



Planning Department

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Ka'āina S. Hull
Director of Planning

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

I. MISSION STATEMENT

To provide, through an open and public process, a long-range vision for physical, social and cultural growth, enhancement and preservation of our unique past and present rural island lifestyle and values for future generations, and to implement this vision.

II. DEPARTMENT GOALS

- A. To preserve and protect our unique resources through sensible development of our economy and built environment.
- B. To preserve our diverse historic and cultural resources.
- C. To provide regulatory and enforcement efforts to achieve the long-range vision.
- D. To provide open communication with the people of Kaua'i and all levels of government.
- E. To remember that we serve the people of Kaua'i.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

Article XIV of the Charter of the County of Kaua'i provides that:

1. The Commission shall:

- A. Advise the Mayor, Council, and Planning Director in matters concerning the planning program for the County.
- B. Review the general plan and development plans as well as zoning and subdivision ordinances and amendments thereto developed and recommended by the Planning Director and transmit such plans and ordinances, with its recommendations thereon, through the Mayor, to the Council for its consideration and action.
- C. Hear and determine petitions for varying the application of the Zoning Ordinance.
- D. Prepare a capital improvement program with the advice of the Mayor.
- E. Adopt regulations having the force and effect of law pertaining to the responsibilities of the Department.

The following are the members and officers of the Planning Commission during this period:

Commissioners

Term of Appointment

Gerald Ako (Vice Chair 2025)	01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Helen Cox	01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Francis DeGracia (Chair 2025)	01/01/2023-12/31/2025
Glenda Nogami Streufert	01/01/2023-12/31/2025
Jerry Ornellas	01/01/2023-12/31/2025
Lori Otsuka	01/01/2023-12/31/2025

2. The Planning Director shall:

- A. Prepare a general plan and development plans for the County.
- B. Administer the zoning and subdivision ordinances and regulations adopted thereunder.
- C. Prepare zoning and subdivision ordinances, zoning maps and regulations and any amendments or modifications thereto for the Council.
- D. Consolidate the lists of proposed capital improvements contemplated by the several departments in order of their priority for the County.
- E. Advise the Mayor, Council, and Planning Commission on matters concerning the planning programs of the County.
- F. Perform other related duties such as the administration and enforcement of the State Land Use Commission Rules and Regulations, the Shoreline Setback Rules and Regulations, Special Management Area Rules and Regulations, and "plan approvals" of building permit applications.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

This program is responsible for operations of the department and administers and staffs the Kaua'i Planning Commission, the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission, the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission and other special citizen's advisory committees as may be formed. The Planning Director oversees administrative reviews and applications for zoning/building permits, sign permit reviews, subdivision recommendations, enforcement of land use ordinances, statutes and rules, landscape plans, County and State clearing-house reviews, CDUA and EA/EIS reviews, Special Management Area minor permits, provides recommendations on various permit and related issues to the Planning Commission, Mayor and Council and serves as a party to State Land Use boundary petitions pertaining to Kaua'i. Other responsibilities include general and community planning, protection of cultural resources, data collection, consolidation of the capital improvement program of the County, mapping, special projects and providing the public with information and assistance on matters within the

department's jurisdiction. The Planning Department also collects revenues from various permit processing fees and park dedication/environmental impact assessments. The Planning Commission reviews and acts on applications for use, variance, Class IV, project development, subdivisions, special management area major and shoreline setback variance permits and State land use special permits. The Commission also recommends actions for changes in zoning, general plan designations, district boundary amendments, hears, and determines appeals from the decision of the Planning Director regarding zoning and subdivision matters. Rulemaking, review and recommendations on land use ordinances and amendments, issuance of declaratory rulings are additional duties of the Commission.

A. Objectives

1. To provide expertise and staff to administer and enforce the County's comprehensive zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, special management area and shoreline setback rules and regulations and related State and Federal mandates; to ensure that projects reviewed are in conformance with County policies as expressed in the Kaua'i General Plan and appropriate Community Development Plans; to provide for prompt processing of all permit applications and continuous improvement of the permitting process and related policies.
2. To assist the public in understanding the regulatory codes, ordinances and programs relating to land use and to respond to requests for information in a courteous and timely manner.
3. To facilitate planning efforts with the Planning Commission, Administration and Council and to assist in the dissemination of information relating to all planning issues by coordinating with all other departments, agencies, boards and commissions that may need accurate and appropriate planning information for the administration of their respective programs.
4. To promote efficiency in operations and activities and exercise sound personnel management practices and policies to maintain a high level of moral and work output from department employees.

