



## MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/ TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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### **DRAFT - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2012** **MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK, ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair John Steelquiwit called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. **with a quorum of 15 members present.** Note – This 17 member Board requires nine (9) members to establish quorum and take official Board action.

**Members Present:** Vincent Browne, Charles Carole (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Diane Chong, Trevor Funk, Philip Hauret, Richard Kawano, Susan Lai Young, Allan Lee, Eloise Lee, Sam Mitchell, Chuck Reindollar, Isaiah Sabey, Christopher Smith, John Steelquist, Earl Winfree and Roberta Young.

**Members Absent:** Ron Cannarella.

**Guests:** Lieutenant Ben Mahi and Sergeant Lyle Fleck (Honolulu Police Department), Captain Ian Ah Mook Sang (Honolulu Fire Department), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Jarret Yip (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office staff), James Larson (City Council District 6 Office staff), Representative Karl Rhoads, Pat Lee (Honolulu Rail Transit Project), Justin Kessler (Board of Water Supply), Arvid Youngquist (Kalihi Valley Neighborhood, No. 16 Board member), Brian Taniguchi, Kevin Nakasone, Jason Suapaia, Jon Yoshimura, Aaron Rutledge, Sam Aiona, Carol Fukunaga, Inam Rahim, Larry Fenton, Steve Miller and Aisha Wang (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**Vacancies:** None.

**BOARD ORGANIZATION:** None.

#### **CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD):** Captain Ian Ah Mook Sang: reported the following:

- **September 2012 Statistics:** Included 4 structure fires, 1 wildland, and no rubbish or vehicle fires; 49 medical, 2 search/rescue, 13 miscellaneous, and no major incidents. .
- **Fire Safety Tip:** Consider a fire-resistant, artificial Christmas tree for this holiday season. If a natural tree is purchased, choose one as fresh as possible and keep it hydrated and away from heat sources. Use noncombustible materials for decorations. Choose only Underwriter's Laboratory-approved electrical decorations and follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and usage. Do not overload extension cords.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD):** Sergeant Lyle Fleck reported the following:

- **September 2012 Statistics:** Included 9 assaults, 16 burglaries, 5 drug offenses, 18 driving under the influence (DUI), 5 family offenses, 8 graffiti, 113 motor vehicle collisions, 6 motor vehicle thefts, 17 property damage, 4 robbery, 1 sex assault, 28 unauthorized entries into motor vehicle (UEMV) and 183 miscellaneous services.
- **HPD Safety Tips:** Business burglaries inflict financial losses and interrupt business, Items commonly stolen are tools, equipment, materials, cash and motor vehicles

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. **Product Sweepstake:** It has been reported that there have been a number of product sweepstakes calls that have been placed in the area. A warning to be cautious of the information that you are giving over the phone.
2. **HPD Incident:** A community member wanted to hear the specifics of a HPD incident that occurred in the Thomas Square area.



3. Tickets Issued: A Board member raised concern with tickets being given for using the public restrooms at a park in the Makiki area.

7:30 p.m. Board member Carole arrived; **16 members present.**

Board of Water Supply: Justin Kessler reported the following:

- Main Breaks: There was one water main break on September 19, 2012 reported in the Makiki area at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of Beretania Street and Pensacola Street.
- Watershed Management and Protection: Drinking water is the most precious resource and an essential part of daily life. The replenishment of the drinking water supply is heavily dependent on Oahu's Koolau and Waianae mountains ranges as two of Oahu's vital watershed areas. These multi-layered mountain ecosystems recharge Oahu's groundwater supplies by capturing and retaining rainfall, allowing it to seep into our island's underground aquifers. A handout explaining the characteristics of our watershed and how they can be protected has been provided to Board members. For more information, please call the BWS Communications Office at 748-5041.
- Koolau Poko Watershed Management Plan Adopted: The BWS and the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) are pleased to announce that the Koolau Poko Watershed Management Plan has been adopted by the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and the Honolulu City Council. This is the third completed watershed management plan for Oahu's eight (8) land use districts. Watershed Management Plans are action-oriented, community-based plans that provide short-, mid- and long-range guidance for the sustainable management and use of Oahu's water resources.

Transportation: Pat Lee of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project (HRTTP) reported the following:

An independent financial review of Honolulu's rail project just released confirms the financial capacity to construct and operate the rail system, and that the project's financial plan is reasonable and able to withstand and successfully address risks. According to the report prepared for the FTA by Porter & Associates, Inc., the half-percent General Excise and Use Tax (GET) surcharge revenue forecast that will pay for the local funding share of the project is reasonable. So far, the project has received more than \$900 million in GET revenue and another \$120 million in federal funding.

In addition, the review performed two "stress tests," using worst-case scenarios, a 10 percent increase in project costs and a lower rate of GET revenue growth, and found that even under those conditions, the City would still have the financial capacity to build and operate the rail system. This assessment confirms that the project is on track to receive the FFGA and the \$1.55 Billion federal New Starts funding by the end of the year.

A question often asked these days is if the transit fund can be used for sewers, road repairs, or for the bus or another transit alternative. Under current laws, the simple answer is no.

Federal New Starts funds, the \$1.55 Billion grant money goes through a very detailed and cumbersome process and you can't just take the funds and use it for something else, including another transit alternative.

Regarding the local share of the rail funds, Act 247, the state law for the half-percent excise tax, specifically states that the surcharge must be used for the "locally preferred alternative." It also states that: "The county surcharge on state tax shall not be used to build or repair public roads or highways, bicycle paths, or support public transportation system already in existence prior to the effective date of this Act."

Additionally, city ordinances have to be changed by the Council. The City Charter would need to be changed from the steel wheel on steel rail system approved by voters in 2008. The powers and duties of HART, approved by Charter Amendment in 2010 would also have to be amended at a future general election.

A new EIS will be required both on the federal NEPA and state HEPA guidelines. A new EIS will take a minimum of 3 years at a cost of \$50 million or more before any design work can be done on a new transit plan.

So it could take 5 or more years to approve any new plan before construction, and the \$1.55 Billion in federal funds currently pending for the rail project would most likely go to another municipality in another state, just as it did in 1992 when Mayor Fasi's rail plan was cancelled.

For more information, please visit the project website at [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org), call the project hotline at 566-2299, or email at [info@honolulutransit.org](mailto:info@honolulutransit.org)

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Homeless Across Times Supermarket: A resident raised concerns for the increased sightings of homeless individuals in the Times Supermarket area on the Kinau Street and also concern for "kids partying" in the parking lot on the Kinau Street side of the same market.

- Streetlight Out: It was reported that there is a streetlight out on Makiki Street and Wilder Avenue and at the Basketball Courts.
- Grass Overgrown: There is overgrown grass going onto the corner of Ward Avenue and Beretania Avenue.
- Grass Not Growing: A Board member reported that the grass is not growing in the Thomas Square area and he has contact who would be willing to assist the City in planting new grass.
- Museum of Art: The Museum of Art is reportedly upgrading their property, not re-doing anything.
- Urban Downtown Development: There were no updates for this issue.
- Letter from the Oahu Council: Chair Steelquist read a letter from the O'ahu Ahupua'a Boundary Marker Signage Project.

#### PRESENTATIONS/NEW BUSINESS:

Lunalilo Freeway: The Board discussed the issue of a promise that the Vineyard exit would include morning coning coming on the Vineyard Street exit off the freeway when the re-stripping was finished. **Board member Chong moved and was seconded by Board member Browne to send a letter to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) requesting the department answer what happened to the coning of the exit. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, 16-0-0, (Aye: Browne, Carole, Chong, Funk, Hauret, Kawano, Lai Young, A. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Reindollar, Sabey, Smith, Steelquist, Winfree and Young).**

Discussion on Conditions of Sidewalks in the Makiki Area: No Report.

#### CITY REPORTS:

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi in the interest of time reported the following:

- Sidewalks: That she is still working on the issue of improvement of sidewalks in the Makiki area.
- Recycling: Ninth Annual Recycling day will be on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Kaimuki High School.
- Absentee Voting: Councilmember Kobayashi urged everyone to take the opportunity to vote early through absentee voting which will be held through November 3, 2012.

City Council District 6: James Larsen circulated newsletters and highlighted the following:

- General Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2012 is General Election day all over the nation.
- Road Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation road work will include: resurfacing of asphalt concrete pavements; reconstruction of failed asphalt concrete pavement areas identified by the contractor and confirmed by the City; and installation of pavement markers, striping and markings.  
Kapiolani Boulevard Reconstruction (South Street to Ward Avenue) will include reconstruction of the asphalt pavement section and construct new Portland Cement Concrete pavement bus lanes in both directions. Work is estimated to be completed by June 2013.
- King Street Construction: Construction continues on areas of King Street between River Street and Bethel Street, Chinatown. Motorists can expect multiple lane closures Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Work is estimated to be completed May 2013.
- Two Charter Amendments: Voters will have the opportunity to vote for two (2) proposed amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973. CR 12-44 relating to the grants in aid and CR12-113 relating to the creation of funds.
- Spotlight: Captain Geoffrey Chang is a 25-veteran of the Honolulu Fire Department.

Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative: Kelsey Gaddy was unable to attend the meeting and sent an e-mail to Chair Steelquist which was read as follows:

- Timing of Sprinklers: The timing of the sprinklers in the Thomas Square Park seem not to be coordinated throughout the entire park. The response from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was that the irrigation was done systematically to provide watering throughout the park within the park closure hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. There are 24 watering stations that are pre-set to water at a desired time on certain days of the week. Each station is programmed to water for a period of time, according to the seasons (wet vs dry).

During the winter months the watering period is approximately 5 to ten minutes per station whereas during the summer months it is set for 15 to 20 minutes per station. This is to conserve water during winter and maximize the effect of watering during the limited periods when the park may require more water during the summer. Night watering minimizes evaporation.

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Carol Fukunaga: The senator reported that Roundtop Drive was being taken care of as far as the maintenance that was reported to the Board in a previous meeting.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria: No representative; written report available.

Representative Sylvia Luke: No representative, no written report available.

Representative Karl Rhoads: Representative Karl Rhoads thanked the Board and explained that due to re-apportionment, he would no longer be representing this district and reported the following:

- Keeaumoku Street: Representative Rhoads reported that his office received a number of complaints about the homeless breaking into dumpster and electrical sockets; also received complaints about five street lights being out and several requests to the same address 1326 Keeaumoku Street. These complaints were forwarded to the HPD and the Department of Transportation (DOT).
- Kinau Street: There were several complaints about traffic congestion on Kinau Street due to the traffic signals not being synchronized. These complaints were forwarded to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS).
- Suspected Gambling: A complaint about suspected gambling at the “Sweepstakes” establishment on the corner of Nuuanu Avenue and North King Street was forwarded to the HPD.

Governor Neil Abercrombie’s Representative: Kalbert Young reported the following:

- Hawaii Healthcare Benefits Package: The State has met a major milestone in ensuring that all people of Hawaii have access to high-quality healthcare and insurance coverage. On October 1, 2012 Governor Abercrombie announced the selection of a healthcare benefits package that will outline the minimum array of benefits insurers must provide for years 2014 and 2015, as elements of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).  
The Hawaii Medical Services Association (HMSA) Preferred Provider Plan (PPO) was identified as the benchmark, since it provided the widest array of benefits. This decision sets a baseline for all insurers; individuals will still be able to seek additional coverage, and insurers will still be able to offer more benefits.
- Hawaii-OSHA Agreement: On September 21, 2012 Governor Abercrombie formalized an agreement with federal officials to facilitate restoration of Hawaii’s workplace health and safety enforcement capacity back to federally compliant levels.  
The enforcement capacity of the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations’ Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) was diminished when 32 of 51 HIOSH positions were eliminated during the 2009 Reduction-in-Force process.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

BOARD BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: **The September 20, 2012 regular meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED as circulated, 16-0-0 (Aye: Browne, Carole, Chong, Funk, Hauret, Kawano, Lai Young, A. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Reindollar, Sabey, Smith, Steelquist, Winfree and Young).**

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Chong reported that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board, No. 10 had spent a total of \$67.76 for the month of September leaving a balance of \$774.93. The report was filed.

Dog Park Update: No report.

Recycling Days in the Makiki Area: No report.

COMMITTEES:

Planning and Zoning: No report.

Health, Safety, and Wellness: No report.

Parks: No report.

Education: No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Meeting: The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 14, 2012** at the Makiki District Park, arts and crafts room at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Aisha Wang, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by, Nola Frank, Neighborhood Commission Office Staff

Reviewed by: John Steelquist, Chair