



## 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, FEBRUARY 25, 2014 WAIAU DISTRICT PARK**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Cruz Vina, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Quorum was established with eight (8) members present.** Note – This 13-member Board requires seven (7) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action.

**Board Members Present:** Sol Ray Duncan, Mitsuko Hayakawa, Baybee Hufana-Ablan, Miles Murakami, Myrtle Nyuha, Larry Veray, Cruz Vina, Jr., and Blake Yokotake.

**Board Members Absent:** Roger Clemente.

**Vacancies:** There are four (4) vacant at-large seats.

**Guests:** Gary Kurokawa (Mayor's Representative); Robert Sato and Brandon Elefante (Councilmember Harimoto's Office staff); Sergeant Gary Pascual, Sergeant Arleen Apuna, and Corporal Kathleen Santiago (Honolulu Police Department); Firefighters I William Melemai and Jacob Char, Firefighter III Ricardo Yost, and Captain Joseph Kostiha (Honolulu Fire Department); Representative Gregg Takayama; Gary Omori (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation); Vicky Bowie (Pearl City Library); Kathleen Yoda; Sheila Buyukacar (IMAG Academy); Peter Savio (Mary Savio Medical Plaza); Gene Armacost; Steve Blotnze (Benchmark); Senator Clarence Nishihara; David Sakamoto (Governor's Representative); Bob Rod; Paul Yoshida; Naomi Carmona; and Catherine Proctor (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**Pledge of Allegiance/Time Limit Policy and Procedures:** Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Vina, Jr. read the meeting policies and procedures, including the time limits.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD):** Captain Joseph Kostiha reported the following:

- **February 2014 Fire Statistics:** There were 3 structure fires, 6 rubbish fires, and 4 vehicle fires. There were 118 medical emergencies, 3 search and rescue calls, and 26 miscellaneous calls.
- **Fire Safety Tip: Microwave Oven Safety:** Kostiha recommended purchasing a microwave oven with an independent testing laboratory label and to complete and return the product registration card. One should supervise children when they are using a microwave oven and use only microwave-safe food containers or dishes.
- **Waiiau Fire Station Renovations:** Kostiha noted that the Waiiau Fire Station is currently being renovated and the project should take about three (3) months to complete. It was noted that there is a portable trailer in front of the station.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed: **Services:** Nyuha questioned and Kostiha clarified that the community will continue to receive services from the fire department.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD):** Sergeant Gary Pascual reported the following:

- **December 2013 / January 2014 Statistics:** There were 18 / 16 auto thefts, 37 / 32 burglaries, 65 / 71 thefts and 17 / 33 unauthorized entries of motor vehicles (UEMV) calls. It was noted that a lot of the UEMV calls were smash and grab calls.
- **Crime Safety Tip:** Pascual noted to utilize the 911 system. It was suggested to provide as much information possible when reporting incidents.



Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Pearl Harbor Bike Trail Moped Use Status: Veray inquired and Pascual noted that officers have not been able to use the all terrain vehicles (ATV), but they have posted officers at both entrances which have deterred the moped use on the trail.
2. Graffiti: Veray noted there has been an increase of graffiti in the Pearl City community. Pascual agreed and noted there has been an increase of thefts of spray paints from hardware stores. It was also noted that HPD has been proactive in covering the graffiti.
3. Moped License Plates: Veray suggested that mopeds be registered with license plates. It was noted that license plates would help when reporting occurrences.

HPD Presentation on Marijuana Decriminalization: Sergeant Apunu and Corporal Santiago presented a PowerPoint presentation that was provided by the Narcotics Vice Division regarding HPD's opposition to the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Petition: Nyuha inquired and Apuna clarified to contact legislatures and provide testimonies at public hearings.
2. Potency: Resident, Bob, noted that today's marijuana has a higher potency than it had in the 1960s. It was questioned and Apuna clarified that the way the marijuana is cultivated contributes to the higher potency.

#### CITY/STATE MONTHLY REPORTS:

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative: Gary Kurokawa reported the following:

- Road Repairs: The City has repaved 398 lanes miles so far.
- Sewers: Both the Pacific Palisades Relief Sewer and Sewer Manhole and Pipe Rehabilitation for the Pearl City WWPS Junction Box projects funds are in FY 2014.
- Parks: The Manana Neighborhood Park re-roof comfort station, swimming pool office, and pump room building project has funds in FY 2014.
- Potholes Hotline: The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) reminds the community to report potholes on the City Pothole Hotline at 768.7777.
- State of the City Address: Mayor Kirk Caldwell will provide the State of the City address on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the McCoy Pavilion.
- FY 15 Budget: The FY 15 Budget was due on Friday, February 21, 2014.
- Mayor Caldwell's Statement Regarding Bill 69: Kurokawa read Mayor Caldwell's statement regarding Bill 69 relating to public transit and the exterior advertising on TheBus.
- Bill 9 – Trash Refuse Fee: The Caldwell administration proposed to update user fees for refuse collection services. Under the proposal, residents receiving manual or automated cart collection services will be charged \$10/month, one-fifth the actual cost to the City. It was noted that currently the fees are included in the property taxes.
- Speeding along Hoolaulea Street: HPD noted that beat officers did Safer Roads Enforcement and issued 13 speeding citations on Hoolaulea Street and will continue to monitor.
- Crosswalks along Hoolaulea Street: The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) did a site investigation that revealed that there are three (3) marked crosswalks along Hoolaulea Street (vicinity of Highlands Intermediate School), between Hoomaemae and Noelani Streets.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Refuse Fee: Hufana-Ablan inquired and Kurokawa reiterated that the proposal is for every property owner to pay \$10/month. Veray noted his support.
2. Crosswalks: Resident, Paul Yoshida, noted that the previous month's concern regarding the crosswalks on Hoolaulea Street should have been from Hoomaemae to Komo Mai Streets.
3. Pearl City District Park: Chair Vina, Jr. inquired about the status of the shower handles, which were too high for the kids. Kurokawa noted that he believes they have been fixed but will follow up for the next meeting.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): A representative was not available, and a written report was not provided.

Councilmember Breene Harimoto: Robert Sato introduced Brandon Elefante, Councilmember Harimoto's Office staff, and noted that he is assigned to the Aiea and Waipahu areas of the district. Sato provided a newsletter and reported the following:

- Aiea – Pearl City Neighborhood Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan: There will be a community informational meeting held on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Alvah Scott Elementary School.
- Keiki Bike Rodeo & Senior Cycling Event: Councilmember Harimoto and the Hawaii Bicycling League will sponsor a free bicycle education and training event for keiki and seniors at Neal S. Blaisdell Park on Saturday, March 15, 2014.

Governor Neil Abercrombie: David Sakamoto reported the following:

- Hookiekie Street: It was noted that there is a dispute over ownership between the State and City & County of Honolulu. HB1610 was introduced last month which would allow the state and county to make improvements without emitting ownership. It was noted there was some support of the proposed bill, but it ended up dying in the first reading.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Hookiekie Street Comments: A resident noted that there is a guardrail along Hookiekie Street. The resident provided the history regarding the installation of the guardrail to protect the intrusion of vehicles in the homes along the street. Veray noted the importance of getting the issue resolved. Resident, Lois, noted her fear of sleeping in her bedroom due to the possibility of a car driving into her house.
2. House Bills: Representative Takayama noted that even though HB1610 is dead there is still an alternate, HB1728, which is still alive. It was suggested to the Pearl City Neighborhood Board to come up with recommendations of improvements for Hookiekie Street.
3. Resolution to Transfer Hookiekie Street to City & County of Honolulu: Chair Vina, Jr. presented the resolution to the board and community. **Veray moved and Nyuha seconded the motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Hookiekie Street to City & County of Honolulu by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 8-0-0 (Aye: Duncan, Hayakawa, Hufana-Ablan, Murakami, Nyuha, Veray, Vina, Jr., and Yokotake).**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara: Senator Nishihara provided a newsletter and reported the following:

- Hookiekie Street Resolution: It was noted that there are a lot of roads in Hawaii that are in “limbo”. It was suggested to make a broader resolution to cover other roads in the community.
- Joint Majority Package of Priorities for 2014 Legislative Session: The last time a joint majority package was unveiled was during the 2008 Legislative Session. The focus will be on supporting seniors and protecting the environment.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Fundraiser: Naomi Carmona, Babes Against Biotechs, noted that Senator Nishihara attended a fundraiser dinner. It was questioned and Nishihara clarified that receiving money from different companies does not make him a lobbyist for any of them. Senator Nishihara noted that he represents his community.
2. “Limbo” Roads: Hufana-Ablan inquired and Nishihara noted that even if community members of other “limbo” areas are not concerned, both the state and county will be aware of the “limbo” streets.

Senator David Ige: A representative was not available, and a written report was not provided.

Representative Roy Takumi: A representative was not available, and a written report was not provided.

Representative Gregg Takayama: Representative Takayama provided a newsletter and reported the following:

- Senator Nishihara: After working with Senator Nishihara for this past year, it was noted that the Senator has nothing but the community in mind.
- Hookiekie Street: It was noted that the liability and ownership of the road is only half the battle. He hopes to put a provision of Hookiekie Street Improvement to the top of the list and informed the board that the resolution gives him something to work with.
- Aiea / Pearl City Town Hall Meeting: On Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Pearl Ridge Elementary School, there will be the monthly town hall meeting sponsored by the Aiea / Pearl City Legislators. Mayor Kirk Caldwell will also be in attendance.
- HB2521: The house bill to appropriate funds to the Civil Defense to remove dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to other properties.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed: Hoarding: Hufana-Ablan inquired and Takayama confirmed that hoarding is covered under City Ordinance and a City Inspector can issue citations and fines due to hoarding in a garage.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Parking Lot: Nyuha noted there is a problem with the parking lot at the Pearl City Cultural Auditorium. It was suggested that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board look into the matter and work with the school on how to utilize it efficiently.

Ownership of Roads: There is a new sign at the underpass on Moanalua Road. It was suggested to take a look at the ownership of the road from Hoomalu to Industrial Park.

Aloha No Na Kapuana: The event will be held at the Newtown Community Center on Friday, March 7, 2014.

The IMAG Academy: Sheila Buyukacar of the IMAG Academy introduced a possible Charter School that may be located in Pearl City or Waipahu. The proposed charter school will be for kindergarten through the 12th grade.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Honolulu Rail Project: Gary Omori reported the following:

- Federal Courts: Two (2) federal courts ruled that the Honolulu Rail Transit Project did everything necessary to comply with applicable federal laws and are allowed to move forward.
- Model: There is a near life sized model of the train cars to be built by Ansaldo Honolulu JV for Honolulu's rail system is now available for public viewing at Kapolei Hale until the end of April.
- Full Funding Grant: President Barack Obama signed the appropriations bill that provides \$250 million dollars in federal funding for the project. The \$250 million is the 2014 fiscal year's share of the Full Funding Grant Agreement that guarantees a total of \$1.55 billion in federal funds for rail construction. The \$250 million will be added to the \$560 million that has already been received.
- State General Excise and Use Tax (GET): The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) received more than \$43 million in State GET for the fourth quarter of 2013. With the receipt of the \$43.49 million for the months of October, November and December, the total GET revenue for the project now stands at \$1.18 billion. The half-percent GET surcharge dedicated to the Honolulu rail system was levied in January 2007 and is set to expire at the end of 2022.
- Construction Update: About 50 of the 422 columns that will be built to support the elevated guideway in the first ten (10) miles of the system have been completed. By the end of the year, they are expecting to have 220 columns up.
- Meeting: HART is holding an informational meeting regarding the modifications to left turns and u-turns on Kamehameha Highway between Waimano Home Road and Kaahumanu Street. The meeting will feature an open-house format, with a presentation and project update by Kiewit and HART staff. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at Pearl Ridge Elementary School.

Mary Savio Medical Plaza: Peter Savio reported that the parking structure at the Mary Savio Medical Plaza should be complete by the end of the March. There will be 600 spots available and the garage will also be open during the evenings and weekends. Savio expressed his appreciation to the community for their patience during the construction.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: **Murakami moved and Yokotake seconded the approval of the January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes as circulated. The January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes were APPROVED AS CIRCULATED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 8-0-0 (Ayes: Duncan, Hayakawa, Hufana – Ablan, Murakami, Nyuha, Veray, Vina, Jr., and Yokotake).**

Chair Vina, Jr. submitted the following amendments to the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

- Page 4: Old Sewers/Pipes in Pearl City: change "Areccos" to "Armacost".
- Page 6: Photovoltaic (PV) Units: change "Areccos" to "Armacost".

**Yokotake moved and Hufana-Ablan seconded the approval of the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. The November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes were APPROVED AS AMENDED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 8-0-0 (Ayes: Duncan, Hayakawa, Hufana – Ablan, Murakami, Nyuha, Veray, Vina, Jr., and Yokotake).**

COMMUNITY/OTHER REPORTS:

Pearl City Library: Vickie Bowie, Manager of the Pearl City Library, reported:

- Storytime: Toddler Storytime (two (2) years old) is every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Storytime (three (3) to five (5) years old) is every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Language Resources: The library has free online resources to learn different languages. Learn the Hawaiian language online through Mango Languages and learn other languages through Powerspeak. Go to [www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org) to access this at home with a library card.
- Tax Forms: Federal and state tax forms are available for distribution at the Pearl City Library. They cannot assist with tax questions but they can help obtain the forms and direct you to free tax help resources.

A representative was not available and a written report was not provided for the Pearl City Foundation, Manana Community Association, and Pacific Palisades Community Association.

BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Murakami reported expenditures of \$13.52 for printing and postage, leaving a balance of \$340.74. The report was filed. Murakami reminded Hufana-Ablan to place any requests for funds for the Publicity Committee before the end of the fiscal year.

Executive Report:

Appointment of the Publicity Committee Chairperson: **Baybee Hufana-Ablan was APPOINTED chair of the Publicity Committee by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 8-0-0 (Ayes: Duncan, Hayakawa, Hufana – Ablan, Murakami, Nyuha, Veray, Vina, Jr., and Yokotake).**

Board Action to Reduce Pearl City Neighborhood Board Members: Chair Vina, Jr. presented a resolution from the Executive committee requesting the Neighborhood Commission to reduce the Pearl City Neighborhood Board membership from 13 members to 11 members.

**Nyuha moved and Yokotake seconded to accept the resolution to reduce the Pearl City Neighborhood Board membership from 13 members to 11 members by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 8-0-0 (Ayes: Duncan, Hayakawa, Hufana – Ablan, Murakami, Nyuha, Veray, Vina, Jr., and Yokotake).**

Traffic & Transportation (T&T): Chair Vina, Jr. attended a town hall meeting and found that an issue raised back in 2008 has been approved regarding the installation of the left turn at Waimano Home Road to Kuala Street. The City & County of Honolulu will send out for bids in April 2014.

Health, Education and Welfare (HEW): Nyuha expressed her appreciation for all the feedback regarding Hookiekie Street.

There were no reports provided for the following committees: Legislative & Capital Improvement (LCIP), Development Planning & Zone (DPZ), and Publicity (P/R).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 2014 Conference of Chairs: Chair Vina, Jr. noted that both Veray and he will attend the Neighborhood Commission Office Conference of Chairs meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at the Blaisdell Arena.
- Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Waiiau District Park.
- Broadcast: Meetings are broadcast on Olelo every second Wednesday on Channel 49 at 9:00 p.m.; and Channel 54 every first and third Friday at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted By: Catherine Proctor, Public Relations Assistant

Reviewed By: Nola Frank, Neighborhood Assistant I; Reviewed and Finalized By: Cruz Vina, Jr., Chair