



MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/ TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK

CALL TO ORDER: Chair John Steelquist called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with a quorum of **nine (9) members present**. Note – This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bigay (arrived at 7:11 p.m.), Ron Cannarella (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Charles Carole, Diane Chong, Philip Hauret, Christopher Hebert (arrived at 7:13 p.m.), Sue Hillmann, Richard Kawano (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Susan Lai Young (departed at 8:20 p.m.), Sam Mitchell, Martin Schiller, Alika Smith, John Steelquist, Rock Tang (arrived at 7:07 p.m.).

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Heulitt, Allan Lee, Eloise Lee.

VACANCIES: None.

GUESTS: Sgt. K. Killam (Honolulu Police Department); Acting Capt. A. Ku (Honolulu Fire Department); Cat Sawai (Board of Water Supply); Pat Lee (Honolulu Rail Transit); Pohai Ryan (Senator Brickwood Galuteria's Office); Nils Katahara (Representative Sylvia Luke's Office); Representative Della Au Belatti; Representative Karl Rhoads; Duane Okamoto (Governor Linda Lingle's Office – State Department of Agriculture, Deputy Director); Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office); Bertrand Kobayashi (Councilmember Duke Bainum's Office); Chrystn Eads (Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Office); Cindy Nguyen (Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery); Georgianna Lagoria (The Contemporary Museum, Director); Cheryl Agcaoili (University of Hawaii at Manoa); Diane Buckley, Nick Fucini, Macey Luo, Michael Ozuna, Mike Sarrazin, Scott C. Souza, Ryan Tam, Mike Wilcox, Edmund Wong; Rachel M. Glanstein (Neighborhood Commission Office).

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Honolulu Police Department – Sgt. K. Killam distributed a report and highlighted the following statistics: 11 assaults, 15 burglaries, 2 drug offenses, 11 driving under the influence (DUI), 8 family offenses, 2 graffiti, 80 motor vehicle collisions (MVC), 23 motor vehicle thefts, 13 property damages, 3 robberies, 0 sex assaults, 38 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (JEMV) and 213 miscellaneous services.

Cannarella arrived at 7:04 p.m.; **10 members present**.

Honolulu Fire Department – Acting Capt. A. Ku reported the following information:

- 1) **January 2009 Statistics** – There were 7 fire-related calls, 77 medical emergencies, and 12 miscellaneous calls (hazardous conditions, stalled elevator, water evacuation, assist patient, good intent, etc.).
- 2) **Fire Safety Tip** – Smoke alarms save lives and are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of a home. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries yearly. Practice a home fire escape plan and designate a safe meeting place outside the home. Many lives could be saved if all homes contained working smoke alarms.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) **Smoke Alarms for Seniors** – Capt. Ku will follow up on the previous successful program of providing seniors with free smoke alarms.
- 2) **Smoke Alarm Condition** – Smoke alarms do wear out eventually and may need replacement.

Tang arrived at 7:07 p.m.; **11 members present**.



- 3) Electric Fire Hazards – Electrical items, such as an overused electrical outlet, may be fire hazards.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Cat Sawai, from the BWS, furnished the following information:

- 1) No Main Breaks in January 2009 – There were no main breaks in January 2009.
- 2) New BWS Head – Wayne Hashiro, previously the City's Managing Director, has joined BWS as the new manager and chief engineer.
- 3) Xeriscape Workshops – Workshops are held each month at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden and are geared toward community education about how you can conserve water outdoors. The next scheduled workshops are on: (a) February 28, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – adults learn how to make organic pesticides; and (b) March 21 and May 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – learn how worms can turn food waste into organic fertilizer at the worm workshop. Call 748-5363 or email tours@hbws.org to register for classes.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Maunalaha Water Pipe Construction Project – Ms. Sawai will follow up on the Maunalaha project start date.
- 2) Underground Tours – The BWS underground tours have been very limited since September 11, 2001; Ms. Sawai will follow up on their availability.

Bigay arrived at 7:11 p.m.; **12 members present.**

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

Cartwright Park Concerns – A park closure sign was requested for Cartwright Park to help HPD curb the illegal activity (drugs and other crimes); the item may be placed on the next month's agenda.

Kawano arrived at 7:12 p.m.; **13 members present.**

Forest Ridge Way Blocked Park and Trail Access – On Forest Ridge Way, there is a homeowner who installed a gate blocking access to the park and trail. The person has been cited, but still hasn't removed the gate. It's understood that the person was burglarized, but it was proposed that a more friendly-looking gate be installed to make it clear that the public is allowed to access the park and trail.

Hebert arrived at 7:13 p.m., during the above concern; **14 members present.**

PRESENTATIONS [1] – Pat Lee, part of the public involvement team for the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP), was not yet present to give an update.

Without objection, the presentation on Human Trafficking on Oahu was heard at this time.

NEW BUSINESS [1]:

Human Trafficking on Oahu – Cindy Nguyen, from the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS), circulated handouts and gave the following presentation:

- 1) Legislation Needed – PASS intends to approach the Neighborhood Boards (NBs) with this presentation in preparation of introducing legislation regarding slavery and human trafficking in 2010. An example was given of a man who tortured young girls but could only be prosecuted for desecrating a Buddha statue.
- 2) Trafficking – The main concept of trafficking in persons is the denial of the liberty of another, while the transportation of a person is a secondary inquiry. Criminal provisions focus on the coercive nature of the service rather than the movement of the victim.
- 3) Children in Demand – There is a demand for the trafficking of children because of the: (a) myth of children being able to cure AIDS (mainly in Africa – youngest victim was nine months old); (b) lack of punishment for pedophilia, which is pandemic; (c) increased availability of child pornography; and (d) open advertising of same. Children are often kidnapped, sold into slavery by their family, forced into prostitution by their

loved ones, born in brothels or to pimps or prostitutes, or recruited from schools, malls, parties, etc., with the promise of making money and/or a better life. A child was enticed/kidnapped from Pearlridge Mall in Hawaii.

- 4) Statistics – On average, one child is taken per day. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. Around the world, between 50% and 60% of the children who are trafficked into sexual slavery are under age 16. Over 16,000 children and women are annually trafficked into the U.S. for sexual services and the trend is accelerating; this number doesn't include those trafficked between the states in the U.S. Officials from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) recently counted 250 brothels in 26 U.S. cities staffed with trafficking victims. Currently, an estimated 200,000 American children are trapped in the U.S. sex industry. A total of 25% of all child sex tourists around the world are U.S. citizens.
- 5) Opposition to Decriminalization or Legalization of Prostitution – Pictures of a legal brothel in Nevada with barbed wire fencing and an abused Hawaii prostitute were shown to demonstrate that decriminalization or legalization may not solve the problems. Abraham Lincoln stated that the "slave breeders and slave traders are a small, odious, and detested class among you; and yet in politics, they dictate the course of all of you".
- 6) What to Do – Support PASS's upcoming legislation allowing the police force to focus on pimps and johns. Learn how to identify a victim, what to do, and what not to do. Know the available local and national resources. Have a firm stance regarding the abolition of prostituting persons. Template letters to submit testimony are available for use. Presentations and training may be requested. Contact PASS by email at info@traffickjamming.org.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Solutions – PASS's solutions include focusing on pimps and johns, as the Federal government does, and providing victims' services for children in Hawaii, since there currently are none here.
- 2) Federal Versus State Prosecution – The Federal government prosecutes only when the case is airtight; it helps in most other cases to have local enforcement laws.
- 3) Abuse of Prostitutes – It's mainly pimps and johns that abuse prostitutes. In addition, pimps will often try to get their prostitutes addicted to drugs so that they can meet their quota of 30 to 40 men per night; if a prostitute fails to meet the nightly quota, she (or he) may be beaten by her (or his) pimp.
- 4) Keeaumoku Street Building Prohibition on Women – There is a gray building on the left side of Keeaumoku Street that prohibits women in or near the premises, which is discrimination and suspicious.
- 5) Media Involvement – Ms. Nyugen has tried to approach and involve the media with limited success.
- 6) Legalization of Prostitution – Recently Germany legalized prostitution, reducing the roles of pimps and johns and requiring registration; however, the action is still under review. Unfortunately, regulation mainly happens on the "ground level" where everything is legal and registered, while the "upper levels" still contain children, abused victims, and illegal activities. In theory, legalization of prostitution could result in greater health services, etc., for prostitutes and possible self-regulation; however, in practice it most likely will not work given the example of the State's requirement for employer-provided health insurance that is often not followed and rarely enforced.

Without objection, the Contemporary Museum Update (agenda item IX.F) was heard at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS [1]:

Contemporary Museum Update [1] – Georgianna Lagoria, Director of the Contemporary Museum, noted the need to present periodic information to the Board to satisfy the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) required for certain events, and provided the following:

- 1) 2009 Special Evening Events – The following events are member's preview receptions and will be held in the Makiki Heights Galleries, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: (a) March 19 and 20 – *20 Going on 21: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Looking to the Future, An Exhibition of Hawaii Artists* – the exhibit will run from March 19 to June 21; (b) July 9 – *Yoshihiro Suda* – the exhibit will run from July 11 to October 25;

and (c) November 19 – *20th Anniversary Gifts and Promised Gifts* – the exhibit will run from November 21 to February 21, 2010. An additional event will be the Mad Hatter Garden Party Fundraiser in September, which may include table sales and auction activities. The events all primarily involve the galleries, upper lawn, Museum Shop, Cafe kitchen, and parking lot. Depending on the anticipated attendance, traffic mitigation may also include barricades for event parking and a uniformed officer to direct traffic.

- 2) ArtSpree 2009 – ArtSpree is the museum's annual open house presented by their volunteer organization, The Friends of The Contemporary Museum. The event has been held successfully since 1993 and is the museum's free community open house. ArtSpree is funded through private donations and is organized and staffed by more than 150 resident volunteers. ArtSpree 2009 will be held on July 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of the museum. The average attendance is 1,700 visitors, and the highest attendance was 2,523; approximately 2,000 visitors are expected this year. The volume of the speakers and live music in the galleries will be monitored so as not to be audible at the perimeter of the property.
- 3) Third Thursdays Free Admission – Admission is free on every third Thursday, otherwise it costs \$6 for the general public and \$4 for students and senior citizens.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Neighbor Relations – The Contemporary Museum is following the conditions in their permits, and there have been no complaints; neighbors are invited to attend their meetings.
- 2) Economic Slowdown – The current economic slowdown has decreased the number of offered events.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The November 20, 2008 minutes were APPROVED AS CORRECTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT (14-0-0) (AYE: Bigay, Cannarella, Carole, Chong, Hauret, Hebert, Hillmann, Kawano, Lai Young, Mitchell, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist, Tang), **with the following correction:**

- * Page 10 – Elected Officials – Governor Linda Lingle's Representative – Duane Okamoto reported: 1) A challenging legislative session ahead and pointed out the Governor's five-point economic plan. The Governor returned from a trip to East Asia (China, Korea and Japan) encouraging tourism. She will expedite big projects that the State has already obtained \$1.8 billion in bond financing, fast-track building permits and request U.S. Farm Bill funding. The State will hold down energy costs and lower fees. 2) The Governor's Neighborhood Board Update was available. 3) By monitored traps in Hilo, his department discovered the varroa mites, which attack our Hawaiian Queen bee and honey bee industries. "Ground Zero" was between Hilo harbor and the airport, within a one-mile radius. They found 60 mites in a feral hive, so they destroyed the feral hive.

Comments followed. 1) The sea level is rising in California and we should start thinking about it in Hawaii. 2) As to the Coqui frogs in Kailua, Okamoto thinks more likely the frogs or their eggs came in nursery plants by barge from the Big Island, but the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) does not know the source for certain. The Kailua Neighborhood Board meeting mentioned four or five Coqui frogs were caught. The HDOA is looking for brown tree snakes from Guam and is actively seeking out Coqui frogs for capture or destruction whenever they are reported. The hotline to report Coqui sightings or other pests is 643-7378. On Oahu, the HDOA working with the Oahu Invasive Species Council has eradicated the infestation in Wahiawa and have limited the infestation to a few nurseries in Waimanalo. Since the HDOA sent staff to Kailua, they have not received any complaints about Coqui frogs.

TREASURER'S REPORT: For January 2009, Treasurer Schiller indicated that: (a) the Operating Account expended \$42.88 for printing and postage, leaving a balance of \$1,214.60; (b) the Publicity Account had no expenses, leaving the balance at \$3,538; and (c) the Refreshments Account had no expenses, leaving the balance at \$0. The report is filed. It was suggested to use \$120 for refreshments for the last meeting of the term.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Carol Fukunaga – Representative Della Belatti distributed Sen. Fukunaga's report.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria – Pohai Ryan, from Sen. Galuteria's Office, circulated the report and mentioned the following items:

- 1) Online Access to Legislation – The State legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) contains information on current and proposed legislation and makes it easy to sign up for emailed hearing notices.
- 2) Input Welcome – Sen. Galuteria welcomes input on legislation and specifically requested comments on House Bill 444 (HB 444), relating to civil unions.
- 3) Bills Introduced by Sen. Galuteria – Sen. Galuteria introduced bills concerning motorized vehicles on sidewalks, noise levels, etc.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Emailed Copies of Report – Ms. Ryan can email Sen. Galuteria's report to those interested before the meetings, and she will continue to bring some paper copies to the meetings for those in attendance.
- 2) House Bill 444 (HB 444) Relating to Civil Unions – Sen. Galuteria's position on HB 444 is unknown; voting on the bill will take place tomorrow.

Representative Sylvia Luke – Nils Katahara, from Rep. Luke's Office, distributed the report and pointed out that it contained highlights of legislative bills and a letter from U.S. Senator Dan Inouye regarding the recovery act.

Representative Della Belatti reported – Rep. Belatti circulated her report and covered the following items:

- 1) Emailed Copies of Report – Rep. Belatti offered to email her report to those interested before the meetings.
- 2) Legislative Update – The first lateral deadline is coming up along with the first crossover deadline. The economy is the top issue for the legislature now, and the State is primed to receive federal money.
- 3) Community Events – Rep. Belatti will participate in the following community events: (a) Tax Preparation Assistance Services – February 26, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at YWCA Fernhurst; (b) Legislative Coffee Talk to hear legislative updates and discuss ideas and issues – March 4, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Makiki Library; and (c) the Grand Re-opening of the Makiki Library will be celebrated with a series of events, including book fairs, used book and furniture sales, farmer's markets, and tax preparation assistance.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Legislation to Ban Fireworks – Rep. Belatti will follow up on the bill introduced to ban fireworks.
- 2) HB 444 Relating to Civil Unions – In 1998, voters chose to have the legislature define marriage, which they did as between a man and a woman. HB 444 is for civil unions, involving legal rights, and isn't the same as marriage. The bill doesn't include a definition for significant others. Rep. Belatti will follow up to see if the union may be transferred to other states; she listens to everyone who contacts her, but expressed her feeling that HB 444 is the right bill to support at this time.
- 3) Submission of Legislation – Legislation may be drafted for submission to the next legislative session.
- 4) HB 139 Relating to Transportation Tolls – An amendment to HB 139 would allow the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to use tolls to ensure fully used lanes and to generate revenue; Rep. Belatti will follow up to see if the tolls would have to be levied on only new roads.

Representative Karl Rhoads – Rep. Rhoads touched on the following information:

- 1) Cartwright Park Closure Hours – The Board voted to close the Cartwright Park bathrooms unanimously in November 2008, but the City Department of Parks and Recreation haven't yet implemented the action.
- 2) Kinau Street Parking Restrictions – Upon constituent request, a letter asking for parking restrictions on Kinau Street between Ward Avenue and Pensacola Street was sent to the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS); the request is to increase motorist safety during rush hour, since it's very dangerous for residents there to turn out of their driveways in traffic. DTS will respond to him in April.

- 3) Legislative Process Workshop – An informal workshop to detail the legislative process was held at the Makiki Library.
- 4) Noise Legislation – The bill to ban leafblowers from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. is still alive, along with the bill to allow back-up beepers to be turned off at night.
- 5) Graffiti Legislation – The bill containing Mitchell's solutions related to graffiti was defeated.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Kinau Street Parking Restrictions – People may be upset over parking restrictions on Kinau Street, since parking in the area is already scarce; in addition, less parked cars mean more cars on the road. Furthermore, the informal bicycle lane created by the parked cars will no longer exist, which could make the situation more dangerous for bicyclists.
- 2) Cartwright Park Camera – The orange crane light includes a camera to monitor traffic flow.
- 3) Noise Issues – HPD enforces noise complaints but don't carry decibel meters to measure the level of sound. The bills related to the noise of leafblowers and back-up beepers were introduced to apply statewide, although sometimes legislation is passed to apply to counties with at least 500,000 people. Currently weed wackers may be used at night. There is a City ordinance regarding noise from car stereos, but the enforcement of the ordinance was questioned.

Governor Linda Lingle's representative – Duane Okamoto, the Deputy Director of the State Department of Agriculture (DAG), conveyed the following information:

- 1) High Winds Last Month – Although last month's threat of high winds didn't materialize as expected, there was concern about how to get in contact with community groups to spread news, and it was suggested that the Board be involved.
- 2) Economy – The State administration is focused on the economy, and the stimulus bill is being reviewed. Key areas to bring money into Hawaii are being identified. There is relatively little money for DAG, except for funding to improve water systems.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Spreading the Word – Phone trees do help to get the word out about an emergency, at least within State departments, but it would be helpful if community groups also got involved.
- 2) Minimizing Expenses – In order to minimize expenses, the State has a hiring and travel freeze, and the legislature is in discussion regarding the rolling back or removal of the salary increases. In addition, there has been talk of furloughs. The focus is to preserve current positions, and to cut vacant positions only to make the 10-20% cuts as needed; however, cutting vacant positions may not a good long-term solution, since it requires the same amount of workers to do more work with less help. Furthermore, wherever possible, electronic copies will be used instead of paper copies.
- 3) Federal Funding – Even though the Federal government is also cutting expenses, there is still some federal money available that must be spent as soon as possible, in addition to the stimulus spending.

Councilmember Rod Tam – Shawn Hamamoto, from Councilmember Tam's Office, distributed the report and relayed the following information:

- 1) Bill 6 Relating to Bed and Breakfasts (B&B) – Bill 6 relating to B&Bs was deferred on January 20 in a special Zoning Committee meeting to give more time for public input.
- 2) Bill 67 Relating to Using Electronic Devices While Driving – Bill 67 to prohibit certain uses of electronics while operating a moving motor vehicle passed third reading and was vetoed by Mayor Mufi Hannemann. Councilmember Tam voted against the bill, primarily because of the testimony from HPD and the City Department of the Prosecuting Attorney (PAT) about its lack of enforceability.

- 3) Bill 64 (2008) Relating to Changing the Rail Route to the Airport from Salt Lake – No further action on Bill 64 (2008) will be taken because Resolution 08-261 amending the minimum operable segment to the airport from Salt Lake Boulevard was adopted.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

Using Electronic Devices While Driving – It would be easier to enforce a complete ban of electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle than a ban of text messages and game-playing. It would take six Council votes to overturn Mayor Hannemann's veto of Bill 67, and there is currently no proposal to overturn the veto or to introduce a complete ban. Testimony about other states' methods was provided.

Councilmember Duke Bainum – Bertrand Kobayashi, from Councilmember Bainum's Office, circulated the report and covered the following points:

- 1) City Budget – The City budget is expected from Mayor Hannemann in about a week and a half.
- 2) New City Commission on Clean Water and Natural Lands (CWNL) – Grant applications for land acquisitions are being accepted for the new commission and are due by March 9; there is currently \$8 million available in funding for CWNL and community input on the applications is welcomed.
- 3) Stimulus Funds for Community Grants – There is \$4 million available in the stimulus package for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which will be split amongst the counties based on their populations. The bulk of the money is given to nonprofit organizations, with 20% of the total often kept for administrative purposes.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Funding for Nonprofits – The CDBGs could very help the nonprofit organizations that the legislature is unable to fund this year.
- 2) Land Acquisition – The \$8 million available to CWNL for land acquisition came from property tax (a fraction of 1% of the property tax collected was put into a land acquisition fund due to a charter amendment). A comment was made that the diversion of funds for land acquisition now seems like a waste of money due to the current economic slowdown.

Lai Young departed at 8:20 p.m., during the above report and discussion; **13 members present.**

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative – Chrystn Eads, from the Mayor's Office, offered the following responses to previously raised questions and concerns:

- 1) Illegal Dumping – Reminders will be sent again to the property owners of 1067 and 1099 Green Street regarding bulky items being set out too early (the proper day is the second Monday). Continued non-compliance can result in issuance of a citation or penalty. Residents were urged to call 911 when the illegal dumping is occurring to report it.
- 2) Green Street Parking Restriction at 1066 – DTS completed their evaluation of the portion of Green Street near 1066, which included consultation with emergency service departments, and will establish a parking restriction on the mauka side of Green Street between Ernest Street and its terminus as requested. This restriction will help to address concerns, and signs will be installed by the end of April 2009.
- 3) Intersection of Wilder and Thurston Avenues Stop Sign – Installation of the stop sign at the intersection of Wilder and Thurston Avenues will occur by the end of March 2009.
- 4) Intersection of Alder and South King Streets Crosswalk – DTS wrote to Rep. Rhoads and indicated that their study, which included a review of the pedestrian and vehicular volumes, traffic history, and field observations, concluded that a marked crosswalk across South King Street at Alder Street is not needed. The letter noted that the legal unmarked crosswalk at the intersection may be used by pedestrians.
- 5) Rail Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Comments and responses will be included in the final EIS, which is expected to be completed by the summer of 2009.

- 6) Proliferation of Newsstands – Permits for newsstands are issued by the City Department of Customer Services (CSD), in accordance with Section 29-8.2 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH); the number of newsstands can be limited only if the condition or location of a newsstand constitutes a danger to the public, which is determined by HPD.
- 7) Holumua Project – The exemptions for the Holumua Project, near the intersection of South Beretania Street and Kalakaua Avenue, were granted by Council via Resolution 08-241 on November 12, 2008.
- 8) Cartwright Park Closure Hours – HPD is monitoring the area but no drug activity was observed. The Board may submit a letter to the Director of the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to implement closure of the park from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.; DPR recommends against closing only the restrooms, as there are other areas of the park near the restrooms where the same disruptive activities could occur.
- 9) Speeding Motorists on Round Top and Tantalus Drives – HPD made checks at various times between December 8 and 10, 2008 and observed no violations; patrol officers will continue to monitor the area.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Neighborhood Board (NB) System – Concern was expressed that the Mayor, based on his recent address, may be thinking about the reduction or elimination of the NB system to trim expenses; it was asked how much money would be saved if NBs and the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) were eliminated. If the community stops showing interest in the NB system and doesn't vote for the NB members, then there will be no Board. One idea was to coincide the NB elections with State elections, which would include changing the NB boundaries to match. NBs are different than other government boards, in that the members are elected by the community, not appointed.
- 2) Punchbowl Garbage Pickup – In the Punchbowl area, between the freeway and Prospect, there is manual garbage pickup instead of automated pickup, and it was suggested to automate the pickup there. There are other areas that have narrower streets that have automated pickup. Residents just leave their trash bags out and debris constantly litters the area.
- 3) Wastewater Treatment Plants – The City is appealing the wastewater treatment plant waiver denial from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), since there's no evidence that the procedure here is harming the environment and the upgrades would cost \$1.2 billion.

NEW BUSINESS [2]: This item (Human Trafficking on Oahu) was covered earlier in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS [2]:

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Lunalilo Street H-1 Freeway On- and Off-Ramps Project – Chong explained that the Lunalilo study was deleted from the OMPO list, and Sen. Fukunaga wanted to know if the Board still supports the project.

Chong moved, and Hauret seconded, to still support the study of the Lunalilo off-ramp (and on-ramp). Hauret reiterated the need for the study to look at both conventional and unconventional solutions and requested support for the motion.

The motion to still support the study of the Lunalilo off-ramp (and on-ramp) was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY 13-0-0 (AYE: Bigay, Cannarella, Carole, Chong, Hauret, Hebert, Hillmann, Kawano, Mitchell, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist, Tang).

Holumua Project Update; Racing, Dangerous Drivers and Noise on Tantalus and Round Top Drives – Updates were given earlier by Ms. Eads.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

Skyline Project – The previously proposed Skyline Project will most likely not be developed due to the poor economy, cost to developer, and lack of positive responses from the community.

Roosters in Makiki – Chair Steelquist noted that some roosters have returned, in the back of Makiki Valley, off of Round Top Drive.

Day Care House on Mott Smith – Grand Opening – Chair Steelquist announced the grand opening of a new day care house at 1666 Mott Smith Drive, the Sakura House, on March 7, at 10:30 a.m.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

Proposed Care/Nursing Home on Round Top Drive – There was a lawsuit regarding the proposed care/nursing home on Round Top Drive (by Tantalus Drive), so the Board had to drop the issue; the current status of the home was requested.

Contemporary Museum Update – The item was covered earlier in the meeting.

Without objection, the HHCTCP presentation was heard at this time.

PRESENTATIONS [2]:

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP) Update – Pat Lee, part of the HHCTCP public involvement team, distributed handouts and provided the following updates:

- 1) Rail Draft EIS Public Comment Period – The draft EIS public comment period closed on February 6, and all comments (hundreds) and responses will be included in an appendix of the final EIS.
- 2) Rail Route and Stations – Last month, the City Council approved Resolution 08-261, which changed the route to the Airport from Salt Lake. The stations will be located at Makalapa Gate, Aolele Street at Honolulu International Airport and Lagoon Drive.
- 3) Requests for Proposals (RFPs) – The City put out RFPs for a design-build contract for the first segment of the project, which is 6.5 miles from East Kapolei near the Kroc Center to the Pearl Highlands Station near Sam's Club on Kamehameha Highway. The contract value is between \$550 and \$600 million dollars. Potential vendors/contractors have until March 13 to respond. The selection process will take six months and additional RFPs will be issued for the stations.
- 4) Positive Economic Impact – University of Hawaii West Oahu economist Professor Lawrence Boyd conducted an independent analysis of the economic impact of building the project, which was published in the February 2009 issue of Hawaii Business Magazine. He estimated the direct, indirect and induced economic impact at \$307.2 million this year, \$1.2 billion in 2010, and \$2.1 billion in 2011. Prof. Boyd stated that by building rail, a significant dent will be made in the recession next year. The project's draft EIS forecasts that building rail will create an average of 10,000 jobs a year.
- 5) Schedule – The final EIS will be released in the summer of 2009. In the fall of 2009, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will release a Record of Decision (ROD). The design-build contract for the first segment will be awarded and construction started by the end of 2009.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

No Payments Before Record of Decision (ROD) – The RFP is a disclosure, is not a contract until the bid is awarded, and so is allowed before the release of the final EIS; Mr. Lee will follow up for more information. No money may be spent on construction until the FTA reaches a ROD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning – An update on Bill 6, regarding B&Bs, was given during Councilmember Tam's report.

Transportation – Both items (Bill 64 to change the rail route, and the rail draft EIS) were covered earlier.

Health, Safety, and Wellness – No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Human Trafficking on Oahu – Kawano will follow up on the issue of human trafficking on Oahu.

Neighborhood Board (NB) Elections – NB candidacy applications are due tomorrow, February 20, either postmarked or hand-carried by 4:30 p.m. to the NCO. Candidate profiles may be submitted at the same time and/or emailed to the NCO.

Board Correspondence – Chair Steelquist briefly ran down the correspondence he received.

Lunalilo On- and Off-Ramps Study Project – The Lunalilo project is still on the list of stimulus projects displayed on the State Department of Transportation website.

Newsletter – The Board still has \$3,000 available in the Publicity Budget; volunteers were requested to create articles for a newsletter, which the Board usually sends out once per year.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by:
Rachel M. Glanstein, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:
Phil Hauret, Secretary; and
John Steelquist, Chair