



Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights No. 5 NEWSLETTER



Annual Issue

Spring 2007

c/o Neighborhood Commission Office • 530 South King Street, Room 400 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Editor: Barbara Miller

Highlights of the Board's 2006-07 activities

by Karen Ah Mai , Chair



For St. Louis Heights, in the renovation of UH's Frear Hall, adding 820 beds with no provision for parking was vociferously opposed by the St. Louis reps for its impact on the surrounding neighborhood. They were heard. UH's planned expansion for the Kennedy Theater now includes 350 on-campus spaces for the use of students in the evening. In Kapahulu, traffic and parking were always at the forefront. The Board has been adamant in its support for parking and a community center at the old Health Center site at 548 Kapahulu Avenue. Parking is critical to the future of Kapahulu – the need is great and public use of public property should take precedence over the State's proposal for income-generating commercial use. A big bonus for our district, confirmed at the Safeway groundbreaking, is a room within the complex dedicated to the community for citizen meetings. In Diamond Head, the attention was forced by the area reps for the re-opening of Paki Hale, pedestrian safety on Leahi Ave., damage to cars from the extended Campbell Avenue project, and the repair of the seawall near the end of Coconut Avenue.

Mahalo to all of the Board members for their efforts to improve conditions in the community, not only at Board meetings, but also for the many unheralded hours behind the scenes making sure that the City Council, the Legislature, and the governmental agencies are aware your concerns. Mahalo to you, the residents, for bringing up the issues that make the community better.

Subdistrict 1. Looking at the Future of our Neighborhood Boards

by Rt. Rev. Wayne Gau, SD1 Vice Chair

Much time and effort has been expended as criticism of the way neighborhood boards have operated: disorderly meetings, in-fighting between board members, an absence of community participation, unclear goals, etc. Surprisingly, the best thing that has happened for the neighborhood board system is the release of the City Auditor's analysis of the neighborhood board system. Board members should avail themselves of the findings. Locate it at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>.

While the Auditor's report repeats many of the shortcomings commonly heard about the operation of neighborhood boards, it goes a step further and shows that the problems start at the top with a Neighborhood Plan long overdue for a revision. The current Neighborhood Plan fails to offer a clear chain of command or define the division of responsibilities between the Neighborhood Commission itself and the Neighborhood Commission Office (which employs the logistical staff that supports the operation of neighborhood boards). The Auditor's report goes on to cite unclear divisions of labor, a lack of measurable goals, an absence of a mechanism for evaluating performance, and insufficient training for board members. These problems then trickle down to the neighborhood boards themselves.

The newly Revised Neighborhood Plan draft, that is due to be discussed at public hearings and considered for ratification by the Neighborhood Commission, deserves a full study and attention by the members of all neighborhood boards and the general public. The basic issue at hand is not so much the future of the neighborhood boards system but whether it accomplishes what it was designed to do. Put in more practical terms, the electorate needs to do its part in monitoring how their board members perform on their behalf.

Subdistrict 1 – St. Louis Heights. Karen Ah Mai (June 1997 to May 2007),
Sharon Dumas (June 2005 to May 2007), Rt. Rev. Wayne Gau (June 1987 to May 2007),
Barbara Miller (June 1999 to present), Bert Narita (February 2004 to present).

Subdistrict 2. Kapahulu is Changing

by Bertha Nahoopii, SD 2 Vice Chair



1. Prudential Locations Real Estate are the new owners of the Hawaiian Dredging Building. Do you miss the “stick man moving a rock” statue?
2. Safeway and small shops are under construction and are replacing the old Love’s Bakery. The CityBus will be able to pull into a small area designed for loading/off loading passenger which will help traffic.
3. Dr. Susan Lawler, M.D. has opened a full service medical clinic which was formally K.C. Drive-in.
4. Improving/upgrading/renovation. Many new homeowners are moving into Kapahulu. Look around at Paliuli, Mokihana, and many more streets.
5. **NB 5 issues.** Undecided use of Health Department site. Neighborhood Board voted to support a parking lot and a Community Center. Strong public testimony statements have been declared by the Chair Karen Ah Mai and several SD2 Board members (Ken Chang, Joe Otto and George Waialeale). The State wants the best usage with income.

