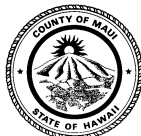


Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers  
K. Kauanoë Batangan  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 2, 2026

Ms. Carlotta Amerino, Director  
Office of Information Practices  
State of Hawai'i  
No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 South Hotel Street, Suite 107  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

*Via Email: [oip@hawaii.gov](mailto:oip@hawaii.gov)*

Dear Ms. Amerino:

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
PRACTICES' CONCURRENCE FOR A LIMITED  
MEETING** (ADEPT-1(11))

The Maui County Council's Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee anticipates posting an agenda for a limited meeting and site inspection on Kaho'olawe on February 12, 2026, provided OIP concurrence is obtained. The agenda will be posted on February 6, 2026.

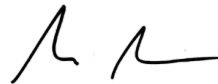
May I please request that you review and concur with the attached.

May I further request you transmit your response to [adept.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:adept.committee@mauicounty.us) by **February 4, 2026**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number, ADEPT-1(11), in the subject line.

Ms. Carlotta Amerino  
February 2, 2026  
Page 2

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Ellen McKinley at 808-270-7661, or Criselda Paranada at 808-270-7668).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabe Johnson', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

GABE JOHNSON, Chair  
Agriculture, Diversification,  
Environment, and Public  
Transportation Committee

adept:ltr:001(11)aoip01:ebm

Attachment

**REQUEST FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES'  
CONCURRENCE FOR A LIMITED MEETING**

**BOARD INFORMATION:**

**DATE:**

Name of Board:

Board Contact Person:

Date of Proposed Limited Meeting:

Phone:

Email:

Location of Proposed Limited Meeting:

Board Attorney:

Phone:

Email:

- 1. Type of Limited Meeting:** ☐ Location is dangerous to health or safety of the public; or  
☐ Public attendance is impracticable

**2. Board Determined By Two-Thirds Vote After Sufficient Public Deliberation at a Prior Regular Meeting:**

- ☐ Limited meeting is necessary, **and** the location poses a danger to the health or safety of the attending public; or  
☐ On-site inspection is necessary, **and** public attendance is impracticable

The Board based its determination on the following: *(attach the relevant portion of the minutes or cite to the relevant time stamps of recorded minutes)*

**3. Notice of the Limited Meeting** under HRS § 92-7 (attach agenda):  
*check one*

- ☐ was filed on date:  
☐ will be filed by date:

**4. Required Video Recording of the Meeting:** *check one*

- ☐ Will be made ☐ Board requests a waiver of the video requirement because:

**OFFICE USE OF OIP ONLY**

**CONCURRENCE**

The Director of the Office of Information Practices concurs with the request for a Limited Meeting and:

- ☐ does not waive the video recording requirement  
☐ waives the video recording requirement, with the following conditions:

If concurrence is granted above, the Board must:

1. Provide notice of the Limited Meeting in accordance with HRS § 92-7;
2. Refrain from making any decisions during the Limited Meeting;
3. Comply with all minute and record keeping requirements in HRS § 92-9; and
4. Video record the Limited Meeting and make that recording available at the next regular meeting, unless this requirement is fully waived above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlotta Amerino  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Exhibit 1

## **Basis 1: Limited meeting is necessary and dangerous to the health or safety of the attending public**

The meeting is necessary because:

- Kaho'olawe is an often-overlooked part of Maui County that all Councilmembers have a kuleana to understand and protect.
- The limited meeting presents a unique opportunity for Councilmembers to visit Kaho'olawe, which has important historical, environmental, and cultural significance to Maui County and is an instrumental site in reviving the Nāulu Cloud Bridge.
- Visiting the site in person will provide Councilmembers with a greater understanding of the restoration work being performed and the scope, value and necessity of additional work needed to revive the Nāulu Cloud Bridge and ultimately the much-needed rain it will help create.
- It takes visiting a place in person to develop pilina (relationship, connection) with that 'āina.

The location is considered dangerous to the health or safety of the attending public because:

- Boat transportation to the island may sometimes require swimming to shore.
- Unexploded ordnance are present on the island, presenting the potential for public injury and county liability.
- The island's environment is harsh, with little protection from the elements, and the island's facilities are basic and limited.
- Emergency services are not readily available if members of the public become injured, and public attendance requires an overnight stay.
- The Committee also has no way to evaluate public participants' physical fitness to participate in the excursion and cannot monitor all public participants' movements to ensure their safety.

