



COUNCILMEMBER IKAIKA ANDERSON DISTRICT 3 UPDATE AUGUST 2014

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CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Aug. 26

Public Safety	9 am
Parks	10 ³⁰ am
Executive Matters	1pm

Wednesday, Aug. 27

Budget	9am
Public Works	1pm

Thursday, Aug. 28

Zoning and Planning	9 am
Transportation	1 pm
IGA	2:30p

District 3 Staff

Paulyne Anakalea

Executive Secretary

Gail Myers Senior Advisor

Andrew Malahoff

Senior Legislative Aide

Francisco Figueiredo

Communications

Don Aweau

Community Affairs

Aloha,

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN WAIMANALO BAY

Late last month a community meeting was held at Waimanalo Elementary School to discuss on-going concerns with the recent increase in commercial activity in and around Waimanalo Bay.

Myself, along with City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) director Michele Nekota, and other representatives met with the community to hear their suggestions on ways to address this growing issue.

The general consensus was that for-profit activities should be prohibited within the beach parks and the beach right-of-ways with exceptions for certain community events and non-profit activities; similar to the bans enacted for the parks around Kailua Bay.

My office is presently drafting legislation, based on this initial meeting, and will be introducing it shortly. Once the legislation has been drafted and introduced it is my intent to bring it back to the community for further discussion as this is a proposal which should—and will—intimately involve the community as it moves through the legislative process.

“Residential A” Property Tax Classification

Since the City began sending out its first round of 2015 Real Property Tax bills, my office has received a substantial number of phone calls and emails regarding the recently established “Residential A” property tax classification; a classification intended to separate high-value, non-owner-occupied homes from owner-occupied properties.

When the Caldwell administration originally proposed an investor classification I expressed concerns not with the underlying concept but, rather, with how it would be implemented and the potential for properties occupied by their owners to get inadvertently caught up in this classification. You may recall that several years back the Hannemann administration proposed and the Council created a similar classification – “non-homeowner”. But we experienced much of the same problems with that structure as we are experiencing now: homeowners being classified as “non-homeowner”. The solution, back then, was for the Council to create a compromise resolution which allowed for homeowners who had not filed for their homeowner’s exemption to file within a set timeframe and have their tax liability adjusted to the “homeowner” rate. Any overpayments made were then credited towards their next tax payment. The solution was relatively simple but, in my opinion, the whole situation was completely avoidable. *(continued)*

With this in mind I did oppose the creation of the new “Residential A” classification. Nonetheless, the classification was created and today we find ourselves in a situation very similar to that which occurred several years ago.

I did have an opportunity to speak with Budget Committee Chairwoman Ann Kobayashi last month and she agreed that the best solution is to go the route of a compromise for those owner-occupants whose property is currently classified as “Residential A” solely due to the absence of a homeowner’s exemption. The basic concept of this compromise resolution is very simple: owner-occupants who missed filing their exemption will be given an opportunity to file their exemption and have their tax liability reduced to that of the “Residential” classification with any overpayments being applied forward to their next tax bill. Resolution 14-179, which was introduced by Council Chair Ernie Martin, is the vehicle for this compromise and will be heard by the Budget Committee later this month. It is my hope that, once the Council approves such a compromise, the Caldwell administration will work quickly with eligible homeowners to correct this oversight.

In the meantime, we would strongly encourage those eligible homeowners to file for their homeowner’s exemption and make their August tax payment.

AGRICULTURAL DEDICATION FORMS

The City & County’s annual report for agricultural dedication must be filed by **September 1st** of each year. Please fill out your dedication forms. If you fail to do so, you may lose your deduction and will be required to pay regular agricultural rates. We know that some members sent in the annual report but neglected to check on when their dedication expired which delayed their dedication being approved.

Unfortunately, you cannot file on line. You need to fill it in, print and mail to the City.

<http://www.realpropertyhonolulu.com/content/rpadcms/documents/Dedication/rpp41a.pdf>

**Real Property Assessment Division
842 Bethel Street, Basement
Honolulu, HI 96813**

You can also fill out the **dedication petition** on line at: http://www1.honolulu.gov/forms_all/bfs-rpp41.pdf

Please feel free to contact my office with any issues you might have. My staff and I are always willing to assist you.

Malama Pono,

Ikaika

ROAD RE-PAVING UPDATES

Very frequently, we receive calls from our constituents inquiring about the status of a road re-paving project. Earlier this year the City setup an online database that provides a listing of both current and future road repaving projects. As this list is maintained on a regular basis it is an excellent resource for anyone interested in road repaving projects anywhere on the island.

You can visit this index at: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/ddc/roadrepavingupdate.htm> It is also important to remember that when the City issues a contract for an area to be repaved, the contractor has the discretion to determine the order in which roads—within the scope of their contract—will be paved. If you should have any questions regarding road repaving projects please do not hesitate to contact my office!