



## WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 8, 2007  
WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Finley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Carol Sword, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Kevin McDonald, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Norman Duncan, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT:** One seat in sub district 2.

**ESTABLISH A QUORUM:** A quorum was present.

**GUESTS:** Lisbeth Lofvenholm, Anna Marie Preston (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Councilmember Charles Djou, Jan Bappe, Helen Carroll, Corey Dillman, Jenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), James Gonser (Honolulu Advertiser), Barry Usugawa (Board of Water Supply), Gary Omori, Laura Millman, David Sauer, John Dew, Mark Smith, Jan Nagawa, Dorothy Strander, Daisy Murai, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Sgt. D. Nihei, Sgt. K. Saito, Sgt. Hardinger (HPD), Representative Tom Brower, Senator Gordon Trimble, Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office), Kathy Watanabe, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Finley noted the passing of sub district 2 Board member Jack Myers; and entertainer Don Ho last month. Apaka provided some brief remarks about Ho. A moment of silence was observed at this time.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chen reported for the month of April, the Operating and Publicity Account balance was \$1815.10, the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

### CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Tonight is the final meeting of the Board for the 2005-2007 term. Next month is the first meeting of the Board for the 2007-2009 term. Certificates of Appreciation were distributed to the current members.
2. Neighborhood Board members' election results are out, current members Sword and Duncan were not reelected. Three new members will join the Board for the 2007-2009 term.

### CITY AGENCIES:

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Representatives from the Fire Department were not able to attend the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** - Sgt. Ng distributed a written report and added/highlighted the following:

The written report includes district crime statistics. Last month the area also had 34 loud muffler citations, with 120 to date; 13 loud muffler citations with 70 to date; 37 illegal camping citations with 210 to date; 313 jaywalking citations with 2041 to date; 11 illegal skateboarding citations with 152 to date; 16 moped violations with 107 to date.

Questions, answers and comments followed:



1. Gruntz suggested for a third time that the department work with Dateline NBC to have them do a Catch a Predator project that targets pedophiles, in this area.
2. Gruntz noted speeding by construction equipment in the area of the Hilton Lagoon.
3. Gruntz suggested there be a program for tow truck drivers/taxis to pick up drunk drivers to take them home.
4. Poole expressed thanks for action taken to deal with noise and other undesirable activities in the park across the street from the post office.
5. Flood noted what appears to be an abandoned moped chained to a pole on Ala Wai Boulevard.
6. Resident Mark Smith expressed thanks for action to deal with racing along Ala Wai Boulevard, he has seen no recent incidents.

Sgt. Ng was thanked for attending the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS)** – Barry Usugawa, from BWS, reported three studies are being done related to the sustainability of the water supply, two for the Waikiki area and one for the Primary Urban Center between Diamond Head and Pearl City. The studies relate to accommodating growth and ground water supplies. Information from City agencies is being submitted to the Department of Planning and Permitting.

The infrastructure for Waikiki is adequate to provide adequate water pressure and fire protection. Island wide water use is about 146 million gallons per day (mgd), below the past five-year average, and varies seasonally. Water use was approximately 110 mgd in the 1970s, and 156 mgd in the 1990s; with the decline attributed to conservation such as water saving plumbing fixtures, recycling potable water, new regulations, and education programs. In Waikiki water use was approximately 13 mgd in 1990, and has declined to approximately 10 mgd today. Water supplies in the Ewa area are adequate to meet needs. Work is being done on more conservation, regulations, and desalinization. In Waikiki new mains have been installed along Kuhio Avenue, side streets, and under the McCully Street bridge.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz requested information on the pH factor of the water supply. Usugawa said that it is in the high 7's or low 8's and he will follow up and noted this information is not contained in the Consumer Confidence Report that BWS sends to all its customers, which identifies all contaminants found in the water supply.
2. Gruntz opposed the use of desalinated water, and urged conservation. It was noted desalination of sea water for the water supply may be necessary by 2020 - 2030 and that technologies are being studied to find the best technology that will have the least impact on water rates. The use of renewable energy sources is being studied.
3. In response to Carroll, growth projections are part of land use plans such as the Development Plan and Sustainable Communities Plans which are updated every five years.
4. In response to McDonald, low flow water fixtures are required by City ordinance, non low flow fixtures are no longer available, and it is not illegal for one to modify a low flow fixture.
5. In response to McDonald, education programs are ongoing and include the BWS poster contest.
6. In response to McDonald, restaurants serving water only on request is not required by law, it is voluntary by individual restaurants. Water is saved by not having to wash dishes (glasses).
7. In response to McDonald, only water on military bases is fluoridated.

