



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Rachel Orange at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum of nine members present.

Board Members Present: Chris Bennett, Traver Carroll, Tom Eisen, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Gregg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

Board Members Absent: Greg Pentecost.

Vacant Seats: Two seats in Sub District 3.

Guests: Sandi Yahiro (Governor's Representative, Deputy Director, Department of Taxation), Capt. R. Green, Lt. G. Lum Lee, Sgt. C. Sugekane, Ofc. S. Forman, Ofc. J. Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department/District 7), Sgt. C. Toda, Firefighter K. Won (Honolulu Fire Department/Engine 33), Joseph Thomas (Board of Water Supply), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Representative Calvin Say, Ivan Hoe, James Nekota (Palolo Community Council), Richard Shimabukuro, Julia Allen, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

Board Vacancies: No volunteers came forward to fill the two vacant seats in Sub District 3 between Pakui Street to Pukele Avenue and Kalua Road.

CITY SERVICES

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Capt. R. Green distributed their statistics from March 1 through March 12 and reported the following:

- Asked the audience to go to their website www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7 to see their updated arrest statistics.
- This week they cited 16 mopeds and pulled over 6 mopeds for violations.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Capt. Green told Chair Orange if a moped is modified or has unpaid taxes they can be confiscated.
2. Carroll sees a group of motorcyclists riding Harley Davidson motorcycles with no mufflers by the Waikiki Yacht Club in the afternoon on weekends and are extremely noisy. Capt. Green will pass on the information.
3. Capt. Green will have officers follow up regarding other concerns of noisy mopeds. When mopeds are stolen, HPD has an ongoing, open case and contacts the owner when it is recovered.
4. While addresses aren't marked clearly for houses at the end of long driveways along 10th Avenue, the police have not had a hard time finding locations when they need to.
5. Nakayama reported the Department of Land and Natural Resources is addressing the wild pigs around the Palolo Chinese Home.



Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Firefighter K. Won, Engine 33, reported the following:

- There was 1 rubbish fire, 31 medical emergencies and 5 miscellaneous calls. There were no major incidents.
- Fire Safety Tip: Be careful cooking at home because according to the U.S. Fire Administration, cooking fires are the leading cause of house fires and fire injuries nationwide. Take the following precautions to minimize your chances of starting a cooking fire:
 1. Do not leave cooking food unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the heat, and take a spoon or oven mitt with you to remind yourself of the food on the stove.
 2. Do not become distracted. Attending to children, answering phone calls, watching television, and answering doorbells can have devastating results when the stove is on and unattended.
 3. Keep ignitable items, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, or curtains, at least three feet away from the range top.
 4. Keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher near the kitchen, and learn how to use it

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. In responding to a call, poorly numbered houses or the lack of street signs are not difficult for HFD because they have a large map with all the streets marked on it.
2. The best extinguisher to own is an "ABC" and Firefighter Won asked they be serviced yearly. Keep the receipt to know when it was serviced. Especially businesses should service their extinguishers for the safety of their employees making sure there is proper pressure in the extinguisher because the contents get old after a year.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): J.T. (Joseph) Thomas distributed information about water main breaks and reported the following:

- BWS's water is of high quality. To maintain this level they employ a water main replacement program and a handout he distributed on Water System Improvement Projects tells how they choose the pipes to replace.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. The BWS does not test for pharmaceuticals in their water supply because the EPA does not know how to do this completely. The BWS water in Hawaii is 100% ground water unlike the mainland where toxic things can get into their water table via runoff.
2. J.T. will follow up with the Waiomao Palolo Tunnel System.
3. The backflow preventers are not required by law for home use, only for farms, businesses, restaurants and hotels.
4. BWS found the seepage at 2400 Holomua Place was not due to BWS pipes. The water flowing is going with the natural flow that will change with any construction. Shiraki asked the water be diverted away from his home. Thomas will follow up.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor's Report: Martin Okabe, the Mayor's Representative, was not present. There was no report given.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi: Councilmember Kobayashi reported the following:

- After budget meetings for a few days, the community is asked to advise Councilmember Kobayashi of Capitol Improvement Projects (CIP) they want by the end of this month.
- The Mayor asked for \$77 million in improvements for this island.
- There will be a public hearing March 19th at the City Council on rail.
- The bill for term limits is deferred until the City Council hears the responses from more of the Neighborhood Boards.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. After Kuahea Place is repaired the area will be monitored.

2. Chair Orange has reported her street for repairs on the Pothole Phone Line.
3. Councilmember Kobayashi wants a better quality of cement and sealant to fix the roads so they are more substantial.
4. Re: CIP funds – Shiraki asked to get the left hand turn at the 10th Avenue traffic light leaving Palolo.
5. Re: CIP funds – Chair Orange asked for funds to have exercise stations with pull up bars, etc. at the Triangle Park, the park by Jarrett Intermediate or at the Children's Park.
6. Re: CIP funds – The skateboard park project needs funding. Hutchings will keep working to get it.
7. Tanaka noted some of the streets need ADA cuts for wheelchairs especially needed on 9th Avenue that a woman in a wheelchair travels. Currently she has to ride down the middle of that busy street because the corners have no ADA cuts. Councilmember Kobayashi reported the ADA cuts being installed required by Federal law are almost completed.
8. Weinstein noted the Palolo Pool is closed because a part is on order on the mainland therefore many elderly residents cannot exercise there.

Representative Calvin Say: Representative Say distributed his report that included a review of the measures addressed during the first half of the legislative session and gave further information as follows:

- Last Tuesday was the legislature's first crossover of bills of over 260 measures.
- Last Monday the legislature passed their Supplemental Budget of \$60 million.
- Last week the legislature received 225 Oahu County Grants and Aid from non-profit organizations totaling over \$160 million.
- Representative Say received requests from residents regarding loud mufflers on mopeds speeding up and down 10th, 9th and Pablo avenues, Kuahea Street at Waiomao Road, and the repaving of 4th Avenue.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Tanaka is concerned about the status of the Medical Malpractice Bill that affects Hawaii's doctors having to leave the state because of the high insurance fees. Representative Say reported the Health Committed passed this bill out today with an amendment to cap the awards to all victims which he does not think is warranted because there have been many cases where the doctor is at fault and a cap of \$250,000 is all the victim receives; he does not support a cap. The insurance rate is high because one does not know what the amount of the claims will be. He wants to support the victims.
2. Representative Say explained the legislature is proposing to give doctors a tax break if their income is under \$250,000 per year. He wants more money for recruitment and retention of doctors in rural areas where less populated areas cannot financially support a hospital so they have health centers. Currently the law mandates Medicare/Medicaid pay doctors \$.75 for every \$1.00 they spend. Last year Hawaii was allotted \$7 million and the federal government gave \$14 million in the Disproportionate Share of Hospital (DSH) fund to reimburse the state's doctors for Good Samaritan care but as of this date that money has not been released awaiting approval by the Governor. The legislature asked the Hawaii School of Medicine to give incentives to those who practice in rural areas. A lot of our hospitals are losing money because they are not getting reimbursements from Medicaid and uninsured patients which is a drain on emergency rooms, trauma centers and burn units. He asked the public to call on Congress to support the states' health care programs. Tanaka appreciated his addressing this question.
3. Representative Say responded to Shiraki that there are doctors who are charged with malpractice and are not guilty but he does not know the details of the all the claims; they are reviewed by a Medical Community Complaints Panel. The high profile cases have made medical insurance prices escalate.
4. Nekota sincerely appreciates House Speaker Say, who grew up in this district and comes to these meetings reporting on activities at the legislature and Representative Say replied that he is glad citizens are asking these kinds of questions.

Senator Les Ihara: Senator Ihara advised the Chair that he is in meetings at the Capitol this evening. He provided her updates on some of the bills listed later on the Agenda that she will mention.

Governor's Representative: Sandy Yahiro, the Governor's Representative, Deputy Director, Department of Taxation, distributed the Governor's latest newsletter and discussed the following three tax relief issues:

1. Ohana Tax Reduction Act of 2008 — This grants an additional exemption of \$1,000 for each child in a household with children 18 years or younger when the income is \$100,000 or less. In households with incomes between \$100,000 to \$200,000 gives a per child exemption of \$500.
2. Retirement with Dignity Income Tax Relief Act of 2008 — In Hawaii there is no income tax on social security earnings for most seniors and exempts public employee and private employer pension income but private personal retirement accounts such as bRAs, 401 (k) plans and annuities are taxed. This law would treat all seniors 65 and older fairly by exempting them from State income taxes for the first \$25,000 of income for single seniors or \$50,000 for married couples.
3. H1529 College Savings Plan — This bill would allow income deduction up to \$10,000 for a single parent or \$20,000 for married couples participating in H 1529 College Savings Plan Programs. Deduction lets families reduce their taxable income helping parents and relatives save for children's higher education.

Questions, answers and concern:

1. Discussion of the H1529 college fund program ensued. H1529s started a few years do not get a tax reduction. This bill would apply to new H1529 accounts established in Hawaii sponsored through the state.
2. Tanaka asked the Governor to release the \$7,000,000 to reimburse doctors that Representative Say discussed earlier.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES:

- Richard Shimabukuro is concerned about the condition of the Palolo roads; only some of the side streets are good condition. He lives on Palolo Avenue where the roads are bad so he travels on 9th Avenue as an alternate but it is also deteriorating. Recently 10th Avenue was repaved but it is starting to break down also. He agrees with others who spoke earlier, that the quality of the asphalt should be improved so he asked for funds to repair the roads instead of patching them.
- Shimabukuro reported feces have not been picked up for the last year on Palolo Avenue. Chair Orange asked residents to spread the word on the issue. Tanaka said her neighbor has a sign on their fence saying "Pick up your dog beep." and recommends putting up signs. It is a law to pick it up.
- Shimabukuro supports banning plastic bags.
- Shimabukuro has noticed public water fountains in Palolo are poorly maintained.
- Nakayama announced that she and Julia Allen will be at Kahala Mall Saturday and Sunday, March 15th and 16th, representing the Palolo Lyons Club from 10a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to offer free eye checks and eye glass cleaning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Skate Park Update - Hutchings reported that nothing has changed on the state of the Skate Park.
2. T Mobile Antenna at Jarrett Intermediate — T Mobile answered questions from last month's meeting: 1) If their lease would be terminated after five years, they would restore the flag pole to its original height if the landlord agreed to it. 2) They are suggesting the flag pole be pale grey instead of a bright white color.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

1. **City Council Resolution 07-379 regarding limiting Neighborhood Board Terms** — Chair Orange explained the resolution proposes that after serving 4 consecutive 2-year terms and take one term off. Chair Orange read the number of years the current board members have served: Shiraki is in his 12th term, Weinstein is in his 11th, Nakayama and Carroll are in their 7th Gerlich-Hayes is in her 4th, and Chair Orange is serving her 3rd term so this bill could greatly impact this board if it were passed. The other members are new this term.
Gerlich-Hayes moved that the Palolo Neighborhood Board No. 06 stands in opposition to the City Council Resolution 07-379 regarding limiting neighborhood board members to serve four terms in succession seconded by Carroll. Tanaka noted that when she joined the board, everyone just mentioned was the board, so this bill would leave Tanaka as the only member. Gerlich-Hayes feels this board works hard to have anyone who wants to serve be on the board so if you want to join, go and campaign for yourself so people will know you. The board has a hard enough time filling their vacancies without someone saying members cannot serve. Chair Orange noted that many neighborhood boards run uncontested races with no ballots mailed out unless requested; in those cases she opposes term limits. However, in hotly contested races on other boards where a candidate is running a campaign against a person who always wins; she would agree to term limits. Tanaka is for limits if there are contested races. Orange said this proposed resolution would cripple this board if it were passed. Bennett suggested submitting written testimony on behalf of the board to advise the City Council of how the board feels. **By a show of hands, the board voted by unanimous consent to oppose the City Council Resolution 07-379 on neighborhood board term limits 10-0-0. (Aye — Bennett, Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Tanaka, Weinstein.)**

2. HB 2730 and HB 1512 — HB 2730 would allow presentations of information without a quorum and HB 1512 would allow more than two neighborhood board members to be present at the same meeting. Discussion ensued. The Chair wanted these issues discussed so the board can respond to the legislature on them. Gerlich-Hayes feels if you cannot have a meeting there should be no voting. Shiraki feels those assembled should be able to hear reports and Bennett agreed because the board meets to get information out to the public with people bringing their concerns and if the meeting is on television residents can see them. Chair Orange reported the testimony from the Office of Information Practices yesterday said if the first bill passed, even if reports were presented, no questions could be asked by the board, but she feels that would be better than nothing. Tanaka wants to be able to hear reports with less than a quorum to allow residents to voice their concerns. The meeting is recorded and their issue can be addressed at the next meeting. There was discussion of the instance where a member would be excused from the board after three absences in one year. Eisen moved to authorize Chair Orange to present testimony in **favor of HB 2730** and HB 1512 that would change the law as they apply to neighborhood boards to allow meetings with less than a quorum and allow board attendance at meetings with less than a quorum seconded by Carroll. **By a show of hands the motion was ADOPTED by unanimous consent, 10-0-0. (Aye — Bennett, Carroll, Eisen, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Tanaka, Weinstein.)**

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS: Contact Rachel Orange at Rachel.orange@hawaii.edu for agenda item requests.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Orange advised that a new announcement is that the video of this meeting is now online at <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>.

- A. To report a tree that is on a sidewalk for trimming, go to the home page of the city website and on the left hand side click on "problem to report." Then you will find it at Public Trees, 971-7151.
- B. Bills that would affect NB operations have been introduced to the legislature HB1512, HB2730, SB2201.
- C. Video of NB meetings is now available online, see <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco/>
- D. Olelo Broadcast Slots: Aired on Channel 49 every Wednesday at 9p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, ext. 133. or email olelo@olelo.org

E. Bulky Trash Pick-Up: Take out by the morning of Feb 20, 2008, the third Wednesday of every month.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008 — The minutes were filed as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was not available but the board's financial status was good last month and there have been no unusual expenses this month. Chair Orange has been reimbursed for refreshment expenses at the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.
Submitted by

Bonnie Trustin
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by

Rachel Orange, Chair

Palolo Neighborhood Board