



WAIANAE COAST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 24

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014** **WAIANAE DISTRICT PARK – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Johnnie-Mae Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **A quorum was established with five (5) Board members present.** Note-This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present: Rene-Andre DeRosa (appointed at this meeting), Calvin Endo, Al Frenzel, Cedric Gates, Craig McDonald, Johnnie-Mae Perry, and Kellen Smith (appointed at this meeting).

Board Members Absent: Robin Grant and Albert Silva.

Vacancies: There was one (1) Subdistrict 1 vacancy and one (1) Subdistrict 2 vacancy.

Guests: Lieutenant Farrel Sojot and Sergeant Kanoa Miyataki (Honolulu Police Department), Captain Ryan Maeda (Honolulu Fire Department), Lieutenant Colonel Will Griffin (US Army 25th Infantry Division), Leland How (Board of Water Supply), Louis Galdeira (Councilmember Kymberly Pine's Office Staff), Representative Jo Jordan, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Representative Karen Awana, Dawn Chang (Consultant for NextEra Energy), Ron Agor (SMB I, LLC), William (Bill) Prescott (Hawaii's Veterans of Foreign Wars), Mark Unowitz and Paul Craig (SMB II, LLC), Hannah Miyamoto, Ruth Lum, Lucina and Oyate Rising Sun, Don and Sally Ford, Robin Hermance, Ed Burke, Lokana Pua, Keoni Ford, Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai, Jack DeFeo, James Manaku Sr., Cynthia Rezentes, Lloyd L. Makaila-Teanio, Blake Vance, Dave Robichaud (North Shore Consultants), Mitch Dmohowski (Eurus Energy), Benjamin Gates (Active Hawaii), and Lori Snyder (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

Pule/Pledge of Allegiance/Hawaii Pono'i: Chair Perry welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. Endo led the pule, resident Oyate Rising Sun led Hawaii Pono'i, and Frenzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

FILLING OF BOARD VACANCIES: Chair Perry opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies in Subdistrict 1 and Subdistrict 2. Resident Rene-Andre DeRosa offered to fill the vacancy for Subdistrict 1. Resident Kellen Smith offered to fill the vacancy for Subdistrict 2.

Chair Perry called a recess while Neighborhood Assistant Lori Snyder verified DeRosa and Smith's residencies.

Chair Perry returned the meeting to order. DeRosa and Smith introduced themselves.

Endo nominated and Frenzel seconded that DeRosa fill the Subdistrict 1 vacancy. DeRosa was APPOINTED to the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 5-0-0 (Aye: Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, and Perry).

Gates nominated and Endo seconded that Smith fill the Subdistrict 2 vacancy. Smith was APPOINTED to the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 5-0-0 (Aye: Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, and Perry).

Chair Perry called a recess while Neighborhood Assistant Lori Snyder administered the Oath of Office to DeRosa and Smith. DeRosa and Smith joined the Board. **There were seven (7) members present.**

Chair Perry returned the meeting to order.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Part One (1)

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

- **November 2014 Fire Statistics:** There were 2 wildland fires, 5 structure fires, 7 rubbish fires, 3 vehicle fires, 152 medical emergencies, 3 search and rescues, and 65 miscellaneous emergencies.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** HFD is offering a two (2) week opportunity to exchange 2014 New Year's Eve firecracker permits for last year's unused New Year's Eve firecracker permits from Monday, December 1, 2014 until Friday, December 12, 2014 at HFD headquarters, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. Dried Christmas



trees, wreaths, and other natural decorations are extremely flammable and should be removed from the home as soon as possible. Consider recycling the tree at a participation green waste center. Leave the fireworks to the pyrotechnic professionals, and enjoy the fireworks displays offered in various communities on New Year's Eve. Honolulu's firework ordinance does not allow anyone under the age of 18 to set off, ignite, or otherwise use firecrackers.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lieutenant Farrel Sojot reported the following: October/November 2014 Crime Statistics: There were 30/35 motor vehicle thefts, 67/63 burglaries, 191/153 thefts, and 76/56 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV).

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Community Relations: Gates recommended that the new HPD station in Waianae contain a community relations board to strengthen the ties between HPD and the community. Lieutenant Sojot noted that [www.honolulupd.org](http://www.honolulu.honolulupd.org) as well as the Neighborhood Watch Program are ways the community could get involved.
2. HPD Presence: Chair Perry thanked HPD for the increased patrol in Waianae.
3. Domestic Violence: Lieutenant Sojot answered for a community member that domestic violence cases are a priority for HPD.

US Army 25th Infantry Division: Lieutenant Colonel Will Griffin reported the following:

- Makua Cultural Access: Malama Makua's next scheduled cultural access dates are Sunday, December 7, 2014 and Saturday, December 13, 2014.
- US Army Museum of Hawaii: The US Army Museum of Hawaii in Waikiki has opened a new exhibit called America's Secret Weapon. The museum is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts Study: The Army has completed the environmental and socio economic impact studies of possible force reductions. The final community listening session will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Hale Koa Hotel from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Online Comments on Possible Force Reductions: General responses and unique comments about the Army reductions can be found at aec.army.mil/services/support/nepa/documents.
- Hawaii Music Concert Series: Kainalu 'Eha featuring Lei Ka'apana performed at Leilehua Golf Course on Friday, November 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Weldon Kekauoha will be performing at Leilehua Golf Course on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Warrior Care Month: November is Warrior Care Month.
- Holiday Remembrance: During the holiday season, the community is encouraged to remember service members who are overseas.
- Commemoration Ceremony: An Army Commemoration Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki.
- Stop the Flu Campaign: Soldiers participated in the Stop the Flu Campaign by escorting students to receive flu shots.
- Hawaii Army Weekly: Email editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com to receive a free electronic subscription of the Hawaii Army Weekly.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Community Listening Session: Frenzel noted the length of the Possible Army Force Reduction community listening session was two (2) hours, and voiced concern that not all attendees would have time to testify.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Leland How reported the following:

- Main Breaks: There were three (3) main breaks for the months of October 2014 and November 2014.
- BWS Fire Hydrants: BWS has installed and maintained more than 20,000 fire hydrants across Oahu, which excludes federal and private water systems. BWS inspect and maintain hydrants every 18 months to make certain that water from each hydrant flows at sufficient water pressure. Residents can help keep fire hydrants dependable by keeping the area around fire hydrants clear, and reporting damaged or malfunctioning hydrants to BWS at 748-5000. Further information about hydrants may be found on www.boardofwatersupply.com.
- Water System Improvement Projects: A handout was provided showing the different locations of the water system improvement projects.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Kulaaupuni Street Project: How explained for resident Oyate Rising

Sun that there will be a brief water line interruption during the Kulaupuni Street project, and the community will be informed of the project in advanced.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative: A representative was not present, and a report was provided.

Councilmember Kymberly Pine's Representative: Louis Galdeira provided a handout and reported the following:

- Bill 48, Related to the Expansion of Sit-Lie: On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed Bill 48, related to the expansion of sit-lie bill. Councilmember Pine does not support this bill as it moves the problem from businesses to residential areas. Councilmember Pine believes the real solution is to increase police presence where crime is taking place and to increase homeless outreach services.
- Environmental Justice (EJ) Bill Package: The Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24 and community members were commended for their assistance in the creation of the EJ bill package. A signature ceremony was held at Kaupuni Neighborhood Park on Thursday, October 23, 2014 with the attendance of Mayor Caldwell, officials from the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), and the West Oahu Soil and Conservation District.
- Re-Shaping the Future of our Homeless Ohana: Volunteers were commended for providing their time and efforts during the Saturday, October 25, 2014 Re-Shaping the Future of our Homeless Ohana event. Resources were provided for 285 individuals to reshape their future and to become a strong and vital part of the community.
- Hire Leeward: Leeward businesses are encouraged to sign up early for the third annual Hire Leeward Job and Career Fair which will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the University of Hawaii (UH) West Oahu campus. The early bird registration deadline is Friday, December 5, 2014. Visit www.hireleeward.com to register and for information about job vacancies.
- Grant in Aid (GIA): The request for grant proposal application period for the City's GIA funds was opened on Monday, November 10, 2014. The deadline for non-profit organizations to submit their application is Friday, December 12, 2014.
- Contact: Councilmember Pine's office can be reached at 768-5001 or kmpine@honolulu.gov.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Bill 48: McDonald asked if Bill 48 would be enforced for people waiting in line on sidewalks on Black Friday. Chair Perry voiced the same concern. Chair Perry and DeFeo agreed with Councilmember Pine that Bill 48 moves the homeless problem from businesses to residential areas.
2. Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO): Frenzel requested Councilmember Pine's support for the Citizen Advisory Committee's (CAC) representation in OMPO.
3. HPD on Campus: Endo requested HPD presence on Waianae school campuses.
4. Ko'Olina Bus Stops: Gates requested a brief update on the elimination of Ko'Olina bus stops. Galdeira responded that the State Department of Transportation (DOT) decided to remove two (2) bus stops in Ko'Olina, but the removal has been suspended while community input is considered. Galdeira noted the community should voice their concerns to the newly elected Representative Andria Tupola.
5. House Fire Escape: Community member James Manaku voiced concern about four (4) houses that had only one (1) door as the entrance of the house, and noted the family would have a difficult time escaping the houses in the case of a fire.
6. Bathroom Removal: Manaku voiced concern about the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP)'s request to remove the restroom in Maili Beach Park.
7. Homeless from Mainland: Resident Rising Sun voiced concern that churches from the mainland states were sending homeless people to Hawaii.
8. Water Conservation Accountability: Manaku requested more accountability from the community to conserve water.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Youth Day: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Active Hawaii will be holding a Youth Day on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at Maili Beach Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Refreshments, face painting, and games for all ages will be provided. A flyer was available.

Waianae Direct Rail Link: Community Member Hannah Miyamoto provided a handout and noted that the community should consider Waianae to be a part of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) rail project. For more information, visit www.WaianaeDirect.com. Chair Perry recommended that Miyamoto present at the Nanakuli- Maili Neighborhood Board No. 36.

Ko'Olina Bus Stops: Manaku noted it would be inconvenient to remove the bus stops in Ko'Olina.

Mali Community Learning Center: Nicole Souza provided a handout and announced that construction was complete for the Community Learning Center in Mali. Students will be able to enroll for the 2015 preschool year. The opening of the center is planned for early January 2015. The Board and community were invited to attend the Preschool Readiness Day on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Souza answered for Chair Perry that job opportunities are available. Gates noted he attended the Mali Community Learning Center blessing and encouraged parents to enroll their children in the preschool. A community member noted that Nicole Souza attended Kamehameha Schools and spoke highly of her.

Waianae Pride: Resident Rising Sun stated he was proud for being part of the Waianae community and of his faith in Jesus Christ.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

David Wong's 75 Acre Solar Farm: Dawn Chang, consultant for NextEra Energy, reported the following:

- Land Statistics: The 15 megawatt solar project occupies 75 acres (one third) of Mr. Wong's property. The land is zoned as County Class E.
- Permit Approvals: NextEra has an agreement with Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and the project is awaiting the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) approval. NextEra is in the process of obtaining a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). An archeological inventory survey and a biological survey have been completed. NextEra is working with HECO, DPP, the City, and DOT to get the transmission of the energy to Farrington Highway.
- Security: The property will be secured with perimeter fencing.
- Falling Rocks: NextEra consulted with engineers who said that they do not believe the project will contribute to falling rocks.
- Solar Panels: The solar panels have very little glare impact. Any damaged panels will be removed.
- Educational Opportunity: Mr. Wong has opened his farm to schools and community groups.
- Jobs: There will be approximately 75 jobs during construction, and one (1) to two (2) permanent jobs.
- Community Engagement: NextEra will continue to keep the community engaged throughout the planning, permitting, and construction phases of the project; they have met with government officials regarding the project. NextEra is committed to distributing flyers prior to construction.
- Community Benefit: Community benefits from the farm include sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. The revenue from this project will permit Mr. Wong to expand his natural farm.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Parking Lot: Gates inquired about the possibility of a parking lot on the land. Chang noted the parking lot request was for a different solar project.
2. Lease: Chang answered for Chair Perry that the project would last between 20 to 25 years, but was unsure of the length of the lease.
3. Use of Minutes for Application: Chair Perry inquired if the minutes would be used for the application process. Chang noted the Neighborhood Board meeting agenda and minutes were attached to the application to reflect that the project was presented to the Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24.
4. Project Progress: Chang confirmed for Chair Perry that the project was moving forward and has met the State energy requirements.
5. Revenue: Chang answered for Gates that she did not know how much revenue the solar farm would produce.
6. Panel Disposal: A community member requested for specifics of where the toxic solar panels would be disposed.
7. Studies and Benefits for Community: A community member inquired if studies had been executed on electromagnetic frequencies, and how the Waianae community would benefit from this project.
8. Solar Panel Glare: Manaku voiced concern about the glare resulting from the panels.
9. Need for Farms: Manaku voiced concern that Waianae needs farmlands in case of an emergency where food could not be shipped.
10. Support: A community member voiced support for the solar farm.
11. Energy Type: A community member inquired about the total megawatt capacity and whether the energy was AC or DC voltage.
12. Utility Rates: DeFeo requested assurance that the community's utility rates would decrease due to the

solar farm.

13. Chang's Response: Chang responded to the community's concerns. Mr. Wong's property is on agriculture land, and the solar project is on E land. The permit is for temporary use, and when the project is terminated the solar panels will be recycled and removed off of Oahu. The project's goal is to create a model for sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. Chang noted that the community's concerns are important and updates about the project will be provided.
14. Board's Position: Chair Perry asked the Board members if the Board should take a position on this project. Gates voiced awareness of the concerns about the solar project but believes solar is beneficial for the community. DeRosa requested a future update about the project. Chair Perry noted she wants to look out for the Waianae community, and Chang noted she would be willing to provide updates.

Waianae Valley Road Solar Farm Update: Ron Agor noted the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 members requested professionals attend a Board meeting to answer the community concerns raised from the September 2014. Testimony followed:

- Marc Unowitz: Marc Unowitz was introduced as one of the employees of SMB II, LLC involved in the project. Unowitz noted the solar project is on agriculture land which is not being farmed. The family is around the age of 60 and their children, who will inherit the land, have college degrees, so the land will sit fallow. 78% of the land under the solar panels will be used for agriculture. This method has been done globally for 25-30 years, and there has been no evidence of radiation effects to the farm.
- Paul Craig: Paul Craig introduced himself as a professional electrical engineer, and explained that the panels are made of silicon dioxide (processed sand) photovoltaic cells and aluminum (nontoxic clay) frames that do not produce radiation.
- Keoni Ford: Keoni Ford introduced himself as a Waianae resident. Ford voiced support for the project, stating it will open up Waianae's agricultural potentials.
- Dave Robichaux: Dave Robichaux introduced himself as president of North Shore Consultants, and noted he is not associated with the project. Robichaux voiced support for the project and was available for questions.
- Drew Bradley: Drew Bradley noted he has been in the solar farm business for many years, voiced support for mixed use projects such as solar energy and agriculture, and noted less than one (1) in 1,000 panels is broken in its lifetime.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: 1. Project Progress: Frenzel voiced respect for the consultants because the project was put on hold due to the community concerns.

Frenzel moved and DeRosa seconded that the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 support the Waianae Valley Road Solar Farm.

Discussion followed:

- Disclosure: DeRosa disclosed that he has been involved in the renewable energy industry for 12 years and has been involved in over 40 solar farm projects, but he was not associated with the project.
- Agriculture Land: Chair Perry noted she visited the land and voiced strong concern that the land around the project was an active farm. Chair Perry noted the landowner has the opportunity to sell the agricultural land to nearby farmers to be used for farming, and voiced opposition against the miniature solar farm.
- Project Delayed: Chair Perry noted that she did not believe the reason that the project was delayed was due to community concerns.
- HECO's Approval: Chair Perry requested proof of HECO's approval for the solar project.
- Support: Gates noted there were pros and cons to the solar project, but voiced support with reservations for the motion. DeRosa noted he supports the motion because the land is currently not being farmed, and the company is proposing a use of the land, including agriculture use. DeFeo and another community member voiced support for the project.
- Farming: Unowitz noted for McDonald that the land will be used for agriculture once the panels are installed.
- Call for the Question: Endo noted there was a motion on the floor and called for the question.
- Shade: Paul Craig noted shade is needed for agricultural lands.
- Revenue: Keoni Ford, a resident and farmer, noted the generated revenue could be used to offset the high cost of farming, which could increase the number of farms.
- Opposition: A community member voiced opposition to the project. Manaku voiced concern that there will be too much electricity, and noted that 100% of the agricultural land should be used for farming, not the proposed 70%.
- Call for the Question: A community member recommended the Board call for the question.

