



**LILIHA/ PUUNUI/ ALEWA/ KAMEHAMEHA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 14**

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007  
MA'EMA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Stubbs with a quorum of seven members at 7:18 p.m.

**Members Present** - Loy Kuo, Lester Matsomoto, Karen Shishido, Bob Stubbs, Ed Thompson, Claude Uehara, Arvid Youngquist.

**Members Absent:** Wesley Fong, Madeline Lum, Sesnita Moepono, Donald Nitta, Dale White.

**Guests:** Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor's Representative, Department of Community Services), Jeff Coelho (Mayor's Office), Lydia Chock (Maluhia Hospital), Capt. Paul Shimizu (HFD), Sgt. Sam Fontanilla (HPD/ District 5), Vanessa Cabral (Neighborhood Watch), Francis Nishimura, Kelvin Shimazu (Shimazu Store), Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative), Representative John Mizuno, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Corrections to the Minutes of October 8, 2007 were as follows:

- Page 1 – Members Present – Add “Lester Matsumoto”
- Page 2 – Residents' Concerns No. 2 – Change spelling of “Coehlo” to “Coelho” in lines 3 and 5.

The minutes were accepted as corrected.

**BOARD VACANCIES** –There were no volunteers to fill the vacancy in Sub District 1.

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – Capt. Paul Shimizu reported the following statistics for October: there were 109 medical emergencies, 2 search and rescue and 8 miscellaneous calls. There were no major incidents.

**Fire Safety Tip:** This holiday season, consider a fire-resistant, artificial Christmas tree. If you purchase a natural tree choose one as fresh as possible, keep it hydrated and away from heat sources in the house. Use noncombustible materials for decorations. Choose only Underwriter's Laboratory-approved electrical decorations and follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and load. Do not overload extension cords.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Sgt. Fontanilla, from the Kalihi Station, reported the October statistics as follows: 114 arguments, 7 assaults, 11 burglaries, 0 narcotics, 6 DUI, 0 homicides, 14 motor vehicle thefts, 15 property damages, 1 robbery, 0 sex offenses, 32 unauthorized entry into cars.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Kuo reported the FBI listed Honolulu as one of the safest cities in the United States and thanked him for their service to give the city that statistic. He also appreciated the drug bust by Kalihi Uka School although it is not in this area. Sgt. Fontanilla was grateful for the assistance from the neighbors that helped the police with the case.



2. The collision at Kuakini at Alaneo by Lanakila Elementary school involved a pedestrian who wasn't in a marked crosswalk; he looked in the opposite direction of an oncoming car.
3. Thompson reported seeing aerial fireworks go off at Makuakina and Makaukane Streets. Sgt. Fontinalla asked people to call and report illegal fireworks, giving the most specific address and description of the people involved, so HPD can write up the incident clearly.

### **RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:**

1. A resident saw spray painting on the slides and inside the pavillion area at Kunawai Park and someone told her they saw it being done but they didn't report it. Sgt. Fontanilla asked residents to call HPD when they see graffiti and if they can take pictures of it, those could match some pictures they already have on record.
2. Kelvin Shimazu, owner of Shimazu Store on North School Street and Frog Lane, talked with Board members about changing the direction of traffic on Frog Lane from going out to coming in because it is very dangerous for the following reasons:
  - Motorists don't stop at that street corner; they seem to slide through it.
  - Bicyclists and pedestrians cross Frog Lane as if it were a driveway.
  - Approaching the intersection, the stop sign is posted so high it can't be seen.
  - There is no "stop line" in the intersection
  - The crosswalk is not painted.
  - Cars traveling on School Street coming off the freeway don't slow down as they pass his store and don't stop at the stop sign.
  - Cars leaving Frog Lane are speeding.
  - Coming out of Frog Lane going left along the fence line, you see a sign that says "Wrong Way" but sometimes people come out of Frog Lane and go left which is the wrong way and they have to make a U turn to get onto the freeway. Shimazu has seen cars come from Liliha down the wrong way.

Sgt. Fontanilla will follow up.

3. Nishimura reported that in mid-October there were lines on the road outside his house. After he made many calls to the City, he found out what was happening with the Board of Water Supply (BWS). He requested that in the future residents be notified with a note on their door instead of the time it takes and the inconvenience to the City workers to find out who is the responsible party so people are aware of the impending construction. Kuo said the regular procedure is to notify residents; the work is part of the sewer line repair.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Update on Status of Kuakini Extension Project** - Jeff Coelho reported that the State and City are working overtime to convey the land, although it is less difficult than it was two months ago. The City knows DLNR is working on this project and they support the resolution Councilmember Tam introduced that asks for joint participation from the City and State on the subdivision of the Kuakini project. Coelho distributed the letter from Laura Theilen, Director of the DLNR to Councilmember Tam and himself, a copy of Mel Kaku's response back and the City's colored maps and drawings. Currently the project status is that if it is not funded, they can't encumber the money and meet the procurement law deadline by December 15, 2007 so the money will go back to the General Fund.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Responding to a resident's question, Coelho explained that the money apportioned for the project will lapse because it is not encumbered to any "Notice to Proceed" contract. Councilmember Tam will have to sell the merits of this job again but it doesn't have to be abandoned because everyone has worked so hard on it. He feels they are very close to solving the very complex land conveyance issues.

**B. Kunawai Park Update** – Uehara gave Councilmember Tam's November 19 report as follows:

- The contractor is presently waiting for building and grading permits.
- Playground equipment is currently on the Department of Parks and Recreation's priority list for replacement.
- New park benches were ordered, but swings will not be replaced because the fall zone is not large enough to meet current safety standards.
- The holes underneath the swings were filled by the park maintenance staff.
- Security gates will be installed for both the men's and women's restroom entrances as part of the renovation project.

Morikawa reported that at a previous meeting it was stated the request for CIP funds will go into next year's budget.

Questions, answers and concerns regarding Kunawai Park:

1. A resident heard the Park would be fixed in the summer but they only changed the lights and put doors on the men's and women's bathrooms, but they were supposed to fix the roof. She talked with Dan Nakamatsu at the Department of Planning and Permitted (DPP) twice in the past four months and he asked her to call Robert Inouye, a civil engineer with the Department of Design and Construction whom she called and left many messages including her three phone numbers but she hasn't heard back from anyone.
2. Kuo, an engineer with the State Department of Transportation, reported the people closest to the project and the contractor responsible for the work, or the immediate project manager, would know the timetable for a project. Coelho explained when a contract is awarded the contractor is given approximately one and a half years to complete the work because they have other jobs in progress so completion time varies but they are bound to do the work. Uehara reported Councilmember Tam's office is waiting for the permits for this project and he will bring a time table to the next meeting. Coelho will check on the contractor's timetable for the Kunawai Park Project and Morikawa will follow up with the project manager.
3. Nishimura understood a contract was awarded and work was to begin last summer by MJ Construction but it hasn't happened yet. Coelho noted in this case, there are very narrow streets and you need to convey if there will be traffic interruption. The City takes a long time to permit a City project because they insist a contractor meets all the City's codes for safety, performance requirements and proceedings. Nishimura explained these concerned residents were also active supporters of the Kuakini Street Extension Project and because of the delays they had experienced, they are concerned about the promised renovations of the pavilion. Coelho will follow up with the contractor's timetable and Morikawa will follow up with the jobs' project manager.

**C. Plant Overgrowth at Makuakane Place** – Morikawa was notified by DPP that it was corrected.

**D. Status of Rocks in Na Pueo Park** – Morikawa reported the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is requesting to meet Wes Fong on the site to clarify the exact location of the problem and discuss the situation. Chuck Allen, 522-7073, the District II Maintenance Supervisor, will follow up with Wes Fong.

**E. Status of Coelho Way and Burbank Street** – Morikawa reported the BWS just put in a new water line; they should have flushed and tested it, put in new fire hydrants and water meters to the water main and will be finished with the project by Christmas. The contractor would be called in a year if the road's asphalt resurfacing fails. Shishido was contacted by a neighbor on Coelho Way asking for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) to clean up the driveways in her neighborhood when they finish their work because all the dirt from their construction is going down them. When Shishido called BWS they said they would do it, so she is waiting.

#### **OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' FORUM**

**Board of Water Supply (BWS)** –Chair Stubbs read highlights from the BWS report: The public is invited to two wreath making classes on November 24 and December 1 for which you can register on their website at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com) for a fee of \$5.00 per class or call 748-5041. Their employees will participate in the City's Christmas parades in downtown Honolulu and Kapolei. Chair Stubbs asked their BWS representative, Iris Oda, to provide more copies of her reports for the Board and the audience at the meetings.

**Councilmember Rod Tam's** – Uehara distributed Councilmember Tam's newsletter.

**Mayor's Representative** – Debbie Kim Morikawa reported the following:

1. Issues discussed earlier to make the Frog Lane area safer:
  - Establish a 25 mile per hour speed limit
  - Add a speed bump to slow down traffic
  - Repaint the crosswalk
  - Change Frog Lane to a one way in the other direction because of the fast speeds and people not looking when they get to the intersection.

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will gather information on this location, look at previous issues, HPD reports and any prior field assessments. Thereafter DTS will do a field assessment and traffic evaluation to include field observations, vehicular volumes, speed counts and pedestrian volumes which should be completed by February, 2008. Morikawa will pass on the additional information brought up tonight regarding Frog Lane.

2. The Mayor hosted his Second Annual Transit Symposium on November 13th with leaders from a number of different cities who developed fixed guideway systems and there was a focus on Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Wellington Webb, former Mayor of Denver who oversaw a \$7 billion project there, emphasized that Honolulu needs rail and should employ it now. The second Transit Oriented Conference was held in Waipahu on November 14th.
3. The Mayor invites everyone to join him for the opening of Honolulu City Lights on December 1st starting with a prayer service at Kawaihau Church at 5:00 p.m. The tree lighting ceremony starts at 6:00 p.m. and a concert at Skygate Park begins at 7:30 p.m.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Coelho explained to Youngquist that the panel of experts proposed by the Mayor will be five experts, four appointed by the Mayor and one by the City Council, to choose the technology for the rail transit project. They will look at proposals from different companies regarding different technologies and make a recommendation, the procurement process will follow.
2. Coelho reported the person replacing Mel Kaku, Director of DTS, will be Wayne Yoshioka. He is very knowledgeable in transit and transportation issues and the City is fortunate to have him joining the staff December 1st. Mel Kaku is the new Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Kuo supports the appointment of Yoshioka and feels he "brings an unprecedented level of technical expertise in transportation engineering that... in a few years, would translate to a dramatic improvement to our traffic conditions..." Coelho encouraged Kuo to come and testify in favor of Yoshioka at his City Council hearing of which Morikawa will send notification to Trustin to notify the Liliha Board.
3. Coelho explained to Shishido that previous transit research compiled from studies such as Mayor Fasi's proposed project Honolulu Area Rapid Transit (HART), are kept; none of the records are thrown out. Recently they were reformulated to produce the alternative analysis preparation for the current rapid transit bid or it would have taken five years to gather that information. At the Mayor's transit symposium last week the presenters agreed that everyone in Washington, D.C. realizes Hawaii's linear corridor is excellent for transit development and that it is a premium project. Recently the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) helped the City get \$15 million to do an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and preliminary engineering. The FTA doesn't provide financing unless they feel the project has a good opportunity to succeed and Honolulu is one of the few locations that has local funding in place which is also in our favor. Coelho joins others in his optimism that Honolulu could break ground with the project in 2009 and the first legs would be operational by 2015.

**Governor's Report** – Henry Oliva reported that the overall theme in the Governor's report is veterans' activities. The Governor also convened the meeting of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission at their first meeting at the Hawaii State Capitol.

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland** – Senator Chun Oakland was not present; information for the board and the audience was circulated.

**Representative Corinne Ching** – Representative Ching was not present; no report was distributed.

**Representative John Mizuno** – Representative Mizuno distributed information and discussed three bills he was involved in proposing that were adopted:

- House Bill 1008 was adopted which requires health care for children who do not have it. Hawaii is the second state to pass such a bill after Illinois. Hopefully this can also be provided to the kupuna and maybe in a few years to everyone in the state.
- House Bill 1830 provides a safe haven for abandoned babies; 47 other states have passed such a law. This is for parents who have a new born baby and panic and they might put the child in a dumpster or the like; this has happened in Hawaii. The bill was passed by the legislature, vetoed by the Governor and then passed in a legislative special session by a super majority.

- House Bill 55 enacted July 1, 2007 established a statewide youth suicide prevention, education, and intervention program through the Department of Health (DOH). Statistics show that in Hawaii every 2.8 days there is a suicide making it the second highest cause of death among youth and young adults ages 15-24.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Approximately \$5 million was apportioned from the State and \$5 million from HMSA to fund the Keiki insurance bill as a pilot project for three years.
2. Every 2.8 days there is an actual suicide, not attempted, within the state of Hawaii (statistics provided by the Department of Health). Mizuno didn't know the statistics were that high.
3. The Department of Health will implement the program through the schools by teaching coordinators how to look for signs of depression in students and then ask them if they want counseling. Teachers want to help students but they don't know what the signs are. Hopefully this work will trickle down to the teachers and maybe students who are helped can encourage family members to seek help if they need it helping a broader base of the population. Chair Stubbs has a program like this at his workplace and when people know the signs and they watch for them, suicides drop dramatically. This bill is funded for two years with \$100,000; hopefully the next bill on the subject will help veterans.
4. Representative Mizuno's experiences in the legislature have been very exciting; six of his bills were adopted into law with Senator Chun Oakland's help to get them adopted in the Senate. He hasn't been at this neighborhood board meeting since becoming a representative because the National Caucus of State Legislature (NCSL) offers trips to new legislators in their field of emphasis, which for him is healthcare, and he has taken advantage of that opportunity. His last trip will be next week to Arizona and thereafter can attend these meetings more regularly.
5. Representative Mizuno reported there was a strong movement on the mainland to get a commemorative stamp for the Nisei World War II veterans (second-generation Japanese Americans) and there has been great interest in Hawaii as well. Senator Les Ihara is going to introduce this effort in the House and with all the attention it has been receiving, the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff, Kevin Sousa, wants to do a joint press release with the House, Senate and committee members when the resolution is filed. Representative Mizuno suggested if this board would adopt a resolution supporting this effort, it could be submitted to the Citizen's Advisory Committee.
6. Thompson noted that HB 1044, a bill he has been working on for many years for immunosuppressant medication for medicaid patients with HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis C was adopted through the continuous efforts of Representative Mizuno and support of Senators Chun Oakland, Baker and Ihara.
7. He invited the public to call him at 586-6050, email him at [repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov) or stop by his office with their requests for a bill. He invited everyone to visit his office for the opening of the legislature on January 16th.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **The Early Learning Educational Task Force** – They are not making a presentation to any of the Neighborhood Boards.

- B. Lanikila Elementary School Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Issue** - Chair Stubbs reported the principal of Lanakila Elementary School advised they would not be here tonight to report on the Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Issue. More lights and brighter signs are needed so they are more easily visible. There have been two people hit in that intersection and one killed by cars turning left from Kuakini Street onto Alaneo Street. An older boy was hit while jay walking but he wasn't seriously hurt. Between Liliha Street and Alaneo Street there is not a single crosswalk which probably encourages people to jay walk there.
- C. Oahu Cemetery Crematorium Diesel Exhaust Emissions** - A resident contacted Chair Stubbs and asked for an investigation of the Oahu Cemetery Crematorium that is grandfathered to use diesel fuel to do cremations. During cremations, when the breeze is blowing in a certain direction, it is as if there is a constant smell of diesel fuel in your home. When the resident talked with the State Board of Health they said it was not a problem because no smoke was emitted. The resident wrote a letter to Chiyome Fukino, M.D., Director, State Department of Health, and got no response. His second letter asked who was responsible for monitoring the quality of the emissions and has gotten no response so Chair Stubbs asked for help in the matter. Board member Uehara can smell the noxious fumes when he runs by while exercising. Board member Kuo also smells the diesel exhaust when passing by the area.
- D. Repaving and Road Construction on Alewa Drive** – This will begin on Alewa Drive from Wyllie Street to Hoomaikai Drive November 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 Mondays through Fridays. Call Enoch Lum at 591-8977 with any questions or concerns. Kuo reported that he worked for Lum and Glover who both do excellent work.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

- A. There was no Transportation Committee Report.
- B. There was no appointment of Committee Chairs.

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

- **Maluhia Hospital** - Chair Stubbs thanked Lydia Chock for what Maluhia Hospital is doing for the Kuakini Extension Project.
- **Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO)** - Youngquist reported that at a recent OMPO meeting with guest Cliff Slater, he response to Youngquist regarding his preference of light rail or heavy rail projects on the mainland was the New York rail which is the most expensive but has the highest ridership. Chair Stubbs reminded Youngquist that at meetings, unless the board has voted on something being discussed, he doesn't represent the board. Chair Stubbs appreciates Youngquist going to the meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Chair Stubbs reported the previous balance of the Operating Budget was \$1,389.86, with current expenses at \$52.99, leaving a balance of \$1,336.97 in that account.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by

Bonnie Trustin  
Neighborhood Assistant