



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

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OFFICE • HONOLULU HALE, ROOM 406
530 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TEL: (808) 768-3710 • FAX: (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: www1.honolulu.gov/nco

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013** **MA'EMA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Stubbs called the Liliha/Puunui/Alewa/Kamehameha Heights Neighborhood Board No. 14 Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **A quorum was established with eight (8) Board members present.** Note – This 13 member Board requires seven (7) members to establish quorum and take official Board action.

Board Members Present: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Bixby Ho, Carole Kaapu, Loy Kuo (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Brandon Mitsuda, Donald Nitta, Ethann Oki, Robert Stubbs and Dale White.

Board Members Absent: Chad Atkins, Wesley Fong.

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

Guests: Keith Yamamoto (State Department of Health and Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative), Captain Elton Furutani (Honolulu Fire Department), Sergeant Robert Oakes and Lieutenant Edward Ah Chong, (Honolulu Police Department), Randy Leong (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's office), Anthony Chang (Councilmember Carol Fukunaga's Office staff), Takashi Ohno, Iris Oda (Board of Water Supply), Francis Nishimura, Steve Carvalho, James Maurer, Yuji Maurer, Ronald Higa, and Aisha Wang (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

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 Elton Furutani reported the following:

- May 2013 Statistics: Included 1 structure and 1 vehicle fire, 86 medical and 28 miscellaneous calls.
- Fire Safety Tip: The risk of wildland fires increases as summer approaches. Make a 30 foot wide fire break by clearing vegetation and clutter around all structures. If your property borders an area where a wildland fire could occur, consider the need for fire department access in case the fire approaches your home. Have an emergency preparedness plan available. Consider the route you would take and other preparations in case you need to evacuate.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed: Hazardous Gases: It was asked and clarified that there is training for hazardous gases used on roofs. The number to call is 723-7168.

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

- May 2013 Statistics: Included 75 arguments, 5 assaults, 12 burglaries, 3 drugs/narcotics, 9 driving under the influence (DUI), 4 family offenses, 6 motor vehicle thefts, 87 motor vehicle collisions (MVC), 9 property damage, 0 robbery, 1 sex offense, 38 thefts and 17 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV).
- Safety Tips: Home Security Tips: Louvered windows are intended for ventilation, not security. Removal of louvers is the most common way burglars make entry into homes in Hawaii. Louvers can easily be glued to the louver frame with silicon glue or a good epoxy. Ask your local hardware store for recommendations. Make sure windows are closed tightly when no one is home. Close windows at night. If ventilation is needed, close the bottom set and open only the top set. It is recommended to keep windows/louvers clean. Metal bars and grills can make windows secure, but they can be expensive and may not appeal to everyone. If bars are use, make sure a quick release mechanism is installed to ensure the bars can be opened from the inside in the event of an emergency.



Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Security Increased: It was asked if the security patrols would be increased considering the recent incidences at the Pali Lookout. The response was that there was not enough staff to increase security.
2. Response Time: A concern was raised for the response time when a citizen calls 911. It was reported that a light was out at an intersection and there was not an immediate response to the call. The officer responded that HPD takes calls as priority deems necessary.
3. Hit in Crosswalk: The question was asked as to what can be done about speeding on the straightaway where a woman was hit in the crosswalk. The response was that the car was not speeding, the woman did not appear to have seen the car and was hit with a lot of force. However speeding was not the issue.
4. Liliha Street to Community Policing Team: The concern was raised for the speeding that occurs on Liliha Street and will be referred to the community policing team.
5. Keola Street: It was noted that the repavement of Keola Street is extremely necessary.

Mayor's Representative: Deputy Director Randy Leong reported the following:

- Town Hall Meetings: Thanked Board members who attended the May 22, 2013 town hall meeting at the Farrington cafeteria. Community members were allowed to speak to the Mayor's directors about specific concerns.
- Liliuokalani Park Restrooms: There is a concern that the Liliuokalani Botanical Gardens restroom is in need of repair and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been alerted of the situation.
- Hala Drive: A request for speed humps/bumps (traffic calming measures) on Hala Drive to hinder speeding was made. The Department of Transportation (DTS) has completed their investigation regarding the neighborhood board's request for "hospital zone" and "slow down" signs on Hala Drive near the Maluhia Health Center. DTS also completed their evaluation regarding the speeding concerns on Liliha Street, Mauka of School Street. According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Section 21-02, a medical facility must possess an emergency department facility with an attending physician in order for Hospital signs to be posted. DTS confirmed that the Maluhia Health Center is primarily a nursing home and does not function as a hospital with an emergency care facility. As such, the posting of "Hospital" signs on the roadways near Hala Drive approaching Maluhia Health Center are not appropriate. The City follows the guidelines set forth in the MUTCD which is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the national standard. The installation of "slow down" signs are not in compliance with the MUTCD, and as such, are not appropriate. A speed study confirmed that motorists on Hala Drive and on Liliha Street, Mauka of School Street were traveling near the posted speed limit of 25 MPH, however there is sporadic speeding on both roadways. The City currently controls speeding with signage and enforcement by HPD. A field check revealed that there are "SPEED LIMIT 25" signs posted on both roadways, and they are in good condition. A work order will be issued by June 2013 to DFM to straighten poles and trim back foliage from the signs on Hala Drive and Liliha Street. As such, the reasons stated above, DTS does not recommend additional traffic controls.
- Repaved except Kealia Drive 1300-1400: All of Kapalama Heights is supposed to be repaved except the two blocks of Kealia Drive which the City responded resurfacing is pending the availability of funds and clearances for possible conflict with planned underground utility conflicts. Utility clearances are ongoing at this time. Therefore, the actual resurfacing schedule has not been determined.
- Bus Fares Not Raised: In response to a question as to why bus fares have not been raised, the Mayor is against raising the bus fares, He prefers to examine alternative methods of generating revenues to support City functions rather than raising the bus fare.
- Street Signs Missing: There was a request to replace missing green street signs on Hala Drive and Keola Street. DFM will fabricate and install street signs by the end of July 2013.

- Mold at Na Pueo Court: It was noted that mold is causing the courts at Na Pueo Park to be slippery and it was suggested that the tree limbs be cut. The response was a supervisor of the Division of Urban Forestry (DUF) DPR, the division responsible for maintenance of recognized City trees within City sidewalk areas, parks, and various traffic medians, inspected trees and vegetation that encroach into the park grounds. The DUF supervisor determined that the overgrowth is from trees and vegetation that grow within Board of Water Supply (BWS) property. Please refer this concern to BWS. Attached is a long standing agreement between the BWS and DPR dated November 16, 1970. Item #5 states that the Department of Parks and Recreation will be responsible for maintaining the area where the tree limbs originate from
- Pedestrian Friendly Intersections: In response to a request for more pedestrian friendly improvements, DTS will look into the Board's request for pedestrian friendly improvements, which will require research, site inspection, field assessments and collision history and traffic data analysis while school is in full session to get a more accurate assessment. DTS will inform the Board of their findings by October 2013.
- Cathedral School on Nuuanu: A suggestion was made that there needs to be flashing lights by Cathedral School on Nuuanu Avenue. DTS will investigate the board's request for flashing lights. An investigation will be conducted, which may require collision history and traffic data analysis while school is in full session to get a more accurate assessment. DTS will inform the Board of their findings by October 2013.
- Panui Street Resurfaced: It was asked if and when Panui Street would be resurfaced. The response was that Panui Street has been identified as in need of resurfacing and is programmed to be resurfaced as part of Rehabilitation of Localized Streets, Phase 12 project using either FY 2013 or 2014 CIP funding; pending availability of funds and clearances for possible conflict with planned underground utility projects. Therefore the actual resurfacing schedule has not been determined at this time. If utility conflicts do occur, Panui Street will be considered for resurfacing in subsequent FY CIP budgets following completion of the utility project.
- Keola Street Improvement: In response to why adjacent streets were being repaved but not Keola Street, DTS is planning on improving the lower half of Keola Street; upon the completion of this project, the upper half which is State-owned will be repaired. The actual roadway improvements schedule has not been determined at this time by DTS. The Division of Road Maintenance will provide temporary pavement repairs, such as pothole patching, as needed until Keola Street is improved. For updated status of the Keola Street project, please contact DTS.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Resolution: A Board member inquired whether this Board would consider a motion to get Kealia Drive repaved. This item will be on next month's agenda. The letter would ask to have City look at the 1300-1400 block of Kealia Street and reconsider placing this street on the list of streets to be repaved. This is the only street in the Kapalama Heights area that was not mentioned as a street considered to be repaved and it is in need of improvements.
2. Something Positive: A community member noted that everything that can't be done was given in regards to Hala Drive near Maluhia, however, how about the positive things that can be done to prevent speeding.
3. Traffic Study Request: A Board member requested having a traffic study done of Liliha street in both directions from Judd Street to Wylie Street.
4. Catholic Church Walk: A Board member noted that a church function blocked his property and he asked what could be done about this. The response was to report the incident to HPD.

District 6 Councilmember Carol Fukunaga: Anthony Chang introduced himself and provided copies of Councilmember Fukunaga's newsletter.

- Homeless Action Plan: Community briefing meeting to update residents on proposed "Housing First" recommendations for the Nuuanu/Liliha/Alewa area Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Lanakila Elementary Cafeteria.

- 2013 Budget: On Wednesday, June 5, 2013 the City Council adopted the City's FY 2014 budget which included the reauthorizes FY2012 appropriation for \$1 million for plans, design, construction and inspection of traffic improvements to connect Kuakini Street to Hala Drive.

District 7 Councilmember Joey Manahan: No representative; no report available.

13th Senatorial District Suzanne Chun Oakland: No representative; no report available.

14th Senatorial District Senator Donna Mercado Kim: No representative; written handout available.

District 27 Representative Takashi Ohno: Representative Takashi Ohno reported the following:

- Financial Disclosure: Wrote House Bill 1132 which requires legislators to disclose financial statements before the start of the session, rather than at the end of session.
- Balancing the Budget: The Senate put \$100 million back into the Hurricane Relief Fund and the Rainy Day Fund to keep the State prepared for a disaster.
- Education Committee: As Vice Chair of the Education committee, the committee vowed to improve spending in schools and holding the Department of Education (DOE) accountable.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Kawananakoa: Kawananakoa Middle School appreciates all the work the Vice Chair of the Education Committee is doing in the legislature.
2. Hala Drive Security Watch: The Representative was thanked for participating in the Hala Drive security watch.

Governor's Representative: Keith Yamamoto reported the following:

- Council of Revenues: The state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is predicting steady growth for Hawaii's economy through next year, outpacing the national growth rate. The Council of Revenues predicts increases and unemployment will decrease by 20 percent. In May, the state Council on Revenues revised forecast reaffirmed the council's previous General Fund tax revenue projection for the current fiscal year - and increased its projections for the next three fiscal years. The state's unemployment rate is also continuing to improve - down 20 percent compared to a year ago - indicating that the efforts to put Hawaii's people back to work are succeeding. The Abercrombie Administration is continuing to invest in capital improvement projects (CIPs) across the state that further strengthen Hawaii's economy and create employment opportunities, while improving state facilities and infrastructure.
- Bill Review: Governor Abercrombie, along with staff and relevant departments, is continuing to review the hundreds of bills passed by the 2013 Legislature. He has until July 9, 2013 to sign bills, but must notify the Legislature of potential vetoes by June 24, 2013. The Governor has already enacted several dozen measures. Since it sometimes takes a few days for the Legislature website to list new Acts, the Governor's Office is providing a list of the most recently signed bills at governor.hawaii.gov (Click on "Recently Signed Bills").

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

- Main Breaks: There was one (1) water main break to report for the month of May at 919 Alewa Drive at 12 midnight on May 22, 2013 an 8 inch P.V.C. broke.
- Water Quality Report: The BWS works hard to ensure that the water served is safe to drink. Each year, the BWS conducts thousands of tests on the water sources and distribution system to certify that municipal water meets or exceeds all federal and state safe drinking water standards. The results of those tests are shared with customers in an annual water quality report which will be mailed to all by July 1, 2013. Digital copies of the water quality reports and additional water quality information will also be

posted on our website; www.boardofwatersupply.com.

- 2013 Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contest: The BWS and Hawaii Energy would like to say Mahalo to more than 1,300 student artists and 200 poets who participated in the 2013 Water Conservation Week poster and poetry contests. Their art and poetry creatively depict the contest theme "Save Water, Save Energy" highlighting the need to conserve water and energy resources to provide for a sustainable future. The contest winners were announced and recognized at an awards ceremony in May. The full list of winners and an online art gallery are available on the BWS website: www.boardofwatersupply.com The winners will be on exhibit at the following locations;
 - Kahala Mall from June 3 to June 14;
 - Windward Mall from June 17 to June 27;
 - Kapolei Hale from July 2 to July 25; and
 - The BWS Public Service Building Lobby from July 30 to August 15. Congratulations to the winners!

PRESENTATIONS:

Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy by Tamafaiga Tuitelepega: The presenter contacted Chair Stubbs before the meeting and said he would be out of town and asked if he could present his topic once he returned.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

- Academy of the Pacific: It was noted that the intersection in front of the Academy of the Pacific should have flashing lights because a lot of kids cross and it is a dangerous situation. This issue may be moot because of the closing of the school.
- Bulky Items Pick Up: The question was asked as to what to do when Bulky Items are left on the sidewalk. The response was that the Department of Environmental Services (ENV) should be notified so that they can arrange a special pick-up.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Hearing no objections, the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2013 meeting were ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, (Aye: Dos Santos-Tam, Ho, Kaapu, Kuo, Mitsuda, Nitta, Oki, Stubbs and White).

UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Kuakini Extension Project: Due to the efforts of Councilmember Fukunaga, the \$1 million in funds that is necessary to see that the Kuakini Extension Project is complete has been appropriated in the FY 2014 budget that was approved by City Council on June 5, 2013.
- Request from DTS for traffic collision history on the corner of Kapalama Avenue and Hala Drive from 2009 until April 2013: Before the start of the meeting, the Board was distributed a copy of the report that was requested.
- Lanakila Basketball Hoop Repair: The status of the basketball hoops remains unrepaired.
- Na Pueo Park Moldy/Slippery Basketball Courts: This item was discussed earlier in the agenda.
- Vehicles Parking on Unimproved Sidewalks and Impeding the Passage of Pedestrians-Forcing Them Onto the Roadway: The Board members were reminded to stay vigilant about parked cars that did not allow access on Liliha sidewalks.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Petition to NCO to Combine Sub-Districts 4 and 5: **Board member Dos Santos-Tam moved and was seconded by Board member Kaapu to discuss whether Neighborhood Board 14 should petition to the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO).** Board members discussed their options and some felt that they should leave this decision to the incoming Board and not vote tonight. Chair Stubbs will draft a petition to be voted on at next month's Board meeting. The motion was withdrawn.

- Discussion on the Future Focus of Neighborhood Board No. 14: There was discussion about where the focus of the Board should be in the coming year. Board members felt that the issue of accessibility of the sidewalks in the area should be addressed.
- Proposal to Purchase Signs for Posting Throughout the Community Announcing NB14 Meetings: Chair Stubbs raised the issue of purchasing signs to post. He would like to determine the legality and cost of the effort.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: There were no reports from Maemae Elementary School, St. Francis and Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

- Maluhia: Naomi Kusuyanagi reported that Nurses Week was from May 17 through 24, 2013 so the nursing home had special events to celebrate nurses during that week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be **Monday, July 8, 2013** at 7:00 p.m. at the Ma'ema'e Elementary School cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Aisha A. C. Wang, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by: Nola J. Frank, Neighborhood Assistant

Finalized by: Robert Stubbs, Chair