



LILIIHA/ PUUNUI/ ALEWA/ KAMEHAMEHA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 14

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OFFICE • HONOLULU HALE, ROOM 406
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**DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013
MA'EMA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Wesley Fong called the Liliha/Puunui/Alewa/Kamehameha Heights Neighborhood Board No. 14 Board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **A quorum was established with nine (9) Board members present.** Note – This 13 member Board requires seven (7) members to establish quorum and take official Board action.

Board Members Present: Chad Atkins, Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Wesley Fong, Bixby Ho, Carole Kaapu, Loy Kuo, Donald Nitta, Ethann Oki and Dale White.

Board Members Absent: Brendan Mitsuda and Robert Stubbs.

Vacancies: There are two (2) vacancies on the Board; one vacancy each in Sub-District 1 and Sub-District 4.

Guests: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Leolani Oyama (Senator Chun Oakland's Office staff), Daniel Holt (Senator Donna Mercado Kim's Office staff), Randy Leong (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's office), Councilmember Carol Fukunaga and Anthony Chang (Councilmember Fukunaga's Office staff), Representative Takashi Ohno (Representative Ohno's Office staff), Sergeant Robert Oakes (Honolulu Police Department), Captain Ryan Fernandez and Firefighter Richard Minn (Honolulu Fire Department), Iris Oda (Board of Water Supply), Keith Yamamoto (State Department of Health), Ronald Higa, Laurie Komatsu, Janice Lee, and Adam LeFebvre (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

Vice Chair Wesley Fong asked residents to turn off their cell phones and to state their names when presenting.

White moved and Ho seconded to add the agenda: 1) the discussion of Wesley Fong's accumulation of three absences and 2) the discussion of the traffic advisory on Alewa Drive. The motion CARRIED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 9-0-0 (AYE: Atkins, Dos Santos-Tam, Fong, Ho, Kaapu, Kuo, Nitta, Oki and White.)

FILLING OF BOARD VACANCIES: There were no volunteers to fill the two (2) board vacancies at this time.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FORUM:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Ryan Fernandez reported the following:

- Fire Statistics of February 2013: There were 65 medical emergencies. There were no major or unusual incidents to report.
- Fire Safety Tip: Residents were advised to not leave cooking food unattended, and if they do to take an oven mitt with them as a reminder. It was suggested keeping flammable items away from the cooking range, and residents were encouraged to learn how to use a fire extinguisher and to keep one in their homes.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sergeant Robert Oakes reported the following:

- Crime Statistics for February 2013: There were 68 arguments, 3 assaults, 6 burglaries, 2 drugs/narcotics offenses, 2 driving under the influence (DUI) offenses, 4 family offenses, 4 motor vehicle thefts, 86 motor vehicle collisions (MVC), 9 property damages, 0 robberies, 1 sex offense, 27 thefts and 8 thefts from a motor vehicle (UEMV).

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) – Officers issue citations to drivers involved in MVC's if there is sufficient evidence that an offense is committed or if it was witnessed.



2. Cleaning Product Scam – There is a scam in which individuals go door-to-door with a white van claiming to be selling cleaning products, but are in fact casing the residence for a future burglary. HPD can do little to prevent it as selling items door-to-door is technically legal. HPD is aware of the problem and is working towards a solution.
3. Crime Statistics – The beat numbers are included in the report, and Vice-Chair Fong provided a map detailing the boundaries of each beat in the Neighborhood Board area.

Atkins departed at 7:11 p.m.; **8 members present.**

Mayor Kirk Caldwell Representative: Randy Leong provided the following report:

- Budget – Mayor Caldwell submitted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Operating Program and Capital Improvement Program Budget to the Honolulu City Council on Friday, March 1, 2013. The proposed FY2014 operating budget is \$2.089 billion. This represents an increase of \$124.8 million (6.4 percent) over FY2013. The budget increase reflects a one-time payment to the City of \$139 million from the sale of the City's affordable housing inventory. Please note that the increase is due to the rise in non-discretionary expenses; the size of government has not increased, and funding for programs is flat. The budget was prepared with a view to meet the Administration's five policy initiatives: bus service restoration, road repaving, maintenance and preservation, parks improvement, sewer and infrastructure repair and maintenance, and to build rail better.
- Fuel Tax Increase – The budget includes a 5-cent per gallon increase in the city's fuel tax, which has not been raised in 24 years. The increase will cost the average driver less than a nickel a day or \$20 annually and generate \$15 million, which the Mayor intends to use to fund bus service restoration and for debt service on bond funding for road repair and maintenance. The additional funds would go into the City's Highway Fund.
- Bus Service Restoration – Starting March 23, 2013 service will be restored to Country Express Route C (Makaha to Ala Moana Center) and Route 14 (St. Louis Heights and Maunalani Heights).
- Road Repairs – The Mayor has budgeted \$150 million per year over the next four years for road repair. View the road repaving update on the city website, including a full list of road repaving projects from now to 2017: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/ddc/roadrepavingupdate.htm>
- Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Cameras – Residents can now check on line to see how long the lines are at the DMV. This service has reduced the long lines and the hours of waiting significantly. Residents were encouraged to visit <http://www3.honolulu.gov/csddlline/> for more information.
- City Press Release – The Honolulu Authority for Rail Transit (HART) is to receive \$67.5 million in federal funding for the rail as part of a \$1.55 billion agreement between HART and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). To date, the project has \$320 million in federal funding.
- Bulky Item Pickup – The Department of Environmental Services (ENV) will be placing advertisements in the Honolulu Advertiser and in Midweek to educate residents about the bulky item pickup schedule and to provide a reminder of the enforcement action beginning on May 1, 2013.
- Office of Corporation Counsel (COR) Director – Donna Leong was appointed to the position. She had served as the deputy director of COR previously, and has been working in the private sector for Outrigger hotels.
- Kapalama Avenue Traffic Collision History – The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) requires clarification before an investigation can be conducted.
- Kuakini Extension Project – DTS sent documents to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) for review. DTS will inform the Board when the federal funds are obligated.
- Botanical Garden Rusty Fence – The Grounds Supervisor Derek Miyasaki inspected the fence along Waikalulu Street and did not find evidence of excessive rusting. The fence was noted to be leaning, and a work request has been submitted. Residents were invited to call 522-7053 with further concerns.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Building Rail Better – Mayor Caldwell will be examining existing routes and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) locations in conjunction with public comments to see if there are better ways to build the rail.
2. Bus Route Restoration – It was asked if Mayor Caldwell intends to restore Bus Route B Express with service from Middle Street into Waikiki. It is used by many with jobs at the Hotels in Waikiki, who have been complaining of an hour increase in commute time each way.

3. Affordable Housing on Nimitz Highway – It was asked if obstruction to the line of sight of neighboring houses is taken into consideration when building new high-rises. Leong will follow up with the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).
4. Kuakini Street Extension Project – It was asked if Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for the project will be approved for this Fiscal Year (FY), or if it will be delayed. Chris Takashige of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) had previously mentioned that the project is moving forward on schedule.
5. Liliha Street Repaving – The street is noting to be degrading rapidly, and it was asked if it was on the list of CIP repairs. Residents were encouraged to check www1.honolulu.gov/ddc/roadrepaving to see a complete list of scheduled road repairs.
6. Lanakila Gym – The basketball nets are unable to raise to accommodate the volleyball configuration, and it was recommended speaking with representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to have the mechanism repaired.
7. Gas Tax – It was asked if the potential five (5) cent increase to the gas tax would be used for road maintenance or if it would be deposited into the General Fund. City Council has yet to approve the proposal, and the specifics will be determined upon passage.
8. Pending Items – A number of items on the agenda have been awaiting an update for several months, and it was asked if Leong could provide any additional information. Updates on Agenda Items 7.2 through 7.6 will be provided at the next regular Board meeting.
9. Cemetery at the Intersection of Kapalama and School Streets – The trees on the School Street side of the cemetery have been chopped down, and a fence may be installed. Part of the property is owned by the City, and the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) may be involved.

Councilmember Carol Fukunaga – Councilmember Fukunaga's representative Anthony Chang reported the following:

- Town Hall Meeting – There will be a meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the State Capitol. All residents were invited to attend.
- Overhangin Branches on Nuuanu Avenue – This item was referred to DPR.
- Lanakila Gym – The issue of the leaking pipe near the gym entrance was referred to DPR.
- Alewa Drive – The blinking lights were reported to be working again.
- CIP Request – A CIP request has been sent to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and DFM. Chang will forward a copy of their correspondence to the Board.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Town Hall Meeting Notice – The town hall meetings were mentioned at the February regular Board meeting, but little other notice was provided. Gratitude was extended to Councilmember Fukunaga, Representative Ohno, and Senator Oakland for attending the previous town hall meeting. It was asked if a summary of discussion and action could be provided to interested residents who were unable to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Joey Manahan – No representative or report was available.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland – Senator Chun Oakland reported the following:

- Legislature – Senator Chun Oakland highlighted a number of bills in her report which are currently being discussed, including bills pertaining to Housing and the Homeless, Kupuna Care and Persons with Disabilities.
- Town Hall Meeting – Light refreshments will be served at the Town Hall Meeting on March 12, 2013.

Senator Donna Mercado Kim – Daniel Holt reported the following:

- Legislature – The House and Senate have entered their first crossover deadline, where House and Senate Bills are shared with each other. Some bills include increases to the minimum wage over a three-year period, kupuna care and early childhood education.
- University of Hawaii (UH) – The Senate Special Investigation Committee for UH is still working towards a solution.
- Sequestration – The Senate is creating a Sequestration Impact Response Team to accurately identify how the Federal cuts will impact operations on the State level.

- Honoring Veterans – Three (3) airmen from the 332nd Fighter Group were honored for their many influential missions conducted in World War II.
- Town Hall Meeting – There will be another Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Pearl Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria.
- Go Green Event – A recycling drive will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 to give residents an opportunity to dispose of unwanted items including broken appliances, computers and clothing.
- Senate District 14 Funding – Funds have been released for a number of projects in Senate District 14, including \$2.7 million for safe drinking water treatment.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Minimum Wage Increase – There will be an initial increase to \$8.75, then up to \$9.25 next FY. The debate over the merits of the increase is ongoing in the House of Representatives.
2. Kuakini Street Extension Project – The street is outside of Senator Mercado-Kim's district. Representative Ohno may be able to find out more.
3. Senate District 14 – A map was displayed detailing the boundaries of Senator Mercado-Kim's district. Only a small portion of Neighborhood Board No. 14 is included in Senate District 14.

Representative Takashi Ohno – Representative Ohno reported the following:

- Street Rehabilitation – Liliha and Wyllie Streets and the H1 Freeway are anticipated to have rehabilitation work done in 2013, as well as Vineyard Street from Palama Street to the H1 Freeway.
- Legislative Session – The State House of Representatives is looking into creating a task force to investigate the use of sirens by emergency vehicles at night. Several bills look into moped registration and illegal moped modifications. House Bill 1042 seeks to prohibit leaf blower use starting at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.
- Thomas Square Complaints – A public nuisance bill pertaining to State parks will be discussed on March 20, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
- Kuakini Street Extension Project – There will be no delays due to the change in City administration.
- Go Green Event – Residents were invited to attend a recycling event as part of the Kunawai Springs Beautification Project. Interested residents were invited to contact Representative Ohno's office.
- Town Hall Meeting – Residents interested in receiving a summary of the Town Hall meetings may contact Representative Ohno at repohno@capitol.hawaii.gov or by phone at 586-4815.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative: Keith Yamamoto reported the following:

- Sequestration – Governor Abercrombie will convene a Sequestration Response Team to prepare for the impact that sequestration will have on Hawaii. The initial forecast plan would cut \$25 million per year from the State government, but it could potentially be as high as \$50 million per year over a shorter span of time. The impact was noted to be especially high in Hawaii due to the significant military presence.
- State Department of Education (DOE) – Mediation between the DOE and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) has resumed in order to come to an agreement regarding teachers' contracts.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Sequestration – It was asked if there would be a gap between the sequestration taking effect and the State's sequestration relief package. State Health and Human Services will most likely feel the greatest impact.
2. Budget – The Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) budget has not yet been approved, but some CIP projects in the area include a new playground basketball court for Likelike Elementary School, a new auditorium for Farrington High School, and Pali Highway resurfacing. Some non-profits will be receiving funding as well, including the Lanakila "Meals on Wheels."
3. Community Input – Residents were encouraged to write to their elected officials encouraging them to release the CIP funding.
4. Cemetery at Kapalama and School Streets – It was asked if the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) could provide an update on the proposed fence at the cemetery.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Iris Oda reported the following:

