



## MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

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### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012** **MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Eric Eads called the Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. **A quorum was not established with eight (8) members present.** Note - This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish a quorum and take official Board action.

**Members Present** – Gary Andersen, Rodney Chun, Sarita Corn, Zach Dilonno (appointed at this meeting), Eric Eads, Martin Eby (departed at 8:30 p.m.), Grant Fasi-Allison (arrived 8:09 p.m.), Kaleo Gagne, Philmund Lee (arrived 7:13 p.m.), Nadine Nishioka, Milton Ragsdale and George Simson.

**Members Absent** – Sarita Corn and Ellen Watson.

**Guests** - Guy Kaulukukui (Governor's Representative, Department of Land and Natural Resources, First Deputy Director); Bridget Holthus (Mayor's Representative, Department of Community Services, Deputy Director); Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, and Jarret Yip (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office staff); Senator Brian Taniguchi, Representative Isaac Choy, Tom Heinrich (Neighborhood Commission Office, Executive Secretary), Captain Bert Nakamura (Honolulu Fire Department), Lieutenant Carl Thorstad (Honolulu Police Department); Dominic Dias (Board of Water Supply), Glen Moir, Eileen Mark, and Josh Hekekeh (Department of Transportation Services); Roger Morton (Oahu Transit Services), Elmer Ka'ai (University of Hawaii - Manoa), Micki Stash, Bob Kern, Gary K. Otori, Meg Lin (Malama Manoa), Barry Brennan, Lara Reynolds (O'ahu Invasive Species Committee), Juliane Inouye, Felice Brees-Saunders, Doris Muraoke, Betty Sakahara, Pat Ching, Francis Miura, Mike Howells, Kazuyo Kobayashi, Carolyn Yano, Denise Nakasone, Charlotta Lum, Jill Lee, Napua Wong, Cheryl Kahuo, Michelle Kanno, Dave Amodo and assistant (Videographers); K. Russell Ho and Adam LeFebvre (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**Vacancies** – There are four (4) vacancies.

**THREE ABSENCES** – Board member Nadine Nishioka had accumulated three (3) absences during the July, 2011 – July 2012 fiscal year. As there were no objections, Nishioka was allowed to retain her position on the Board.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – Captain Bert Nakamura reported the following:

- **April Statistics** – There were 2 structure and 1 rubbish fires, 27 medical emergencies, 1 search/rescue and 6 miscellaneous calls for service (hazardous conditions, good intent, false alarms).
- **Fire Hydrant Tips** – A minimum three (3) foot clearance should be maintained around a fire hydrant, and extra care should be kept to make sure that fire hydrants are immediately visible and accessible.

Comments followed: **HFD Helicopter** – The helicopter is most often deployed for helicopter rescues.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Lieutenant Carl Thorstad distributed the monthly report and highlighted the following:

- **April 3 to May 2, 2012 Statistics** - There were 9 burglaries, 33 thefts and 4 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV).
- **Safety Tips** – In the event of a break in, citizens are advised to call 911 and, if possible, describe the situation. If not, one can leave the line open and officers will respond.
- **Car Seat Safety Tips** – All children up to the age of four (4) must ride in a child safety seat, and children ages four (4) through seven (7) must ride in a child passenger restraint or a booster seat.

Philmund Lee arrived during the above at 7:13 p.m. **A quorum of nine (9) members present was established.**



Comments followed:

1. Home Invasion – Lieutenant Thorstad advises common sense in the event of a break-in. Survival is paramount, and if attacked, citizens have every right to defend themselves against the threat of bodily harm. However, conflict should be avoided whenever possible.
2. Theft Reports – As yet, there is no system in place for notifying the Neighborhood Watch for when a crime takes place, though many are subscribed to a community crime alert program.
3. Crime Avoidance – Criminals look for signs that nobody is home, such as a buldup of mail or newspapers, or a missing garbage can on trash day.

At this time, the agenda was taken out of order to fill a vacancy in Sub-district 1. Zach Dilonno volunteered to fill the position. **Gagne moved and Ragsdale seconded that Dilonno be appointed to the board to fill the vacancy in Sub-district 1. The motion was ADOPTED by unanimous consent. (AYE: Andersen, Chun, Corn, Eads, Eby, Gagne, Lee, Nishioka, Ragsdale and Simson. NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None.)**

A recess was taken at 7:30 p.m. to administer the Oath of Office to Dilonno. The meeting resumed at 7:32 p.m.

Presentation of the Proposed Changes to Bus Route 5 and Public Input - Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and O'ahu Transit Services (OTS) representative Glen Moir gave a Power Point presentation and reported that DTS and OTS are experiencing budget constraints forcing them to come up with ways to make bus service more efficient. The changes would take into account peak service hours. They are attending board meetings in an effort to get input from those who are most affected. Below is the list of suggested route changes which would affect the Manoa area:

Route 1 (Kaimuki – Kalihi) will be experiencing frequency changes from 12 minutes to 15 minutes.  
Route 13 (Liliha – Waikiki) moves to Kapiolani Boulevard and extends through Kapahulu to the University of Hawaii (UH) Manoa.  
Route 4 (Nu'uuanu – UH) – Waikiki ends at McCully/Kalakaua (UH to Waikiki replaced by Route 13).  
Routes 18 and 24 will join into a single route via Kapahulu Avenue, and the Waikiki portion of Route 24 will be eliminated.  
Route 5 Manoa – Ala Moana center weekday peak frequency changes to every 55 minutes.

Moir reiterated that the above are proposed changes, and that they are up for discussion. Comments are invited via email at [thebusstop@honolulu.gov](mailto:thebusstop@honolulu.gov) or visit [www1.honolulu.gov](http://www1.honolulu.gov) for more information.

Comments followed:

1. Reliability – It was noted that express buses have been used to make service more reliable.
2. Cost Savings – It costs DTS almost \$100 per hour to keep a bus on the road. The City Council mandates that OTS needs to recover 27-33% of the operating cost in fare income. OTS hopes to save \$6 - 7 million with the proposed changes.
3. Effect of the Rail – When the rail is complete, more OTS resources will be freed up for use in other areas. One community member suggested cutting bus service in areas affected by rail, but until the rail is finished, those areas will need bus service.
4. Rail Funding – Moir noted that the rail and bus funding are kept separate, but Councilmember Ann Kobayashi noted that \$244 million of federal bus money is being reallocated to the Rail. Moir noted that he would look into it.
5. Bus System Changes – It was noted that the roads are in poor shape and the bus system keeps getting worse, and it was suggested that the administration may be trying to manipulate need for the rail.
6. Service Locations – It is difficult to travel to 'Iolani School by bus, and Moir noted that a number of factors are taken into consideration when choosing which areas get service, and 'Iolani school does not provide sufficient reason to justify adding or modifying a route to provide service,
7. Route 5 – Residents in West Manoa, many of whom rely entirely on bus service, will be greatly affected by the drastic cut in service to this route. A 55 minute wait was judged to be unacceptable, especially during peak hours, and in a typically rainy environment. It was suggested that the buses continue to come at 30 minute frequency during peak hours, but Moir noted that the bus is currently on that schedule, and the proposal is to remove the increase in peak hour frequency. Changes to Route 5 may result in savings of up to about \$600 per day.
8. Petitions – Representatives from Makiki created a petition to keep the routes as is, and recommended that Manoa do the same.

9. Reason for Changes in Manoa – OTS is looking to find a balance in the routes, so that there aren't an over-abundance of empty seats or overcrowding. They are seeking changes in areas with particularly low ridership.
10. Environmental Concerns – Moir noted that the main concern was cost, but having fewer buses on the road is good for the environment.
11. OTS Contract – Up for negotiation in 2013, but is not yet up for bid.
12. Ridership – Changes which make the bus less accessible may result in lower demand.
13. Population Density – Maps which detail population density can be found online.
14. Bus Breakdowns – In the event of a bus breakdown, there is a reserve fleet, though most often delays in service are caused by unavoidable traffic events.
15. Maximizing Savings – It was suggested that OTS consider cutting longer routes which cost more per rider than shorter routes, which use less gas.

During the above, Grant Fasi-Allison arrived at 8:09 p.m. and Martin Eby left at 8:30 p.m.

**Nishioka moved and Gagne seconded that the Manoa Neighborhood Board adopt a resolution opposing the Bus Route 5 changes and requesting that the current route be maintained.**

Comments followed: City Council mandates that OTS recover 27-33% of the cost of operations with fare income, and this year it is expected to dip below 25%. The options would be to either lower the minimum fare recovery percentage or lose service.

**The motion was ADOPTED by Unanimous Consent, (AYE: Andersen, Chun, Corn, Dilonno, Eads, Fasi-Allison, Gagne, Lee, Nishioka, Ragsdale and Simson. NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None.)**

#### COMMUNITY REPORTS AND INPUT

Residents and Others for Matters Not on the Agenda - There were none.

Tree Giveaway – Meghan Lin announced that the recent tree giveaway was a huge success, and she thanked the Rotary Club for their support and Jeremy Lam for growing the trees and making Manoa a greener place.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Honolulu City Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Councilmember Ann Kobayashi distributed her newsletter and reported the following:

- Budget – The City Council will vote on the latest version of the budget in the first week of June, 2012.
- Bill 37 – Kobayashi opposes this bill which reallocates federal bus money to the financial plan for rail and allows for the use of the City's line of credit. Though it would only be used as a last resort, Kobayashi fears that the City would not have the means to pay back the loan if it is used.

Comments followed:

1. City Bonds to Fund Rail – The rail project provides no collateral, so if the bonds are used, the taxpayers will have to cover the cost. The allocation is only to be used for 'unforeseen circumstances,' which has no definition provided and could include anything. When negotiations started five (5) years ago, the rail project was to be funded with only State and Federal monies, but recently an ordinance was passed to allow for borrowing from the City's line of credit.
2. Alternatives to the Rail – Kobayashi noted that the rail's implementation has turned many people against it. She noted that there are alternatives, such as a bus guideway, that would have been preferable, although there are problems with every system.
3. Bus Funds to Rail – If the Rail does not plan to use the \$244 million reallocation from the bus budget, the City should keep the money in a fund from which the bus can also draw. The funds were added to the Rail budget because the Federal Government deemed the existing budget to be 'too weak.'

Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative - Bridget Holthus reported the following:

- Honolulu 311 Response System – A resident who used the system believes that the automated response was unhelpful, and would prefer to receive real-time status updates. The program is still in the planning phase, and there is still work to be done.

- Broken Sidewalk at 3434 Pawaina Street – The owners of the property have begun a construction project and have cordoned off the site, and by City ordinance cannot abandon or suspend the work for 120 days.
- AT&T Upgrade Of Equipment At 3557 Kumukoa Street – On March 7, 2012, a Conditional Use (Minor) Permit (No. 2012/CUP-7) was approved for major modifications to an existing utility installation, Type B, (transmitting antennas) for the AT&T facility. The project was found to meet all of the criteria for approval required by Land Use Ordinance Section 21-2.90-2(a); and, more importantly involved substantial improvements over preexisting conditions.
- Community Recycling Bins – The City is phasing out the community recycling programs in favor of the new curbside pickup. The program will end by June 30, 2012. More information can be found at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org), or by calling (808) 768-3200.

Comments followed:

1. Rail Project – It was asked whether the Mayor would consider repealing steel-on-steel construction or to repeal the Honolulu Rapid Transit Authority (HART). Holthus suspected that he wouldn't, but would ask.
2. Manoa Valley District Park – The Mayor was asked to reconsider the number of permits issued to the park, as cars will sometimes spill out onto neighboring streets and block line-of-sight for motorists.
3. Market City Shopping Center Crosswalk – There is no crosswalk signal by the underpass.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative – No representative was present, and no report was available.

State Senator Brian Taniguchi – Senator Taniguchi reported the following:

- End of Session – The last day of the State legislative session is May 3, 2012.
- Reapportionment – Federal court may overturn the current district boundaries, though Manoa may be largely unaffected.
- Manoa Library – The new building will be opening June 9, 2012.

Comments followed:

1. Rail Surcharge – Member Lee asked if the legislature would consider changing a bill relating to the .5% rail surcharge, as other utilities are in need of maintenance. Taniguchi said that it was unlikely.

State Representative Isaac Choy – Representative Choy was available to hear concerns.

Comments followed:

1. Rail Surcharge – Member Lee asked if the legislature would consider changing a bill relating to the 5% rail surcharge. Choy noted that it was a matter best handled by the City Council.
2. Transportation Option – Lee noted that the residents of O'ahu were not given the opportunity to vote on their preferred transportation option, but Choy reported that the rail was, in fact, voted on. Lee requested another ballot initiative.

University of Hawaii (UH) Government Relations Manager - Elmer Ka'ai distributed his report and highlighted the following:

- Lagoon Facility – Report on the facility was postponed to the “new business” portion of the agenda.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) - Dominic Dias reported the following:

- Main Breaks – There were no main breaks reported in April.
- BWS Impersonation – The Better Business Bureau has notified the BWS about a series of incidents in which individuals assumed the identity of BWS employees and requested access to people's houses. BWS stressed that their employees wear BWS uniforms, will drive a BWS truck, and will always provide credentials when requested.
- Summer Conservation Tips – Dias advised against watering lawns between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and suggested that property owners check for leaks in their systems.
- Rate Increases – In response to questions from last meeting, Dias reported that there have been no bonuses paid in the last five (5) years, and a list was provided which went over the operating costs for BWS, including projects and payroll.
- BWS Projects on Lowry Avenue – There are currently no BWS projects on Lowry Avenue.
- [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com) – There is a lot of information available online, including workshop information on how to build a rain-water catchment system, for example.

### FILLING OF VACANT BOARD SEATS

One Vacancy in Subdistrict 2 - Upper Manoa; One Vacancy in Subdistrict 3 - Central Manoa; and Two Vacancies in Subdistrict 4 - Lower Manoa - As there was no quorum, no vote could be taken on the filling of these seats.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and Prioritization of Possible Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects for the Manoa Neighborhood Board District and Adjacent Areas – There was no discussion on this matter.

Election of Treasurer – As there was no quorum, no vote could be taken on this matter.

### NEW BUSINESS

University of Hawaii (UH) Proposal to Tear Down the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Magoon Teaching Facility on Woodlawn Drive – UH professor Barry Brennan reported that UH plans to build new faculty housing on the current location of the teaching facilities on Woodlawn Drive. This would mean demolishing the facilities, which are invaluable parts of UH and cannot be replaced. Brennan argued that there are alternative locations, and lamented that the College hadn't been part of the discussion.

Comments followed:

1. Faculty Housing – The intended purpose is to provide living accommodations for new faculty while they search for permanent housing, but the faculty have been staying permanently in the faculty housing.
2. Facility Demolition – A representative from the contracting company reported that no decision has been made to demolish the facility, but two feasibility studies have been conducted.
3. Ethics of Faculty Housing – The concept of providing housing for faculty was brought into question, as it competes with local landlords who rent in the area. Discussion ended on the ethics of subsidizing faculty housing with taxpayer dollars. It was argued that, as Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the country, and most other State Universities have the same program, UH needs to provide faculty housing to attract the best faculty and to stay competitive on a national level.
4. Location of Housing – The Board was reminded that the issue is not the ethics of providing faculty housing, but rather the location on which it is to be built and the demolition of the facilities there.
5. No Quorum – As there was no quorum, no Board action could be taken at this time.

Oahu Invasive Species Committee – Lara Reynolds reported that imported floral bouquets may be carrying destructive parasites which are devastating to the endangered ohia tree. The idea of banning the import of all plants from the myrtle family is currently being discussed by the committee. To find florists who grow their flowers locally, Google "Hawaii Local Florists."

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)s – Justine Espiritu of "Label it Hawaii" gave a Power Point presentation detailing the types and varieties of GMOs, and the potential dangers that they pose to the population. She proposed that the Board pass a resolution supporting the labeling of GMOs for identification. Most developed nations have already passed similar legislature, but the United States of America is lagging behind. As there was no quorum, no action could be taken on the matter.

Comments followed: GMO Animals – Salmon, as well as 35 other fish species have been genetically modified, but the Hawaii legislature has rejected a bill to have them labeled as such.

Proposal to Move Meetings to Manoa Innovation Center – As there was no quorum, no action could be taken on the matter, but the Board discussed that the Manoa Innovation Center may be too small to accommodate the large audiences that the board sometimes experiences.

Input from Board or Community – It was noted that it may be a good idea to discuss the idea of sending a blanket email to the entire Manoa community.

### BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Approval of the February 2, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes – As there was no quorum, no action could be taken on the matter.

Approval of the April 5, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes – As there was no quorum, no action could be taken on the matter.

Treasurer's Report - Chair Eads reported that \$266.56 was spent in April, and the remaining balance was \$1,146.18. The Treasurer's report was filed.

Planning of Future Meeting Presentations and Topics – There will be a recess of the July 2012 meeting in recognition of Independence Day.

COMMITTEE, PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG), and DELEGATE REPORTS – There were no reports at this time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Input from Board – The Waioli Lions breakfast fundraiser will be on Sunday, May 20, 2012 at the Manoa Elementary School Cafeteria. Tickets will go on sale starting May 6, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Adam LeFebvre  
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:  
K. Russell Ho  
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:  
Eric Eads  
Chair