B. Highlights

1. Plantation Camp Form-Based Code and Wildfire Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The Plantation Camp Ordinance was initiated by the Planning Department to utilize Form Based Code in an effort to maintain the unique historical character of Kaumakani's built environment while also allowing additional housing and limited commercial development on the vacant areas of the Kaumakani Camp and Kaumakani Avenue areas in a manner that reinforces and maintains the pattern of the associated neighborhood. The Kaumakani Plantation Camp area maintains a unique sense of identity and has features and qualities that should be preserved. Ordinance No. 1138 amended the West Kaua'i Community Plan by adopting the Kaumakani Plantation Camp Walkable Mixed Use District and design standards through the Plantation Camp Form Based Code.

Continuing this work with our historic plantation camps, the department has interfaced with and spatially assessed the island's two remaining camps, Niumila Camp and Ka'awanui Camp (Camp 6). The Department drafted a form-based code for both camps while also working for several months with a task force comprised of Planning Department staff, Fire Department staff, Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency staff, Building Division staff, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, and Headwaters Economics to create a Wildfire Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code to be integrated with the Plantation Camp FBC. This policy was given priority given the recent Kaumakani Camp wildfire event. While the FBC codes are still being reviewed by Council, the WUI code was formally adopted.

2. Kaua'i Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (KCAAP)

The KCAAP is now complete and provides a strategic framework for adapting County infrastructure, services, and facilities to climate impacts such as sea level rise, drought, and flooding, while also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet County climate targets.

Led by the County's Resiliency Team and consultant Raimi + Associates, the KCAAP builds on the General Plan's climate adaptation policies and evaluates hazard impacts on communities and County operations. Since project launch, the project team conducted technical analysis, convened a Technical Advisory Group, and conducted multiple open house and workshop events to obtain input. In the recent fiscal year, staff finalized over 70 overarching strategies and developed over 15 detailed work plans for County departments and agencies. These efforts culminated in an administrative draft which underwent a countywide review process. The division also hosted five open house events and carried out a public survey to gather public input on the public draft. With community engagement complete, the final plan is being prepared for adoption.

3. East Kaua'i Community and Circulation Plan (EKCCP)

The East Kaua'i Community and Circulation Plan (EKCCP) is a project to update the 1974 Wailua-Kapa'a Development Plan with a long-range land use and transportation plan for the entire East Kaua'i Planning District. The plan will produce detailed town plans for Wailua, Kapa'a, Kapahi, and Anahola addressing housing, land use, circulation, historic preservation, civic space, and infill development.

This year's work included launching the public process with in-person and virtual open houses, conducting a community survey, and convening a Community Working Group. In October, a multi-day design charrette was held, focused on the communities of Wailua-Waipouli and Kapa'a-Kapahi. A public workshop series—covering housing, transportation, and hazards resiliency—was initiated in May

2025, along with multiple landowner stakeholder meetings. A Youth Council was also established to develop a shared vision for the region and ensure multigenerational input. Additionally, a special walk audit with participants from Easter Seals and the broader disability community was conducted in Kapaʻa Town.

Several deliverables were produced as well, including:

- East Kauaʻi Traffic Conditions Study
- Planning Forecast
- Issues and Opportunities Memo
- Infrastructure Analysis

4. Long Range Planning Program Highlights

The Long-Range Planning Division administers the Department’s community planning program, ensuring the development, maintenance, and implementation of long-range planning documents such as the General Plan, community development plans, and related projects. Core functions of the division include data collection and analysis on growth, land use, and other pertinent issues. The division also actively collaborates with other agencies and serves various advisory groups to advance General Plan policies and goals. This year, in addition to the KCAAP and the East Kauaʻi Community Plan previously mentioned, the division focused on the following initiatives:

Bikeways Master Plan

Funded through a State Department of Transportation SPR Grant, this new plan will create a countywide, interconnected network of multi-use paths and trails, with an emphasis on underserved areas. It will identify new trail alignments, establish selection criteria for future projects, and improve accessibility. Project launch is underway.