8. In response to Gruntz, BWS has in the past, denied water for some developers' projects.
9. In response to Peters, when there are drought conditions, water levels in wells goes down and BWS has a variety of conservation measures include: voluntary, mandatory, installation of flow restrictors, and increasing rates.
10. In response to Peters, today more contaminants can be detected than before. High water quality is maintained, measures include \$60 million for activated charcoal filters to remove contaminants from chemicals used on agricultural lands.

Usugawa was thanked for attending the meeting.

7:35 p.m.

**CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS:**

**POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT ABUSE AT KUHIO VILLAGE** – Saurer reported management is calling police to retaliate against residents for various reasons. Chair Finley reported the Board cannot become in this type of matter between private parties (tenant/landlord).

**GRAFFITI BUSTER** – Merz commended Toby Allen who was profiled in a newspaper article for painting out graffiti on his own time, using his own supplies.

**HONOLULU ADVERTISER** – James Gonser, from the Honolulu Advertiser, reported on a new, free web site, myadvertiser.com the newspaper is developing. The web site features articles and photographs submitted by readers. Sixteen neighborhood pages are on the web site at this time, by July there will be twenty-three. Persons wishing to submit articles and photographs need to register on the web site. The individual pages include articles and photographs that do not make the regular paper, breaking news stories, some stories from the regular paper, a calendar of events, and information specific to the individual neighborhoods' pages. So far the site has been well-received.

Gonser was thanked for attending the meeting.

7:47 p.m.

Among arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, distributed copies of the Sewer Facts and Fiction notice the City placed in newspapers. The notice relates to the EPA variance that allows the City not having to upgrade its sewage treatment plants and the possible ending of the waiver. It would cost over \$1 billion for City to upgrade those plants, and the City plans to address the EPA's concerns by upgrading sewer lines as the problem is not with the plants, it is with aging sewer lines which will be replaced. There will be a public informational meeting, May 9, Ewa Beach Community and School Library, 7:00 p.m., and a public hearing, May 15, Kapolei Middle School, 7:00 p.m., on this matter.

In response to questions from last month's meeting Rollman reported the following:

1. Regarding a problem with tree roots damaging the sidewalk at Kuhio and Uluniu avenues, the Department of Facility Maintenance reports that "The Division of Road Maintenance has only one outstanding work order for Kuhio Avenue that was received earlier this year, that work order will be scheduled as resources and priorities permit. There are no outstanding work orders for Uluniu Avenue."

Regarding a request for sidewalk cleaning in the same area, the Division of Road Maintenance reports that "...per City ordinance, the cleaning of the sidewalk is the responsibility of the abutting property."

2. Regarding drivers' view of traffic signal lights on Kuhio Avenue being blocked, "Department of Transportation Services checked and found some trees were blocking the overhead traffic signals. A work order is being issued to trim the trees..."
3. Regarding a question about resurfacing of Tusitala Street, the Division of Facility Maintenance reports that "The entire length of Tusitala Street has been identified as in need of resurfacing and will be programmed for contract resurfacing as funds become available. The actual date when this work will be done has not been determined at this time..."
4. Regarding a suggestion to remove the "no turn on red" restriction from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street, the Department of Transportation Services is investigating and will report back at the next meeting.
5. Regarding whether or not the Waikiki Special District protects Waikiki from a City Council resolution to increase building height limits, the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) reports that "Any additional height would require a Waikiki Special District amendment or variance, both of which require a public hearing. The City Council resolution is advisory...DPP cannot unilaterally increase height limits for areas in the Waikiki Special District."
6. Regarding a suggestion to remove the bulbouts on Ala Wai Boulevard, the Department of Design and Construction reports that the contract for resurfacing has already been executed and does not include removal of the bulbouts. The Department of Transportation Services reports that the City has decided to leave the bulbouts on Ala Wai Boulevard. It was noted it cost as much to remove them as it cost to install them.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz suggested that meetings about the sewage treatment plants also be held in the Downtown area. Rollman noted that the meetings are being held in the Ewa area as matter relates to the sewage treatment plant in the Ewa area.
2. Apaka reported holes in the new sidewalk in the 2100 and 2300 blocks of Kuhio Avenue.
3. Apaka requested the sidewalks in the Kuhio Village area be cleaned.
4. Apaka suggested the "bus only" signs in the area of Kuamoo Street and Kuhio Avenue be placed lower on their poles, noting drivers currently have problems seeing the signs.
5. Apaka reported a broken water fountain at Beach Walk Street and Kalakaua Avenue.
6. Peters and Gruntz suggested using revenue from the tax increase for the mass transit system be used for sewer repairs. Rollman noted that this funding can only be used for the mass transit system, due to a State law. Rollman also noted the problem with the sewer system is not the treatment plants, but aging sewer lines, and funding for improvements comes from a different source.
7. Sword requested the status of plans to remove a bus stop at Kuhio Avenue and Ohua Street.
8. In response to Flood about University of Hawaii professor Dr. Richard Grigg being quoted as saying "...Ewa outfall is ecologically safe and sound" in the Sewage Facts and Fiction notice, Rollman noted Dr. Grigg was involved in the initial studies approximately 15 years ago that made this determination.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:07 p.m.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Councilmember Djou highlighted/added the following to his newsletter which was distributed earlier in the meeting:

1. The Council is working on reviewing the budget for the next fiscal year. There may be a reduction in property tax assessment rates for residential property and increases for commercial property. He would like to see residential rates be set below \$3.00 per \$1000 of valuation.
2. The Council welcomes suggestions on how to honor the late Don Ho. Suggestions have included: renaming the small triangle park on Kalakaua Avenue, the Waikiki Shell, and the Waikiki Bandstand.
3. The Honolulu Triathlon is May 20, there will be street closures.
4. He will be on the Mainland next month for National Guard training.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Duncan suggested naming a new park on Aloha Drive to honor Don Ho, Councilmember Djou noted that it should be something on Kalakaua Avenue.
2. Apaka praised this past weekend's celebration at Queen's Beach to honor Don Ho.
3. Gruntz suggested getting input from the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board on a way to honor Don Ho.
4. Gruntz requested wanting to see bribery arrests, by any City and County persons, who inspects anything, and added that Liquor Commission is a good start. Djou said several Liquor Commission inspectors were arrested. Gruntz said that if bribery arrests were made by inspectors and noted in the news, the City inspectors would be doing their job and people would not offer, if they knew, they would be arrested.
5. Sword and Councilmember Djou noted that increases in property tax rates for commercial properties are passed on to customers.
6. Carroll suggested Queen's Beach be renamed to honor Don Ho. Chair Finley requested suggestions be submitted to him and he will forward them.
7. It was suggested that meetings on waste water treatment also be held on this end of town.
8. In response to Erteschik, Councilmember Djou noted he would not want to see the City placed under a consent decree to comply with the federal Clean Water Act, and that the City is not in compliance as are cities all across the Mainland. He noted that he disagrees with the City's position that primary treatment is sufficient for the sewage treatment facilities and that he agrees with EPA that secondary treatment should be required.
9. Adams and Merz noted that the City knew the variance was not permanent and the City should have planned years ago to do what was necessary to be in compliance.
10. Gruntz noted that there should be an investigation into the draining of water from the Hilton Lagoon.

Councilmember Djou was thanked for attending the meeting.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – Marsha Weinert, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. Informational material from the State Department of Health, "The Hawaii Family Guide to Health Emergencies" which contains worksheets to keep important medical information readily available in the event of an emergency, was distributed.
2. Hurricane season is June 1 – November 30, it is important that everyone have a preparedness plan. The State Civil Defense Agency has more information available on its web site, [www.scd.state.hi.us/index.html](http://www.scd.state.hi.us/index.html).

3. Information requested from last month's meeting on the hotel room occupancy rates and room rates, was not available for this meeting.
4. The 2007 session of the legislature has ended. The Governor has until July 10 to veto, sign a bill into law, or allow it to become law without signing it. Public input on bills is welcome and anyone can call, fax or email their comments to the Governor.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz reported that: a) he wants the soil tested and restated where did the Lagoon water go, it was pumped out of the Lagoon. Before it is filled in with boulders and rocks he requested the soil tested to see what is being covered up, b) the construction work is creating a dust problem.
2. Sword requested the information on the hotel occupancy rates and room rates, be forwarded to her. She noted an article in the newspaper that Waikiki room rates are the second highest in the country next to New York City.
3. Carroll suggested that a bill relating to capital gains taxes on leasehold conversions should be signed into law.
4. In response to Chair Finley and McDonald, Weinert reported work is being done by the State Department of Health on preparing a new fact sheet about the new no smoking laws which will be made available to the Japanese tourist industry as there have been concerns about a decline in visitors from Japan due to confusion about the law being a total ban.
5. In response to Apaka, Weiner reported that there is no law allowing smoking in clubs. Information on these clubs can be reported to the State Department of Health.

Weinert was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:35 p.m.

