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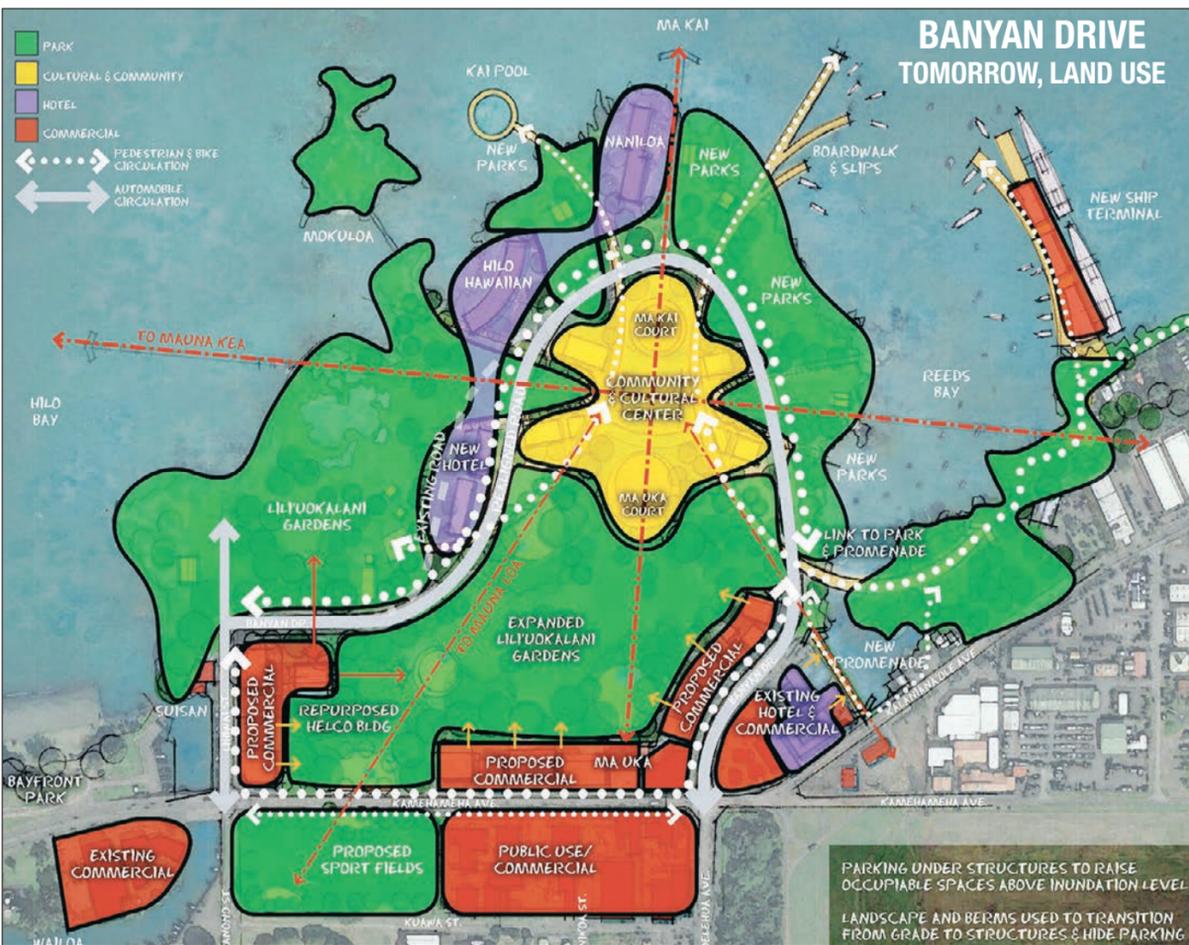


Thursday, June 23, 2016

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Banyan plan unfolds



Courtesy Hawaii County Planning Department

Redevelopment agency, county planners share vision for Waiakea Peninsula

By IVY ASHE
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

The lengthy process of revitalizing one of Hilo's most recognizable locations took another step forward Wednesday as members of the newly formed Banyan Drive Hawaii Redevelopment Agency

board met to review a draft conceptual plan for the area.

The plan, created by the Hawaii County Planning Department, is still in the early stages and subject to tweaking as the board and county planners receive more feedback from partner agencies, the public and Banyan Drive lessees and landowners.

"This, obviously, is a priority for our office," county Planning Director Duane Kanuha said Wednesday.

A redevelopment district for Banyan Drive was delineated earlier this year. The bulk of the district, which is bounded by the former Hilo Ironworks building on one end and commercial

properties at the intersection of Banyan and Kamehameha Avenue at the other, is the Waiakea Peninsula.

The state owns about 91 percent of the district. Redevelopment efforts will take place with the Department of Land and Natural Resources continuing as the landowner and lessor for these parcels.

The peninsula is Hilo's primary hotel area, something Kanuha is personally familiar with: He worked at the Naniloa Hotel in the early 1960s, when Hilo tourism was booming.

"During these peak years, that

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Mauna Kea: A century ahead

Project aims to collect public feedback about future of mountain

By TOM CALLIS
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

What does Mauna Kea mean to you?

Depending on who is asked, you are likely to hear a different answer.

To some, it's the sacred piko of Hawaii Island, a child born to Wakea and Papahānaumoku. To others, it's the gateway to the universe, a premier spot for studying the heavens and understanding its origins.

And even some might see it as a place for recreation and tourism.

How to accommodate these interests has been a source of ongoing tension and conflict, highlighted by the dispute about the proposed construction of the largest observatory yet on the mountain, the Thirty Meter Telescope.

With that in mind, the nonprofit group Friends of the Future is hoping to change the conversation, or at least make it more civil and productive, with a new initiative



MADDOX



SIMONS

See PROJECT Page A8

New technology speeds massive coral reef survey

Analyzing images now takes weeks, not years

By CALEB JONES
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Scientists using facial recognition technology and 360-degree underwater photos said Wednesday they have developed new software to quickly assess

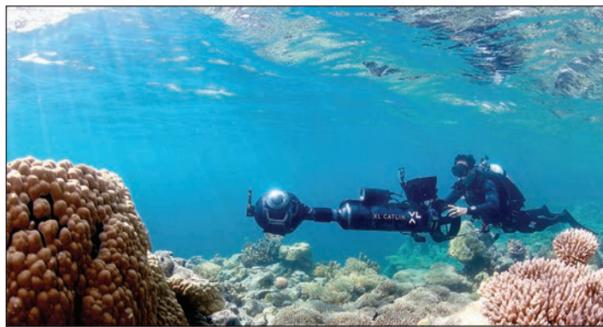
coral bleaching and other damage to the world's imperiled reefs.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials say the technology will provide an unmatched resource for assessing the growing problem.

Researchers at the

XL Catlin Global Reef Record told The Associated Press that creating the virtual reality scenes allows hundreds of thousands of images to be analyzed within weeks rather than years.

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A diver with the XL Catlin Seaview Survey photographs coral reefs in 2015 in Hawaii.

Associated Press

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LOCAL

Intermittent phone outages impact 911 calls

By JOHN BURNETT
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Hawaiian Telcom experienced a technical issue that intermittently impacted voice calls statewide Wednesday, including calls to 911.

During this time, some voice calls did not go through and callers may have heard a fast busy signal or an "all circuits are busy" message.

According to Hawaiian

Telcom spokeswoman Ann Nishida Fry, the trouble started at about 6 a.m. and lasted until about 2 p.m. The company issued a statement Wednesday morning saying the problem was fixed at about 9 a.m., but retracted that at 9:45 a.m., saying calls were still being "intermittently impacted."

At 3:40 p.m., Hawaiian Telcom issued another statement saying, "The cause was

determined to be a problem with call routing equipment, which allowed only some voice calls to complete. Hawaiian Telcom technicians are continuing to monitor the situation closely and plan to implement solutions to ensure this does not re-occur."

The Hawaii Police Department sent public alerts via email and text messages, as well, noting the intermittent communication problem.

"Persons in need of police assistance are advised that if they can't reach the Police Department by phone, they should report to the nearest police station or flag down a police officer," a 9:02 a.m. message said.

Police said 911 service was restored on Hawaii Island as of 2:30 p.m. Honolulu Police Department advised Oahu residents to limit 911 calls.

A department

spokeswoman said in the event of a failed 911 call, cell-phone users should send a text message including the type of emergency service needed (police, fire or emergency medical services), a brief description of the problem and the emergency location, and noted those sending texts needed to enable location services on their cellphones.

Email John Burnett at jburnett@hawaii-tribune-herald.com.



IVY ASHE/Tribune-Herald

Members of the Banyan Drive Hawaii Redevelopment Agency meet with Hawaii County Planning Department staff Wednesday to discuss a draft conceptual plan for the area.

BANYAN From the front page

area of Banyan Drive was happening," Kanuha said.

Since then, however, the peninsula has fallen into decline. According to a 2014 state lodging demand analysis, Hilo's hotels account for about 75 percent of the town's lodging capacity, but only 29 percent of visitor stays.

Earlier this year, the redevelopment district was declared "blighted" under Hawaii's urban renewal law.

The five-member board of directors was appointed in April, with attorney Brian De Lima as chairman and Realtor Mary Begier as vice-chairwoman. Elmer Gorospe, Hawaii division director for International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142, KTA Super Stores CEO Barry Taniguchi and Sig Zane, owner of Sig Zane Designs, round out the group.

County planners have been working on the draft plan for about six months, said planning program manager Daryn Arai.

The draft incorporates elements of several other planning documents used to create a master vision for Hilo, including the 1965 Kaikoo Amended Urban Renewal Plan, the most recent (2005) iteration of the Hawaii County general plan, and the 1975 Hilo Community Development Plan.

It also ties in to more recent

growth initiatives such as Hilo Bayfront Trails, the state commercial harbors master plan and the county's Kuawa Street sports development project.

Guidelines from each of the planning documents shape the features of the redevelopment draft. The state harbors master plan, for example, includes the construction of a new cruise ship terminal and pier by 2035. That in turn affects strategic placement of open space and new hotels on the Waiakea Peninsula.

Aligning the various development plans requires untangling a few knots, particularly in addressing residential properties. De Lima pointed out that according to the original plan for the area, "It was always envisioned that the accommodations on the peninsula would be short-stay."

"That's going to be an area that the (redevelopment) agency's going to have to deal with: residential use versus more transitive use," Kanuha said.

The current proposal features an expanded Liliuokalani Gardens and a marked increase in park space and commercial buildings.

It also calls for the construction of a community Hawaiian cultural center on the peninsula, envisioned as a future home for the Merrie Monarch Festival. Kanuha described the center as

"the one thing that would really pull all of this together."

Begier, who previously served on the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, said she broached the idea of having a hula center on Hawaii Island before with the foundation, and there would likely be off-island support for the endeavor.

The group also discussed the possibility of increasing the amount of timeshares in the hotel properties, as well as the idea of building condominiums as potential retirement communities.

Once complete, the Banyan Drive redevelopment document will serve as an update to the county general plan.

De Lima thanked the county planners for their work preparing the draft.

"I think this is a good start," he said.

Public informational meetings will take place at 4:30 p.m. June 28 and July 5 in the Aupuni Center conference room.

For more information, visit www.hawaii-county.com/boards-and-commissions and click Banyan Drive Redevelopment. Comments and suggestions also can be emailed to planning@hawaii-county.gov. Contact Daryn Arai at 961-8142 with any questions.

Email Ivy Ashe at iash@hawaii-tribune-herald.com.



Big Island Report

Citizens arrested and charged

Big Island police arrested and charged the following individuals:

- Jessielee Kaelelani Hirai, 41, of Hilo with contempt of court.
- Randy Douglas Blades, 49, of Holualoa with DUI.
- Daniel James Stuto, 31, of Kailua-Kona with violating park hours.
- Bryan Alvin Rivera, 53, of Keaau with failure to appear.
- Jackie Jean Williams, 53, of Ocean View with contempt of court.
- Kalei Young, 41, of Mountain View with contempt of court.
- Marcus Edward Gomes, 22, of Hilo with domestic abuse.
- George Dalton Gellepes, 60, of Pahoa with failure to appear.
- Paul Moses Abiley, 26, of Pahoa with failure to appear and two counts of contempt of court.
- Mark Anthony Lillie, 23, of Keaau with theft.
- Matthew Kaleonani Tailon, 24, of Naalehu with failure to appear.
- Isaiah K. Anderson-Belisario, 19, of Hilo with terroristic threatening and domestic abuse.
- Keith Ian McKay, 65, of Kailua-Kona with trespassing and public drinking.
- Vonda Rose Webb, 28, of Pahoa with contempt of court.
- Daniel Kaaikaua Kaina, 41, of Kailua-Kona with violating park hours.
- Bertchan Keli Kahumoku, 40, of Kailua-Kona with reckless endangering.
- Gary William Bee, 51, of Pahoa with violating terms of release.
- Nicky John Clucas, 54, of Kealahou with contempt of court.
- Steve Hyson Suk Kang, 30, of Hilo with contempt of court.
- Patrick A. Palacio, 40, of Hilo with failure to appear.
- Elizabeth Jane Gazzola, 20, of Kailua-Kona with failure to appear.
- Samuel Chidi Iwueke, 27, of Honokaa with violating probation.
- Clarence Keliinui Hatori, 38, of Pahoa with contempt of court.
- Aina Kealoha Cachero, 25, of Hilo with two probation violations.
- Joanna Lei Kawelo, 32, of Pahoa with contempt of court.
- Jason Koma Terlep, 46, of Kailua-Kona with two counts of contempt of court.
- Claude Vernon Carvalho, 31, of Pahoa with contempt of court and shoplifting.
- Chase Dane Clark, 25, of Prineville, Ore., with contempt of court.
- James Paul Enos, 24, of Hilo with two counts of contempt of court.

Contempt of court typically means failing to comply with a judge's order, such as paying a fine or appearing at a court proceeding. Failure to appear means not showing up in court on the date written on a traffic citation.

PROJECT From the front page

— EnVision Maunakea.

"It feels like everything is right and the time is right," Susan Maddox, executive team leader with the organization, told the Tribune-Herald.

Maddox will be in charge of the project that will set out to document residents' vision for the mountain as far out as 100 years through a series of meetings around the island.

The process is funded by the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy and several observatories that use Mauna Kea, but she told the Office of Mauna Kea Management Board on Wednesday that there is no pre-determined goal or angle, other than

listening to the public.

"I don't know where this is going to end, to tell you the truth," said Doug Simons, an OMKM board member, at the meeting in Hilo. "We feel strongly the conversation needs to happen."

Simons, director of the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and a member of the "working group" that came up with the idea for the initiative, said that's what the community needs to heal.

Maddox said others involved so far include Greg Chun, OMKM board member and former Kamehameha Schools vice president; Stephanie Nagata, OMKM director; and

Ka'iu Kimura, 'Imiloa Astronomy Center executive director.

She said those people helped start the conversation but the project will be directed by an aha kuka, a group of 12 to 15 people of various backgrounds and ages that will be selected later.

Asked by an OMKM board member about her own vision, Maddox said: "My personal vision is for it to remain a place that anchors the island." She added she has no preconceived ideas of what the mountain should look like in the future.

Maddox told the Tribune-Herald she wants to create an environment where everyone

feels comfortable expressing themselves so not just the loudest voices are heard.

"You tend to hear things you ordinarily do not hear," she said.

One person in the audience at the meeting asked where this effort was years ago when TMT was first looking to build on the mountain.

"I wasn't aware," said Davin Vicente, a former UH-Hilo student. "It's a little late, and now we're doing patchwork."

Simons and Chun said the process will be independent of the board, though the input could be used to update the Mauna Kea Comprehensive

Management Plan. Chun said it won't replace their own outreach efforts.

In a letter, UH-Hilo Chancellor Don Straney also said he would work to incorporate feedback from the project into planning for the university's new master lease for the summit. The existing lease, which allows 13 telescopes to use the mountain, expires in 2033.

"Maunakea is an important cultural, environmental, scientific, and recreational resource the future of which holds profound implications for the Native Hawaiian community, Hawaii Island community, university, state and the world,"

he said in the letter to Maddox and Chun.

Straney added the controversy regarding its future presents an opportunity for "careful consideration of diverse interests."

Maddox said she hopes to have the process finished in a year, but there is yet no timeline for when the work will get started.

There might be eight to 10 listening sessions around the island, she said.

"The process is really unfolding," Maddox said.

For more information, visit envisionmaunakea.org.

Email Tom Callis at tcallis@hawaii-tribune-herald.com.