



Councilmember Todd K. Apo

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City & County of Honolulu • City Council District 1
Ewa • Kapolei • Waianae Coast



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Aloha! Transit is on the November 4 ballot: City Council has ensured that a clear question will be on the General Election ballot in November. Earlier this month, the Hawaii Circuit affirmed that ten percent of registered voters or 45,525 signatures was necessary to place any petition question on this year's General Election ballot. Based on the certification of 35,065 signatures by the City Clerk, the Stop Rail Now petition failed. Therefore, the charter question posed by the City Council in Resolution 166 will appear on the November ballot. This ballot question will read:

"Shall the powers, duties, and functions of the city, through its director of transportation services, include establishment of a steel wheel on steel rail transit system?"

I believe both pro-rail and anti-rail supporters have agreed that this vote will be the final say on whether or not we move forward on this project. Given this, I hope that voters will take the time to prepare themselves and learn about the pros and cons of the project before the November election.

Transit and roadway safety were the headlining topics at the 'Ewa Community Meeting hosted by Senator Will Espero and myself on August 26. It was encouraging to have many residents in attendance, with both good questions as well as solutions about how the community can address the on-going speeding issue along Kapolei Parkway. Discussion on solutions included stronger enforcement of speed limits and traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps and road design. At the August Council meeting, the Council adopted Resolution 08-148, CD1, which requests the city re-start and/or implement policies and procedures for its Traffic Engineering and Calming Program. However, there is no magic bullet to this issue. We can install speed bumps, speed limits, stop signs, etc., but if these are not obeyed, the problem will continue. Ultimately, a conscious effort by all drivers will help to make all of our roads safer.

On August 20, in an effort to further clean up our beach parks, Council adopted Bill 42 (2008), CD1, which provided a legal definition for camping. This bill is meant to help make our parks more usable for all by keeping unpermitted users out of the parks during certain times. The new law will be a tool in the city's continued efforts with the homeless and allows continued access to the shoreline for fishermen and other beach users. Nothing from a city standpoint prevents you from fishing at any time.

Over the summer, the Council's Affordable Housing Committee endured lengthy discussion about the future of the city's role in providing affordable housing. Perspectives on the issue were provided by three key elements of the Mayor's Affordable Housing Advisory Group: developers, non-profit, and the city's administration. While the Mayor's group continues to work toward the completion of its comprehensive housing strategy, all parties agree that the need for more housing is pressing, as is maintaining affordability in perpetuity. The Council's desire to keep city housing developments as affordable units in perpetuity was expressed in Resolution 08-108, CD1 and adopted by the Council in June. This resolution establishes an affordability policy for prospective developers/owners/managers of the city's affordable housing projects. It aims to ensure that the sale and management of the city's twelve affordable housing projects will remain available, in perpetuity, for those who are in need of and qualify for housing assistance.

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Committee Week

September 2 - 4

Full Council

September 24
10 am

Committee Week

September 30 – Oct 2

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Aloha 'Aina Earth Day
Saturday, September 13
8 am to 2 pm**

Nanakuli Intermediate &
HS Parking Lot
89-980 Nanakuli Avenue

Bring in your recyclables! Your efforts will help the environment and raise money for Nanakuli Intermediate and High Schools. For more info, call Rep. Awana at 586-8465 or Rene Mansho at 306-1876.

RECYCLABLES INCLUDE: scrap metal, auto parts, bicycles, metal appliances, lawn mowers, pipes, beams, automobiles, newspaper, cardboard, beverage containers (HI5), old tires-passenger tires only (4 tires per car/household), green waste, all kinds of batteries, re-usable household items, clothing, etc. for Goodwill Industries, cellular phones, printer cartridges, computers (one per car), cooking oil, telephone books, magazines, used eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Three proposed district developments also present an opportunity to relieve some of the island's housing crunch and infrastructure needs. Key highlights of these zoning conditions and unilateral agreements for the Kapolei Harborside Project (Bill 46), Makaiwa Hills (Bill 47) and Kapolei West (Bill 48) projects include new language that: 1) requires affordable rental units be made available; 2) identifies that solar water heating systems will be installed in single family homes within the Makaiwa Hills project as part of the urban design plan; 3) allows the affordable housing credits to help keep the Kunia Plantation Village; and 4) includes the development of necessary on-site non-potable water system improvements so that non-potable water can be used where potable water is not required. The agreements also require the completion of traffic studies and agreements with the transportation department.

Several hundred people came out in support of the 25th Annual National Night Out on August 8. This event provided an opportunity for citizens to unite and take a stand against crime and drugs in their community. Neighborhood Security Watch/Citizen's Patrol Teams from the Leeward Coast to 'Ewa Beach participated in two short walks through the 'Ewa community. Volunteers then enjoyed a beef stew and rice dinner followed by a short program to recognize the teams. The event was sponsored by Target and hosted by the 'Ewa Weed and Seed project in partnership with the Hale Pono 'Ewa Beach Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i. The Honolulu Police Department was also on hand to assist with additional training and support. Mahalo to organizers Gale Bracerros, Frances Rivero, and the countless citizen patrol volunteers who helped to make this a successful event.

Again, I always welcome your questions and concerns. You can call my office at 768-5001, or email me at tapo@honolulu.gov. To read updates on the web or receive a monthly electronic newsletter, please visit my city website at www.toddapo.org. Additionally, you may watch "Westside Solutions" on 'Olelo Channel 54, every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Mahalo!

Aloha,



TODD K. APO
Councilmember, District 1