



WAI'ALAE-KAHALA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 3

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013
HOALOHA KAI MONTESSORI SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Arnold Brady called the meeting of the Wai'alaie-Kahala Neighborhood Board No. 3 to order at 7:00 p.m. **A quorum was established with five (5) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish a quorum and take official Board action.

Members Present – Scotty Anderson, Arnold Brady, Sylvia Himeda, John Pyles, Martin Schiller (arrived 7:13 p.m.), Richard Turbin (arrived 7:35 p.m.) and Marian Turney.

Members Absent – Kenneth Chang and Peter Dudgeon.

Vacancies: None.

Guests – Senator Sam Slom, Senator Bob Murakami, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Representative Mark Hashem, Officer Shane Fujitani and Lieutenant Maurice Asato (Honolulu Police Department); Firefighter 1 Peter Kim (Honolulu Fire Department), Michael Leong (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office staff); Lorna Heller (Board of Water Supply); Cyndy Aylett (Department of Facility Maintenance); Kathy Kane and Nina Rappun (Kahala Community Association); Deborah Lockett and Scott McCaffrey (Work Star); Tim Gerner, Barbara Armentrout, Stan Johnston, Anita Bruhl, Paula Luv, and Adam LeFebvre (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter 1 Peter Kim provided the following report:

- Statistics for February 2013 – There were 3 structure and 3 rubbish fires, 77 medical emergencies, 2 search and rescues and 10 miscellaneous calls. There were no major or unusual incidents to report.
- Fire Safety Tip: Residents were advised to not leave cooking food unattended, and if they do to take an oven mitt with them as a reminder. It was suggested keeping flammable items away from the cooking range, and residents were encouraged to learn how to use a fire extinguisher and to keep one in their homes.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lieutenant Asato provided the following report:

- Statistics for February 2013 – There were 11 burglaries, 31 thefts, and 12 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV).
- Crime Safety Tip – Hawaii's "Move Over" law requires motorists to make a lane change away from any emergency vehicle that is stopped for an emergency, or if a lane change is impossible, to slow to a reasonable speed that is safe under the circumstances of the road situation.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Move Over Law – The new law was noted to be appropriate.
2. Kawamoto Properties – A bag of a substance suspected to be drug-related was displayed on the news, and it was asked if it was confirmed to be drugs by HPD. Lieutenant Asato was not aware of the bag, but noted that if drug paraphernalia is found it will be dusted for prints and catalogued for research.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Lorna Heller provided the following report:

- February 2013 Main Break Report – There were no main breaks to report in Waialae/Kahala.
- Water Meter Battery Replacement Project – Batteries need to be replaced in 60,000 meters in Honolulu, 2,000 of which are in the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki area. BWS will be contracting out the work, and the contractors will be carrying a signed letter from BWS when they perform the work. Residents were encouraged to call 748-5462 or email contactus@hbws.org with any questions or concerns.

Oahu's Neighborhood System – Established 1973



- Halawa Xeriscape Garden Workshops:
 - Creative Container Gardening – March 23, 2013
 - Decorate an Egg the Xeriscape Way – March 30, 2013
 - User Friendly Compost – April 6, 2013
 - Economical Aquaponics – April 27, 2013

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Halawa Xeriscape Garden – The classes are free of charge.
2. Sewer – Wai'ala'e/Kahala residents were advised to check their water bills to find the contact information for the sewer service.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative – No representative or report was available.

Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative – No representative or report was available.

Councilmember Stanley Chang – Michael Leong provided the following report:

- Pueo Street – Councilmember Chang's office has sent a Request for Information Services Report (RISR) to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) for information regarding the 900 block of Pueo Street.
- Keala'olu Avenue – The avenue has been identified as needing resurfacing. The avenue's shoulder widening project is scheduled to be complete in late 2013.
- Genshiro Kawamoto – Kawamoto has been arrested in Japan on tax evasion charges. Councilmember Chang is looking into how this affects other issues pertaining to Kawamoto's blighted properties. Many of his properties are collecting fines, and there is pending legislation which would allow the City to perform maintenance on his property at his expense.
- Bulky Item Pickup – The property on the 4500 block of Koahala Avenue has violated the Bulky Item Pickup rule three (3) times. This item has been deferred to the Department of Environmental Services (ENV).
- Kahala School – Parents are parking in the loading zone fronting the school following the Junior Police Officer (JPO) program. HPD has been assigned to increase patrols.
- Halekoa Street – Perma-gum has been applied to the loose manhole cover to prevent it from clanging.
- Bus Route 24 – O'ahu Transit Services (OTS) has restored the route to previous levels, and now includes Pu'upanini Street.
- Planting Strip Boulders – The issue has been assigned to DPP.
- Aukai Avenue – The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) will investigate the proposed expansion of the dead end on the avenue.
- Rockfall Hazard – Mayor Caldwell has published a study on the hazard. Residents can view the 87 page report on Honolulu.gov.

Martin Schiller arrived at 7:13 p.m.; **six (6) members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Genshiro Kawamoto – Several of the billionaire's properties are being fined recurrently.

Representative Bert Kobayashi – Representative Kobayashi

- Legislative Session – The session is halfway complete. The bill supporting the decriminalization of marijuana has a good deal of support. The Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling bill has been heard by three (3) separate Senate committees and has been deferred.
- Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) – A list of CIP items affecting the Wai'ala'e/Kahala area was included at the bottom of Representative Kobayashi's printed report.
- Dead Bills – Included on the report were five (5) bills pertaining to revenue and taxes which are now dead.
- Budget – The Council of Revenues convened and reported that the State is expected to receive \$350 million in additional income this Fiscal Year (FY). It is estimated to cost \$300 million to restore the 5% pay cut that State employees took.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Doris Duke Estate – Concern has been raised pertaining to the number of variances being made to the conditional use permit at the estate, including the number of people/shuttle vans entering the property each day and the volume levels. Representative Kobayashi's office is investigating the infractions. The shuttle vans were noted to carry 18 passengers from Kapiolani Community College (KCC) to the estate. Anderson noted that he will call the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).
2. Unfunded Debt – It was asked if the State is taking measures to repay its considerable debt. It was noted that the debt will be manageable over a long stretch of time.
3. Salary Commission – The commission has recommended a nearly 35% increase in legislative salaries, taking into account a retroactive adding of raises which have not been taken for the past three (3) years. Unless there is widespread support from the caucus, the legislature is likely to vote against it.
4. Revenue – It was asked if the State will be performing a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis on its expenditures. The analysis has proved useful in the private sector for businesses to prevent risky investments.
5. Retirement – Health care has become a significant drain as the unfunded balance of health insurance costs is based on the existing misguided assumption of the increases in Medicare costs, which have generally been increasing as a multiple of the cost of living.
6. GMO Labeling – The bill targeted mostly imported foods, which was considered to be less damaging for Hawaii farmers. The bulk of the Hawaii farming industry is seed corn.
7. Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC) – The existing law has been repealed in the House and the Senate, though several bills have been introduced which maintain portions of the PLDC bill which apply to schools and boat harbors.

Richard Turbin arrived at 7:35 p.m.; **seven (7) members present.**

8. TheBus – Representative Kobayashi was thanked for his help in restoring Bus Route 14.
9. Blighted Properties Bill – The bill "died" in both the House and Senate, but the bill pertaining to shoreline vegetation and beach access is alive, and both Houses have passed different versions. It was lamented that the "Kawamoto" bill was not passed, as property values have been diminishing due to the "negligent and vicious" actions of a neighboring property owner.

Representative Mark Hashem – No representative was present at this time, the item was deferred to later in the agenda.

Senator Sam Slom – No representative was present at this time, the item was deferred to later in the agenda. It was mentioned that Senator Slom and Representative Hashem may be at the Hawaii Kai Town Hall meeting discussing the possibility of a Foodland at the "Great Lawn."

RESIDENTS/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Letter – Adrian Gerwin had presented a letter to the Board at the previous meeting, but there had been no mention of it in the minutes.

Bus Route 14 – The bus operates from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Representatives from KITV News asked to be informed with updates, which should help motivate the administration to restore bus service.