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. There was \$734 million surplus in the State budget and the plan for refunds excludes individuals who make more than \$30,000, or families who make more than \$60,000 a year.
2. He took issue with the confirmation hearings for some of the Governor's cabinet members, noting in some cases complaints came only from department employees, and not the public.
3. He and Senator Slom will be hosting an "end of the year wrap up", tomorrow, McKinley High School, 5:30 p.m. There will guest speakers from State departments on: emergency preparedness, avian flu, transportation issues, and the state of the economy.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Sword noted that entrepreneurs contributed to budget surplus and are not getting a refund.
2. Gruntz opposed the Senate's not reconfirming the director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and noted it was the legislature that eliminated a position for a dam inspector and did not fund improvements to small boat harbors.
3. Erteschik noted that there was an intent that rebates from the budget surplus should be given to those who need it the most. Senator Trimble also noted that the State should increase the standard deduction on personal exemptions to match that of the federal government to provide tax relief.

4. Gruntz noted he support the new no smoking laws.
5. Senator Trimble noted that a special session could be called to work on overrides of bills the Governor vetoes.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:45 p.m.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER** – Representative Brower reported the following:

1. He opposed revisions to the bottle bill which passed and now includes larger sized containers.
2. Low and moderate income persons will benefit from \$50 million in the tax relief from the budget surplus, and a permanent food tax credit.
3. Next session he will lobby for an earned income tax credit to provide families at the poverty line a rebate of \$558 as opposed to the current \$294.
4. A bill to provide health care to all children up to age 18, passed; a bill to eliminate the tax on ethanol added to gasoline, passed.
5. Senate Bill 600, to eliminate the capital gains tax on sales of leasehold units to fee simple, passed.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Adams, approximately half of the State's budget is for education. Capital improvement project funding has to be released by the Governor.
2. A resident supported the passage of a bill to provide health care to all children under age 18.
3. In response to McDonald, a bill that passed to regulate greenhouse gases to 1990 levels was based on a California law.
4. Representative Brower noted a bill to provide tax credits on jet fuel used by interisland airlines, failed.
5. In response to Among, a bill to eliminate the tax on ethanol used in gasoline, passed.

Representative Brower was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:57 p.m.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** – Jenny Kaya, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report and was available for questions.

Kaya was thanked for attending the meeting.

**WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** – Rick Egged, from the Waikiki Improvement Association, reported the following:

1. Thanked everyone for their parts in the celebration to honor Don Ho, an estimated 10,000 – 12,000 persons attended.
2. He checked with the Department of Parks and Recreation about the flower baskets on Kuhio Avenue street light poles and was told that the flowers were removed for cost savings reasons.
3. Sunset on the Beach is May 26 and 27, the Waikiki by Moonlight block party is June 1.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Peters suggested Apaka assist in helping in the selection of a way to honor Don Ho.
2. In response to Peters, Representative Brower noted work is being done on suggested laws regulating second floor signage. A plan will be submitted to the City.
3. Gruntz noted that the Landmark condominium is using a machine that does a good job of cleaning the walkways on its property, and suggested such a machine be used elsewhere in Waikiki. Egged noted that the Waikiki Business Improvement District (WBID) is responsible for extra maintenance and they do have such a machine which cleans and dries the sidewalk. It was noted that job trainees from Goodwill Industries are doing work for the WBID.
4. Sword supported changes to the second floor signage laws.
5. Apaka requested clarification on the area the WBID has assumed extra maintenance responsibilities. Egged will follow up.
6. Merz noted that changes to temporary signage laws need review.
7. Carroll questioned if CDs or DVDs of the celebration to honor Don Ho are being produced, and it was noted that the event was being documented.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

9:10 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**ALA WAI GARDEN PLAZA** – No representatives for this project were present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**CHAIR REPORT:** Chair Finley reported the following:

1. The Ilikai Hotel has proposed some major improvements that do not impact density or height. Comments on this project must be received by May 11, interested persons may contact him.
2. The Petite Garlic restaurant has applied for a revised liquor license to include space added to the lower floor of the building.
3. RNM Holdings has applied for a Cabaret License for 2330 Kalakaua in the International Market Place.
4. Events International has applied for a Street Party License on May 18 to celebrate the formal opening of the Waikiki Beachwalk Project.
5. A copy of the Environmental Assessment for the two-story, 280 Beachwalk project is available for interested persons to review.

Among left during the above portion of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 10, 2007 REGULAR MEETING** – The following correction was made:

Page 1, under Treasurer's Report, it should read "Treasurer's Report: Chen reported..."

The minutes were approved as corrected.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Apaka reported that last month's Spam Jam was a success. Donations collected were donated to the Hawaii Foodbank.
2. The Neighborhood Board member Installation Ceremony is June 2, Honolulu Hale Mission Memorial Auditorium, 11:00 a.m. The Board member Orientation Session and Sunshine Law Workshop will be held prior to the ceremony at 8:00 a.m. Board members are required to attend a sunshine law workshop once every two years.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant