



## DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2006 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair 1 Gau at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bert Narita, Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, Barbara Miller, Kenneth Chang, Rick Egged, George Waialeale, Bertha Nahoopii, Linda Wong, Michelle Matson, Roxie Berlin, Don Persons, Jay Harden.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Ah Mai, Joe Otto.

**MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Lt. Darren Chun (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Lt. Alex Ahlo, Sgt. Stuart Yano, Officer Shane Fujiotani, Officer D. Oshiro (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Jan Bappe, Keith Young, Valerie Griffith, Ken Ng, Capt. Ron Iwami (HFD-Waikiki Station), M. Cain, Michelle Ching (Mayor's Office), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Daisy Murai, Ray Gruntz (Waikiki Neighborhood Board), Laura Millman, Cliff Slater (Honolulutraffic.com), Mike Street (Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Project), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:** Vice Chair Gau reviewed Board meeting rules as follows: be recognized before speaking, turns are limited to two minutes unless otherwise noted, no one shall speak again until all others have been accommodated, and no food or drink on the hardwood dance floor. Anyone taping the meeting should wave his hand. (No hands were raised.)

### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Iwami, from the Waiikiki Station, reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 6 structure fires and 15 activated alarms, 116 medical responses, 2 search and rescues, and 3 miscellaneous calls.

The day of the earthquake and power outage included 14 calls, including 2 structure fires, 3 electrical shorts, 1 arching electrical transmission wire, and 8 medical calls.

2. Holiday Safety and Community Relations tips: The holidays are a time for celebration and that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining, and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment, a) unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States, b) after a party, check for smoldering cigarettes, c) use caution with holiday decorations and, whenever possible, chose those made with flame-retardant, or noncombustible materials, d) purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance, e) do not overload extension cords, f) try to keep live trees as moist as possible by watering them daily, g) when purchasing an artificial tree, ensure it is made with flame-retardant material.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. During the power outage the station responded to three calls for persons trapped in elevators, the Pawa'a Station near Don Quixote responded to seven.
2. All fire stations have emergency generators which automatically kick in during a power outage and provide enough power for only essential services.



Capt. Iwami was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Lt. Chun, from District 6, Waikiki, reported the following:

1. Statistics for October and September included: 0/0 robbery, 1/1 burglary, 14/17 thefts, 2/1 motor vehicle theft, 1/4 criminal property damage, 19/25 liquor law violation, 6/10 motor vehicle collisions, 29/20 arguments/family-non family, 7/7 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles.

There were also 10 illegal camping citations at the Waikiki Shell, 49 illegal camping in Kapiolani Park, and 7 liquor law violations in Kapiolani Park.

2. A study by the University of Hawaii and the Waikiki Business Improvement District identified 60 homeless persons in Kapiolani Park and 284 in the Waikiki – Ala Moana area.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Enforcement of the new no smoking law comes primarily under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Health. If called, police can respond to complaints about violations, but have to witness the violation to issue a citation.
2. During the power outage there were few major problems, traffic lights were out and officers were on duty directing traffic. In Waikiki, the power came back on about 8:30 p.m.
3. Frustration was expressed about persons who permanently park their vehicles at Paki Park and are living in them. There is a requirement that vehicles be moved every 24 hours and citations can be issued, but it has to be determined that the vehicle is not moved, usually by chalking the tires and checking back in 24 hours. Moving the vehicle even a few inches qualifies as being moved.

Lt. Ahlo, from District 7, East Honolulu, reported the following:

1. Statistics are provided in a written report previously distributed. The all terrain vehicle unit issued 34 violations for liquor law violations, 25 moving violations, 8 illegal parking.
2. The written report includes tips on evacuations for emergencies such as tsunamis.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Concern was expressed about speeding drivers on Alencastre and Bertram streets in St. Louis Heights. Use of a speed trailer was suggested and Lt. Ahlo will follow up, noting that a safe location for the trailer needs to be available.
2. Graffiti is becoming more of a problem in the St. Louis Heights area, including at Waahila State Park. Persons finding graffiti can report it to police. Dealing with the problem includes volunteers removing or painting it out as soon as possible, and establishment of a task force with the State Attorney General's Office and with HPD is sponsoring A Totally Against Graffiti Anti-Graffiti meeting, December 5, Lunalilo School, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
3. A lot off Kanewai Street is being used as by parents of Hokulani School students and is creating traffic and other problems for area residents. The ownership of the lot is unclear at this time.
4. Graffiti removal on City property, such as traffic signal control boxes is done by the Department of Transportation Services, and volunteer groups. The City's graffiti hot line can be used to report graffiti that needs removal.

Lt. Chun, Lt. Alex Ahlo, Sgt. Yano, Officer Fujiotani, and Officer Oshiro were thanked for attending the meeting.

Wong arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – No representative was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2006 REGULAR MEETING** – Miller moved and Nahoopii seconded that the minutes be approved as written. The motion carried, 10-0-2. Dumas and Wong abstained.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 12, 2006 REGULAR MEETING** – Vice Chair Gau noted that no regular meeting business was conducted, rather a candidates' forum was held. Dumas moved and Narita seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried, 11-0-1. Egged abstained.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Narita reported for the month of October the Operating and Publicity Account balance was \$3344.90, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. The report was accepted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Vice Chair Gau announced the following:

1. Receipt of a survey from the Neighborhood Commission Training Committee for Board members to complete and return.
2. Receipt of a letter from the Neighborhood Commission Office relating to a complaint made against the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board by Michael Beason that was dismissed because the complainant did not complete the complaint filing process.
3. Receipt of a letter from the Department of Transportation Services in response to the Board's request for a stop sign on Leahi Avenue. The letter states that stop signs cannot be used for controlling speeding, speed limit signs found to be missing will be replaced, and HPD will be requested to monitor the area.
4. Receipt of a letter from the Department of Design and Construction in response to the Board's request for ADA ramps on Leahi Avenue. The letter states that installation of ADA ramps will be challenging to install, and will be evaluated further.
5. The University of Hawaii's Frear Hall dormitory project has been delayed, a new Plan Review Use application has to be prepared for the City.
6. The McCully Fire Station is not being relocated to an Ala Wai Golf Course location at this time.
7. Letter received from the Neighborhood Commission Office relating to the Workforce Investment Youth Program that serves disadvantaged, low-income persons.

Vice Chair Gau made the above mentioned correspondence available for interested persons to review.

**SUBDISTRICT REPORTS:**

**SUBDISTRICT 1, ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS** - Vice Chair Gau reported there was no St. Louis Community Association meeting last month.

**SUBDISTRICT 2, KAPAHULU** – No report.

**SUBDISTRICT 3, DIAMOND HEAD** – Wong reported on a problem with commercial vehicles parking on Pualei Circle to unload and noted that this is illegal and citations can be issued.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – No representative was present.

**SENATOR LES IHARA, JR.** – Senator Ihara was not present at this time, but arrived later in the meeting. Vice Chair Gau reported Senator Ihara coordinated a meeting with the University of Hawaii Public Policy Center, himself, and some Neighborhood Board members. Topics discussed included: the need for public notice, use of permitted interaction groups and whether they should be composed or a minority of majority of a Neighborhood Board's total members.

**REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY** – Representative Say distributed his monthly report and was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested the use of new technology for elevators that allow them to operate, to reach the next floor and open their doors during power outages be considered. Follow up will be done on legislation for the next session of the Legislature.
2. Who oversees the State Public Utilities Commission and what are its responsibilities? It was suggested a performance audit be made.
3. The State should adopt recommendations made by the 911 Commission to be better prepared.
4. Concern was expressed about State Civil Defense not doing its job during the earthquake and power outage. The lack of information made available to the public was disconcerting. Representative Say offered to contact State Civil Defense to make a presentation at the Board's next meeting in January. It was suggested that since phones work even during a power outage, there be an automated system to call residents for certain emergencies, such as those in tsunami inundation zones.
5. The sunshine law should be revised.
6. The law relating to notification requirement for liquor law applications should be revised to include tenants and owners.
7. Suggestions for legislation are welcome, the sooner the better to meet the Legislature's deadlines to introduce legislation.
8. A report from the Governor's panel of broadcasters and civil defense officials formed relating to the State's response to the earthquake and power outage is due out in mid-December.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** - Chang distributed Representative Nishimoto's monthly report and noted that the report includes more information on the Totally Against Graffiti meeting on December 5, Lunalilo Elementary School, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Michelle Ching, representing the Mayor's Office, was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Concern was expressed that during the power outage, while police, fire, etc. did their jobs, there was a problem with these agencies communicating with each other and the public. It was noted the report from the Governor's panel of broadcasters and civil defense officials will address such concerns.
2. Concern was expressed that during the power outage some communities would lose water pressure as they are served by pumps rather than reservoirs. It was also suggested that rather than having

emergency generators available in a central location, they should be pre-positioned where they will be needed.

3. The emergency alert system that can broadcast on all radio and television stations is under State jurisdiction. The City does not have such a system.
4. City and State Civil Defense officials have monthly meetings. Questions were raised about whether or not they plan for worst-case scenarios.
5. Television stations will be broadcasting the City's consultant's report on the alternative analysis for the mass transit system.
6. Follow up will be done on a previous month's question regarding parking restrictions on Kanaina Avenue.
7. A City Charter amendment was just passed relating to making Honolulu more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, such improvements are needed in the St. Louis Heights area where there are blind curves and a lack of sidewalks. In the past residents have opposed adding sidewalks as their development would cause the loss of on-street parking.
8. Removing the parking restrictions at the Waikiki Natatorium was requested.
9. The Honolulu Marathon web site has information on the route, street closures, parking restrictions, etc.

Ching was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

Councilmember Djou is concerned about the costs of the proposed rail system that have escalated from \$3.3 to \$4.6 to \$5.1 billion. The increase in general excise tax to fund the system takes effect January 1, 2007, could cost each family an additional \$450 a year, and Councilmember Djou has suggested its implementation be delayed until more planning is done on the alternative selected. Councilmember Djou is also concerned about more consideration being given to alternatives.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

The City's recently held transportation symposium was part of the consultant's work. Concern was expressed that there was a lack of balance presented.

Concern was expressed about whether or not the rail system is affordable. Persons with concerns should attend this month's City Council and committee meetings and public hearings to ask questions and express their concerns.

The Council has so far supported the alternative analysis report.

The Council is to vote to select the preferred alternative before December 31, 2006.

Concern was expressed that property taxes could also be used to fund the rail system as the increase in the general excise tax cannot be increased.

There will be public input in all facets of a rail system's design.

Fichtman was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR LES IHARA, JR., CONTINUED** – Senator Ihara reported the following:

1. The meeting with the University of Hawaii Public Policy Center had about 12 attendees. The discussion on the sunshine law included suggestions that it: a) be kept as is, b) more openness is needed, c) it is too restrictive as is, d) Neighborhood Board members should be allowed to attend other meetings for informational purposes.
2. The lot at 548 Kapahulu Avenue has been cleaned up by area businesses, and the State has plans to rezone the lot to allow for commercial development, and is in the process of doing so with the City Planning Commission. Currently the State Department of Land and Natural Resources is leasing the land on a month-to-month basis.

Senator Ihara was thanked for attending the meeting.

Matson arrived during the Elected Officials portion of the meeting.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**SCAM ALERT** – Persons receiving a message to call an 809 prefix for various pretexts should be aware that calling these numbers can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars.

**HAWAII SAFE STORAGE BUILDING ON OLD WAIALAE ROAD AND KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD** – Chang reported the Waiialae Place condominium association, which is across the street from this project, has not been able to get updates on the project from the developer. Concern has been expressed that the project is not being developed as presented, including the murals.

**SPEEDING ON ALENCASTRE STREET** – Valerie Griffith expressed additional concerns about speeding on Alencastre Street, which is narrow and lacks sidewalks. She suggested solutions such as a stop sign at Maigret Street, speed bumps, more monitoring by police, and use of a speed trailer. **Harden moved and Egged seconded to add this item to the Board's January agenda.** Discussion followed where it was noted sidewalks were previously sought, area residents and a Board member work on a draft resolution, and incidents be logged so police can monitor the area at the time of the incidents. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY PROJECT ON KAUNAOA STREET** – A resident requested completion of the work to repair curbs, some reconstruction work has been done, but no work has been seen in a while.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**KAPAHULU MEDICAL BUILDING TRAFFIC UPDATE** – No representative from the building's owner was present. It was requested that the Board request the Department Planning and Permitting or Department of Transportation Services, come to a Board meeting to address traffic impact concerns and a suggestion that traffic be limited to only right-turns in and right-turns out. Vice Chair Gau will refer this matter to Chair Ah Mai.

**OAHU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR** – Cliff Slater, from Honolulutraffic.com, stated that the alternative analysis report is very incomplete and that it states that it will not reduce traffic congestion which will increase whether or not a rail system is built and that purpose of the system is to improve public transit. Slater questioned the City's financial figures for the rail system and noted that his organization's accountants do not agree with the City's figures. He also questioned ridership projections, noting no other systems increased public transit ridership, but have had decreases in ridership, and no other systems reduced traffic congestion.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It is still possible to stop the rail project as it must pass the City Council and federal government review processes.
2. HOT lanes, elevated structures with reversible lanes for high occupancy vehicles, reduce traffic congestion and cost less.

3. The argument that building new highway lanes only results in their being congested is false, citing H-3 as an example of reducing congestion.
4. The federal government will only fund \$500 to \$600 million of the rail project.
5. HOT lanes are built at no cost to taxpayers, toll fees pay for them.
6. Building tunnels instead of more highways or rail system was suggested, to which the presented said that tunnels are expensive.
7. Managed lanes use existing lanes, are reserved for high-occupancy vehicles or other drivers who pay a toll.

Vice Chair Gau relinquished the chair to Vice Chair Nahoopii.

8. Rail systems work in other countries cities because they have the population density American cities to not.
9. Building more highways does not reduce congestion; Los Angeles was cited as an example.

Vice Chair Nahoopii returned the chair to Vice Chair Gau. Berlin left the meeting at this time.

Mike Street, Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Project, reported the alternatives analysis report has been submitted to the City Council which will hold public hearings and committee meetings. A schedule was made available for interested persons to review. The Council is to select the preferred alternative from four alternatives by the end of this year. The alternative analysis report is balanced, copies are available and television stations will be broadcasting the video portion of the report. Other cities have successful rail systems and ridership increases. The rail system would serve an area which is predicted to have population growths over the next 35 years.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The costs of each of the alternatives are in the alternatives report.
2. Ridership projections are in the alternatives analysis report.
3. Polling all licensed drivers to see how many would ride the rail system was suggested, but polling was not part of the consultant's work.
4. The revenue from the general excise tax increase and federal funding would pay for construction, operation and maintenance of the rail system.
5. A guest claimed the alternative analysis report distorts all the options in favor of the rail option. Proof of his charges was requested.

Street was thanked for attending the meeting.

Vice Chair Gau deferred the remainder of the agenda with objections from Wong who requested consideration of a draft resolution for the Board to support one of the alternatives.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS  
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Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant