



## WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2007 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Robert Martin, Richard Personius, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters, Mark Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Apaka, Helen Carroll.

**MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Candice Van (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), George Melenka, Corey Dillman; Capt. Iwami (HFD – Waikiki Station), Capt. J. Richardson, Lt. M. Aiona, Sgt. D. Hardinger, Officer K. Saito (HPD - Waikiki Station), Donna Lynch, Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Christi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Rodney Shim (Waikiki Beach Ministry), Charles Belcher, Stefan, Richard Schwartz, Carl Middleton (Downtown Neighborhood Board), Eduardo Hernandez (Kaimuki Neighborhood Board No. 4), Ivonne Cardenas (makakilo.com), Pastor Bob Erb (Waikiki Beach Ministry), Representative Tom Brower, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chen reported for the month of October, the Operating Account's starting balance was \$1163.00, the current month's expenses were \$185.25, leaving a balance of \$977.81, the Publicity Account starting balance was \$2,290.48, there were no expenses, and the Refreshment Account balance of \$120.00 remains unchanged.

**Flood moved and Poole seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chair Finley reported tonight's scheduled presentation on Grey's Beach Restoral, regarding beach restoration at the Sheraton Waikiki, will be deferred to the January meeting at the request of the speaker. Apologies were extended to anyone who came for this presentation.

Chair Finley thanked the members for their work; and the community for their support over the past year, and wished everyone happy holidays.

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Iwami reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 4 structure, 1 brush and 7 rubbish fires, 133 medical emergencies, 3 search and rescue, and 3 miscellaneous cases. The search and rescues included a missing swimmer and removing a person from a crashed car, the miscellaneous cases included 2 gas leaks – one involved a gas line fire by the Safeway store in Kapahulu, and 1 oil spill.
2. The safety tip of the month is: This holiday season, consider a fire-resistant, artificial Christmas tree. If you purchase a natural tree, choose one as fresh as possible, keep it hydrated, and keep it away from heat sources in the house. Use noncombustible materials for decorations. Choose only Underwriter's Laboratory-approved decorations and follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and load. Do not overload extension cords.



There were no questions from the Board or guests. Capt. Iwami was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Sgt. Hardinger reported the written report distributed earlier includes crime statistics. Chronic complaints include: 115 warnings and 130 citations this year to date for loud music, 2,510 warnings and 505 citations this year to date for jaywalking, 168 warnings and 137 citations this year to date for skateboarding violations, 36 warnings and 524 citations to date for moped violations, 187 warnings and 200 citations this year to date for bicycle riding violations (including riding on the sidewalk), 10 warnings and 1,529 citations this year to date for illegal camping violations, and 11,285 parking violations to date.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Smith noted witnessing aggressive enforcement of a jaywalking violation.
2. In response to Smith, no specific information was available on a October 28 assault case.
3. Pastor Erb took issue with the issuing of citations to the homeless for illegal camping violations, noting that doing so results in his estimate of \$100,000 a year in fines on a limited number of homeless.
4. A resident noted seeing bus drivers speeding on Kuhio Avenue, and Sgt. Hardinger encouraged anyone witnessing such an incident to call police.
5. A resident suggested the speed limit be lowered to 15 miles per hour to make roads safer for bicyclists.
6. In response to Among, no specifics were available on what type of violations resulted in the liquor law violation statistics listed in the written report.
7. A visitor from Las Vegas reported being issued a citation for illegal camping while just sitting on the beach at 10:00 night, from officers on all-terrain vehicles, while nothing was done about other nearby people sleeping on the beach; and questioned what criteria is used in determining illegal camping. Sgt. Hardinger noted that if you have questions about a citation, you can ask to speak to a supervisor, and the citation can be contested in court.
8. In response to Peters, there were no unusual problems related to the Halloween festivities in Waikiki, just large crowds.
9. Pastor Bob noted he has been cited for illegal camping and abused by police.
10. In response to Personius, no specific reason can be attributed to the increase in drug cases reflected in the written report.
11. In response to Flood, some of the criteria used in determining illegal camping includes the setting up of a structure and the presence personal possessions.
12. Erteschick noted the evasiveness of the police in providing a direct answer to questions about the definition of illegal camping. Merz requested a written definition of illegal camping, follow up will be done.
13. Adams noted as was reported at last month's and other meetings; being homeless is not a crime, but the community should not tolerate criminal behavior.
14. A resident spoke in support of Pastor Erb's work with the homeless. Peters noted the Board's Homeless Permitted Interaction Group, will follow up with Pastor Erb. Chair Finley noted that Pastor Erb's attendance at last month's Board meeting report by the Permitted Interaction Group would have been welcome.

7:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – No representative was present, a written report was received and available for interested persons to review.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** – No representative was present.

**CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. Questions received via Chair Finley from the ResortQuest Waikiki Beach Hotel, regarding traffic concerns at Kuhio Avenue and Ohua Street, will be forwarded to the Department of Transportation Services.
2. TheBus E-Bus route is to be restored in some form.
3. Double solid lines on Ala Wai Boulevard separating the parking lane from the bicycle lane have been added. Benevento noted the lines are working well; drivers are no longer blocking the bicycle lane.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. TheBus E-Route included Waikiki, the UH School of Medicine, Ala Moana Shopping Center, Ward Center, etc.
2. A resident provided Rollman with a petition requesting the restoration of TheBus stops that have been eliminated as doing so has inconvenienced riders, especially seniors.
3. A resident noted seeing tour buses parking in City bus stops.
4. In response to Personius, a portion of the temporary sewer line has been removed, freeing up parking spaces on Ala Wai Boulevard, updates on the status of the project are available on the City's web site.
5. Personius noted a metal barrier portion of the sewer line is extending into the roadway and creating a hazard. Rollman will follow up.
6. Erteschik suggested the installation of signs warning of bicycle riding restrictions in Waikiki. Rollman will follow up.
7. Adams requested the status Kuhio Avenue resurfacing. Rollman will follow up.
8. Merz suggested the creation of an adopt-a-bus stop program. Rollman will follow up.
9. Smith noted a National Geographic magazine article, "Islands In Trouble," where Oahu and Waikiki were listed as having noise problems. Stefan noted concerns about excessive noise from vehicle back up beepers, alarms at parking garage exits, motorcycles, and boom boxes. Kristi Sue Ako, from Senator Trimble's Office, noted that there is a law that requires back up beepers as Senator Trimble and then-Representative Galen Fox have introduced legislation to allow back up beepers to be turned off under certain conditions. Rollman will follow up.
10. In response to a question about today's Transportation Symposium, guest speakers' appearances were funded by the City.
11. Gruntz suggested the City produce a public service announcement about internet predators. Rollman will follow up.

12. It was noted some problems with the homeless finding jobs includes their not having cell phones so they can contact and be contacted by employers, contractors hiring out of state workers, and the State's low unemployment rate.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

1. The curbside recycling pilot projects in Mililani and Hawaii Kai are underway, and work is being done on implementing curbside recycling island wide.
2. Councilmember Djou, following the topic being brought up at last month's Board meeting, has introduced a Bill 81 to ban pan handling within 50 feet of an ATM. The bill has passed first reading and referred to committee.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz who noted some cities have a very strict bill, Bill 81 has been revised to be minimally restrictive, like that of some other cities, changing the restricted area from 50 to 10 feet. Pastor Erb opposed the bill, noting only a few persons have been responsible for this type of activity.

Wingard was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

1. The special session of the legislature resulted in a bill being passed to: a) allow the Superferry to operate while environmental studies are done, b) clarify a law on extended sentencing, and c) confirmation of three of the Governor's cabinet members.
2. Nominees are welcome for the Above and Beyond Citizen Honors, a national initiative sponsored by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society that honors individuals who have demonstrated courage, sacrifice, and integrity and patriotism.
3. Visitor arrivals for September are good, with spending up, but the number of arrivals down.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Among noted more needs to be done to provide affordable housing. Weinert noted shelters are full; more are being planned and built on all the islands. Pastor Erb suggested use of an old Navy ship currently being readied for sinking at sea, to house and train up to 1600 persons; and that faith-based organizations are pursuing this idea. Flood noted years ago a proposal was made to use an old cruise ship for this purpose and resulted in nationwide ridicule.
2. A resident noted a number of the homeless need mental health assistance.
3. Adams expressed thanks for the State's repaving work on Ala Moana Boulevard.

Weinert was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Kristi Sue Ako, from Senator Trimble's Office, distributed the monthly report, which includes highlights from the special session, and highlighted/added the following:

Senator Trimble is back in China teaching, and will return for the next special session.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to a question, the recall of toys from China is under jurisdiction of the federal government.

Ako was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER** – Representative Brower distributed his monthly report which includes a copy of his guest column in the Star Bulletin on the special session and the Superferry. There were no questions from the Board or guests.

Representative Brower was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** – Candace Van Buren, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

The 4th Annual Community Clean Up on October 13, was a huge success.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The community clean up is an annual event.
2. Planned obsolescence contributes to the trash problem.
3. Concern was expressed about the quality of bottled water, such as whether or not it is just tap water.

Van Buren was thanked for attending the meeting.

**WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** – No representative was present.

8:20 p.m.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

**GREY'S BEACH RESTORAL** – Chair Finley reported the presentation was deferred to the January meeting at the request of the speaker. The project concerns a beach restoration project by the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** – Adams reviewed a draft resolution "...to request community members, State Legislators and the Governor support civil rights equality and enactment of civil unions legislation that will protect all families across Hawaii, equally under the law, ending discrimination that exists today and thereby strengthening all our communities and the potential of each individual." Adams noted the lack of laws, including reciprocal benefits laws, that provide such rights, is detrimental to those affected. **Erteschik moved and Adams seconded that the Board goes on record to request community members, State Legislators and the Governor support civil rights equality and enactment of civil unions legislation that will protect all families across Hawaii, equally under the law, ending discrimination that exists today and thereby strengthening all our communities and the potential of each individual.** Discussion followed:

1. Erteschik and Adams spoke in favor of the motion.
2. Peters questioned if it was appropriate for the Board to discuss this matter, but supported the motion.
3. Gruntz suggested deferring a vote on this matter until all members were present.
4. In response to Benevento, Adams noted that passage of this type of legislation would have a slight, positive benefit on the local economy.
5. Merz supported the motion.
6. Flood noted the motion only supports civil unions.

7. Eduardo Hernandez, Chair, Kaimuki Neighborhood Board, noted his Board supported a similar resolution, and spoke in favor of it.
8. Martin and Chair Finley noted this matter is appropriate for the Board to address.

**The motion carried, 10-2-3. Yea:** Adams, Among, Erteschik, Finley, Flood, Martin, Chen, Merz, Peters, Smith.  
**Nay:** Gruntz, Simpson. **Abstain:** Poole, Personius, Benevento.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 9, 2007 REGULAR MEETING – Flood moved and Among seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.**

**CHAIR’S REPORT:**

Receipt of a liquor license application for VAJ restaurant, 2058 Kuhio Avenue, the former TGIF restaurant location, for a Restaurant General license.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Board will recess in December.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant