Beach."

The entire 16-mile project, which consists of six phases, is intended to preserve access to and beautify the coastline from Ahukini to Anahola. The project will result in much easier beach access, benefiting residents and visitors.

For the latest project, MDG Inc. leaders have been contracted by officials in the Kaua‘i County Department of Public Works to study various alignments before one is selected and is developed.

The consultant also will be preparing an environmental assessment for the pathway.

Determining the alignment will not be easy. Two years ago, the owner of a 400-plus-acre parcel located north of Hanama‘ulu Bay had his own ideas about how the bicycle path should be developed on his property.

E.W. Moody, a Las Vegas-based landowner, had proposed an upper-end residential project and golf course on his property in 2003.

At the time, Moody had proposed a bicycle pathway in his own project, and wanted to maintain the improvement, county officials were told at the time.

County officials said they would work with him in determining the alignment of the project, nonetheless.

Residents are invited to the June 22 meeting to learn about the project and to give input, according to Roxanne MacDougall, a consultant on the project.

An environmental assessment began in May, and is expected to be completed by the end of this year, MacDougall said. Some \$500,000 in Federal Highway Administration funds will be used for that task, she said.

Construction and land-acquisition funds have been allocated for fiscal years 2005-2007. MacDougall said that the coastal leg will include portions of Hanama'ulu Beach Park, open lands between the park and the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort and the Wailua Golf Course, and that the alignment will be dictated by the terrain.

The first phase of the six-phase, 16-mile project, includes a 2.5-mile trail through Lydgate Park. This portion has been completed and is being used by the public.

The second phase involves the construction of a 4.3-mile leg from Lihi Park to Donkey Beach.

The other three phases include: a 2-mile portion from Lydgate Park to Lihi Park; a 3-mile leg from Kuna Bay to Anahola; and an 8-mile portion from Ahukini to Nawiliwili Harbor. The total cost of the 16-mile pathway is anticipated in the range of \$30 million, primarily from federal dollars.

Kaua'i County officials will contribute capital-improvement funds when needed and when available, they said. The maintenance of the pathway will be undertaken by county workers when the entire 16-mile project is completed. For more information on the latest project, please contact MacDougall at 822-5798.

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PRO BIKE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1. Mr. Rapozo wasn't it you and the County Council that OK'd the \$4.3 million and 6 months of closure for a main artery 20' x 20' mini Olohena Bridge to the Wailua and Kapa'a Homesteads? At the same time denying the \$1/4 million, 2 week closure, 35 year life expectancy alternative bridge; instead of using the \$4.3 million to start another lane over the Wailua River?

2. Mr. Rapozo comparing a \$30 million project to "screens on the Kekaha Neighborhood Center" isn't that a tremendous stretch of imagination; like comparing an apple with a Redwood Forest. And shame on the adult children of the seniors in Kekaha...if the situation is so bad why don't they screen the place for their folks. It has to be less than \$1 million. Plus how many Seniors are in Kekaha compared to the population of the greater Kapa'a neighborhoods of the Kawaihau District that will have the opportunity to use the bike path. Geeeesh!!! The bike path will bring out more and more people as they discover the wonderful feeling of vitality from exercise in a beautiful environ.

3. Mr. Rapozo kids on the bike path headed to beach activities from the largest residential district on Kauai more than likely are staying away from drugs and crime. The kids need diversion from drugs and crime...bike paths serve that purpose and free up parents from having to drive them to and from a very healthy activity. The bike path is free for all ages and all the members of the community. If you want to save money...close the Wailua Golf Course which serves so few for too much of our tax dollars.

4. I think Mr. Doug Haigh has made it perfectly CLEAR, over and over. The FEDS say the money is for the bike path only...or let us know and we'll give the money to another less stupid community in America. Which part of "Federal \$ earmarked for a bike path only" do you not understand? You yourself said that we can't let the \$4.3 million for the Olohena Bridge not come to Kauai....why not Fed \$ for this awesome bike path. As well, should we give the generous Hughes and the McClusky's their ocean front land back and let them bar us from ever going to that area again. Sounds like shooting oneself in the foot.

5. And Mr. Mickens, your complaint of an "ugly concrete path"...well Glenn, come on, you been here long enough. How about the "ugly asphalt (now broken up and uglier) haul cane roads" with those monster ugly haul cane trucks of

the past, some with cane still burning in the back; circling much of the island from field to mill. The bike path will be like heaven compared to the hell of hauling cane. And Mr. Mickens, the reason sane people do not use the "bike paths" of our now Kauai Super Highways is because it is an insane risk to ones life to use them, you can't figure that one out?

We need a safe bike path, and we need it now for every age group on Kauai and especially Kawaihau district.

- *Jay Trennoche*
Kapa'a