- Water Meter Battery Replacement Project – Batteries need to be replaced in 60,000 meters in Honolulu, 2,000 of which are in the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki area. BWS will be contracting out the work, and the contractors will be carrying a signed letter from BWS when they perform the work. Residents were encouraged to call 748-5462 or email contactus@hbws.org with any questions or concerns.
- Halawa Xeriscape Garden Workshops:
 - Creative Container Gardening – March 13, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 - Decorate an Egg the Xeriscape Way – March 30, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- Liliha Street Water Improvement Project – A contractor will be installing a 12 inch main along Liliha Street on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is estimated to be complete November 2013.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Battery Replacement – This is the first time the batteries have been replaced since being installed.
2. Billing Fee – The change from bimonthly to monthly billing has resulted in a 100% increase in the billing fee. This fee covers the costs of additional manpower and computer upgrades to accommodate the new system.
3. Online Payment – The online payment option is not yet available. Residents were invited to check www.boardofwatersupply.com for updates.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS: None.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2013: **Without objection by the Board the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2013 were APPROVED as corrected. Corrections include:**

Page 1: Change the date to "MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013"

Page 2: Under Representative Takashi Ohno's report, remove "they wait for the dredging project to begin."

Page 3: Under Questions, comments and concerns, remove "3. Pothole Responsibility – The State/City is not responsible if a resident is injured as a result of hitting a pothole."

UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Status Updates – Updates were requested on the repaving of Panui and Lolena Streets, including a timeline of when the project may begin.

Liliha Area MAPPING Project – Pamela Chow is still looking for volunteers for the Communities for a Lifetime (CFL) project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Neighborhood Board Elections – The filing deadline for interested candidates was Friday, February 15, 2013. All Board members and residents need to submit an application to be a candidate in the upcoming election. Elections will be held in April and May, 2013, either online or by telephone.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Community Notification – In districts with contested races, the applicable community members will be notified of the upcoming electronic vote.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Maluhia – No report was available.

Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center: No representative or report was available.

Ma'ema'e Elementary School Community Council (SCC): There will be a design budget meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

St. Francis Health Care System: No representative or report was available.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Approval of Board Meeting Location, Day and Time – It was suggested removing this item from the agenda.

Report of Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC): Loy Kuo received an email from the OahuMPO asking for community input on transportation. Interested residents were invited to visit www.oahumpo.org to take the survey, which is open until April 14, 2013.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Board of Director's Meeting: No representative or report was available.

Neighborhood Board No. 14 Facebook Page/Twitter Account: Neighborhood Board No. 14 is one of the only Neighborhood Boards with a strong Social Media presence. It was suggested adding scanned copies of the monthly reports from legislators and first responders to the account.

Treasurer's Report: A total of \$40.50 was spent in February 2013 on printing and postage, leaving a remaining balance of \$373.90. The report was filed.

Sunshine Law Online Training Program: Vice-Chair Fong reminded Board members to watch the Sunshine Law training clip online at the Neighborhood Commission Office website, www.honolulu.gov/nco.

Board Attendance – Vice Chair Fong has accumulated three absences in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. It was noted that this process is in place as a mechanism for the Board to remove ineffective Board Members.

Vice Chair Fong relinquished the gavel to Dale White at 8:37 p.m.

Discussion followed:

1. Explanation – Vice Chair Fong noted that he had been recovering from a surgical procedure.
2. Wesley Fong – It was noted that Fong has been a productive member of Neighborhood Board No. 14, and should continue to serve on the Board.

The Board decided to take no action on this item. Dale White relinquished the gavel to Vice Chair Fong at 8:39 p.m.

Alewa Drive Notice to Motorists – A notice was distributed alerting residents of upcoming work to Alewa Drive from March 14 to May 13, 2013. Residents were advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes wherever possible.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Work Schedule – The time of day that work will be conducted was not included on the notice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Board Meeting: The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ma'ema'e Elementary School cafeteria.

Town Hall Meeting – Residents were invited to attend the Town Hall Meeting on March 12, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted By: Adam LeFebvre, Neighborhood Assistant I

Reviewed By: Leland Ribac, Neighborhood Assistant II

Reviewed and Finalized By: Wesley Fong, Vice-Chair