Lihue Mauka Route Study

Also funded through an SPR Grant, this study will plan a new bypass road to alleviate congestion in Līhuʻe and expand the County’s multimodal transportation network. Initial work will include consultant selection, data collection, and early design concepts.

The division also leads or provides support for:

- General Plan progress reports
- Built Environment Task Force
- Multimodal Transportation Training MOA with DOH
- County Resiliency Team

- Advisory committees:
 - SubSTAC
 - State Department of Transportation Long Range Land Transportation Plan
 - Waimea 400 Master Plan
 - Kilauea Town Expansion Master Plan
 - Kaua'i Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Build Back Better Project
 - Healthy Hawaii Plan

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (CZM) PROGRAM

The Coastal Zone Management Program is responsible for administering ongoing monitoring and enforcement for ensured compliance with the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management program sub-grant agreement between the State of Hawai'i and the County of Kaua'i and for implementing the objectives, policies and guidelines in Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes to guide and regulate public and private uses in the designated Special Management Area of the County. The program also provides project monitoring for compliance to permit conditions and regulations, preparation of semi-annual reports, facilitates, where possible, the development review process, and participates in statewide coastal zone management issues.

A. Objectives

The program objectives are to guide and regulate public and private land use development in compliance with the scope of services the coastal zone management area by:

1. Administering development permit activities within the Special Management Area (SMA) through major and minor permits and shoreline setback determinations to ensure the protection of coastal resources and the provision of public access to those resources.
2. Administer ongoing monitoring and enforcement programs to assure compliance with Chapter 205A, SMA and shoreline setback ordinance requirements and to prevent or minimize environmental and ecological degradation.
3. Support by attendance and participation in CZM related meetings, workshops and seminars.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Since 1986, Kaua'i County has been a Certified Local Government (CLG) under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The CLG program provides funds and standards for historic preservation from the Department of Interior via the State Dept. of Land & Nat. Resources to local governments. Both the funds and standards are used to assist local governments

in promoting historic preservation endeavors. To qualify as a CLG, local government preservation activities must include public participation and use of a qualified local review commission (Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission), survey and inventory of historic resources and participation in State/Federal preservation activities. Kaua'i County alternates with Maui County in receiving the Hawai'i CLG grant funds.

The Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission, which consists of nine members, meets monthly and is staffed by the Planning Department. Meetings usually entail project reviews at which time the KHPRC provides recommendations on various aspects of archaeological and building design review of historic resources and in-fill development. Other issues relating to the promotion of historic preservation on Kaua'i are also discussed.

The following are the members and officers of the KHPRC during this period:

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Term of Appointment</u>
Chocky Boy Chock	01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Lee Gately	01/01/2021-12/31/2023 01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Gerald Ida (Chair 2023)	01/01/2021-12/31/2023
Kathleen Kikuchi-Samonte	01/01/2022-12/31/2024
Carolyn Larson	01/01/2022-12/31/2024
Stephen Long	01/01/2022-12/31/2024
Sandra Quinsaas	01/01/2023-12/31/2025
Susan Remaldo (Chair 2024)	01/01/2021-12/31/2023 01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Aubrey Summers	01/01/2021-12/31/2023
Victoria Wichman	01/01/2022-12/31/2024

A. Program Objectives

1. To provide recommendations to the Planning Department and Commission regarding projects that may impact historic resources.
2. To expand the listing of historic resources in the County of Kaua'i.
3. To promote historic preservation and provide information and educational opportunities.
4. To facilitate listing of historic structures on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

B. Program Highlights

The CLG program continues its efforts to update the listing of historic buildings in the County of Kaua'i and offers assistance and brochures to property owners on techniques and

advantages of rehabilitation of historic buildings. The KHPRC meets monthly at which time they provide valuable input on design and preservation treatment on projects before the Planning Commission and Planning Department which may impact historic resources. Past CLG funding has been also used to co-sponsor educational programs in the form of speakers' series, training, conferences and Archaeology Week activities, County listing of historic resources.

PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION FUND COMMISSION

In November 2002, Kaua'i voters approved a ballot measure amending the County Charter to create the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Fund, which received a minimum of one half of one percent (0.5%) of Kaua'i's certified real property taxes. In December 2003, Ordinance 812 was signed into law, adding Article 14 to the Kaua'i County Code establishing procedures for the administration and priorities for expenditure of monies in the fund. Effective, July 1, 2013, the minimum percentage of Kaua'i's certified real property taxes was increased to one and one half of one percent (1.5%) by Ordinance 936 signed into law on December 14, 2012. In May of 2015, Ordinance 986 reduced the minimum percentage of Kaua'i certified real property taxes back to one half of one percent (0.5%).