The motion that the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 support the Waianae Valley Road Solar Farm was ADOPTED by ROLL CALL, 6-1-0 (AYE: DeRosa, Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, and Smith NAY: Perry).

NEW BUSINESS:

Pilila'au Makua Military Reservation: William (Bill) Prescott introduced himself as the spokesperson for Hawaii's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and reported the following: the troops need community support to terminate training at Pilila'au Makua Military Reservation. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the leases were purchased by the US War Department for combat training. Military personnel flooded the island, and Oahu school classrooms were used as barracks. The land was used for intense training, which helped end the war in the Pacific. The State agreed to lease the land to the military for 64 years beginning in 1964. Training at this reservation is expensive and the troops should have training off island.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Inadequate for Training: Frenzel noted the following: access to live fire for military training is mandatory, but this location is not large enough for the Army today. The reservation is inadequate because there is no permitted off-road use, only dismounted operations are allowed, and it is only available for daytime operations. The range can only accommodate five (5) striker vehicles. A quote from US Representative Neil Abercrombie in a Star Advertiser article in 2007 stated the facility was not only inadequate, but was not available.

Frenzel moved and Gates seconded that the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 take the position that the military should not use Pilila'au Makua Military Reservation for military live fire training ever again.

Discussion followed:

- Traffic: Frenzel noted that traffic on Farrington Highway would increase if military convoys traveled to Pilila'au Makua.
- Opposition: A community member noted that the reservation should stay unless the Army stops training at Pilila'au Makua. Chair Perry voiced concern that this would be breaking the contract before the expiration date, which needs to be addressed by Congress.
- Support: Three (3) community members voiced support for the military leaving the island. DeFeo noted that the Army could be better trained elsewhere. A community member noted the reservation was near a highly populated area and needs to be deactivated.

The motion that the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 take the position that the military should not use Pilila'au Makua Military Reservation for military live fire training ever again was ADOPTED by ROLL CALL, 5-2-0 (AYE: DeRosa, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, and Smith NAY: Endo and Perry).

Minutes Request: Frenzel requested a copy of the Star Advertiser article be placed in the minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS

Approval of September 2, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Endo moved and Gates seconded to approve the September 2, 2014 regular meeting minutes. The motion was ADOPTED by VOICE VOTE, 6-0-1 (AYE: Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, Perry, and Smith ABS: DeRosa).**

Approval of October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Endo moved and McDonald seconded to approve the October 7, 2014 regular meeting minutes. The motion was ADOPTED as amended by VOICE VOTE, 6-0-1 (AYE: Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, Perry, and Smith ABS: DeRosa).** Amendments included:

- Page 4: After Institute for Human Services (IHS), it should read, "Chair Perry received an e-mail saying that an IHS representative was unavailable."
- Page 5: After Farrington Highway Realignment, "EV" should be changed to "Iwi."
- Page 5: In the last sentence, "Hawoa" should be changed to "Mauna Olu."

Treasurer's Report: Endo read the November 2014 financial statement. The expenditures for postage and printing was \$59.28, leaving a balance of \$540.03. The report was filed.

Christmas Parade: Chair Perry opened discussion to decide if the Board would like to participate in the Christmas parade. Gates requested the board be in the Christmas parade. Neighborhood Assistant Lori Snyder noted that a motion was not needed if the event does not involve Board business.

Governor Abercrombie's Representative: A representative was not present, and a report was not provided.

