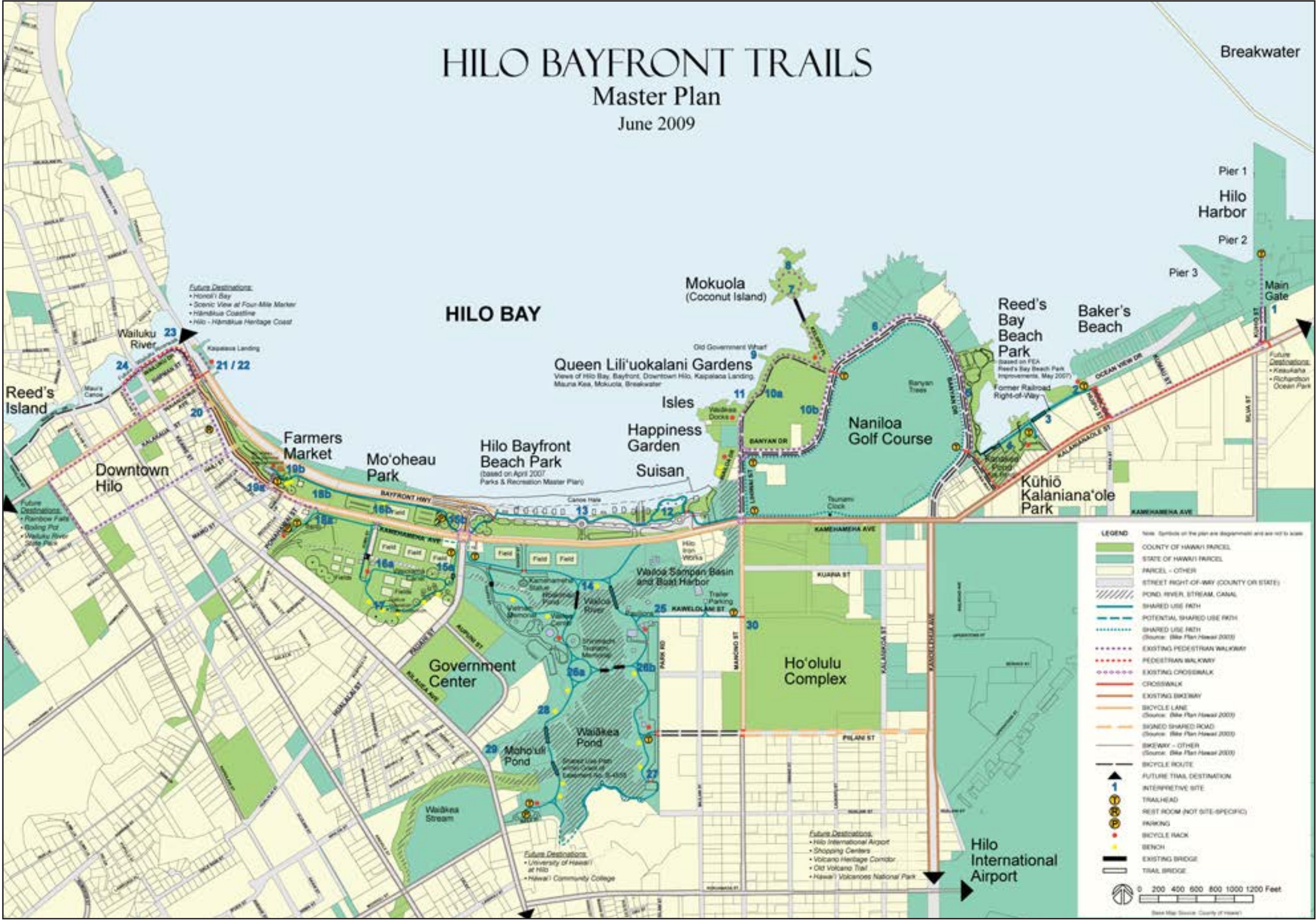


HILO BAYFRONT TRAILS MASTER PLAN



COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I, DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

HELBER HASTERT & FEE, PLANNERS

The Hilo Bayfront Trails Master Plan is the first of a three-phase project to plan, design and construct a system of bicycle facilities, shared use paths, pedestrian walkways and crosswalks from the Wailuku River to Hilo Harbor, with the potential for future expansion.

The study area comprises over 700 acres and approximately 3.5 miles of the Hilo bayfront.

The project was identified and supported by extensive stakeholder outreach as a means to enhance the area's natural beauty, increase access for residents and visitors, highlight the site's cultural significance, and protect the fragile coastline and waterways surrounding the Hilo bayfront.

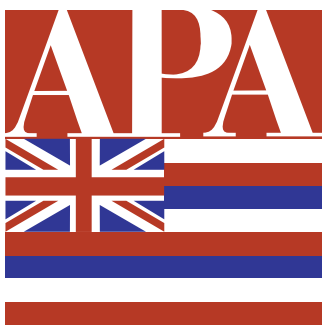
The Hawai'i County Resource Center, Department of Research and Development, managed the planning phase and selected an informal advisory committee, members of which consistently attended public meetings and provided their knowledge, expertise and guidance. The planning team included Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners (team leader/primary author of the master plan); Rechtman Consulting, LLC (archaeology); Hilo Engineering, Inc. (civil engineering); and Alice Moon & Company (public outreach/meeting logistics).

The master planning process was funded by a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Natural Resources Program and funds from the Hawai'i County Council and Department of Research & Development.

The project promoted "community ownership" through active involvement at three public meetings. Participants mapped preferred trail alignments/amenities and natural/cultural resources to be highlighted by the trails; presented small group preferences to all meeting attendees; completed user surveys listing current uses and desired uses of the study area; voted on trail amenity concepts and preferred construction phasing; commented on the conceptual, schematic, and draft final master plans prepared by the consultant; offered support of the trails project, from helping with fund raisers to planting and weeding; and evaluated the planning process.

The 2011 APA Hawai'i awards jury noted that implementation of a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails is important to Hilo citizens and other Big Island residents. Addressing the many issues and needs of a bayfront trail system requires an immense amount of input from a multitude of diverse stakeholders. This report could serve as a model for others to emulate in terms of local citizen and other stakeholder involvement. The plan contained effective use of photographs and sketches in the report to capture the workshop results. The plan included three public meetings over a one-year period with input from participants compiled, submitted to the advisory committee and presented in the report. The effort considered other existing plans such as the Hawai'i Long Range Land Transportation Plan and the Beach Park Master Plans. The plan also provides for future recreational destinations beyond the immediate project boundary and is consistent with federal, state and county development requirements.

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H A W A I ' I C H A P T E R



COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING AWARD