Article 14 also established the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission, a nine-member volunteer advisory commission whose charge is to work with the Planning Department to solicit public input to develop an annual list of priority projects to be considered for funding. Two contract Planning Department staff-the Open Space/Public Access Planner and the Open Space/Public Access Support Clerk-are assigned to the program.

The following were members of the Commission during the fiscal year:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term of Appointment</u>
Manuel Cabral	
Taryn Dizon	01/01/2022-12/31/2024
Jonathon Lucas (Chair 2024)	01/01/2023-01/31/2025
Mark Ono	01/01/2023-12/31/2025
Robin Pratt (Vice Chair 2024)	01/01/2022-12/31/2024
Mai Shintani	01/01/2022-12/31/2023 01/01/2024-12/31/2026
William Kinney	01/01/2022-12/31/2023 01/01/2024-12/31/2026
Shaylyn Ornellas (Chair 2025)	01/01/2023-12/31/2025

A. Program Objectives

1. Work with the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission to develop a biennial list of priority of projects to be considered for funding.

2. Support the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission's solicitation of public input on development of the biennial list of priority projects to be considered for funding.
3. Work to improve and expand beach and mountain access opportunities for Kaua'i's residents and visitors.
4. Strive to preserve Kaua'i's natural resources and open spaces for the enjoyment of current and future generations.
5. Networking and partnership building with outside agencies like The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) and community associations to establish involvement in community projects relating to and that align with the mission and goals of the Open Space Commission to include additional funding opportunities and support.
6. Reorganization of the commission's communication and reporting process to better align with the commission's ordinance, missions and goals and the newly adopted Amendment to the Rules and Practice and Procedure of the County of Kaua'i Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission by adding New Chapter V, Report Process, Relating to the Process of Receiving Proposals, and Analyzing and Recommending Land or Property Entitlements for County Council Approval.

B. Program Highlights

During the fiscal year, the commission conducted Seven (7) regular commission meetings.

Commission accomplishments include:

- Development of a reporting process similar to that of Planning Commission on all recommendations received by the public for possible acquisition;
- Continual development of Commission's dossier process (in the form of an Acquisition Plan) to update and communicate to Council in its biennial recommendations year encouraging support to move forward on any proposal from the Commission's recommendation list;
- Development of Commission's Acquisition Plan as part of its Biennial Report for their priority recommendations;
- Continuous discussions on new development ideas for open space, public access and unresolved access issues "Opala List";

- Continual dialogue and education sessions with the County and State departments and non-profit organizations on working as a partner on public access, open space and natural resources preservation for Kaua’i;
- Ongoing strategies for biennial report and public input process with outreach to neighborhood communities and hosting of meetings within these communities, hosting commissioner and staff presence at monthly community association meetings;
- Investigate and update current Kaua’i Public Access List – last update by outside vendor in 1991;
- Update and development of GIS map for Kaua’i Access List.
- Preparation and Submittal of the Commission’s 2022-2023 Biennial Report to the County Council on May 21, 2024.
- Received approval for Bills No. 2923 and 2924 to County Council for the acquisition of two (2) Hanapepe parcels at Tax Map Key Nos. (4) 1-8-008:065 and (4) 1-8-008:071. The proposed bills combined requests the appropriation of \$1,444,000 from the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources fund.

The Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission and community recognized that the Hanapepe parcels are of significant historical and cultural importance to the Filipino and Hanapepe communities, labor and plantation history. The parcels mark where the tragic Hanapepe Massacre of 1924. The incident was a critical moment the labor movement in Hawaii that marked the significant struggle of the Filipino plantation worker.

The acquisition of the subject lots of record supports the following purposes of the use of the Open Space Fund:

- a. Public outdoor recreation and education
- b. Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites
- c. Improving disabled and public access to, and enjoyment of, public land and open space
- d. Conserving land for open space and scenic values

PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION FUND COMMISSION

Commission Meetings..... 7
 Committee Meetings..... 0
 Public Hearings..... 0
 Community Meetings..... 0

IV. BUDGET BY PROGRAM

General Fund (Administration & Planning):	\$3,678,664.00
PAOS/General Fund:	\$89,457.00
Grant Revenue (CZM):	\$375,345.00
Total Departmental Budget:	\$4,143,466.00

V. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND STATISTICS

As shown by the tabulation of permits, applications, meetings, etc., that follow, staff activities involve daily administration of the Subdivision and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinances, General Plan and Development Plans, State Land Use Commission Rules and Regulations, Shoreline Setback Rules and Regulations, as well as the SMA Rules and Regulations. These activities include review and processing of all building, zoning, use, variance, and SMA permits, as well as General Plan and zoning amendments and subdivision applications. Other duties include review and recommendation to the State Board of Land and Natural Resources of all applications for uses located within the State Conservation District, recommendations to the State Clearing-house Review for all Federal-funded projects affecting the County of Kaua'i and coordinate the County Clearinghouse process for grading permits.

CURRENT STATISTICS

SUBDIVISION

A total of **10** subdivision applications were received and processed during the 2025 fiscal year. These applications involve a total of **101 lots** within the Urban District, **6 lots** within the Agricultural District, and **4 lots** within the Rural District. There were no lots created within the Conservation District.

Actions taken during the fiscal year are as follows:

Tentative approvals.....	8
Final approvals	1
Disapproved	0
Withdrawals/Cancellations..	1
Deferred	3
Extensions.....	11
Recertifications.....	2
Contested Case	0
Prior Tentatives Revised.....	0

ZONING PERMIT, USE PERMIT, VARIANCE PERMIT, SMA PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Under procedures established in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and SMA Rules and Regulations, all construction or development within the County requires the issuance of a zoning, use, SMA, or a variance permit. This involves detailed review of all building permit applications; use,

variance and Class IV Zoning Permits require careful review and analysis of recommendations by other governmental agencies; conducting of public hearings and final decision by the Planning Commission.

Following is a tabulation of applications processed or reviewed and the number of Commission meetings held:

STATE LAND USE COMMISSION MATTERS

Special Permit Applications	5
Boundary Change Petitions:	
State	0
County	2

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA USE PERMITS (SMA)

Major Permits	Processed.....	7
Minor Permits	Processed	29
Emergency Permits	Processed	0
Shoreline Setback Determinations	Processed	39

ZONING PERMITS

Class I & II Zoning Permits.....	425
Class III Zoning Permit.....	2
Class IV Zoning Permit.....	13
Use Permit.....	12
Variance Permit.....	3
Shoreline Setback Variance.....	0

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS.....3

ZONING AMENDMENTS... ..11

COUNTY CLEARING-HOUSE..... 37

STATE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CDUA Reviews..... 0

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Regular Commission Meetings	11
Special Commission Meetings	0
Subdivision Committee Meetings.....	5

Contested Case Calendar	0
Public Hearings on Zoning Permits, SMA Permits, General Plan & Zoning Amendments, CZO and SMA Rules and Regulations	47
Field Trips/Investigations	0
Non Hearing Actions	98
Workshops	0
<u>KAUA'I HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMISSION</u>	
Meetings	7
Special Meetings	0
Field Trips	0
Planning Commission Project Reviews	4
Other Reviews	15

VI. SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Mayor has charged the Department as the primary agency for the following projects:

1. Implementing the Līhu'e Town Core Plan
2. Expanding the Līhu'e Civic Center Park/Lawn
3. Climate Adaption Plan
4. Play Streets Kaua'i

The Department continues to work over the past year identifying specific projects for implementation furthering the Mayor's vision to grow Kaua'i responsibly.

- Līhu'e Civic Center Mobility Plan

The Planning Department finalized a Civic Center Mobility Site Plan and analyzed parking management strategies for the Līhu'e Civic Center to support County transit-oriented development (TOD) redevelopment efforts at the Civic Center. The mobility hub is envisioned to develop 21st century multi-modal parking management strategies as well as provide a suite of transportation services such as transit, car-share, ride-share, micro-mobility, and related amenities to an area adjacent to the newly completed improvements associated with the USDOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Project. Analyzing these transportation needs and services in a cohesive Mobility Site Plan for the entire Civic Center campus and integrating a mobility hub concept with the proposed Civic Center redevelopment project will serve potential future TOD projects within the Civic Center and on nearby State properties such as the vacant former Police Station and the underutilized Department of Health sites, and it will greatly enhance the redevelopment efforts already underway. In addition, the proposed Mobility Site Plan updated the Līhu'e Civic Center campus concept and incorporate mobility as an organizing framework to strengthen TOD redevelopment at the Līhu'e Civic Center.

