



## HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2007 HAAHIONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Muraoka at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dolores Elms-Beattie, Greg Knudsen, Elizabeth Reilly, Robert Clark, Marian Grey, Mary Houghton, Lester Muraoka, Jeanette Hanson, Anthony Paresa, Donald Huff, John Steinmiller, Wayne Levy.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Halverson, David Livingston.

**MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT:** One seat in sub-district 4.

**GUESTS:** Hal Barnes (Mayor's Office), Murray Luther (Hawaii Kai Booster), S. Eweller (Farmer); Capt. Thomas (HFD-Hawaii Kai Station), Sgt. M. Asato, Acting Major R. Green, Acting Lt. H. Ishida, St. G. Maekawa, Officer J. Henderson (HPD), Randy Leong ([honolulutraffic.com](http://honolulutraffic.com)), Maureen Muraoka, Stephen Trussel, Richard Hawkins, Terry Falls, Tony Campagna, Gayle Carr, Bruce Schneider (Moana Kai AOA), Linda Tangren (Kalele Kai), Steven Geshell, Lorne Heller (Board of Water Supply), Christa Gelich, Aaron Dung, Lori Tanabe, Suzanne Roig (Honolulu Advertiser), Linda Levin, Senator Sam Slom, Natalie Iwasa, Charles Lileikis, Mike Klein (HICDA), Pam Kam (Representative Gene Ward's Office), R. Stepulis, Ramsey Taum, Peter R., Francisco Figueirido (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Kevin McCoy, M. Klimenko, Derek Ahlo, C. Matsumoto, Marianna Llimenko, Frank Giacomo (Animal Care Foundation), Michael Bass, Michele Nagamine, Representative Lyla Berg, Jessica Grant (Senator Fred Hemmings' Office), Bob Farrell ([makakilo.com](http://makakilo.com)), Russ Saito (Governor's Office), Todd Shelly, Michelle Matson, Gary Weller, Bruce Chapman, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**FILLING OF VACANCY, SUB-DISTRICT 4, HAAHIONE HIGH RISE, ONE SEAT – Reilly nominated Ramsey Taum to fill the vacancy.** There were no other nominations. Discussion followed where it was noted that since Taum was not present at this time so Board members could ask meet the candidate and ask questions, this matter be deferred to the next meeting. A vote was taken with the following results: **Yea:** Reilly, Grey, Levy. **Nay:** Huff, Knudsen, Hanson. **Abstain:** Elms-Beatty, Clark, Houghton, Muraoka, Paresa, Steinmiller. **Taum was not elected, failing to receive a majority of eight votes.**

**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 30, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – The following corrections were made:

Page 3, under Hale Alii Project, it should read "...at its September 2004 meeting, but the minutes are not as complete as they should be. It is incumbent upon each of the Board members to make sure the minutes contain all important statements made during presentations, that revised minutes be posted..."

Page 3, under ADA Ramps, it should read "...contact her. Requests for ramps can only be made by handicapped persons."

Page 5, top of the page, item number 1 should read "...playcourt reconstruction at Kamiloiki Park,..."

Page 5, under Councilmember Charles Djou, Questions, answers and comments, item number 1 should read "...In response to Grey, Councilmember Djou..."

Page 8, item number 1, should read "...Grey noted the problem with..."

The minutes were approved as corrected.



**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hanson reported for the month of January 2007, the Operating/Publicity Account incurred expenses totaling \$254.24 for minutes and agendas, and video taping services, leaving a balance of \$2251.69. The report was accepted subject to audit.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** No report.

**STATUS REPORTS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Thomas, from the Hawaii Kai Station, reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 74 medical emergencies, 7 search and rescues, 20 miscellaneous calls. There were no major or unusual calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: Every home should have a working smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned six - twelve inches below the ceiling and away from air vents.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Capt. Thomas had no details were available about the recovery of a woman's body off of Makapu'u earlier this month, they responded to this matter as a missing persons case, and noted HPD may have more details. Knudsen noted the woman was a teacher at Kamilo Iki School.

Capt. Thomas was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Sgt. Ishida reported a written report with last month's statistics was distributed. The report also includes information on identifying illegal drug activity.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Elms-Beattie, if you suspect there is a drug house in your area, call 911 to report it to regular patrol officers. Acting Major Green noted that a Narcotics/Vice Division investigation can take a long time as an undercover investigation must be conducted, and touched on various methods used in such investigations.
2. The two deaths of persons whose bodies were found off Makapu'u were initially investigated as missing persons cases and may be possible suicides.
3. In response to Steinmiller, some drug houses were found in District 7 – Punahou to Makapu'u area, it is believed no drug houses are being investigated in the Hawaii Kai area at this time.
4. In response to Elms-Beattie, there has been no recent search and rescue operation off of the Diamond Head area.
5. Paresa expressed thanks for speeding enforcement measures on Lunalilo Home Road and Kalaniana'ole Highway. It was noted work is being done on pedestrian education to improve safety.

Sgt. Asato, Acting Major R. Green, Acting Lt. Ishida, Sgt. Maekawa, and Officer Henderson were thanked for attending the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – Lorna Heller, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. In response to a question from last month, there was one water main break on January 6, at 249 Keahole Street, of a 12-inch main.
2. Dean Nakano is the new Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply.

3. The 2007 Water Conservation Poster Contest for school students grades K-6 is in progress. Entries must be received by March 13. Winners receive U.S. Savings Bonds and have their posters printed in the Board of Water Supply calendar.
4. Water Saving Tip: Repair your dripping faucet. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year!
5. Regarding the low water pressure problem in Kalama Valley, plans to address the problem by building a new reservoir had to be dropped as soil conditions were unsuitable. New plans include a new pipeline on Mokuhano Street.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Knudsen expressed frustration at how long it is being taken to resolve the low water pressure problem. Heller noted many projects are planned island wide and have to be individually evaluated and prioritized.
2. Reilly questioned the ranking of a current project in Mariner's Cove, it seemed to her that other projects could have been ranked higher. Heller noted many factors determine a project's ranking. Reilly also noted that only some areas were marked where work is to occur and not all area residents were notified about the project.
3. Chair Muraoka requested additional information on how projects are ranked.

Heller was thanked for attending the meeting.

#### **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**KA IWI RESOLUTIONS** – Reilly noted the City Council resolutions relating to resort development have passed the Planning Commission and will be submitted to the Mayor.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PARKS AND RECREATION** – Houghton reported the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, Koko Head District Park, 6:30 p.m. The Department of Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Dana Takahara-Dias will make a presentation on projects currently in progress, upcoming projects to be done, and future planned projects such as the swimming pool and jogging paths in Koko Head District Park. Chair Muraoka encouraged interested persons to attend.

**OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (OMPO)** – Huff reported at the last OMPO meeting he raised concerns about the bicycle lane markings on Kalaniana'ole Highway between Kuliouou and West Hind Drive being in poor condition and create a safety hazard particularly at night.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY** – Steinmiller reported he has been unsuccessful in arranging a meeting with area residents of the sewage treatment plant concerned about odor problems and the plant's operators, and that the residents may be working individually with the State Department of Health. He noted Representative Berg toured a plant on the Mainland which did not create an odor problem and was interested in using that plant's technology at the Hawaii Kai plant.

There were no other committee reports.

#### **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Notice has been received from the Neighborhood Commission Office that former Executive Secretary Ben Kama has died. A moment of silence was observed at this time.

2. Material on queries and commends received by the Department of Planning and Permitting on the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities has been received.

**PUBLIC GENERATED ISSUES:**

**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT** – Weller reported he has periodically seen a blinking red light at the plant and wondered about its purpose.

**TRASH COLLECTION** – Lileikis expressed concern about trash build up in the area. Houghton noted community stream clean up projects have been done in the past. Additional discussion followed on bulky trash collection procedures, including putting items out only the day before the scheduled collection, and that there is a several day period during which items may be collected. Items put out other than for the scheduled collection day is illegal and violators can be cited.

**FERAL CHICKEN PROBLEM** – Chapman reported the problem with feral chicken problem in the park-and-ride lot area continues despite the efforts by a contractor who trapped approximately 100 chickens. Grey and Elms-Beattie reported they spoke with the contractor who said part of the problem is the chickens are feeding on food left by cat caretakers in a wide spread area and heavy vegetation providing hiding places, and traps cannot be left unattended for any length of time as they are stolen. A guest reported the Costco project contractor's storage yard disturbed the chickens causing them to spread to other surrounding areas and believes that the chickens will return once the project is completed. He noted that the dog park project may cause the same problem. Houghton and a guest questioned what is happening to the chickens trapped by the contractor. It is believed that the Gamebreeders Association was trapping and killing the chickens, it is unknown what the current contractor is doing. Barnes, representing the Mayor's Office, will follow up.

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS** – Iwasa requested making corrected versions of minutes available on-line, attaching all materials distributed at meetings to minutes, and using full names of speakers such as in cases of multiple guests with the same last name. The Neighborhood Assistant provided answers to Iwasa's requests.

**KAMILO IKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECYCLING BIN** – Iwasa suggested the bin be reconfigured to accommodate more cardboard, and less aluminum and plastic containers which are being recycled for money. On a recent trip to the recycling bin, the cardboard section was full and the overflow was left next to the bin only to be scattered by the wind. She also supported the Mayor's proposal for curbside recycling and paying for a second trash collection a week. She also suggested Goodwill Industries-type donation boxes be located with recycling bins.

**HALE ALII PROJECT** – Klein provided Chair Muraoka with video tapes of presentations he made on this project where the project was clearly described, and copies of correspondence with the City Department of Planning and Permitting regarding area residents' concerns about the project. He noted that he is working on making a presentation at the next Board meeting on this project.

**STORM DRAIN PIPE** – Carr reported work is being done to repair a storm drain pipe that fell into the marina. She had no details on the project.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS:**

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Hal Barnes, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Administration's budget for the next fiscal year will be released tomorrow.
2. The contract for the left-turn signal project on Keahole Street at the Safeway store was awarded.
3. The Mayor's State of the City Address is available on the City's web site, [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov).
4. There will be community meetings to discuss the Mayor's proposal for curbside recycling.

5. Regarding a question from last month's meeting, the traffic light synchronization on Kalaniana'ole Highway was rechecked by the City Department of Transportation Services, and the lights are synchronization is set for 35 miles per hour.
6. Regarding a question from last month's meeting about parking at City Hall to submit testimony at public hearings, work is being done to improve the current system and address concerns about time on parking meters running out and possibly losing one's place in line when having to put more money into the meters.
7. No answer was available at this time regarding an update on citations issued for illegal grading in Kamilonui Valley.
8. Regarding the feral chicken problem at the park-and-ride lot, the City has contracted Hawaii Bird Control and Netting to catch the chickens.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. A guest expressed opposition to the rail system, and suggested that if it is built, that it be properly designed. Barnes noted that the system will eventually go to the airport, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Hickam and Pearl Harbor, and that the Environmental Impact Statement will include both proposed routes.
2. Paresa took issue with the Mayor's speech where he said "free trash collection" noting that it is paid for by tax payers. Barnes encouraged interested persons to attend the community meetings on the curbside recycling program.
3. Iwasa questioned when all the ADA ramps at Lunalilo Home Road and Wailua Street will be completed. Barnes will follow up.
4. Weller questioned, and Barnes stated that it is typical that a street is resurfaced, rather than just patched, when a water main project is completed such as in the Mariner's Cove area.
5. Geshell inquired as to the cost per capita for the rail system. Barnes will follow up.
6. Barnes reported that the Lunalilo Home Road median modification project was completed ahead of schedule.
7. Items left out for bulky item trash collection should be put out the day before the scheduled collection. It is illegal to put out items at other times. Doing so is considered dumping and the Department of Planning and Permitting can issue a citation. Discussion followed where it was noted people moving out are often responsible for dumping and it is impossible to cite them.

Barnes was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Francisco Figueirido, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Earlier today the Council selected the transit route.
2. The contract for the left-turn signal project on Keahole Street at the Safeway store was awarded.
3. Regarding the feral chicken problem, contractors did do some trapping last August and again this month.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Reilly requested an update on the status of the Sandy Beach cleanup.

2. Chair Muraoka expressed thanks for work done on the feral chicken problem.

Figueirido was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR SAM SLOM** – Senator Slom distributed his monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The session is one-third complete and the only legislation passed so far was to allocate funds, including legislators' pay raises, staff pay, etc., to operate the legislature.
2. A tax refund will probably be one of the last matters decided.
3. Coqui frogs have been found in Hawaii Kai.
4. Next Tuesday is crossover deadline for bills, all bills still alive must be posted. The last day of the session is May 3.
5. A bill relating to drug testing for legislators has been amended to include teachers.
6. There is a bill to lower the age requirement for someone to run for Governor from 30 to 21.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Huff, Senator Slom noted he is aware of a recent newspaper article about the impacts of global warming and flooding of Waikiki.
2. Work is being done on legislation to address various nuisance problems. Matson requested attention on problems with aircraft noise.

Senator Slom was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR FRED HEMMINGS** – Jessica Grant, from Senator Hemmings' Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added that Senator Hemmings supports an audit of the Department of Education.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Senator Hemmings is looking into residents' concerns about the dumping of material from the marina dredging project on Rim Island No. 2. Clark reported that there will be a meeting with the Marina Association on this matter to clarify this matter.

Grant was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WARD** - Pam Kam, from Representative Ward's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. There was a Maunalua Bay Walk About on February 24 as a result of the February 2 town hall meeting on Maunalua Bay. Plans are being made for needed improvements to its facilities.
2. He supports the Hale Alii project as proposed, but if there are no requirements that the project be developed as proposed, he opposes it.
3. The town hall meeting on creating a second right-turn lane from Lunalilo Home Road to Kalaniana'ole Highway was held, and the State Department of Transportation is to do further study on its feasibility.
4. The written report includes Representative Ward's previous statements that parental involvement is a better indicator of a student's academic success than a family's socioeconomic status.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Reilly requested being updated on the Kamilo Niu Valley farmers' situation on whether or not they will be able to continue their operations.
2. In response to Levy, no cost estimate on the proposal for the two right-turn lane proposal for Lunailo Home Road to Kalaniaole Highway. Huff noted the project would involve modification of the existing center lane and reconfiguring the crosswalk. Chair Muraoka thanked Representative Ward for the town hall meeting.
3. Shelly expressed thanks for the material on parental involvement in a student's academic success.
4. Chair Muraoka suggested a 'right turn only' lane from Keahole Street to Kalanianaole Highway.
5. Chair Muraoka referred further discussion on Maunaloa Bay to the Board's Parks and Recreation Committee.

Kam was thanked for attending meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE LYLA BERG** – Representative Berg distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. March 14 is the Annual Human Rights Day at the Capitol. March 19 is Kupuna Day at the Capitol.
2. The written report includes information on the Mediation Center of the Pacific, which provides a process for neighbors to settle disputes and reach a solution agreeable to both neighbors, and how to write a letter to the editor.
3. "My Hawaii" Story Project 2007, is a writing contest of the Hawaii Conservation Alliance for middle school students. Interested persons can go to [www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii](http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii) for more information.
4. Upcoming community forums: February 28, Economic Forecast for Hawaii; March 21, Asset Building as Economic Development; April 11, Toward a Sustainable Economy. All forums are at Kahala Elementary School, 7:00 p.m.
5. The written report includes of bills she has introduced. Some bills of interest include: a) HB 481, relating to installation of navigation lights on the Kalanianaole Highway bridge over the Hawaii Kai Marina entrance, b) HB 481, relating to regulation of the check cashing industry, and c) HB 1522, relating to education, establishing a grant program to promote civic responsibility.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. HB 481 is in the House Finance Committee at this time.
2. Several sunshine law related bills are still alive, including ones to allow multiple Neighborhood Board members to attend other meetings together.

Representative Berg was thanked for attending the meeting.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – Russ Saito, representing the Governor's Office, distributed the weekly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The Governor is in Washington D.C., a) attending the National Governor's Conference, and meeting with federal officials on b) Northwestern Hawaiian National Monument, c) innovation as highlighted in her State of the State Address, d) future of Kalaheo, including seeking 500 acres from the Federal Government for State use, and e) Hawaii's prison system.

2. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources is taking additional steps to keep 4x4 vehicles out of the Ka Iwi Shoreline area including additional guardrails and extending a wall, and possible night time enforcement measures.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Iwasa reported bike lane markings on Kalaniana'ole Highway are faded and need attention. Follow up will be done.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TRAFFIC OPERATIONS, SOLUTIONS TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND FUTURE TRENDS AND INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION** – Randy Leong, from honoluoutraffic.com, requested Board support of two resolutions opposing the City's rail transit plans. Leong noted their estimate on the per capita cost of the system on Oahu residents is \$6531.00, nine to twenty times as much as elsewhere in the nation. He noted Oahu does not have the population base to support a rail system which will not solve traffic congestion problems, and that the rail project is really related to land development, job creation, and favoritism to contractors. He also noted that there are low cost projects such as underpasses at intersections and traffic light synchronization that will reduce traffic congestion.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Huff, the per capita cost estimate is only for the development of the system, not the operation which they estimate to be a \$120 million a year loss.
2. Houghton suggested revisions to the draft resolution.
3. Paresa noted his support of the draft resolutions.
4. Matson commented on concerns about the cost of a rail system and support of alternatives such as a bus system that can go from the street to an elevated roadway and back to the street.
5. Levy noted the City Council was to observe some different systems in Europe.
6. In response to Chair Muraoka, material distributed by Leong includes a study on Traffic Operations, Solutions to Traffic Congestion and Future Trends, by UH professor Panos Prevedourous done in 2006.

**Huff moved and Paresa seconded that be it resolved that the Board strongly urges the City Council and Mayor of Honolulu, to reject rail as the chosen technology for Honolulu's fixed-guideway project. The motion carried, 8-2-2. Yea:** Elms-Beattie, Reilly, Grey, Clark, Hanson, Huff, Paresa, Muraoka. **Nay:** Levy, Steinmiller. **Abstain:** Knudsen, Houghton.

**Huff moved and Paresa seconded that be it resolved that in pursuit of genuine traffic congestion solutions, the Board strongly urges the City Council and Mayor of Honolulu, and our State Department of Transportation and elected officials, to diligently and objectively seek, evaluate, and select transportation projects that are more cost-effective than rail, including the managed lanes alternative. The motion carried, 10-1-1.** Elms-Beattie, Reilly, Clark, Grey, Houghton, Muraoka, Hanson, Paresa, Huff, & Steinmiller supported the motion. Levy opposed, Knudsen abstained.

**LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING ON A FUTURE UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE HALE ALII DEVELOPMENT TO THE HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD** – Reilly distributed a draft letter to the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), advising that the Board has requested an update from the developer on this project at the Board's March meeting, the Board's past support of the project, possible oversights by the Board in its decision, the possibility of changes to the project, and that Board action will be after the deadline when DPP submits its recommendation to the Planning Commission for its review. **Reilly moved**

**and Paresa seconded to adopt the letter.** Discussion followed: a) Clark opposed the letter, b) Knudsen noted possible misrepresentation by management of the Moana Kai to buyers of units about the Hale Alii project. Knudsen distributed a different draft letter restating the content of Reilly's draft. Discussion followed: a) Reilly and Paresa supported adopting Knudsen's letter, b) Clark opposed the Board changing its position, c) Houghton noted there are numerous upcoming opportunities for the public to provide comment on this matter, d) a resident opposed the letter, e) Steinmiller favored having the update presentation, f) Reilly noted the letter is only a response to DPP to its request for comments on this matter, g) Klein noted the draft letter contains inaccuracies and that he can clear up the majority of questions and encouraged interested persons to view the video tape of presentations he made on this project that he provided to the Board, h) Tangren provided copies of a letter from the Kalele Kai board of directors opposing the zone change to allow the height increase, i) Chair Muraoka relinquished the chair to Secretary Elms-Beattie and opposed the letter, noted upcoming opportunities for public comment, and the update presentation at next month's meeting, j) Reilly suggested sending DPP a letter of acknowledgement, k) Muraoka noted the project has been revised since 2004 when the Board supported it. **The motion failed to carry, 4-8.** Reilly, Knudsen, Levy, Steinmiller supported the motion. Elms-Beattie, Clark, Grey, Houghton, Muraoka, Hanson, Huff, & Paresa opposed.

Elms-Beattie relinquished the chair to Muraoka.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, Hahaione Elementary School, 7:00 p.m.
2. Broadcasts of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board meetings are every Tuesday evening of the month, 9:00 p.m., Olelo channel 54.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant