

# KA'Ū COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN



## County of Hawai'i Department of Planning

The Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CDP) embodies the distinctive charm of the most rural district in Hawai'i County. From its reverent landscapes to its awe-inspiring undeveloped coastlines, Ka'ū characterizes a rich living history worthy of preservation.

The Ka'ū CDP process, through extensive community engagement, identified core community values: 'āina (land), 'ohana (family), and rural lifestyle; and ensured these values guided the planning process. Similarly, a Community Profile was created to gain a deep understanding of the physical, social, cultural, and economic conditions of Ka'ū. A combination of these core values and the community profile served as the foundation to develop the goals, policies, and strategies in the plan.

One intent of the Ka'ū CDP was to keep the plan concise while providing analysis and comprehensive background information in the appendices. The appendices include three CDP guides designed for specific users such as governmental agencies, community groups, and planners. The appendix also includes a comprehensive CDP Rationale outlining the justification for each policy to ensure CDP implementation and future revisions are consistent and informed. The CDP itself provides regionally-specific land use guidance to protect the shoreline, sets urban growth boundaries for Kau's towns, promotes progressive strategies such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), recommends code and General Plan amendments, advocates for State legislative amendments, guides agencies and community groups to collaborative action, and provides tools to ensure community engagement in the process.

The Ka'ū CDP aims to accomplish three fundamental objectives: protect the public trust, provide public facilities and services to residents, and grow the local economy. Looking ahead, a CDP Action Committee will steward the plan and create a forum for community input and advocacy. It is the overarching goal of the plan to empower and engage the community in land use planning to ensure responsible decisions for the future of Ka'ū.



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