



Roads and Maintenance Annual Report - April, 2023

Please take the time to review the monthly Roads and Maintenance Reports uploaded after each of our BOD meetings. They can give you both scope and clarity as we tackle our number one asset...roads!

Orchidland is an older established community in Puna that has during its tenure developed its own style of growth. As every member is an actual owner each of you have a vote in how that growth – and development – is managed. Roads are a critical part of the life blood of the community. And, as you can probably attest, are the most open to both praise and criticism from members. No one likes driving into a pothole larger than a small car – or – having a complete under carriage removed by rocks hidden in a defined Right of Way. But these are regular occurrences that happen and one that we have taken very seriously. Orchidland can get at times biblical type rains. And while most of the membership act in accordance with normal community standards there are anomalies. There are large commercial trucks that traverse the community on a daily basis. There is speeding. Some members do not follow road signs. Illegal trash dumping, abandoned vehicles, entire properties ringed by spare tires, Right of Way infringement, and road destruction are also the norm.

As the Roads and Maintenance Chair I am provided with the lions share of the Orchidland budget to upgrade and maintain our roads. On top of this budget we have a separate Paving Fund to maintain and develop the main arterial roads. It is a challenging task but we have been blessed with some excellent contractors (See Approved Contractors List under Business). Every month our contractors are out resurfacing, filling pot holes, adding



rock, and grading. We operate on a plan that allows for every road in Orchidland to be fully serviced once per year – and again – when rain or other natural disturbances degrade the driving surface. Pot holes in specific high traffic areas are a constant problem. Not because our contractors are deficient, but rather because large commercial trucks, Hawaii County buses, commercial entities outside and within the community - primarily at the Orchidland Drive entrance – use roads we maintain without providing support of any kind. Your OLCA Association fees are the source of our work. The largest users are not paying anything and have not contributed for many years.

So, it's a challenging commitment to say the least. But we are getting better. Here are some of the most recent accomplishments that we are proud of:

1. Pohaku Drive pavement to 40th Avenue
2. Two complete cycles where we improved every road in Orchidland since 2022.
3. Paving beginning on Ilima Rd.
4. Right of Way mowing - grass and larger vegetation - throughout the community
5. Tackling illegal dumping and obstruction in Right of Way areas
6. Addressing dangerous intersection with visibility challenges

Orchidland's leadership is addressing issues that impact our roads. From ROW infringement and illegal dumping to speeders and abandoned vehicles...things are improving. Yet, due to recent heavy rains some roads remain a challenge. My goal is to use the expertise of our contractors and build up the roads so that they can sustain the weather. This at times forces us to use 2 ½ base course in our first application. The goal is to place smaller 1 ½ or ¾ minus rock over this "base" in order to create a better driving surface.

I work hard for the community...for you! Join me at the BOD meetings each month and give your input. We are a newer group of community leaders interested in your thoughts and guidance. Many thanks.

Road and Maintenance Chair