Senator Maile Shimabukuro: Senator Maile Shimabukuro provided handouts and reported the following:
Legislation: Senator Shimabukuro's legislative priorities include a fifth contraflow lane on Farrington Highway in Nanakuli, the legalization of trailer parks for low-income individuals, and the Renewable Gas Act. The Legislature's Opening Day is Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Contact Senator Shimabukuro to submit legislative ideas.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Taro Lands Bill: DeRosa thanked Senator Shimabukuro for the taro lands agriculture bill.
2. Shipping Container Housing: DeRosa recommended streamlining permitting methods in order to allow shipping containers to become housing units.
3. Nanakuli Road Construction: Gates requested traffic lights be adjusted to longer times or have uniformed officers directing traffic in the area of the Nanakuli road construction. Gates also inquired if certain sections of the work could be done at night time, and if the road construction and beautification fronting HECO could be done at different times. Senator Shimabukuro noted Director Fuchigami was aware of the concerns and is willing to work with officials and the Board to find solutions.
4. Shipping Containers: Frenzel noted the shipping containers would help deter theft.
5. Farrington Highway Traffic: Frenzel inquired about the backed-up traffic that began six (6) months ago. A community member noted the first three (3) traffic lights were changed and could have changed the traffic flow.
6. Committee Legislators: Shimabukuro noted for Chair Perry that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House are responsible for choosing the legislators on committees.
7. Banners in District 21: Chair Perry noted there were advertisement banners in Senate District 21 that needed to be removed.
8. Marijuana Dispensary: Chair Perry voiced opposition to marijuana dispensaries in Weed and Seed communities.
9. Hawaii Kai Sludge: Chair Perry noted that justice had not been served for the Waianae community in regards to the Hawaii Kai sludge issue. Permits were violated and fines have yet to be collected from the owner. Senator Shimabukuro noted the City is citing the owners, and the owner is at risk of losing their property.
10. Contraflow Lane: A community member voiced concern that there was no space for a fifth contraflow lane in Nanakuli, and suggested an elevated highway for smoother traffic. Senator Shimabukuro noted the proposed lane is on the makai side.

Frenzel moved and DeRosa seconded to extend the December 2014 Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24 meeting to at least 9:50 p.m. The motion was **ADOPTED** by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 7-0-0 (AYE: DeRosa, Endo, Frenzel, Gates, McDonald, Perry, and Smith).**

Representative Jo Jordan: Representative Jo Jordan reported the following:

- Hawaii Health Connector: For assistance registering for the Hawaii Health Connector, call 877-628-5076
- UH West Oahu Award: University of Hawaii West Oahu was awarded \$14.2 million from the US Department of Education (ED).
- Disability Parking Permit: Beginning Thursday, January 1, 2015, persons with disability parking permits will be charged the standard parking rate at City parking lots. For questions or comments, contact 768-8357.
- Fishery Management: The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will hold a public meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Waimalu Elementary School cafeteria, and on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Washington Middle School cafeteria. Contact Kitty Simonds at 522-8220 for more information.

Representative Karen Awana: Representative Awana circulated a newsletter and reported the following:

- Legislative Caucus: Representative Awana attended the last National Conference of State Legislatures Quad Caucus on Thursday, November 6, 2014 to finalize policy priorities in the area of health, education, family security, and juvenile justice.

- Makaha Civic Club Celebration: The Makaha Civic Club held an annual fundraiser on Sunday, November 30, 2014 honoring Buffalo and Momi Keaulana for their work in the Waianae Coast and the Makaha community. Representative Jordan and Representative Awana were in attendance.
- Illegal Fireworks: Representative Awana provided copies of her press release expressing disapproval of the disposal and retention of fireworks in Lualualei.

Thank You: Representative Awana thanked the community and Chair Perry for the kindness and generosity expressed to her throughout her term. Chair Perry presented a certificate of appreciation to Representative Awana for her dedication to the community.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m. by Chair Perry.

Submitted by: Lori Snyder, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed by: Uyen Vong, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed and Finalized by: Johnnie-Mae Perry, Chair

ISLAND VOICES

Hawaii and nation would do better if Army reduced its footprint here

By Al Frenzel

Like all of us who live in Hawaii, the cost of living is equally debilitating for the Army on Oahu.

Given the freedom to choose and the absence of U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye's enormous influence, the Army would likely prefer its maneuver brigades be stationed somewhere it can better afford, and where it can actually conduct critically essential combat training.

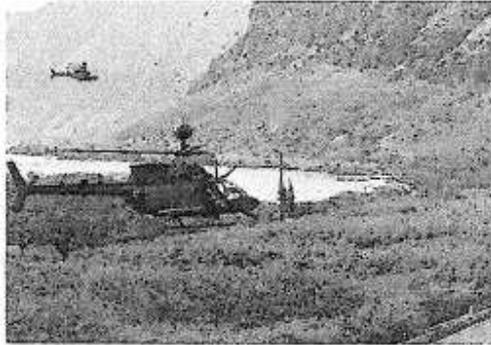
Stationing combat maneuver brigades on Oahu, isolated from ready access to adequate training areas and located days and weeks away from essential strategic air and sealift assets, does little to serve the nation's defense strategy.

The situation begs the question: If the Army cannot train here, is not combat ready here, cannot deploy quickly enough from here and pays a fortune to be based here — why is it here?

CURRENTLY only 12 of the Army's 37 maneuver brigades are combat ready, an abysmal 32 percent readiness rate. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, recently testified, "This is the lowest readiness levels I've seen within our Army since I've been serving for the last 37 years."

Now, with ever-dwindling budget authorizations, the Army's upcoming basing decisions must consider economic fundamentals and strategic realities that were ignored in times of budgetary plenty and political gamesmanship.

The Army is proposing



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Two OH-58 Kiowa Warriors returned to the Makua Military Reservation on Oahu after conducting simulated overwater operations in the Pacific as part of a rapid deployment exercise in late April.



Al Frenzel, a Makaha resident, is a retired U.S. Army colonel; a career logistics

officer, he taught and published on force structuring the armed forces at the U.S. Army War College between 1999-2002. He was a Libertarian candidate for a state House seat.

that Oahu lose 19,800 personnel as part of the mandatory force reduction within its active force by 130,000 before 2019.

These cuts are essential to preventing a "hollow Army," defined as forces on paper with inadequate funding to ensure equipment modernization, maintenance and properly trained soldiers and units that meet essential combat readiness standards.

Regarding sequestration, Odierno said the Army "will continue to have degraded

readiness and extensive modernization program shortfalls. ... At this rate, only a small portion of the Army will be ready if needed."

THE ARMY'S economic role on Oahu has always been the shortsighted excuse to ignore the "tyranny of distance" and logistics calculus associated with being

stranded in the middle of the Pacific.

However, even this ruse has been played on the public for far too many years now.

The Army's meager contribution to Hawaii's economy is pale in comparison to the enormous real and intrinsic costs incurred by the state and its citizens.

The Army contributes only \$1.35 billion of the \$14.7 billion defense dollars spent in Hawaii. Of this, the Army estimates only 16 percent — only \$208 million —

actually gets into the local economy, with the balance spent tax-free on base.

Yet, the state Department of Education pays over \$115 million out-of-pocket to educate the Army's 11,000 dependent children.

Untold millions are spent by the state and county to provide services for the Army's 71,000 personnel and family members — 7.3 percent of Oahu's population — without reimbursement via representational collection of state income taxes, property taxes or excise taxes.

In addition, rentals and housing prices are severely inflated by housing allowances paid to thousands of soldiers living off-base.

Valuable lands and resources in Central Oahu are used rent-free in perpetuity, while environmental and cultural damages occur on a daily basis.

The economic balance sheet for the Army on Oahu is deeply in the red, despite claims to the contrary by a select group of businesses that are the sole beneficiaries of Army spending.

DOWNSIZING THE Army on Oahu would not only improve global Army readiness levels, but also save Hawaii millions of dollars annually and return billions of dollars of precious resources currently earning no revenue in Central Oahu.

Downsizing on Oahu is right for the Army, the nation and, most important, Hawaii.

Please Hawaii, let the Army go; cut the umbilical cord that is sucking the life out of both the host and its guest.