- Līhu‘e Civic Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study

The Planning Department completed the Līhu‘e Civic Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study to analyze the barriers and pathways to support TOD redevelopment of portions of the Līhu‘e Civic Center. The project studied the scale and magnitude of any redevelopment and lessen the risk to make the redevelopment feasible. The Redevelopment Plan proposed a feasible mixture of mixed uses and create pathways to implement the TOD development at the Civic Center.

The redevelopment of the Civic Center will begin to implement several long-range plans and policies. The redevelopment project will realize the Līhu‘e Community Plan’s vision to “restore the vitality of Līhu‘e” and the “need for renewal and revitalization of the Līhu‘e Town Core so that it may fulfill its role in the vision for the Līhu‘e District” as “the heart of the island”. Encouraging these mixed uses at the Civic Center would both revitalize the Līhu‘e Town Core and Civic Center Complex and connect to multimodal networks already in existence. Also, the County General Plan and Līhu‘e Community Plan call for increased density in towns to provide more affordable market-rate housing and reduce long-term health impacts and operational infrastructure costs associated with suburban sprawl. Finally, the redevelopment project aligns with TOD objectives by seeking to incorporate housing, a childcare facility, and commercial uses on portions of the Civic Center property, the heart of Kaua‘i’s commercial and civic epicenter.

- Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (2021 – ongoing)

The Planning Department contracted Raimi + Associates to develop a Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (CAAP). The purpose of the CAAP is to create a framework that ensures county infrastructure, services, and facilities are resilient to the impacts of climate change. The CAP builds upon the General Plan’s climate adaptation policies and assesses how climate hazards—such as sea level rise, extreme temperatures, flooding, drought, and storms—will affect communities and county operations. The project is managed by the County Resiliency Team and guided by a Technical Advisory Group.

The CAAP has successfully completed several phases of community engagement and technical analysis. Published reports include a Vulnerability and Equity Analysis, Climate Hazard Review Paper, and summaries of all public outreach and surveys.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the department completed a series of climate action outreach events focused on greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies. This included three workshops, one of which was an interactive online session, as well as an online poll. Additionally, a youth art contest was held to engage younger community members.

Staff finalized the strategies and developed detailed work plans for all departments. These efforts culminated in an administrative draft prepared by the consultant, which was submitted to the department in June.

- Play Streets Kaua‘i

Play Streets Kaua‘i is a community engagement program that sits at the nexus of

placemaking, public health, and community capacity building. In partnership with the State Health Department, County of Kaua'i Planning Department and the Office of Economic Development, and Get Fit Kaua'i, Play Streets activities temporarily transform underutilized spaces such as roadways, parks, or alleys and turn them into temporary spaces for physical activity and to showcase potential area improvements with the goal of encouraging future capital improvement investments.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF

Kaaina S. Hull	Planning Director
Jodi Higuchi Sayegusa	Deputy Planning Director
Vacant	Planning Program Manager
Dalmacio Cua	Planner VII
Marie Williams	Planning Program Manager
Michael Laureta	Planning Program Manager
Alan Clinton	Administrative Planning Officer
Kenneth Estes	Planner V
Marisa Valenciano	Planner V
Romio Idica	Planner V
Alisha Summers	Planner IV
Britni Ludington-Braun	Planner IV
Shelea Koga	Planner IV
Brian Ejima	Land Use Plans Checker I
Andres Emayo	Planning Inspector IV
Joan Ludington	Planning Inspector IV
Patrick Henriques	Planning Inspector III
James Tejada	Planning Inspector I
Jared Towler	Planning Inspector I
Shanlee Jimenez	Planning Commission Secretary
Duke Nakamatsu	Secretary
Leila Kim	Staff Services Supervisor
Kristen Romuar-Cabico	Planner I
Brent Sokei	Staff Service Assistant
Sherri Patrick	TVR Enforcement Specialist

CZM CONTRACT EMPLOYEES

John Schoffstall	CZM Planner
Sara Agoot	CZM Planner
Leslie Milnes	CZM Enforcement Officer
Brent Sokei	CZM Account Clerk