



## PEARL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 21

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010 WAI'AU DISTRICT PARK**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair James Pickard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. **with a quorum of ten (10) members present.** Note – This 13-member Board requires seven (7) members for a quorum and to take official Board action.

**Members Present** – Roger Clemente, Sol Ray Duncan, Chris Lum Lee, Miles Murakami, Myrtle Nyuha, Roger Olegario, James Pickard, Sr., Ronald Simpson, Larry Veray, Cruz J. Vina, Jr., and Blake Yokotake.

**Members Absent** – None.

**Guests** – Kathleen Yoda, Chief Jeff K. Farris and Aaron Lenchanko (Honolulu Fire Department); Joyce Felmet (Pearl City Library); Breene Harimoto (Board of Education); Robert Sato (Councilmember Gary Okino's office); State Representative K. Mark Takai; Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Jon Nouchi, Glenn Moir, James Burke (Department of Transportation Services); Jensen Okagawa (Honolulu Police Department); Dan Ken (State Representative Roy Takumi's office); Reshawn Fields, Edwin Sniffen, and Wayne Kawahara and Eddie Chiu (State Department of Transportation); Daniel de Gracia, II; State Senator Clarence Nishihara; Kanani Souza and Ryan Akamine (Senator Nishihara's office); and Gloria Gaines (Neighborhood Commission Office).

**Pledge of Alliance** – Lum Lee led everyone in the Pledge of Alliance.

**Time Limit Policy and Procedures** – Pickard indicated that there was no smoking or alcohol s allowed in the pavilion, and summarized the time limits, and Sunshine Law requirements listed on the agenda.

**FILLING OF TWO (2) VACANT SEATS:** There were no nominees or volunteers to fill the vacancies.

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

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – The Honolulu Fire Department reported a total of 23 fires; 217 medical emergencies and 82 miscellaneous calls. There were no major or unusual incidents reported.

1. **Fire Safety Tip** – When responding to an emergency call, it is critical that emergency responders quickly identify the correct location. Fire, building, U.S. postal codes, and City ordinances state the property owners shall place their house numbers so it is legible and readily visible from the street. If your property is difficult to locate and/or access, provide 911 dispatchers with additional information to assist in locating the residence during an emergency.
2. **Fireworks Ban** – In response to a concern to ban fireworks, the Honolulu Fire Department has supported a ban on fireworks every year.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Officer J. Okagawa reported the following statistics:

1. **Statistics for December 2009** – There were 18 auto thefts, 51 burglaries, 20 criminal property damages; 57 thefts, and 8 unauthorized entry of a motor vehicles.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. **Report of Dope Bags Found** – Resident reported finding empty dope bags near the property and informed the HPD Narcotics division. It is recommended that residents call 911 and an officer will check it out; if there is any residue, a drug case can be made.



2. Racing on H-1 Freeway – Every Friday about midnight cars are reported racing on the H-1 freeway near Kaahumanu Road overpass. It was suggested that HPD stage a patrol car with blue light on at that overpass to deter racers on the freeway. HPD will inform the midnight watch about the cars racing on H-2 freeway at the Kaahumanu overpass during the weekends.
3. Aerial Fireworks – HPD is aware of the illegal aerial fireworks. HPD received many calls for illegal fireworks; it is unfortunate that by the time officers arrive, no one is there at the scene. Okagawa suggested that if it is your neighbor, try to talk to the neighbor about the illegal firework.
4. Disruptive Tenants – Tenants at the Weinberg apartments on Waimano Home Road often disrupt the nearby apartments at various times during the late night with a lot of yelling and profanity. Officers will monitor the area for such incidents.

Mayor's Representative – Sandra Sagisi reported the following:

1. Award of Rail Contracts – The City auditor's report concluded that the State procurement laws were followed in all of the rail project contracts – it means there was no favoritism. Political appointees are not included in the contractor selection process.
2. Mayor's State of the Rail Address – The audience was by invitation due to the limited amount of seats at the Mission Memorial – only 200 people. The live audience taping of the address was not advertised as open to the public so only people who were invited were at the event.
3. Monies Used to Air the Mayor's State of the Rail Address – The monies spent was the most cost effective way to do public outreach to the community. With the feedback and viewership of the program it cost less than the cost of postage for a postcard to reach the amount of households that were informed by the program. It was not a one time expenditure, and only portions of the \$10,000 were spent for the state of the rail address.
4. West Oahu Mini Zoo – A letter to a resident stated that a modern zoo requires more resources (space, finances and manpower) than can be supported responsibly by a community the size of Oahu.

Question, comments, and concerns followed:

1. After Lum Lee made reference to an article from the Hawaii Reporter about the Mayor removing the Hanauma Bay beach staff when President Obama's staff refused access to the beach, Sagisi stated that a response to the article will be provided by the Mayor.

Board of Water Supply – Andrew Kellikoa reported that BWS offers the following water conservation tips for the New Year:

1. Install a low flow fixture in shower head; save about 3 to 28 gallons of water a day per 5 minute.
2. Turn off the water when brushing teeth. Use a cup of water to rinse; save 7 gallons a day.
3. Check for leaky flapper valves in household toilets; waste about 60 gallons a day. For more water saving tips, visit website at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).
4. Water Conservation Contests Reminder – BWS launched its 32nd annual poster contest, open to students Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and the second year of poetry contest open to students grades 7 to 12. This year's theme is "Stop the Drop".

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. Broken Sprinkler Heads – Kellikoa responded that the sprinkler heads for the strip of trees along Komomai Drive entering Palisades is not BWS; however will forward to the City's Facilities and Maintenance Division.

Councilmember Gary Okino – Robin Sato distributed a report and highlighted on the following:

1. Manana Connector Road Update – In November, the City began working on the Manana Infrastructure Improvements, Phase VI (aka Manana Connector Road) to create a new sixty (60) feet wide roadway between Kuala Street and Kuahaka Street. When completed, the road will have two vehicular travel lanes and curbs, gutters, sidewalks, curb ramps, and landscaping. This project is estimated for completion in December 2010.
2. Honolulu Rail Transit – The City's Rapid Transit Division is holding the first of three meetings to gather community input regarding the station entrance design for the Pearl Highlands Station Park-and-Ride Facility of the City's rail transit project. The meeting will be held at Highlands Intermediate School on Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information call the project hotline at 566-2299 or by email at [info@honolulutransit.org](mailto:info@honolulutransit.org).

There were no questions from the residents or Board members.

Senator Clarence Nishihara – Sen. Nishihara was not present at this time. A report was available for residents.

Senator David Ige – A representative was not present.

Representative Roy Takumi – Daniel Kent reported on the following:

1. Community Survey Update – The information on the completed surveys received is still being processed. A response will be provided as soon as it is completed. Surveys are available to the residents who didn't have a chance to complete one.
2. Fireworks Bill – A fireworks bill is still being drafted. Rep. Takumi will keep the residents posted on this bill.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. In the past 10 years, Rep. Takumi imposed to ban and/or regulate fireworks. This current bill is to regulate fireworks; which gives counties over 500,000 people, like Oahu, certain times of the year to enact special jurisdiction to firework preventatives.

Representative K. Mark Takai – Rep. Takai expressed disappointment with the Chair for allowing the conversation continue between Board member Lum Lee and the Mayor's representative; that the discussion about the article from the Hawaii reporter about an incident at Hanauma Bay was inappropriate; that the Board consider its policy on order and decorum; and that it is not helpful for the community of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board to spend time displaying verbal discontentment on a political official. Questions or concerns are to be forwarded to Rep. Takai by calling him at 586-8455 or email at [reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Chair Pickard apologized to Rep. Mark Takai and will have Board member Lum Lee write a letter of apology to the Mayor.

#### RESIDENTS/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

1. Pearl City Gateway (Kuala Street): Construction Update of Commercial Development (DPZ) – No report.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009 MEETING: **The November 24, 2009 regular meeting minutes were APPROVED AS CIRCULATED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT (11-0-0), (Aye: Clemente, Duncan, Lum Lee, Murakami, Nyuha, Olegario, Pickard, Simpson, Veray, Vina and Yokotake.**

#### BOARD BUSINESS:

Awarding of Certificates of Recognition and Acknowledgement (P/R) – Deferred until next meeting.

HFD Requesting Training in the Mountains above the Waimano Home Property – Battalion Chief of Special Operations Jeff Farris gave a presentation and a map of the mountains above Waimano Home where the training in wild land search and rescue operations will take place. An approval by the Pearl City Neighborhood Board will allow HFD and DOH to move forward with drafting a memorandum of understanding that identifies the responsibilities of each agency in the use of State property by the City and County.

Question, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Realizing that the noise will echo in the valley, the time period for the search and rescue training was noted as between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for safety and effectiveness.
2. That the emergency 911 fire dispatch is aware of all search and rescue trainings. If there is any concern about a mission going on, call 911 and the caller will be informed if it is a training mission or a real search and rescue incident.
3. It is not HFD's responsibility to monitor training area for trespassers. The property falls under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Health and is fenced with a locked gate. HFD's pilots do communicate with the Honolulu airport tower. The HFD is not set up to control other aircrafts within the same vicinity.
4. The HFD is not required to log in at the guard shack at that location.
5. The mountain training is critical to the department because of the conditions of the last plane crash; the mountain was too steep, special equipment was needed; and the helicopter couldn't handle the weight.

**Vina moved, and Nyuha seconded, that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board support the Honolulu Fire Department drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Department of Health identifying the responsibilities of each agency in the use of State property by the City and County of Honolulu. The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, (11-0-0) (Aye: Clemente, Duncan, Lum Lee, Murakami, Nyuha, Olegario, Pickard, Simpson, Veray, Vina, and Yokotake).**

Kamehameha Highway Improvements Project Update – Rep. Takai provided the following background information about the project before the presentation by Ed Sniffen (State DOT).

1. Organized with community for the last five-years on this project.
2. Kamehameha Highway is a major thoroughfare project for people passing through Aiea and Pearl City and for the community.
3. About \$9 million were set aside for the improvements to be presented tonight.
4. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for their support and participation with the task force; including the communities of Aiea, Foster Village, Aiea Community Association and Pearl City Community Associations; the reliable partners of Pearl Ridge, the U.S. Navy, Newtown Association, and Hawaiian Electric Company, etc.
5. The tri-chair of the Kamehameha Highway Improvement Project is Rep. Takai, Wayne Yoshioka (City's Department of Transportation Services) and Brennon Morioka (State Department of Transportation Highways Division).
6. An informational hand-out of the improvement project and a yellow comment form was made available to the residents.

Ed Sniffen (State DOT) explained each of the five (5) projects illustrated in the handouts:

1. Project 1: Median Fencing – To improve pedestrian and motorist safety by constructing a chain link fence in the roadway median to prohibit unsafe and illegal mid-block pedestrian crossings.
2. Project 2: Intersection Improvements: Hekaha, Puu Poni, and Kaahumanu Streets – To optimize traffic flow at Kamehameha Highway intersections with Puu Poni and Kaahumanu Streets. The Hekaha Street intersection has been operating under an optimized signal timing plan since December 2006. The contractor has begun work at the intersections of Kamehameha Highway and Puu Poni Street, and will then move to the intersection of Kaahumanu Street. Equipment for traffic signal improvements are expected in February 2010. Projected completion of this work is July 2010.

3. Project 3: Signal Operation and monitoring Improvements (Hardware) – Will provide pedestrian countdown signals at eighteen (18) intersections, from Acacia road to Center Drive. New fiber optics will link all intersections from Puu Poni Street to Kaahumanu Street and from Salt Lake Boulevard to Center Drive. Seven new traffic monitoring cameras installed to provide full coverage of corridor from the Traffic Management Center on Ward Avenue.
4. Project 4: Corridor Signal Optimization (Software) – Will provide optimized traffic signal timing on Kamehameha Highway from Waihona Street to Center Drive, including consideration of pedestrians, mauka-makai movements and time of day. Data collection for pedestrians, vehicles, and other transportation modes is now complete and analysis is underway. Draft expected September 2010 and review agency's approval expected by December 2010.
5. Project 5: Pearl Harbor Historic Sites Gateway – Will upgrade the connection between Kamehameha Highway and Kalaloa Intersection, and the central parking, reception and staging area for the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites; including the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, U.S.S. Bowfin Submarine Museum and park, Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pacific Aviation Museum-Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor Historic Trail, and U.S.S. Okalahoma Memorial.