Subdistrict 2 – Kapahulu. Ken Chang (June 1981 to present), Rick Egged (June 2005 to present), Russell Fukuhara (June 2003 to Nov 2005), Bertha Nahoopii (Sept 1977 to present), Joe Otto (June 2005 to present), George Waialeale (Nov 2005 to present).

Subdistrict 3. Diamond Head Update

by Roxie Berlin, SD3 Vice Chair and Linda Wong



Capital Improvement Funds. Leahi Avenue was re-paved from Kapahulu to Noela Drive.

Paki Hale. Three month project becomes 3 year restoration of historic Winstedt House. Mayor Mufi and several Board members attended "Open House." Now many community meetings are being scheduled.

Parades. City Council passed a Resolution for fewer parades starting/ending at Kapi`olani Park.

Natatorium: Yet another study has been commissioned. According to Ann Kobayashi’s office, the City will pay \$150,000 and the Army Corps of Engineers will pay \$150,000. The Natatorium will continue to be our concern.

On-Line voting. The Neighborhood Commission wants to save postage by using ‘on-line voting.’ After this year’s trial, we will be interested to know how much money was saved. For reliability, it has been well established that a ‘paper trail’ is needed.

Zoo. If a new entrance is built for the Honolulu Zoo, we support a Hawaiian design.

Subdistrict 3 – Diamond Head. Roxie Berlin (June 2001 to present), Jay Hardin (June 2005 to present), Michelle Matson (June 1991 to present), Don Persons (May 2005 to present), Linda Wong (October 1999 to present).

Treasurer's Response to City Audit

by Bert Narita, Treasurer



A recently completed city audit revealed that some neighborhood boards over spent their allotted budgets. Neighborhood Board No. 5 was identified as one whom exceeded their allocations, as follows:

	FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05
<u>Operating Fund - Amount Over Budget</u>	\$120.38	\$96.54	\$0.00
<u>Publicity Fund - Amount Over Budget</u>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$154.30
<u>Refreshment Fund - Amount Over Budget</u>	\$9.15	\$0.00	\$0.00

Our neighborhood board continues its conservative spending policy in FY 2004-05. The publication of our newsletter is probably what accounted for the amount spent over budget. However, our monthly records have indicated that we did not exceed the annual cumulative funds allotted to our board, and our board chair, Karen Ah Mai continues to review expenditures in advance.

Neighborhood Board No. 5 will continue to monitor our funds expenditures and further, **we will continue to question the creative accounting practices that might be contributing to city auditor's findings.**

Recording Secretary's Report

by Barbara Miller, Newsletter Editor



- I. **On-line.** Visit: [http:// www.honolulu.gov/nco](http://www.honolulu.gov/nco) for Neighborhood Board information.
E-mail: nco@honolulu.gov
- II. **Phone 527-5749** Honolulu Hale Neighborhood Commission staff with your additional questions/answers.
- III. **NB 5 Board celebrates 30 years in September 2007.** We especially appreciate the longest serving Board members. Bertha Nahoopii (30 years), Ken Chang (26 years), Art Ross (18 years), Michelle Matson (16 years), Rt. Rev. Wayne Gau (12 years) and Karen Ah Mai (10 years).

NCO Website

by Dean Chu, Neighborhood Assistant

The NCO website has many useful features. Copies of agendas and minutes from 2002-present can be found there, as well as an option to sign up to receive future agendas and minutes by e-mail! The website also has boundary maps and street indexes to help you determine exactly what Board and Subdistrict you live in. Contact information for every Board member, the Revised Neighborhood Plan (and draft of proposed Plan), and several other useful resources and links can be found at the site. So next time your online, surf on by www.honolulu.gov/nco!

NB #5 Newsletter

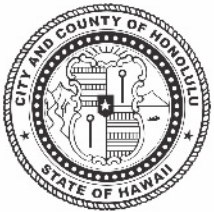
If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the **Newsletter editor by phone at 735-5868.**



Karen Ah Mai, Chair and Bertha Nahoopii, SD2 Vice Chair are pictured above.

ALOHA and MAHALO to departing NB 5 members:

Rt. Rev. Wayne Gau (12 years), Karen Ah Mai (10 years), Sharon Dumas (2 years).
May 10, 2007. Thursday evening. Refreshment set-up at 6:30 p.m.
2nd floor Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse, 404 Kapahulu Avenue.



**DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5**
C/O NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
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