



MĀNOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETORIUM

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chair Eads called the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. **A quorum was established with 13 members present.** Note – This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action. Chair Eads welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other Board members.

Board Members Present – Harvey Arkin, Gary Andersen, Dylan Armstrong, Denise Bilodeau, Rodney Chun, Kristen Collat (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Eric Eads, Wyatt Gordon, Jim Hayes, Hunter Heavilin (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Patti Hoe (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Nathaniel Kinney (departed at 8:40 p.m.), Dale Kobayashi, Teri Mitchell, Bronson Silva, and Ellen Watson.

Board Members Absent – Joan Koff.

Vacancies – There were no vacancies at this time.

Guests – Denise Matsubara (Governor David Ige's Representative, Governor's Office); Elmer Kaai (University of Hawai'i – Mānoa), Deputy Director Barbara Yamashita (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative, Department of Community Services); Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Steve Uyeno (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office), Captain Guy Seto-Mook (Honolulu Fire Department [HFD]), Lieutenant Maurice Asato and Sergeant Brandt Tsuha (Honolulu Police Department, District 7), Dominic Dias (Board of Water Supply), Erin Bishop (O'ahu Invasive Species Committee), Malia K. Harunaga (Hawaii Bicycling League), Sharon Omizo, Gordon Aoyogi, Kūpono Fey, Linda LeGrande (Mālama Mānoa), Curtis Hanashi, JoAnn Yanazaki, Raleigh Ferdun and Helen Nakano (Be Ready Mānoa), Zoe Tanaka (Videographer), and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office).

CHANGING THE WORDING OF AGENDA ITEM 2 – Chair Eads asked for a motion to correct the dates for the election of Chair from tonight to the end of the 2015 – 2017 Neighborhood Board term. Chair Eads explained that a two-thirds vote (12) was needed to place this item on the agenda. **Hayes moved and Arkin seconded to change the term for the office of Chair from "May 4, 2016 to June 30, 2017." As there were no objections, the motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 13-0-0 (AYE: Andersen, Arkin, Armstrong, Bilodeau, Chun, Eads, Gordon, Hayes, Kinney, Kobayashi, Mitchell, Silva, and Watson; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).** The changes were made.

ELECTION OF CHAIR TO SERVE FROM MAY 4, 2016 to JUNE 30, 2017 – Chair Eads mentioned some of the duties of the Chair, which included setting the monthly agenda and answering phone calls on community concerns. **Andersen nominated Dylan Armstrong to be Chair. Watson nominated Dale Kobayashi to be Chair. Silva nominated Wyatt Gordon to be Chair.**

Hoe and Heavilin arrived at 7:06 p.m.; **15 members present.**

Collat arrived at 7:06 p.m. **16 members present.**

Dale Kobayashi disclosed that he will be running for the House of Representatives in the fall and if elected, then the Board will have to elect a new Chair.

Wyatt Gordon joined the Board two (2) years ago, tried to engage the community and recruit new members, and drafted the recently-approved Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Plan. Watson asked if Gordon was a Legislative Aide. Gordon responded that he was a Legislative Aide until tomorrow, Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for Representative Kaniela Ing of South Maui.

Dylan Armstrong has added items to the recent agendas, wanted to work with other Neighborhood Boards on issues like on mopeds and other legislation, and utilize the human resources available to the Board.

Kinney asked the views of each candidate, as he plans to vote for the person, who will have the shortest meeting and still discuss the issues in the community. All three (3) candidates agreed with Kinney.

Chair Eads called for roll call voting in the order of nomination. The results of the first vote for Chair were – **five (5) votes for Armstrong** (Andersen, Bilodeau, Eads, Gordon, and Silva), **seven (7) votes for Kobayashi** (Arkin, Chun, Hoe, Kinney, Kobayashi, Mitchell, and Watson), **and four (4) votes for Gordon** (Armstrong, Collat, Hayes, and Heavilin).

As no candidate received the nine (9) votes required to win, Chair Eads called for a second run-off vote of the two (2) highest candidates. The results of the second run-off roll call vote were – **5 votes for Armstrong** (Bilodeau, Collat, Eads, Hayes, and Silva) and **11 votes for Kobayashi** (Andersen, Arkin, Armstrong, Chun, Gordon, Heavilin, Hoe, Kinney, Kobayashi, Mitchell, and Watson). **Former Chair Eads announced that the newly-elected Chair was Dale Kobayashi.** Chair Kobayashi and Eads exchanged places at the front table.

FILLING OF THE OFFICE OF SECOND VICE CHAIR – Chair Kobayashi asked for a motion to elect a second Vice Chair. **Watson moved and Hayes seconded that the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 elect a Vice Chair. As there were no objections, the motion was ADOPTED. Watson nominated and Hayes seconded Dylan Armstrong to be Second Vice Chair. As there were no other nominees, Dylan Armstrong was elected by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 16-0-0 (AYE: Andersen, Arkin, Armstrong, Bilodeau, Chun, Collat, Eads, Gordon, Hayes, Heavilin, Hoe, Kinney, Kobayashi, Mitchell, Silva, and Watson; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).**

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 6, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: **As there were no objections or corrections, the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 APPROVED the April 6, 2016 regular meeting minutes, as circulated, by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 14-0-0 (AYE: Arkin, Andersen, Armstrong, Bilodeau, Chun, Collat, Eads, Gordon, Heavilin, Hoe, Kobayashi, Koff, Mitchell, and Silva; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).**

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)/Mānoa Station – Captain Guy Seto-Mook reported the following:

- April 2016 Statistics – There were 3 structure fires and 5 activated alarms (no fires); 23 medical emergencies and 4 motor vehicle crashes/collisions.
- Fire Safety Tip – Wildland Fires – Wildland fires, also known as brush fires, can cause extensive damage in the communities. The National Fire Protection Association suggests taking the following preventative steps around one's home:
 - Remove flammable materials, such as dead vegetation and wood piles, from within 30 feet of one's home.
 - Keep the lawn hydrated and maintained. If the lawn is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for brush fires.
 - Clear leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches, and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting one's home.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD)/District 7 – Sergeant Brandt Tsuha with Lieutenant Maurice Asato reported the following:

- April 2016/March 2016 Statistics – There were 8/6 motor vehicle thefts, 5/4 burglaries, 27/22 thefts, and 5/6 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV) (break-ins). The total number of calls for service was 6,663.
- Safety Tips – 21 Step Home Security Check List – Sergeant Tsuha highlighted – Windows: Always lock the louvered or jalousie windows.
- Community Policing Team – Team members' contact information was listed.

Comments followed: Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) – Watson asked about an e-mail from the NSW about possible explosive devices being left in mailboxes and on the sidewalks and wanted to know why this was not reported on the news. Sergeant Tsuha did not know about this and wanted to know the source. Sergeant Tsuha reported no incidents for the last week on his shift.

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

- Main Break Report – There was one (1) main break in April 2016. On Thursday, April 28, 2016, a 12-inch water main broke at 3034 Manoa Road.

- 2016 Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contests Winners Announced – The BWS would like thank the 1,900+ student artists and poets who participated in the 2016 Water Conservation Week poster and poetry contests. Their art and poetry depicted our contest theme, "Pure Water – There is No Substitute." The full list of winners and an online art gallery are available on the BWS website, www.boardofwatersupply.com. Also, these posters and poems will be on exhibit at:
 - Honolulu Hale Gallery from Wednesday, April 27, 2016 to Thursday, May 19, 2016;
 - Kapolei Hale from Tuesday, May 24, 2016 to Thursday, June 2, 2016;
 - Kahala Mall from Monday, June 6, 2016 to Friday, June 24, 2016;
 - Windward Mall from Monday, June 27, 2016 to Friday, July 15, 2016; and
 - BWS Public Service Building Lobby from Monday, July 18, 2016 to Friday, August 12, 2016.
- Water Matters Customer Newsletter – The latest edition of the BWS's customer newsletter, Water Matters, is currently being distributed to BWS customers as a water bill insert. The Spring 2016 issue shares information on the history of the BWS as a semi-autonomous government agency, upcoming water system improvement projects, xeriscape garden activities, and more. If there are any questions or comments, contact the Communications Office at 748-5041.

Comments followed: Lead Pipes – Andersen asked about lead pipes. Dias mentioned that there are no lead pipes, but there are cast iron pipes with lead sealant on the outside.

Oahu Invasive Species Committees of Hawaii (OISC) – Erin Bishop reported the following:

- Good News – There is a free resource at the Plant Pono Website. Plant Pono is an easy-to-use website that provides a background check for plants to inform people about the risk of invasiveness of plants in Hawaii. The service utilizes the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, which evaluates plants on 49 different characteristics such as; what type of plant it is, what is its climate and distribution, has it spread elsewhere, how it reproduce, and many more. Once the evaluation is complete, the assessment then generates a score for the plant. Plants that score less than 1 have a low risk of becoming invasive in Hawaii...such as Plumeria, which depending on the species scores anywhere from a -4 to a -6. Conversely, Pampas grass scores a 26 and OISC does know that it has already become a pest in watersheds on Maui. As the HFD mentioned, dry grass can be a fuel source for wildland fires.
 - The weed risk assessment is more than 90% accurate and is the best tool available to help the general public make responsible decisions about planting non-invasive plants in Hawaii. Not only does the site provide weed-risk assessment scores for more than 1400 plants, it also provides non-invasive alternatives to those plants that have high scores. If the plant one is curious about is not on the site, one can request a plant assessment. So, with spring here before one plants...visit plantpono.org and "Know before you grow!" Contact Bishop at email to oisc@hawaii.edu and at 286-4616.

Three (3)-Absences Letter for Nathaniel Kinney – Kinney noted that at the end of March 2016, he had a hernia surgery and asked for an excused absence. **As there was no motion to declare Kinney to vacate his seat, Chair Kobayashi mentioned that Kinney was still on the Board. Kinney thanked the Board for its non-action.**

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO)/Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Delegates – Hayes reported that at the last OahuMPO meeting, there were discussions on the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), how Complete Streets are evaluated, and the Salt Lake Boulevard Widening project.

Comments followed: Other Regions – Resident Gordon Aoyogi, mentioned that in other areas on the mainland that regional transit officials are able to spend federal funds. As Aoyogi has read that local officials are unable to spend \$600 million in federal funds, Aoyogi asked if the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) can allocate Highway funds to Rail. Hayes responded that both HDOT and Department of Transportation Services (DTS), and Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) are on OahuMPO and the Policy Committee. OahuMPO allocates 85% of the federal funds to transit.

Creation of the Mānoa Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) No. 2 – Chair Kobayashi noted that this item will be worked on later in the year.

COMMUNITY REPORTS AND INPUT

Residents' and Others' Input for Matters Not on the Agenda

Mālama Mānoa – Linda LeGrande thanked former Chair Eric Eads for his years of service, congratulated Chair Kobayashi on his new leadership, and reported the following:

- Educational Endowment Fund – Wednesday, June 1, 2016 is the deadline to file an application for the educational endowment fund.
- Historic Mānoa Walking Tour – The Historic Walking Tour will be on Saturday, June 11, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. More information is on the website at malamamanoa.org.

Comments followed: Examples – Collat asked for examples for \$2,000 endowment awards. LeGrande noted that a Cub Scout did a planting at a school and at Lyon Arboretum descriptive signs were posted.

Input Received by Board Members from Community Members – There were none.

Traffic Concerns at Cooper Road – Armstrong requested to defer this item to the next meeting, due a resident's surgery. Chair Kobayashi deferred this item to the next meeting.

Driving Safety With Bicycles – Malia Harunaga represented the Hawaii Bicycling League (HBL), which is a non-profit organization to enable more people to bicycle for health, recreation, and transportation through advocacy, education, and events. Harunaga gave a PowerPoint presentation on safety tips, speeding, and distractions. The HBL provides free riding workshops, senior cycling with tricycles, and safety presentations, to share the road with aloha.

Comments followed:

1. Idaho Stop and Yield Laws – Heavilin asked if there were discussions about the Stop and Yield laws. Harunaga was not aware of those discussions.
2. King Street Bike Lane – Eads asked if there were statistics on the number of people hit on King Street, making a left turn. Harunaga noted that those statistics were not available.
3. South Street Cycle Track – Gordon asked when the South Street Cycle Track will be completed. Harunaga mentioned that it may not be finished by the end of 2016.
4. Flashing Red Hand – Bilodeau asked when the red hand is flashing, are the bicycle riders supposed to stop like pedestrians. Bicycle riders appear to slow down traffic on King Street and bicyclists are not following the flashing hand. Harunaga mentioned that if the bicyclists are riding Ewa-bound, they have their own signals. Surveys show that +30 seconds is added to the commute. Bilodeau disagreed and observed bicyclists delaying driver's turn time.
5. Thank You – Armstrong thanked HBL for tonight's presentation and invited them to return and talk on specific topics.
6. Bike Boxes – Resident Raleigh Ferdun pointed out that bikes do not trigger the mass-triggered bike boxes to change the lights and asked the City to install these triggers. Ferdun mentioned two (2) places where he rides are Wai'ālae Avenue and Honokai Street and Lunalilo Home Road and Kalaniana'ole Highway in Hawaii Kai. Harunaga was aware of the bike boxes and will follow up with the Mayor's Representative Deputy Director Yamashita.

Discussion of Residents' Concerns Related to the Construction Activities for the Nipo Street Cluster Housing Development at 3596 Nipo Street – Armstrong has not visited Nipo Street since the middle of last month and wanted to defer this item to the next meeting. Watson noted that this item was not a sustaining agenda item. If residents had a concern, they could bring it up to the Board under Residents' Concerns. Hayes agreed and pointed out that last month, Deputy Director Yamashita reported that Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) does not have the authority to mandate the developer to appear before the Neighborhood Board and that DPP is pursuing the developers for the repair of the roads. Chair Kobayashi will take this item off the agenda and residents may inform the Board under Residents' Concerns.

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

- Congratulations – Councilmember Kobayashi congratulated the new officers and thanked former Chair Eads for being an example to other Board members.
- City Budget – On Wednesday, June 1, the City Council will take the final vote on the Budget. It added \$100,000 for the repair of Mānoa District Park (MDP) lighting and restrooms by the swimming pool and \$50,000 to trim trees on the upper part of Mānoa Road.

- Triangle – Regarding the triangle at Kamehameha Avenue and O’ahu Avenue a request was made to take out the concrete and put in plantings, so the skateboarders could no longer use the triangle.
- Nipo Street – The Budget Committee was going to put money in for the repairs, but DPP will take care of it.
- Real Property Tax Relief – The bill wants to help low-income resident homeowners, who make \$60,000 and under, to lower payments from 4% to 3% of tax rate.
- Grant-in-Aid Request – The New Hope Church expansion funding was already removed from the Budget. The Budget Committee does not fund churches, but funds projects, like the First Assembly of God’s housing and homeless programs. The Committee aims to balance Councilmembers’ projects and City Department’s funding. As the \$250,000 request was removed, Watson asked if the Board should still vote on the resolution later on agenda. Councilmember Kobayashi noted that the Board could still vote on the resolution to make a statement.

Comments followed: Thank You – Eads thanked Councilmember Kobayashi for the kind words, the response about waivers for Councilmembers’ projects, and the fight against all waivers. Councilmember Kobayashi pointed out the seven (7) years’ discussion on a Chinatown project.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s Representative – Deputy Director Yamashita reported the following:

- Skateboarders – There were concerns that skateboarders did not have anywhere to go and a request to have a skate park was made. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has no immediate plans to develop a new skate park for the McCully/Mānoa area. DPR is currently focusing on improvements to the existing facilities and play apparatuses. DPR hopes the skateboarders will consider using the skate park facility at Makiki District Park.
- Be Ready Mānoa (BRM) – BRM asked Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) if it could use Mānoa District Park (MDP) as a staging area when a disaster strikes. The request to use Mānoa Valley District Park (MVDP) as a staging area was reviewed and denied by the Department of Emergency Management Services (DEM) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). MVDP cannot be designated as a command center for any organization as it must remain available as a city-wide resource in case of emergencies or disasters. As the public is aware, DPR’s facilities are utilized for shelters during bad weather situations and command centers during other urgent or impending situations.
- Queen’s Beach Resolution – The Board passed the Queen’s Beach Resolution. DPR responded that it appreciated the Board’s participation in the process.
- Concerns about the Skyrocketing Costs for the Rail System – Constituents’ concerns have been noted by Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART).
- Speeding on Mānoa Road –The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will be conducting an investigation, which may require research, site observations, and an analysis of the traffic history when all schools are back in session to get an accurate traffic assessment. DTS will report back to the Board of the results of the findings by the end of September 2016.

Comments followed:

1. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)s – Hayes saw a news article that ADUs would not be permitted in districts where the infrastructure could not support the additional projects and asked about Mānoa. Deputy Director Yamashita will follow up. Councilmember Kobayashi added that the DPP is working with Department of Environmental Services (ENV) to get the districts ready with adequate infrastructure. Also, there is a bill to waive the \$10,000 fee, so homeowners may want to wait for the bill’s passage.
2. Department of Environmental Services (ENV) – Board member Heavilin asked if there was any discussion on expanding green waste curbside recycling in his Subdistrict 3 (Middle Mānoa) and around the island. Deputy Director Yamashita will follow up.
3. Tree trimming – Resident Sharon Omizo asked for the tree trimming schedule along East Mānoa Road near the Chinese cemetery. Deputy Director Yamashita will follow up.

University of Hawaii (UH) Representative – Elmer Kaai, Director of Public Relations, reported the following:

- Congratulations – Kaai congratulated new Chair Kobayashi.
- Rats in the University of Hawai’i – Mānoa Dorms – Around Friday, April 8, 2016 complaints started about individual cases, but now it is a bigger problem. After hiring consultants, it was discovered that rats are entering through several points. As school ends in two (2) weeks, better surveys will be conducted. During the summer, the dorms are open for various events and he will return with better assessment.

Comments followed:

1. Cost – Armstrong asked what the estimated cost of the survey was. Kaai will know by next week, as this is a priority item.
2. Hire Exterminators – Watson advised to hire exterminators to set traps. Kaai agreed and it is being done. Kaai also noted that there needs to be assessments of all of the dorms and procurement process takes time.

Kaai continued:

- Traffic – Today was the last day of instruction and traffic should be better tomorrow. Graduation is on Saturday, May 14, 2016 with a larger undergraduate class in the morning and graduate level graduation in the afternoon. The traffic control plan is better than in the last two (2) years with providing a shuttle from and to car-pooling lots and reserving spaces for parents and family.

Comments followed:

3. No Smoking Policy – Bilodeau mentioned that the UH started a no smoking on campus policy last year and students are leaving campus, lighting up, and dropping cigarette butts on Bilodeau's lawn. Bilodeau requested a courtesy notice to students, to remind them to be "good neighbors." Kaai will follow up.
4. UH Master Plan – Hayes requested an update on the Master Plan. Kaai noted that the Administration is re-organizing again and Kaai wanted continuity. Community input will be addressed. Silva said that the University of Hawai'i Planning is not ready to present. The long-range Master Plan does not require the Neighborhood Board to get involved. Silva will continue to follow up.

State Representative Isaac Choy – Representative Choy was not present and no report was available.

State Senator Brian Taniguchi – Senator Taniguchi was not present and no report was available.

Governor David Ige's Representative – Denise Matsubara, Governor's Office mentioned Governor Ige's May 2016 newsletter and reported the following:

- Housing – Governor Ige understands that the housing shortage is a long-standing, complex problem that can only be solved by partnering with the private sector and the counties. To better understand the challenges, the Governor's team met with representatives from the Land Use Research Foundation and the Building Industry Association and crafted a plan to produce at least 10,000 housing units across the state by 2020. The work ahead involves reducing bureaucratic barriers, strengthening financing tools, and refocusing priorities for people with low and moderate incomes.
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Team – The Governor's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) team is working on transforming Hawaii's public schools with the help of the federal Department of Education.
- Fight the Bite – The State Department of Health (DOH) has controlled Dengue Fever on the Big Island of Hawai'i. More work and updates to be done.
- Pre-Schools Open Doors – Nineteen schools will offer free pre-school for low-income families. \$10 million will help 600 children. For more information, call 791-2130. Applications are now being accepted for the 2016-2017 school year with priority given to children age 4 on or before July 31, 2016 from families, that meet the federal guidelines.
- Bike Racks at the Capitol – Armstrong talked with the Capitol management people and they will replace racks soon. Matsubara's comments were helpful.
- Medical Marijuana – Last month Director Rachel Wong had answered Watson's question about medical marijuana. There were no new updates.

Be Ready Mānoa (BRM) Committee /Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Helen Nakano thanked Eads, congratulated Kobayashi, and reported the following:

- Hawaii Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program (HHARP) – Two (2) Hawaii Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program (HHARP) presentations had over 70 people at the first one and over 100 people at the second one, with standing room only at the Mānoa Public Library. Now, BRM is looking for a bigger venue. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at the Mānoa Public Library on Tropical Cyclones and Hurricanes. In 2015 15 Tropical Storms missed Hawai'i.
- Command Center Request and CERT Training – The request to use the Mānoa Valley District Park as a Command Center for emergencies and disasters was denied. The next training classes for CERT training will be in Wailupe in 'Āina Haina on Saturdays June 5, 2016, June 12, 2016, and June 19, 2016 and more and more people are getting aware of disaster preparedness. Nakano noted that 30+% of the population is "vulnerable" in Mānoa and are not capable of taking care of themselves. Mānoa has been declared a

"refuge or safe zone." Be Ready Mānoa (BRM) could work with the Red Cross, which is in need of volunteers and working with the various churches and the Salvation Army to be a distribution center.

Comments followed:

1. Emergency Command Post – Watson asked why BRM's request was denied by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Mayor's Representative Deputy Director Yamashita had earlier said that Mānoa Valley District Park was to be available for City-wide emergency use. DEM does not know what to do with the CERT-trained people. BRM is still looking for an emergency command post and welcomed any suggestions.
2. Moving Be Ready Mānoa (BRM) to Public Safety Reports on the Agenda – Gordon noted that last month former Chair Eads mentioned that the agenda was set at the discretion of the Chair and asked that BRM be moved up in the agenda. Chair Kobayashi saw that last month many Board members were in favor of the request, but wanted to consider the option. Chair Kobayashi will make a decision.
3. Final Comments – Nakano added that Councilmember Kobayashi was very helpful and was able to get Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Michelle Nekota to the meeting, but the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) turned down the request.

Nathaniel Kinney departed at 8:40 p.m.; **15 members present.**

NEW BUSINESS

Letter/Resolution, Regarding Grant-in-Aid Request for Church Parking Structure – Chair Kobayashi mentioned that Councilmember Kobayashi reported that the Grant-in-Aid request was removed from the Budget, but the Board may disagree with the use of public funds to support Church-related requests and to send a message. Armstrong agreed with Watson's "separation of Church and State" and wanted Council Chair Ernie Martin and Councilmember Joey Manahan to apologize.

Watson moved and Arkin seconded that that the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 send the letter. Discussion followed. Arkin suggested to vote on first letter and then send a second letter for apology. Andersen asked for clarification of the vote. **Chair Kobayashi explained that an "AYE" vote would support the letter and oppose the giving of public funds to private religious groups. As there were no objections, the motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 15-0-0 (AYE: Andersen, Arkin, Armstrong, Bilodeau, Chun, Collat, Eads, Gordon, Hayes, Heavilin, Hoe, Kobayashi, Mitchell, Silva, and Watson; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).** Note – The letter is at the end of the minutes.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Patti Hoe reported that \$40.87 was spent for the printing and mailing of the agenda and minutes, leaving a remaining balance of \$220.64, which should be sufficient to cover the remainder of the year. The Treasurer's report was filed.

Reports from Board Officers and/or Board Members – There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- American Legion Auxiliary Aloha Girls' State Event – American Legion Auxiliary Aloha Girls' State Event will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016 to Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Campus.
- Input from Board and Community – Asian-American and Pacific Islander Aging – NAPCA/WHIAAPI/Pacific Gateway Center - Listening Session, Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at Ala Moana Beach Park, McCoy Pavilion.
- Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Noelani Elementary School, 2655 Woodlawn Drive at 7:00 p.m.
- Ōlelo Programing – The Mānoa Neighborhood Board no. 7 airs on the third (3rd) Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. on Channel 49 and on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Saturdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. on Channel 49 – Saturday, May 14, 2016 on Channel 49 at 3:00 p.m. / Tuesday, May 17, 2016 on Channel 49 at 4:00 p.m. / Saturday, May 28, 2016 on Channel 49 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business before the Board, Chair Kobayashi adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by: K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by: Neil Baarde, Neighborhood Assistant II

Reviewed by: Kristen Collat, Secretary, and
Eric Eads, Chair

MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

May 4, 2016

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi

Re: Proposed Amendments to Bill 14 CD1 (2016)

Dear Councilmember Kobayashi,

The Manoa Neighborhood Board is an elected, citizen-advisory board that convenes to discuss issues pertinent to the community and governance of Manoa, an area within the City and County of Honolulu. Like the Members of the Honolulu City Council, we as Board Members strive to represent the interests of all the members of our community.

We are writing to you to oppose the Grant-in-Aid request for a \$250,000 appropriation to the Center for Hope. The final version of the budget is expected to be decided in June and sent to the Mayor. The proposed amendment would provide a private, religious organization the monies with which to construct a 4-story parking structure for said organization's members. This request was made by two City Council Members.

Our board is fully in favor of even-handed and fair Grant-in-Aid projects that promote the welfare of Honolulu's residents. Non-profit and religious institutions are often invaluable in delivering services to the people. Food for the needy, education and culture are only some examples. Yet the benefits that would follow from appropriating taxpayer money for this specific request would be shared only by a private, exclusive group when there is no suggestion of need. This does not appear to be a wise investment for our municipality. Not least, this request breaks with our tradition as Americans, where government respects the religious liberty and freedom of its people.

Councilmember Kobayashi, you represent Manoa not only by Council District. You also oversee the City's use of our taxes as Chair of the Budget Committee. Please decline to consider or fund the proposed amendment to provide Grant-in-Aid for the Center for Hope, and consider instead projects that are fair, appropriate and necessary.

Thank you for your consideration in the prudent administration of taxpayer monies and your concern for the rights and liberties of all residents of our City.

Sincerely,

Dylan Armstrong
Member, Manoa Neighborhood Board Neighborhood Board Members

cc. Mayor Kirk Caldwell
Councilmember Joey Manahan
Councilmember Ernest Martin