



## HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 HAHAIONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Greg Knudsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with a **quorum of 13 members present**. Note: This 15-member board requires eight votes to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Paige Altonn, Robert Clark, René Garvin, Marian Grey, Natalie Iwasa, Greg Knudsen, Carl Makino, Roberta Mayor, Amy Monk, Judith Nii, Elizabeth Reilly, Herb Schreiner and David Tanabe.

Members Absent: Maxine Rutkowski and Eugene Tierney.

Introduction of Board members: The Board members introduced themselves at this time.

Guests: Kurt Tsue (Board of Water Supply), Micah MuneKata (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office staff), Louise Kim-McCoy (Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative), Representative Mark Hashem, Representative Gene Ward, Patricia McManaman (Governor's Representative), Officer Celine Aiu and Lieutenant Allan Nagata (Honolulu Police Department), Firefighter Jay Nourrie (Honolulu Fire Department), Jeremy Low, Dr. Keli'i Akina, Walter Ritte, Kurt and Celeste Lajala, Anne Nakao, Laura Kaakua (Trust for Public Lands), Jeannine Johnson and Ann Marie Kirk (Livable Hawaii Kai Hui), David Jones (Videographer), and Adam LeFebvre (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

#### STATUS REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter Jay Nourrie provided the following report:

- Statistics for September 2012 – There were 3 structure and 3 rubbish fires, 94 medical emergencies, 5 search and rescues, and 19 miscellaneous calls.
- Fire Prevention Week – Established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, Fire Prevention Week is nationally observed the week of October 9. Residents are advised to always have “two ways out.” School children will be receiving a fire safety guide that should be reviewed with their parents.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Rescues on Koko Crater Trail – Rescue calls are increasing, as hikers are uninformed about the trail's difficulty. The typical rescue call is a hiker having problems breathing or dehydrated and unable to continue. The rescue chopper is employed in these situations. While the rescue chopper is expensive to maintain, there is no fee for the rescued. HFD budgets for rescues so there is no additional costs to taxpayers. It was suggested that signage be added informing potential hikers about the difficult nature of the trail. This matter was referred to the Parks Committee for follow-up.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lieutenant Allan Nagata provided the following report:

- Statistics for September 2012 – There were 2 burglaries, 13 thefts, and 23 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV).
- Need for the Public's Assistance – Residents should call 911 if they witness any suspicious activity and be prepared to describe specifically what they observe to assist the responding officers.
- Disaster Preparedness – Hurricane season lasts through October, tsunamis do not have a “season.” Residents were advised to always maintain an adequate supply of food, water, batteries, medication, and other necessities. A list of suggested materials as well as a list of evacuation shelters can be found online at the HPD website, [www.honolulupd.org](http://www.honolulupd.org).

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Neighborhood Watch – It was requested that more information regarding the Neighborhood Security Watch be included in the HPD handout. Anyone interested in joining is invited to contact HPD.



2. Police Presence – Fewer people have been running the stop sign near Koko Head Elementary School since HPD has begun issuing citations.
3. Kamiloiki School – Police presence was requested to control speeding near Kamiloiki School.
4. Kalama Valley – Police presence was requested to control speeding in Kalama Valley. The lack of stop signs contributes to the speeding problem. There have been 5 accidents by the park in the past 4 years.
5. Transportation and Safety Committee – The committee is working with the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) in finding and correcting trouble spots. Residents were encouraged to contact René Garvin with information on problem areas or concerns.
6. Noise Citations – It was requested that HPD restore the noise citations count to the monthly report.
7. Response to Emails – Chair Knudsen expressed concern that questions sent to HPD have not yet received responses.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Kurt Tsue provided the following report:

1. Water Main Breaks – There were no main breaks reported for September 2012.
2. National Disaster Preparedness Month – Residents were advised to keep a five-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) as a precaution. Visit [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com) for more information and tips on storing water safely to avoid contamination.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Leak at Kamilo Iki Community Park – A leak, which had previously been fixed, is leaking again.
2. Koko Head Elementary School – The sprinklers are on during the day, which is a very wasteful practice. It is possible that the watering system needs to be manually operated. BWS will follow up with the principal.

#### COMMUNITY NEWS:

International Walk to School Day – Natalie Iwasa announced it will be on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. Students will be walking or bicycling to school. She reminded pedestrians to watch for bicycles as well as vehicles when crossing a street. Also, bicycles are to ride with traffic and are allowed to use the lane as needed.

East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan (EHSCP) – Iwasa reported on the meeting last month: small groups reviewed current concerns and proposals; Hawaii Kai residents focused primarily on the Great Lawn and Kamilonui Valley. The plan is still undergoing review, and all interested residents were advised to contact Bob Stanfield at the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) with comments and suggestions for the revised plan. Organizations may invite Stanfield to their meetings to provide input.

#### Candidate Statements:

Chair Knudsen announced that several candidates had notified him of previous commitments. He informed those candidates that a similar opportunity to speak would be on the October agenda. The following candidates did speak:

#### State Senate District 9:

- Kurt Lajala – The Democratic candidate for Senate District 9 is a lifetime resident of Niu Valley. Lajala is a veteran of the Air Force and Air National Guard, and has retired from United Airlines. Lajala's primary concern is funding of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for the maintenance of deteriorating infrastructure. He generally opposes new taxes and is concerned with improving the effectiveness of existing programs, ensuring we are getting full value. He favors the preservation of natural and cultural resources in East Honolulu. His overriding issue is improving our quality of life.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Pronunciation of Lajala – His Finnish last name is pronounced "LYE – LAH."
2. Development in Hawaii Kai – Lajala is in favor of the current boundaries of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan and supports preserving the ridges and valleys of East Honolulu for public access. He is opposed to development outside the Community Growth Boundaries.

State House District 17 – Representative Gene Ward (R), the incumbent, is unopposed.

State House District 18:

- Jeremy Low – The Republican challenger for House District 18 is a fiscal conservative who pledges to be a responsible steward of the money. Low is opposed to tax increases and seeks creative ways to fund government programs. He is opposed to the Rail project, sees UH autonomy as an issue, and would repeal the Public Land Development Corp. He believes in zoning and master plans. Representative Barbara Marumoto and Senator Sam Slom have endorsed Low.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Development in Hawaii Kai – Low believes that private landowners have rights to develop their land but need to do so with community backing. He would not support development of the Hawaii Kai “Great Lawn.”
  2. Stance on Social Issues – Low is “pro-life” and supports traditional marriage.
  3. University of Hawaii – Low does not favor micro-managing autonomous institutions, but when they make major mistakes it is the Legislature’s duty to fix the problem. He would cut the administrative budget to free up more money for school programs.
- Representative Mark Hashem – The incumbent Democratic candidate for House District 18 cited several of his accomplishments, including removal of the Niu Valley “Killer Boulder,” acquisition of critical funding for repaving Kalanianaʻole Highway, increased wireless access for schools, and the faculty parking lot expansion at Kalani High School. Hashem asked the community to re-elect him to continue his work on these projects and others he is undertaking, such as the flooding problem at Wailupe Place.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Development in Hawaii Kai – Hashem opposes development outside the Community Growth Boundaries of the EHSCP and on Paiko Ridge. Traffic on Kalanianaʻole Highway is getting worse and needs improvement.
2. Social Issues – Hashem is a pro-choice candidate.
3. Effectiveness – Hashem believes he has been very effective at rallying the Legislature to get work done and in acquiring funding for projects in East Honolulu.
4. Undersea Cable – Hashem admits that the issue is complicated. He generally stands in favor of uniting the islands’ energy sources, making full use of the renewable energy potential of the other islands. Though the project is expensive, it would stabilize the neighboring islands’ energy grid.
5. Rail vs. Undersea Cable – Hashem will reflect on which project has a higher priority.

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA):

- Walter Ritte – Ritte, a Molokai resident, is running on a platform of environmental conservatism. Resources in Hawaii are small and finite; water and land are the issues. The undersea cable makes no sense to Molokai; renewable energy is critical. Ritte laments the loss of Hawaii’s fishponds and opposes the recent rash of bills allowing circumvention of environmental and county laws. He encouraged residents to consider the needs of future generations.

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. Akaka Bill – Ritte is opposed to any bill that works “from the top down.” With a background as a community organizer he believes that bills need to start from the community.
2. OHA Forum – OHA is not offering a forum allowing the candidates to be viewed side-by-side. All voters can vote for any OHA seat, but there are few opportunities for residents to be informed about the candidates.
3. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) – If elected, Ritte would fight to have GMO labeling on Hawaii crops.