# Exhibit 1

## **Basis 2: On-site inspection is necessary and dangerous to the health or safety of the attending public**

The onsite inspection is necessary because:

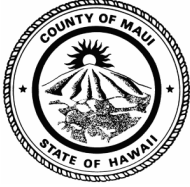
- Kaho'olawe is an often-overlooked part of Maui County that all Councilmembers have a kuleana to understand and protect.
- The limited meeting presents a unique opportunity for Councilmembers to visit Kaho'olawe, which has important historical, environmental, and cultural significance to Maui County and is an instrumental site in reviving the Nāulu Cloud Bridge.
- Visiting the site in person will provide Councilmembers with a greater understanding of the restoration work being performed and the scope, value and necessity of additional work required to revive the Nāulu Cloud Bridge and ultimately the rain it will create.
- It takes visiting a place in person to develop pilina (relationship, connection) with that 'āina.

Public attendance is impracticable because:

- There is the potential for ADA accessibility issues that cannot be accommodated.
- The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission requires each participant to sign a liability waiver and charges a fee for each participant.
- Boat transportation to the island may sometimes require swimming to shore.
- Unexploded ordnance are present on the island, presenting the potential for public injury and county liability.
- The island's environment is harsh, with little protection from the elements.
- The island's facilities are basic and limited.
- Emergency services are not readily available if members of the public become injured.
- Public attendance would require an overnight stay.

## Exhibit 1

- The Committee has no way to evaluate public participants' mental or physical fitness to participate in the excursion.
- The Committee cannot monitor all public participants' movements to ensure their safety.
- The Wi-Fi on Kaho'olawe is weak, and cell service is spotty, making a regular committee meeting impracticable.



# LIMITED MEETING NOTICE

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

[www.MauiCounty.us/ADEPT](http://www.MauiCounty.us/ADEPT)

Committee Chair  
Gabe Johnson

Committee Vice-Chair  
Shane M. Sinenci

Voting Members:  
K. Kauanoë Batangan  
Tom Cook  
Alice L. Lee  
Tamara Paltin  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Non-Voting Members:  
Keani N.W.  
Rawlins-Fernandez  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

## AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Thursday, February 12, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

### MEETING SITE:

Various restoration areas on the upland slopes of Kaho'olawe.

This is a limited meeting that is not open to the public and will be held in accordance with HRS § 92-3.1(a).

## **A G E N D A**

### **REVIVING THE NĀULU CLOUD BRIDGE (ADEPT-1(11))**

**Description:** Under Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee may hold a limited meeting and on-site inspection of Kaho'olawe that is not open to the public under Section 92-3.1(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and discuss reviving the Nāulu Cloud Bridge.

**Status:** The Committee may hold a limited meeting and site inspection of various restoration areas on the upland slopes of Kaho'olawe under Section 92-3.1(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, guided by Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Committee may discuss reviving the Nāulu Cloud Bridge, including restoration and reforestation plans to encourage rainfall from leeward Haleakalā to Kaho'olawe. The Committee may also discuss other related matters. No oral testimony or legislative action will be taken.

**MORE →**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office of Council Services, 200 South High Street, Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793  
Tel: (808) 270-7838

**COMMITTEE STAFF**

Ellen McKinley, Kasie Apo Takayama, Criselda Paranada, and Megan Moniz

**BOARD PACKETS**

Board Packets, as defined in Section 92-7.5, HRS, will be electronically posted as soon as practicable.

**LIMITED MEETING**

This meeting location is not open to the public and is being conducted in accordance with Section 92-3.1(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

**OFFICIAL LOCATIONS AND TESTIMONY**

Written testimony will be accepted via eComment. Search for the meeting date on [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas), click on the eComment link, then select the agenda item to submit comments on. Alternatively, written testimony will be accepted via email to [ADEPT.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:ADEPT.committee@mauicounty.us) or postal service to ADEPT Committee, Maui County Council, 200 South High Street, Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793.

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Agenda items are subject to cancellation.



## ADEPT Committee

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**From:** ADEPT Committee  
**Sent:** Monday, February 2, 2026 2:27 PM  
**To:** oip@hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** ADEPT Committee  
**Subject:** Request for the Office of Information Practices' Concurrence for a Limited Meeting (ADEPT-1(11))  
**Attachments:** 001(11)aoip01.pdf

**Ms. Carlotta Amerino:** Please refer to the attached letter from Maui County Council's Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee Chair Gabe Johnson, dated February 2, 2026.  
Please respond by February 4, 2026.