



Joy A. San Buenaventura

State Representative
District 4, Puna

2017 Legislative Interim E-Newsletter

October 2017

2017 Community Forum on Roads

Thank you to **Donald Smith**, Council member **Eileen O'Hara**, **Allan Simeon**, **Kason Pacheco**, **Roy Takemoto**, **Jon Olson**, **Larry Brown** and everyone who attended my 2017 Roads Forum. Special thanks to **Barbara Lively** for moderating! Thank you also to the Community/Homeowner Association representatives for updates in their subdivisions. If you were unable participate in person, please visit Big Island Video News to watch their coverage of the meeting: (<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2017/09/10/video-puna-roads-meeting-in-hpp/>)



In 2015 we were able to secure \$15 Million for the repair and maintenance of feeder roads and alternate routes for Highway 130 but these funds may not be released. In 2016, we were able to get \$2.95 Million for Kea'au-Pahoa Road improvements. So far the state released \$1.89 Million for the widening of Highway 130 with an additional \$4+ Million coming from federal funds. In 2017, we secured an additional \$40 Million for Highway 130 widening to be released in 2019. Upon the completion of the Shower Drive project there are no plans to start new construction projects, which will relieve us of some congestion until the start of the widening project.



Big Island District Engineer, **Donald Smith** explained that his immediate priorities for Highway 130 are safety related projects, which include: re-striping, installing raised reflective pavement markers, and rumble strips. Mr. Smith also noted that he understands the congestion at the Shower Drive intersection and is pushing to ensure that two lanes are kept open at all times during construction. Mr. Smith also noted that night work is not an option as it would require permits that would delay completion. Mr. Smith also touched on the project to expand capacity to 4 lanes from Shower Drive to Pahoa. Although, there was some uncertainty as to whether the money for this project will be released, I recently worked to get assurance that the funding will be available. To ensure the completion of Highway 130 widening, Mr. Smith has applied for federal grants for which community support is needed.



Larry Brown, Chair of the Puna CDP Action Committee, provided some history and insight into the Puna Regional Circulation Plan, Puna Community Development Plan, Kea'au-Pahoa Roadway Improvement Project, and County General Plan. Mr. Brown mentioned some of the concepts that were explored in the various plans including the Village Center Concept, alternate access, widening, intersection treatments, and even turning certain three way T-intersections and making them four way intersections. Mr. Brown notes that infrastructure and commercial industrial improvement would be a more suitable long term solution for the traffic problem by reducing the need for Puna residents to travel to Hilo. Mr. Brown also encouraged interested residents to submit applications to the mayor's office to serve on the Puna CDP Action Committee.



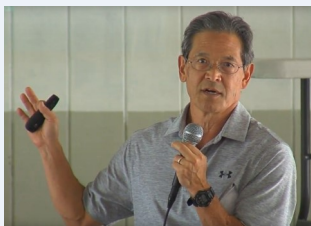
Jon Olson, former chair of the Puna CDP was on-hand to discuss the Puna Community Development Plan. In addition to discussing the history of the PCDC and bringing everyone up to speed on it's current status, Mr. Olson also explained, among other things, the need to increase self sufficiency. Basic fire, police, and emergency medical services should be a considered priority. Mr. Olson explained that there are a lot of different road scenarios being offered but as of right now there are no immediate plans to start construction. While this is good news to some, Mr. Olson notes that pursuing self sufficiency and improving road access will be vital for the district in emergency scenarios.



Allan Simeon, Deputy Director of the County Department of Public Works, discussed how private roads become county roads. Mr. Simeon explained that the county will take over a private road either by: 1) dedication or 2) condemnation. Dedication can happen if the road is built to the County standards. If the road is built to the standard, the county must accept the offer of dedication. Some of the requirements include: 50 feet right of way, paved lanes, shoulders, drywells, and street lights among other things. Kaloli, Shower, Maku'u, and Paradise have a 60 feet right of way, however, most, if not all of the connector roads have a 40 feet right of way. The county may initiate condemnation (for reasons such as connecting roads, etc.) or a private owner may petition the mayor to initiate condemnation.



Hawaii County Dept. of Public Works Engineer Kason Pacheco addressed the question of whether any Puna subdivision roads are maintained by the county, Mr. Pacheco explained that the county has used the CDP's and the circulation plan to create the Puna Emergency Access Road (PEAR), which is partially maintained by the county. Mr. Pacheco also noted some of the private roads that have been taken over by the county: 1) Ainaloa Blvd-2005 Resolution donated the roadway to the county by the Ainaloa Community Association. 2) Hawaiian Beaches/Kahakai Blvd-dedicated to the county before dedicable standards were established. 3) Nanawale-parts of their roads were dedicated to county before dedicable standards were established. 4) Leilani Blvd-dedicated in 1969 (60ft ROW). And 5) Kua'aina Rd-No clear ownership of road for 5+ years.



Roy Takemoto, Managing Director of the Mayor's Office, discussed Improvement districts (ID). Mr. Takemoto explained that an ID must fund public improvements so, in the case of a private road, the county must take over the road (either by dedication or condemnation). An ID also must have support from the owners. If more than 50% of the owners within the district boundaries protest, the ID fails. ID would also require a lien to be placed on the property in case the owners fail to pay their portion of the assessment. In order to secure the bond, the total assessed value of the properties within the district must be twice the cost of the improvements. Mr. Takemoto reiterated that this cannot be done without approval (50%+) from owners.



County Councilmember Eileen O'Hara explained that she had recently put improvements to the shoulders of Leilani Blvd, Nanawale, and Kahakai on her Capital Improvement Project list. Councilmember O'Hara noted that she would like to see at least one paved shoulder on the main boulevards to support other modes of transportation such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Councilwoman O'Hara also noted the option of subdivisions seeking very low interest loans from the USDA's Rural Development program. Councilmember O'Hara also spoke about other mass transit and discussed the Mass Transit Agency's (MTA) Transit Master Plan and encourages interested members to attend their upcoming community meetings.

Broadband Survey

I have reached out to internet providers as far as their plans for future coverage in Lower Puna but have received vague responses because they consider their internet coverage a trade secret. The State and County commissioned a report in 2012 for a study of potential wireless coverage (the report came out in 2015) should a provider consider rural big island (including Puna) as a market. Other than Exede, satellite internet, no one new has stepped in.

To determine whether there is still a demand for broadband coverage in lower Puna, I am asking everyone to please fill out this short survey (Follow Link Below)– PLEASE pass on this survey to other lower puna residents. Printed surveys are provided at Island Naturals in Pahoa.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88KFH75>



I was very honored to participate in the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference. I spoke of advocating locally for horticulture. Thank you to Thomas Bjorkman of Cornell University for organizing this event. Speakers included Kelvin Sewake, acting CTAHR Dean; Mike Formby, Rep. Colleen Hanabusa’s Chief of Staff; and Glenn Sako, County of Hawaii Agriculture Specialist.



Presenting a certificate to the Pahoa Public and School Library congratulating them on their 50th Anniversary.



Thank you to the Hawaiian Paradise Park Neighborhood Watch for allowing me to discuss my 2016 squatters bill and 2017 working group resolution that requests the convening of a working group to examine and develop recommendations to address the issue of squatting in the state. Thank you also to Maurice Messina of the prosecutor’s office and Community Officer DuWayne Waipa for lending their experience and expertise to help us all learn more about squatting and what can be done to address the problem in HPP.



Rat Lungworm Disease Updated Warnings

With the recent hospitalization of an infant, the Hawaii Island District Health Office is recommending that parents closely monitor children and what they put in their mouths. They are also recommending that hands are washed after playing on the ground.

[Click here to read full CNN Article](#)

County of Hawaii Mass Transit Master Plan

The County of Hawaii Mass Transit Agency will be holding informational meetings to discuss the Transit Master Plan. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the event to learn more about the plan and provide input.

Please contact the transit office at 961-8744 for more information or visit:

<http://www.heleonbus.org/news/transit-master-plan-community-meetings-october-9-to-24-2017>

KEAAU	October 11, 2017	Keaau Community Center	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
PAHOA	October 12, 2017	Pahoa Neighborhood Facility	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you require language translation, an auxiliary aid or service (e.g., sign language interpreter, accessible parking or materials in alternative format), please contact Jo-Anna Herkes, SSFM International at (808) 356-1260 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date. TTY users may use TRS to contact our office

April 2012 - Kevin Nicol

EQUIFAX SECURITY BREACH

The state is urging Hawaii consumers to take advantage of one year free credit monitoring in wake of date breach

For more information visit: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/>

Or call Equifax's dedicated call center at 866-447-7559



Humane Society Howl'oween PetWalk: Free Ant ID & Education!

Liliuokalani Park and Gardens
Saturday, October 21st
7:30am-12:00pm

Little Fire Ants are causing eye damage and even blindness in Big Island pets! Protect your pet by keeping your property free from fire ants. BIISC will be at the Humane Society Howl'oween event to provide information about how to treat your property and keep fire ants from coming back. Bring you frozen ant sample, and they will ID the ants on the spot!

For more details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/362334024204522/>



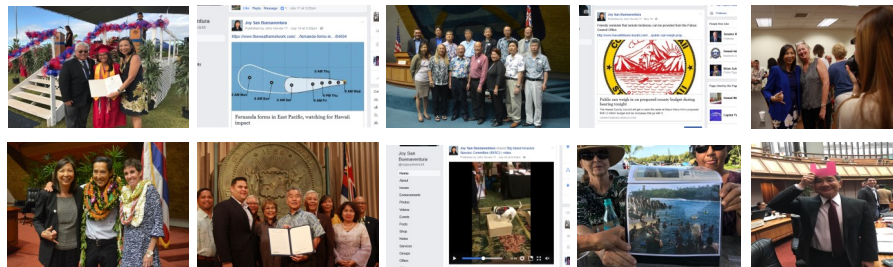
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to Offer Free Admission Days in 2017

The remaining 2017 entrance fee-free days are:
November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

For more information check out:
https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/news/20161130_pr_2017feefree.htm



Please follow me on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/rejoydistrict4/>



Looking for live volcano updates? Check out:
<https://hvo.wr.usgs.gov/> for recent Kilauea status reports, updates, and information releases.

If you have a community event that you want featured in my newsletter/e-newsletter e-mail us at j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov. No guarantee that it will be included; however, we will do our best.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter!

This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov

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Visit my capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2017>

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Housing and Transportation

Contact Information:

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.

