

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association

Hawaii Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

Neighbor Island News

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Mitch Silver to Speak at HCPO 2011 Conference on Kaua'i

The President of the National APA, Mitch Silver, will be speaking at the Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials/APA-HI 2011 Conference, "Planning for Livable and Healthy Communities", which runs from Sept. 21-23, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i. In keeping with the theme of how the built environment impacts public health, the keynote speakers also include transportation planning experts Dan Burden, Jim Charlier and Gary Toth. Conferees can choose from over twenty breakout sessions on a range of current planning issues from health impact assessments to important agricultural lands. A free AICP review session, led by Peter Flachsbarth, is also available at the close of the conference from 12:30 to 2:30pm on Friday, September 23. Online registration is still open at www.kauai.gov/hcpo.

Planning Commission approves Hawai'i's largest solar farm

In July, the Kaua'i County Planning Commission approved the zoning, use and special permits for Kikiaola Solar PV Power Generating Farm, which will become Hawai'i's largest solar farm. The project, located on 20 acres of agriculturally zoned land in West Kaua'i, will have a 3.5 MW capacity and the power will be sold to the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. The Planning Commission recently approved two other large solar farms. Due to the surge in renewable energy projects, the County is exploring a solar energy zoning ordinance.

Resort growth rate cap being considered by Kaua'i County Council

In 2008, fueled by rapid resort development in the Po'ipū area, a citizen's initiative successfully amended the Kaua'i County Charter to cap all resort and vacation rental growth. Draft Bill 2410 is currently before the County Council and seeks to implement the new charter section by allowing only a certain number of visitor units to be approved by the Planning Commission

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every five years. The permitting growth rate will be equivalent to a 1.5 percent average annual growth rate in the overall visitor unit inventory. Entitlements would be distributed on a first come, first served basis, although a lottery system was previously considered.

Kaua'i Planning Department launches technical studies for General Plan Update

The Kaua'i County Planning Department is initiating Kaua'i's General Plan Update, which was last updated in 2000. They are starting with the technical studies for the plan, which will create a community inventory and establish a baseline for scenario-building. The other long-range plan updates that will be initiated in this financial year include the Līhu'e Development Plan and the Kōloa-Po'ipū-Kalāheo Development Plan.