Coordination among Hawaii DOT, U.S. Navy, National Park Service, Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, City and County, elected officials, and the public is key to ensuring a project that all can be proud of. Coordination is ongoing, and we expect to begin preliminary designs late 2010/early 2011.

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. March 18, 2010 at Pearl Ridge Elementary is the Aiea/Pearl City community town meeting on traffic and transportation. Project story boards will be unveiled at that time.
2. The bridge at Halawa Street needs to be restriped, thereby opening three lanes heading town bound. Right after the bridge will also be a left turn pocket lane. It is expected to finish in April or March 2010.
3. The opticom system is an emergency system that activates the traffic signal for emergency vehicles will probably be done during the modernization process. Sniffen will check on this matter to make sure it is in the plan.
4. The cultural design proposed for the median fencing project is a test; whether the Hawaiian motif will be respected and not marred by graffiti artists.
5. The median fencing is temporary. Once the rail comes in, a three foot high barrier is proposed for median fencing as a pedestrian barrier.

**Vina moved, and Duncan seconded, that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board continue to support the Task Force and the efforts of the Kamehameha Highway Improvements Project. The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, (11-0-0) (Aye: Clemente, Duncan, Lum Lee, Murakami, Nyuha, Olegario, Pickard, Simpson, Veray, Vina, and Yokotake).**

Pearl City Dewatering Facility Project – Ed Sniffen (State DOT) also gave the presentation for the Pearl City Dewatering Facility Project. An informational handout with illustrations was distributed to the residents.

1. The intent of the presentation is to provide an update status to residents, to clarify location of facilities, and seek community input for a sidewalk design.
2. The dewatering facility will prepare the liquid waste before entering the landfill. The liquid waste is saturated debris removed or cleaned from State highways and their drainage structure.
3. The facility will be open during normal business hours from Monday through Friday; and may open during emergencies.

4. The sidewalk will be constructed from the second street from Lehua Avenue to the base yard entrance. Parallel parking will be available. Parking will be reduced by about half from approximately thirty-five (35) to eighteen (18).

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Sniffen clarified that the location for the dewatering facility has not changed as discussed a few years ago.
2. That the neighboring residents affected by the loss of parking for vehicles were not informed of the project.
3. That the Board will not support the project until residents are informed.
4. That Rep. Takai will follow up regarding the number of residents supporting the sidewalk.
5. The preschool near the dewatering facility needs to be informed also.
6. The adult daycare center supported a sidewalk for the wheelchair and handicapped accessible residents. Also, the sidewalk is much safer for senior citizens.

Chair Pickard recommended that the State DOT report at next month's meeting after contacting the neighboring residents and organizations affected by the sidewalk improvements; and after Rep. Takai confirms the number of residents supporting the sidewalk. Nuyha will coordinate with SDOT and community residents.

#### COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Pearl City Association (PCCA) – Breene Hamamoto reported that the PCA held their 51<sup>st</sup> installation banquet this past Saturday.

Pearl City Foundation – The swimming pool is closed for renovations and will reopen March, 2010. The Momilani Community Center was burglarized. Hamamoto asked residents to call 911 of any suspicious activity at the Momilani Community Center.

Manana Community Association – No report.

Pacific Palisades Community Association – No report.

Board of Education – Breene Hamamoto reported the following:

1. State DOE Superintendent Pat Hamamoto resigned. Interim superintendent is Kathryn Matayoshi.
2. Bus transportation fees take in only \$2 million and costs the state \$72 million. BOE is looking at ways to curb out of control costs by the school bus transportation provider.

Leeward Community College – No report.

Pearl City Public Library – Joyce Felmet, Adult and Senior Citizen Reference Librarian reported on the following:

1. Air Conditioning Upgrade – The air conditioning upgrade project started from the sidewalk area of Waimano Home Road and will eventually move to the entrance of the parking lot. The current entrance will be blocked. Motorists will have to temporarily use the exit to enter the parking area. The library will remain open during the construction.
2. Furlough Days – Employees of the Pearl City Public Library with fifty (50) other State libraries have been put on furlough days and the libraries will be closed. Furlough days are January 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; and for February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, both Wednesdays.
3. Library Staff – Floriana Cofman, Library Branch Manager, retired after 31 years of service. Vicky Bowie, the Children's Librarian has accepted the temporary responsibility of Library Branch Manger.

4. Federal and State Tax Forms – Available at the library’s microfilm room are Federal and State tax forms. On the 2009 Hawaii State Tax form, there is an opportunity to donate \$2.00 to the Hawaii Public Libraries Fund.
5. Administration Rules for Hawaii State Public Library System – A packet of the proposed changes to the administrative rules for the Hawaii State Public Library System is available for review at the Adult Reference Desk. A public hearing will be scheduled.
6. Hawaii’s Children Literary Award – Students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades are encouraged to vote for the Hawaii’s Children Literary award, the Nene Award. Voting stops February 11, 2010.
7. Library Card Holders – There was a three (3) percent increase in the number of library card holders in December 2009 for a total of 40,918 people.
8. Friends of Library Collection – A \$1,000.00 grant was received by the Friends of Pearl City Library to buy foreign films. The grant was given in honor of Floriana Cofman who will be selecting the movies for the Floriana Foreign Film Festival.

There were no objections to the Chair moving the Extension of TheBus Route 73 presentation (under the Committee Report of the Health, Education, and Welfare) up on the agenda.

Proposed Extension of TheBus Route 73 – Wayne Yoshioka, City DTS, expressed appreciation to Board members and residents’ participation in the success of TheBus Route 73. An informational hand-out was distributed to residents to follow with a slide presentation by Glen Moyer, also of DTS. Moyer explained the process:

1. That DTS conducted a survey, met with community, presented the issue to the Board; and the Board formed a task force to find a solution.
2. The task force consisted of Board members, residents, Pearl City High School administration, and the DTS/OTS administration and staff met on December 9, 2009 and January 6, 2010.
3. The task force discussed issues, alternatives, and adopted the route extension to the Pearl City Cultural Center.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. That DTS take the lead planning the proper bus turn around area in the parking lot near the cultural center.
2. On behalf of the special needs students, Pearl City High School’s Vice Principal Joe Halfman expressed appreciation for the extended bus route. Students are having to walk several times a week uphill to school.
3. The residents along Route 73 are pleased with the extended bus service.
4. That it took twelve (12) years of trying to find a solution and a celebration of Portuguese bean soup and rice was offered to everyone present.

**Vina moved, and Duncan seconded, that the Board support the extension of TheBus Route 73 planning and scheduling for Pearl City High School and future endeavors with the City Department of Transportation Services, community, and the schools to ensure the bus route is a viable entity. The motion WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, (11-0-0) (Aye: Clemente, Duncan, Lum Lee, Murakami, Nyuha, Olegario, Pickard, Simpson, Veray, Vina, and Yokotake).**

At this time, the Chair took the agenda out of order to hear Senator Nishihara’s report.

Senator Clarence Nishihara – Sen. Nishihara introduced Kanani Souza and Ryan Akamine. Concerns are to be forwarded to office staff Souza and Akamine.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Sen. Nishihara will follow up on the Senate bill amending the sunshine law and whether this is just to formalize a process already in use with the current electronic mailing of agendas and minutes.

At 8:20 p.m., the Chair called a five (5) minute recess for Portuguese bean soup and rice.

At 8:43 p.m., the meeting resumed.

The Chair announced that most of the items under the Executive; Legislative and Capital Improvement Programs; Traffic and Transportation; Development Plan and Zoning; and the Health, Education and Welfare Committees were discussed previously; the remaining items will be deferred until the next meeting.

The following reports were submitted: Development Plan and Zoning and Health, Education and Welfare Committees.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Recorded By: Gloria Gaines, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed By: Kimo Pickard, Chair