



A L O H A
from
Councilmember
Todd K. Apo

The month of February is expected to be a busy one at Honolulu Hale and for the City Council. Much of the Council's work will focus on approving a Minimum Operable Segment (MOS) for the fixed guide way transit system and exploring various amendments to the City's Real Property Tax structure.

Ordinance 007-001 adopted by the Council late last year, requires Council approval of the MOS route before the transit project can proceed. The proposed MOS is presented as the first phase of Oahu's long-term transit plans. Currently, the route comprises a 20 mile alignment between East Kapolei and Ala Moana. The MOS is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Council's Transportation Committee on February 8, 2007.

The Council's Budget Committee will also start real property tax discussions in February. Re-authorizing tax credits, expanding exemption benefits, re-vamping property classifications and increasing the circuit breaker; are just a few of the many legislative measures that the Council will deliberate

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Voters have two options for NCO Elections: go online or use traditional paper ballots

For this year's Neighborhood Board Elections, the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) hopes to increase voter turnout by offering two ways to vote: either online or with traditional paper ballots.



This "extra step" not only saves printing costs, but postage as well since total cost for postage and printing was well over \$150,000. This would also be environmentally prudent, saving approximately 2000 trees.

In early March, a postcard will be mailed with a personalized PIN number inviting the voter to go to the voting website OR call the NCO office to request a customized paper ballot. Calling in for your paper ballot saves the City from wasting paper. In the last election, 200,000 ballots were issued and less than 50,000 were returned.

If you choose to vote online, the website will have a practice section. A voter can go to the site at any time to practice prior to the actual voting period in late March. All candidate profiles will be posted on the NCO website. There will be a link on the voting website which will take the voter to the proper profiles for their specific NB and Sub-district. See page 3

Blessings for improved traffic flow through Kamokila Blvd.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAPOLEI PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

KAPOLEI, West Oahu, January 29 — Local legislators, community leaders and project officials bow their heads on a cloudy Monday morning as Kahu Kordell Kekoa blesses the ceremonial o'o, or digging sticks, which were used to signify the official groundbreaking of the Kamokila Boulevard Extension in Kapolei. The \$2 million project connects Kamokila Blvd. from Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt Avenue. In hardhats, L to R: State Representative Sharon Har; State Senator Mike Gabbard; Councilmember Nestor Garcia; Brad Myers, President of Kapolei Property Development; Mayor Mufi Hannemann; Councilmember Todd Apo; Martin Miller, Vice President of Delta Construction; Neighborhood Board Chair Maeda Timson, NB No. 34 Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale.



Honolulu City Council
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In January, the Council approved two items introduced by Councilmember Apo. The summary of actions for these adopted measures reports as follows:

Resolution 07-010, CD1: Introduced by Councilmember Todd K. Apo, adopted on 1/24/2007. This requires the Director of Environmental Services to consider proposals to ship municipal solid waste out-of-state as a solid waste disposal alternative for the City's waste. Councilmember Apo put forth this measure to ensure the City keeps all options "open" when contemplating waste management methods for Oahu.

Resolution 07-007: Introduced by Councilmember Todd K. Apo, adopted 1/24/2007. This resolu-

tion directs the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to process an amendment to Chapter 21, the Land Use Ordinance.

The proposed amendment seeks to add a Special District and related Conditional Use Permit for Affordable Housing Rental Projects. After review and processing by DPP, these changes will need additional Council approval before they become law.

For more information about Council legislation, visit:

www.toddapo.org or

<http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/HomePage>

Aloha message

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between February and June. As Budget Chair, I will also introduce two new pieces of legislation. The first will initiate an audit of the City's valuation method of property taxation. The second proposes for discussion a percentage based mode of tax collection for each property class. As much of our tax concerns are aggravated by soaring property values, both of these measures are aimed at securing an equitable approach to real property tax collection in the long-run.

In the weeks ahead, I will continue to keep you abreast of our progress in these areas through electronic updates, our quarterly newsletter and legislative columns. As always, your participation in the legislative process is an integral part of our work on the Council. Please feel free, at anytime, to share your thoughts with me via email at tapo@honolulu.gov or by phone at 547-7001.

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR FEBRUARY-MARCH

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Feb 21 9:00 am Weds

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Feb 13	10:00 am	Tues	Budget/Transportation
Feb 27	9:00 am	Tues	Zoning
Feb 27	1:00 pm	Tues	Public Health/Sfty
Feb 27	2:30 pm	Tues	Planning & Econ
Feb 28	9:00 am	Weds	Budget
Feb 28	1:00 pm	Weds	Executive Matters
Feb 28	2:30 pm	Weds	Intergov't Affairs
Mar 1	9:00 am	Tues	Public Wks/ Energy
Mar 1	1:00 pm	Tues	Transportation
Mar 1	2:30 pm	Tues	Affordable Housing

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Mar 14 9:00 am Weds

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mar 27	9:00 am	Tues	Zoning
Mar 27	1:00 pm	Tues	Public Health/Sfty
Mar 27	2:30 pm	Tues	Planning & Econ
Mar 28	9:00 am	Weds	Budget
Mar 28	1:00 pm	Weds	Executive Matters
Mar 28	2:30 pm	Weds	Intergov't Affairs
Mar 29	9:00 am	Tues	Public Wks/ Energy
Mar 29	1:00 pm	Tues	Transportation
Mar 29	2:30 pm	Tues	Affordable Housing

SAT FEB 17th Aloha Aina Earth Day #24

8 am to 2 pm

Kapolei HS Parking Lot, Fort Barrett Road

A Fundraiser for



RECYCLE YOUR TRASH ON SATURDAY FEB. 17th! Join our volunteers and recyclers to help clean our community and raise funds for Kapolei High School

Please load up your vehicles and bring to the Kapolei H.S. Parking Lot

- + scrap metal, appliances, pipes, beams, car parts, bicycles
- + newspaper, cardboard
- + beverage containers - HI-5
- + tires (passenger tires only/ 1 load per household)
- + green waste
- + car batteries
- + useable clothing and household items
- + cellular phones
- + printer cartridges
- + one computer per residential household (1 per car)

All items collected will be recycled and their cash value will
be donated back to the community.

NO FLUIDS OF ANY KIND - LOADS WILL BE REJECTED

Call Joann Abrazado – 282-6828 or Rene Mansho -306-1876 for curbside pick-up service.

Please call also if you can volunteer your time and/or a van/pick-up truck. Mahalo nui loa!

Mahalo to our Earth Day Partners:

*Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp.
Refrigerant Recycling, Inc.
Honolulu Recovery Systems
Unitek Solvent Systems
Hawaiian Earth Products
Interstate Battery Systems of Hawaii
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
Intrade Corp.
T & N Services
Grace Pacific Corporation
State of Hawaii
City and County of Honolulu*

NCO Elections

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If you choose to vote with the traditional ballot, all paper ballots will be “customized” to the specific voter, eliminating the possibility of mismatched ballots and profiles. Candidate profiles will be mailed with the customized paper ballots. Paper ballot returns will still be the 16th of April. Election results are scheduled to be

released on May 1st.

Here are some possibilities that the NCO is working on:

- Computers available at NCO offices in Honolulu Hale and Kapolei.
- NCO staff available during the voting period at Board meetings with laptops. If a voter brings their card, they can do a practice session with the staff and then vote

privately at the meeting site.

- NCO is looking in to using school service clubs for student support at retirement communities. Students can assist those unfamiliar with the online process.
- NCO is also planning to have computers at satellite City Halls for voting convenience.