BOARD BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

Honolulu Ekiden Relay – Stanley Kim, the Executive Race Director for the Honolulu Ekiden Relay, announced that the race will be held May 12, 2013 from 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 1,000 residents and tourists are expected to participate, divided into teams of six (6) so that no more than an estimated 200 people will be racing at one time. While it follows the same route of the Honolulu Marathon, The Honolulu Ekiden Relay will be a very different type of race. No roads will be closed for the race, single lanes will be used for runners allowing traffic to pass unimpeded. HPD officers will be helping traffic at key intersection to prevent traffic delays. The only foreseeable inconvenience for the Wai'ala'e/Kahala neighborhood would be the closing of on-street parking on Kilauwea Avenue on the night prior to the race. The race was estimated to be mostly completed by 9:30 a.m., and traffic will return to normal.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Ekiden History – This is the inaugural year of the relay in Hawaii. In Japan, the racers traditionally use a sash instead of a baton.
2. Route – The race will return along the same route, except in Hawaii Kai. Kilauwea Avenue is the only route that will allow both racers and traffic without having to shut down a road.
3. Date of the Race – Concern was expressed over the timing of the race, as May 12, 2013 falls on Mother's Day. It was suggested holding the race on another month. The organization is too late in the planning process to be able to change the date this year, but a different month will be considered in 2014.
4. Arguments in Favor – The relay will be a good way to showcase the natural beauty of Hawaii to tourists. There will be no road closures for the race, and residents will have access to all local businesses and churches. The race will likely have concluded by 10:00 a.m. Because the racers are divided into teams of six (6), there will be a much less significant impact.
5. Arguments Opposed – The Honolulu Marathon presents a significant inconvenience to residents in East O'ahu, and every additional marathon brings additional inconvenience.
6. Location – It was suggested holding the relay in a different location on a year-to-year basis.
7. Shuttle Service – OTS may be able to provide a shuttle service to decrease tourist traffic from Waikiki. It was requested that the Neighborhood Boards be notified when a decision is reached.
8. Race Details – The race can accommodate 2,000 total participants, but only 400 have signed up so far. An estimated 1,000 runners will participate. It was considered unlikely that 2,000 people will participate in the inaugural race. Udon Tea will be provided to participants. There will be an outdoor concert following the race from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the public is invited to attend. Updates on race information will be posted on the website, hnlekiden.com.
9. Local Charities – The Ekiden has not yet decided on which charities will benefit. The decision will be based on an exchange of volunteer services.
10. Scale of the Race – The permit has already been granted for the race. The parent company is a large company with the capacity to generate more runners in future events. It was recommended changing the location of the run each year to reduce the strain on any particular neighborhood.

Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) Pavement Preservation Program – Cyndy Aylett presented DFM's proposed road maintenance program which would prevent roads from deteriorating. All roads in Honolulu were rated on a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scale, and many were found to be in poor to very poor condition. The new program would make sure that the roads in Honolulu would be maintained at an average PCI of 80 (good condition), and would never fall below a PCI of 60 (fair condition). New preservation technology would be implemented to coat roads with preservative oils which would protect them from heat and sun damage. Regular maintenance would be performed to fill cracks before they open into potholes, which would save the City tremendous amounts of money in the long run. To repave one (1) lane mile costs (on average) \$1 million. To maintain that road would cost closer to \$40,000 per lane mile.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. PCI Meaning – The PCI is comprised of a number of different elements, including the age of the road, the visible wear, and the road distresses. A computer program analyses the numbers and produces the rating. A variety of factors contribute to road degradation, including the average weight of vehicles using the road, traffic volume and weather conditions.
2. Road Standards – In 2006, Honolulu changed their road standards to meet Federal standards.
3. Program Use – As roads are repaved, they will become eligible for the program. The program is not effective on old roads, and is only employed on roads which have been repaved in the last five (5) years. Utility companies including the BWS and Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) must adhere to the new road standards.

Without objection, the agenda was taken out of order for the Board to hear from Representative Hashem and Senator Slom.

Representative Mark Hashem – Representative Hashem provided the following report:

- Legislature – Representative Hashem reported that all of the "action" is happening on the Senate side of the legislature. The Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling bill was passed to the Senate, and the House is discussing the minimum wage bill. Representative Hashem lamented that he will be unable to stop the bill from passing, and suggested that the increase in the minimum wage should be spread over a longer time span so as to lessen the impact on small businesses.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Minimum Wage – The labor cost could increase by as much as 20% with the increase in the minimum wage, but it is unlikely that the increase will result in increased revenue for the businesses. Restaurants would be heavily affected as their profit margins are very low.
2. Bulky Item Pickup – It was asked if Representative Hashem could use his influence to help fix the bulky item pickup issue. Representative Hashem noted that when he lived in Japan, residents would pay the City to come and pick up their bulky items, and it was dealt with the same day. The bulky item pickup trucks occasionally get full, and have to return to the dump to drop off, making them late.

Senator Sam Slom – Senator Slom reported the following:

- Hawaii Kai Great Lawn – Councilmember Chang, Representative Hashem and Senator Slom were in attendance at the Town Hall meeting discussing the possibility of building a shopping center on the Hawaii Kai Great Lawn.
- Legislature – Over 250 people attended the GMO hearing in the Senate. The issue was deferred pending further studies. The issue is highly controversial and arguments became personal.
- Budget – Governor Abercrombie proposed adding \$1 billion over the next two (2) years. The House of Representatives cut the increase by \$600 million, and the Senate will look at the remaining \$400 billion. There were no provisions to help small businesses. The visitor industry is supporting the entire economy.
- Bills – The gambling and same-sex marriage bills are “dead,” though Senator Slom noted that nothing is “dead” until the session is over. The “Gut and Replace” process of removing the content of existing bills and replacing it with other subject matter is still popular. Senator Slom advised residents to track the progress of bills on the Senate website, which he noted to be one of the best in the country. A number of bills were listed in the written report.
- Minimum Wage – Senator Slom mentioned that the minimum wage is not meant to be a living wage, but is supposed to be a temporary paycheck for upwardly mobile residents. This will result in numerous restaurant closures, which will result in fewer jobs for young people in Hawaii. There was a noted disconnect between the legislature and business owners.
- Crossover – Approximately 150-200 Bills will begin going into conference committees starting the first week in April 2013.
- Salary Commission – The commission will automatically raise the legislature’s salaries by over 20% unless a bill is passed to stop it. The legislature is part-time and receives benefits, so Senator Slom will vote to stop the salary increase.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Sequestration – Residents expressed concern over the cuts to government infrastructure affecting low-income residents, including Section 8 housing. Senator Slom expressed that the effect of sequestration is overly exaggerated. The United States government is approaching \$17 trillion in debt.
2. Hawaii Kai Great Lawn – The population at the Town Hall meeting were overwhelmingly opposed to the development of a shopping center on the “Great Lawn.” The area is currently zoned for preservation, but there is another nearby shopping center at which a Foodland could be built. Kamehameha Schools has already initiated plans for construction. The additional traffic a shopping center would cause was noted to be a concern.

The order of the agenda was resumed.

Aukai Avenue Canal Access – The City plans to widen the canal access and use it for construction vehicle storage. Nearby residents are opposed to this use of the land, noting that it would be more appropriate to store construction vehicles in non-residential areas. Photographs were circulated detailing the construction effort.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Base Yard – It was noted that a base yard would not fit in with a residential community. The City has stored cranes and other construction vehicles in the smaller yard, and now intends to expand to fit larger vehicles. The canal was recently cleaned with a smaller crane, so there is no need for the larger crane.

2. Media Attention – Contacting the major news media organizations was noted to be an effective method of combating community issues.
3. Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) – Councilmember Chang's office will communicate with DFM to find out what their plans are for the area.
4. Lan Unida – Member Anderson will contact Unida to find out more information.
5. Zoning – The community is residential, and the use of the property as a base yard was noted to be improper zoning.

Turbin moved and Pyles seconded that the Wai'ala'e Neighborhood Board No. 3 opposes the City using the canal access adjacent to 4774 Aukai Avenue as a storage area for heavy equipment, and the expansion of the access area by paving over the street and grassy area or enlarging the existing space. The motion WAS ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 7-0-0 (AYE: Anderson, Brady, Himeda, Pyles, Schiller, Turbin and Turney.)

Establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to Address the Blighted Property Issue – **Schiller moved and Anderson seconded to establish a PIG to Address the Blighted Property Issue.** Richard Turbin shall head the group with Martin Schiller and Scotty Anderson. **The motion WAS ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 7-0-0 (AYE: Anderson, Brady, Himeda, Pyles, Schiller, Turbin and Turney.)**

Blighted Properties – Richard Turbin reported that he established a meeting with Mayor Caldwell to discuss the issue. Genshiro Kawamoto who owns the majority of blighted properties in Kahala has been arrested by the Japanese government for tax fraud, which may hinder some efforts to fine and sanction his properties, or to have the City maintain the properties and send Kawamoto the bill. Turbin hopes to establish legislation that will prevent the situation from ever repeating itself.

Kahala Beach Erosion – Gratitude was extended to Stan Johnston for heading the effort to repair the Kahala Beach erosion. It was noted that the issue goes hand-in-hand with blighted properties.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Kahala Beach – It was noted that parts of the beach are looking healthier than they have in years, and the removal of the Naupaka plants along the beach have contributed to overall health of the beach. Pictures were distributed showing the improvement of the beach. The eroding sandbags and exposed rebar continue to pose a problem to the health of the beach. There was a difference of opinion among the residents regarding the shoreline vegetation bill.

Approval of the Wai'ala'e/Kahala Neighborhood Board No. 3 Regular Meeting Minutes – **Turbin moved and Schiller seconded to approve the February 21, 2013 regular meeting minutes as amended. The motion WAS ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.** Corrections include adding an 'Okina in "Wai'ala'e" throughout the document.

Treasurer's Report – There was no new treasurer's report available.

OTHER REPORTS:

O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) – Residents were encouraged to participate in a survey to share complaints and suggestions pertaining to traffic management on O'ahu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting – The next Wai'ala'e-Kahala Neighborhood Board No. 3 regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hoaloha Kai Montessori School.

Meeting Location – There has been no update from the Wesley United Methodist Church.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam LeFebvre, Neighborhood Assistant.

Reviewed by: Nola Frank, Neighborhood Assistant, and Arnold Brady, Chair.