- Dr. Keli'i Akina – With deep ties to Native Hawaiian culture and PhDs in Eastern and Western philosophy, he is opposed to the Hawaiian Sovereignty movement in its current form. He believes that the requirement of Hawaiian blood for participation in government is contrary to Queen Liliuokalani's views of one Kingdom shared by all. Akina believes in a shift in philosophy in order to help Hawaiians access more significant roles in Hawaii. He has received endorsement from the 150,000 veterans represented by the Veterans Council.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Akaka Bill – He supports the original intent of the bill, providing Native Hawaiians the same status as Native Americans and Alaskans, but opposes the addition of a blood litmus test for a Sovereign Hawaiian Nation.
2. Overthrow of the Monarchy – Queen Liliuokalani requested that the United States peacefully restore the Hawaiian Nation. While that hasn't happened, Hawaii did become an integral part of the United States. This country's history of suffrage and equality is something to take pride in.

PUBLIC ISSUES: No public issues were raised.

PRESENTATION:

Efforts to Support Conservation and Cultural Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources on Paiko Ridge – Laura Kaakua from the Trust for Public Land (TPL); Ann-Marie Kirk from Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (LHKH), and Jeannine Johnson from Niu Valley Community Association (NCVA) provided a presentation on the preservation of Paiko Ridge. TPL has applied for funding to acquire Paiko Ridge with LHKH stewarding the land. LHKH is an organization dedicated to the preservation of cultural and natural resources in East Honolulu. Their preservation efforts include Kamilo Nui Valley and the Ka Iwi coastline, plus, along with TPL, the purchase of five acres of land off Hawaii Kai Drive for the preservation of the Hawea Heiau complex and the enhancement of the Keawawa Wetlands that extends into the Oahu Club. The purchased land will eventually be a cultural heritage park for the community.

TPL is working with the County, State, and Federal Government resources to preserve important lands in Hawaii. Paiko Ridge has important cultural and historical significance in addition to natural beauty. Archaeological artifacts have been found in caves on the ridge and an ancient rock wall, possibly a moku (land boundary) wall, stretches the length of the ridge. LHKH seeks to enlarge the habitat for the Kamehameha Butterfly, the Elepaio bird, and other species native to the ridge. Currently, Paiko Ridge is mostly preservation-zoned and outside the community growth boundary, but the zoning could be changed and some development is allowable under current zoning. The goal is to purchase the land from the current landowners in order to preserve it in perpetuity. The land would be used to restore dry land forest growth and create hiking trails for the public to enjoy. The Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board passed a resolution supporting the effort to preserve Paiko Ridge and upholding the current boundaries of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan. The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board was asked to pass a similar resolution.

Marian Grey departed at 8:45 p.m.; **12 members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Resolution – A proposed resolution relating to Paiko Ridge was referred to the Board's Environment Committee for its recommendation.
2. Paiko Ridge Zoning – Most of Paiko Ridge is zoned preservation and outside of the community growth boundary, though a small portion is zoned residential. The purchase would be for the entire area.
3. Public Usage – The intent is the preservation of Paiko Ridge from development and opening the site to culturally sensitive uses and opportunities for hiking. It is not intended to become a tourist attraction.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative – Louise Kim-McCoy provided the following report:

- Street Light Replacement – The City has a policy of using consistent lighting and all future projects will be using flat lenses. A globe was temporarily installed in the light in question and has been replaced.

- Lighting Project – Kim-McCoy had responses to Natalie Iwasa’s email; the budget for the Lunalilo Home Road street lighting project is \$2,042,285.02. The consolidation of signage will be completed by the contractor prior to City signing off and contractor is not paid for replacing damaged grass.
- H1 Zipper Lane Policy Change – This is a State issue, not City.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Maninihola Street Sidewalk Work – The sidewalk repairs on Maninihola Street have left a section of the sidewalk incomplete. The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) is responsible for sidewalk repairs.
2. Street Light Replacement – Iwasa had obtained a cost estimate for the Lunalilo Home Road street light replacement project that differs from the amount provided by Kim-McCoy in her email conversation (\$2,042,285). Iwasa asked for an explanation of the disparity.
3. Light Pole Replacement – The driver who recently damaged the second streetlight pole will be billed for the replacement, according to DFM.
4. Contractor Requirements – Is it a general requirement that the area be restored upon completion of a project?

Councilmember Stanley Chang (Council District 4): Micah Munekata provided the following report.

1. Hawaii Kai Memorial Park Presentation – Gratitude was extended to all who attended. Another meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2012.
2. Hahaione Park Sign – The sign displaying prohibited park activities has been replaced.
3. Maunalua Bay Water Craft Concern – The constituent who raised the concern was directed to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) division of Boating and Recreation.
4. Intersection of Portlock Road and Kalanianaʻole Highway – A request to install artificial grass at the traffic island in the intersection has been submitted to DFM.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Gratitude to Councilmember Chang – Councilmember Chang was responsible for bringing the issue of Paiko Ridge preservation to the community’s attention.
2. Wailua Street Repaving – It was asked why the section of Wailua Street between Lunalilo Home Road and Hawaii Kai Drive was not repaved when Keahole Street was repaved. Member Iwasa reported that bids will go out in early 2013 for repaving of Lunalilo Home Rd. and Wailua St.

Governor’s Office Representative – Patricia McManaman provided the following report:

- H1 Zipper Lane Policy Change (from 3 occupants to 2) – The State Department of Transportation (DOT) is monitoring and evaluating the change. Concerns and suggestions can be emailed to [dotpao@hawaii.gov](mailto:dotpao@hawaii.gov).
- Teacher Mediation – Hawaii State teachers have agreed to federal mediation, which is considered a step forward for teachers and students.
- Rail – All rail construction operations have been halted pending resolution of the archaeological survey issue.
- Strategic Partnerships – The State has entered into partnerships with a number of Asian and Pacific Island countries, involving the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) to solidify commitment to technological and renewable energy development. An MOU was signed with American Samoa and Guam to identify coastal management priorities requiring coordinated efforts and with China to facilitate Hawaii energy offices management between China’s clean energy development and Hawaii ventures in the Capitol.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Highway Concerns – The additional lane on the H1 Freeway has helped, but the freeway needs major improvements. The on and off ramps and interchanges cause major traffic backup. There needs to be more focus on the basic structure of the roads.
2. Makapuu Light – The light on Kalanianaʻole Highway that was just repaired has been vandalized again and is no longer working.

3. Intersection of Keahole Street and Kalaniana'ole Highway – DOT has been working with Representative Ward in resolving this matter and plans to extend the lane-dividing solid white line another forty feet.

Senator Sam Slom (Senate District 8): Senator Slom was enroute to a mainland speaking engagement.

Representative Gene Ward (House District 17) – Representative Ward distributed his monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. Intersection of Keahole Street and Kalaniana'ole Highway – Representative Ward received a letter from DOT indicating they had extended the lane-dividing solid white line an additional 40 feet. No one at the meeting reported having noticed any line extension.
2. Agenda Resolutions – Ward announced his support of the resolutions on the board's agenda.
3. The Great Lawn – He spoke in favor of maintaining the EHSCP boundaries to preserve the Hawaii Kai "Great Lawn" from development. He attended the EHSCP meeting and reported that Foodland still wants to discuss this issue.
4. Tax Review Commission – The Commission recommended a raise in the General Excise Tax (GET), pension tax, and property taxes. Ward noted that raising taxes in a bad economy is not a good idea. The report did not discuss the value of Photovoltaic (PV) tax credits. He believes it would be a good idea to give tax credits to farmers to install PV cells on their roofs, keeping their bills down.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Tax Review Commission – It was asked why the State contracted Public Financial Management (PFM), a mainland-based group, to evaluate the Hawaii tax system. PFM's understanding of Hawaii Tax Code was brought into question when they equated the GET with a state sales tax since they are very different. 57% of the State budget comes from the GET.
2. Town Hall Meeting – There will be a town hall meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Hahaione Elementary School to discuss a left-turn lane into Koko Marina Center. HPD, Koko Marina Center management, vendors, and community members are invited to attend.

Representative Mark Hashem (House District 18) – Representative Hashem spoke earlier as a candidate but was not present for a District 18 report.

## NEW BUSINESS

East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan – The following motion was read before the Board:

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board recommends that the City and County of Honolulu make no changes in the revised East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan affecting the existing Urban Community Boundary or preservation- and agricultural-zoned land designations. In particular, this includes but is not limited to: (1) current preservation zoning for Ka Iwi mauka parcels (Queen's Rise and Mauuwai), the "Great Lawn" parcel on Kalaniana'ole Highway between Keahole Street and Hawaii Kai Drive, and Paiko Ridge; and (2) current agricultural zoning for Kamilonui Valley and farms mauka of Kaiser High School.

**Tanabe moved and Mayor seconded that the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 accept the motion requesting that the City make no changes to the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan affecting the existing Community Growth Boundary or preservation- and agricultural-zoned land designations. The motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 12-0-0 (AYE: Altonn, Clark, Garvin, Iwasa, Knudsen, Makino, Mayor, Monk, Nii, Reilly, Schreiner and Tanabe)**

Right Turn Lane from Keahole Street onto Kalaniana'ole Highway – The following motion was read before the Board:

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board recommends that the State Department of Transportation make simple adjustments to improve the safety and usability of the new \$3.6-million right-turn lane from Keahole Street to Kalaniana'ole Highway. Suggested improvements include extending the solid white line 30-to-50 feet, painting directional arrows for Honolulu-bound cars going through the intersection, and/or installing rubber lane dividers to prevent dangerous lane changes.

**Altonn moved and Schreiner seconded that the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 accept the resolution requesting that the State make adjustments to improve the safety of the right turn lane from Keahole Street to Kalaniana'ole Highway.**

Discussion of the resolution followed:

1. Amendments to the Resolution – Removal of the words “\$3.6 million” was recommended.
2. Rubber Lane Dividers – Discussion ensued regarding the effectiveness and safety of rubber lane dividers. Lane dividers pose a safety hazard to cyclists and may give motorists the false impression that they do not need to stop, while solid white lines were considered an ineffective deterrent.
3. Passage of the Resolution – The motion requests that the State do whatever is necessary to improve the safety of the intersection and passing the resolution on that principle was suggested. Deferring passage of the resolution until more specific suggestions can be researched was also recommended.

**Altonn moved and Clark seconded to defer the passage of the above resolution. The motion to defer was ADOPTED 10-2-0 (AYE: Altonn, Clark, Garvin, Iwasa, Makino, Monk, Nii, Reilly, Schreiner and Tanabe; NAY: Knudsen and Mayor; ABSTENTIONS: None.)**

The item will be added to the October 2012 meeting's agenda. The Board's Transportation and Safety Committee will work with the State DOT on this issue.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) – Chair Knudsen attended the meeting, but had nothing new to report. Knudsen noted that committees will present reports as needed.

#### APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

**The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 APPROVED the August 28, 2012, regular meeting minutes as corrected by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 12-0-0 (AYE: Altonn, Clark, Garvin, Iwasa, Knudsen, Makino, Mayor, Monk, Nii, Reilly, Schreiner and Tanabe). Amendments include:**

Page 3 – Under Maunaloa Communities Foundation (MCF) remove the repeated phrase, “Maunaloa Communities Foundation (MCF) – “

Page 5 – Remove the paragraph at the top of the page, from “A zoning map was displayed...” to “... the individual asking the question.”

Page 5 – Under Mayor's Office Representative change the heading “Wailua Street Light” to “Intersection of Kalanipu'u and Lunalilo Home Road”

Page 6 – Under Street Repaving replace the paragraph with “The budget for repaving streets in Honolulu has been increased to \$100 million. City Council also cut DDC salaries. According to an audit report, it was noted there was a rush to assign contracts before funding expired which led to errors. It was requested the councilmember monitor quarterly reports from DDC for large change orders on contracts.”

Page 7 – Under Bicycle Traffic, change “It was asked if the law ...” to “It was asked if the signage ...”

Page 8 – Under Next Regular Meeting, change “July 31, 2012” to “September 25, 2012.”

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Knudsen reported that the Board was allocated a budget of \$3,380. \$2,280 was allocated to the video recording program contract (full year) and \$300 was allocated to the facility rental contract (full year). After printing and postage costs, the Board is left with a remainder of \$731.39. The report was filed.

Chair Announcements – Maile's Thai Bistro will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. on the sixth floor of the Pacific Park Plaza for a change of category from a Restaurant General License Category 1 to a Category 2, which allows for live entertainment and recorded music as well as facilities for dancing.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Cablecast – Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 regular meetings are cablecast on the 2nd Monday of the following month (October 8) at 9:00 p.m. on Olelo Ch. 49 (digital only), and repeat on that month's 3rd Friday (October 19) and the next month's 1st Friday (November 2) at 9:00 a.m. on Olelo Channel 54. Meeting videos can also be seen online at <http://www.olelo.org> under “What's On?: OleloNet” (search “Hawaii Kai Board”).
- Next Regular Meeting – The next regular meeting of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 will be Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m., at Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Submitted By: Adam LeFebvre, Neighborhood Assistant  
Reviewed By: K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant;  
René Garvin, Secretary and Greg Knudsen, Chair.