



MILILANI MAUKA/LAUNANI VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 35

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 MILILANI MAUKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dean Hazama called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., **with a quorum of nine (9) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present: Dana Agader, Kevin Cole, Luella Costales, Dean Hazama, Joseph Hwang, Teresa Lau, S. J. Melendrez, Stanton Oishi, and Keith Tamashiro.

Board Members Absent: None.

Guests: Boy Scouts Troop 664, Brigadier General Ken Hara (Governor David Ige's representative), Jeanne Ishikawa (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's representative), Deputy Commander Michael Busby (US Army), Heidi Tsuneyoshi (Council Chair Ernie Martin's Office), David Cho (Senator Donovan Dela Cruz's Office), Val Okimoto (Representative Beth Fukumoto Chang's Office), Thomas Strout (Board of Water Supply), Pat Lee and Bill Brennan (HART), Sandy Webb (HSTA), Crystal Kua, Carolyn Unser, and Wren Wescoatt (Sun Edison), Rod Dubuqur, Marilyn Lee (Mililani/Waipio Neighborhood Board No. 25), and Sam Wolff (Neighborhood Commission Office).

Pledge of Allegiance: Boy Scouts Troop 664 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Military – Deputy Commander Michael Busby reported the following:

- **25th Infantry Division Lightning Forge:** The exercise was a large success and the military appreciates the community support. More than 5,000 service members participated.
- **Proposed Power Plant on Schofield:** The US Army has completed its environmental review of the Schofield Generating Station Project and announced its decision to proceed. The joint project between the US Army and Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) involves the US Army lending land to HECO and for HECO to construct, own, operate, and maintain the plant. The plant will provide power to all of HECO's Oahu customers. For more information, visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/schofieldplant.
- **Great Aloha Run:** The 32nd annual Great Aloha Run was held on February 15, 2016. There were over 6,000 service members from all branches who participated including the Hawaii National Guard.
- **The Grill at Leilehua Golf Course Concert Series:** The Grill at Leilehua Golf Course will feature a variety of local Hawaiian music artists that will be free and open to the public. .
 - Friday, February 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. will feature Mike Kaawa and Analu Aina.
 - Friday, March 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. will feature Hawaiian Blend.
 - Friday, April 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. will feature Nathan Aweau.
 - Friday, May 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. will feature Kawika Kahiapo.
- **National Football League (NFL) Pro Bowl Draft:** The draft was held on the Wheeler Army Airfield and was broadcasted nationally. The history and training at Schofield was also broadcasted in honor of the anniversary of the December 7, 1941 attack.
- **Housing Homeless Veterans:** There were 596 homeless veterans that were permanently housed in Honolulu in 2015 as part of an initiative with 25 other US cities to end veteran homelessness.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Tom Strout was available for questions: **Watershed Plan:** Webb requested a copy of the watershed plan. Strout replied that he will take her contact information and follow up

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS: Street Lights: Strout raised a concern that street lights on Wikao Street from Kahelu Avenue to Waikalani Drive are out.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – No representative was available.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – No representative was available.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative – Deputy Director of the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Jeanne Ishikawa reported the following:

- Annual Memorial Day Poster Contest: All Hawaii schools students from Kindergarten to 12th grade are invited to enter the City and County of Honolulu's "Sew a Lei for Memorial Day" Poster Contest. The contest runs from Monday, January 25, 2016 through Friday, February 26, 2016
- Downed Tree on Leilehua Road and Kahelu Avenue: A supervisor of the Division of Urban Forestry, Department of Parks and Recreation investigated this matter and determined that this area is under the maintenance jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation.
- Street Lights Repairs: The street lights in the vicinity of Waikalani and Leilehua Roads were repaired on Thursday, February 4, 2016.
- Lehiwa Drive/Meheula Parkway Traffic Study: The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will tentatively appropriate the funds for an exclusive left turn lanes project in fiscal year 2018.
- Left Turn into Ainamakua Drive on Meheula Parkway: DTS stated they have been monitoring the traffic in that intersection and acknowledged traffic congestion in the afternoons. DTS has increased the allowed turn time for the left turn arrow and will continue to monitor the intersection.
- Broken Pedestrian Signal: DTS checked all the traffic signals on the Makai side of Koalani Street and found no issues. If there is a malfunctioning traffic signal, citizens are asked to call DTS directly at 768-8387 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or contact 911.
- Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Representative: A representative from HART is in attendance and will give a general update on rail and on the Pearl Highlands flyover.
- Central Oahu Regional Park's (CORP) Advisory Board: The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) made an inquiry to the CORP Advisory Board in regards to notifying Hwang about the next scheduled meeting. DPR did not have any contact information for Hwang so an email was sent to Chair Hazama requesting the information on the upcoming February 8, 2016 meeting be forwarded to Hwang, Neighborhood Board No.35's Parks Committee Chair. When DPR inquired about the previous meeting that Hwang was not notified about, they learned the meeting had been cancelled. On February, 11, 2016, DPR received a notification letter from Chair Hazama regarding Hwang's appointment as the new Neighborhood Board No.35 Parks Committee Chair and representative to the CORP Advisory Board; that letter was forwarded to the CORP Advisory Board. As clarification, although DPR has a good relationship with the CORP Advisory Board it is not an official advisory board to DPR so DPR has no authority over its operation.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Stuffed Animals for Children: Cole noted that while living in Alabama first responders carried stuffed animals for children in the event of a traumatic incident. Cole further inquired if there was interest in that program on Oahu as he would like to help create this program. Ishikawa stated that she will forward that request to first responders.

Council Chair Ernie Martin – Heidi Tsuneyoshi reported the following:

- Property Tax Increase: HART confirmed that the operating budget would be \$120 million, \$30 million of that would come from fares associated with riding the rail. To raise the additional \$90 million there would need to be an additional nine (9) percent increase in revenue from property taxes.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget: The FY 2017 budget will be proposed by Mayor Caldwell on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 which will then be reviewed by City Council. Notify Council Chair Martin's office if there are any request for projects.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Property Tax Increase: Melendrez asked and Tsuneyoshi answered that the issue of property tax increase originated from a discussion between Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS) and that the increase was hypothetical. Melendrez asked and Tsuneyoshi responded that as they move forward with the discussion on operations they will solicit public input.
2. Cost Predictions: Melendrez asked and Tsuneyoshi responded that there have been a lot of changes in cost due to the rise in construction costs and that the HART representative can better answer this question.
3. Budget Process: Chair Hazama asked and Tsuneyoshi responded that the proposed budget from Mayor Caldwell will be announced on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 and then scheduled for hearings where amendments can be made such as the inclusion of funds for a turn signal on Lehiwa Drive.

Governor David Ige's Representative – Brigadier General Ken Hara, Department of Defense (DOD), distributed a newsletter and reported the following:

- Enrollment for Preschool Open Doors: Enrollment began on Monday, February 1, 2016 and will go until Thursday, March 31, 2016.
- Eucalyptus Tree: The Eucalyptus tree is on State property and a portion of it has been removed. The State continues to work with private landowners.
- Painted Lane Striping: The alignment and centering project was completed on Friday, February 12, 2016.
- Street Lights: The street lights on Wikao Street from Kahelu Avenue to Waikalani were repaired on February 4, 2016.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Redevelopment of Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC): Melendrez asked and Brigadier General Hara responded that the project involves the modernization of that area of Kalihi.

Representative Beth Fukumoto Chang – Stephanie Burgess distributed a newsletter and reported the following:

- Legislation Deadlines: All bills that have been referred to two (2) or more committees have to be approved by their second committee by Friday, February 19, 2016. All bills need to be approved by their final committee by 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2016. The crossover session will be on Tuesday March, 8, 2016 and all bills will crossover to the Senate on Thursday March 10, 2016.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Increase in General Excise (GET) Tax: Chair Hazama asked and Burgess responded that Representative Fukumoto Chang will be sending out a survey to the district polling the community on the issue. An answer will be given next month.

BOARD BUSINESS

HSTA (Hawaii State Teachers Association) 2016 Omnibus Bill: Sandy Webb, a teacher at Mililani High School, reported the following:

- Inadequate Facilities: Over the 20 years that Webb has been a teacher the schools have not improved and have become unsafe. Teachers and students are being sent to the emergency rooms and the structural integrity of the facilities are questionable. The Head of Facilities at Mililani High School recently retired and said it would take 200 years to do the repairs to schools with current funding.
- Inadequate Teacher Compensation: If adjusted for the cost of living, teachers in Hawaii are the lowest paid in the nation. Hawaii is unable to keep quality teachers because they cannot afford to live here especially when they have children.
- 10 Items in the Omnibus Bill: The HSTA leadership went across Hawaii to ask teachers what is needed to improve the education system. Webb herself paid \$1,600 of her own money to support her students. The HSTA is asking for an increase in the GET to fund the initiatives necessary to provide the schools children deserve. The 10 items in the omnibus bill have been carefully determined and are supported by research from multiple agencies.
- Board Endorsement: Webb is asking for the endorsement of the bill from the Mililani/Mauka/Launani Valley Neighborhood Board and is seeking testimony from interested individuals.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Tax Increase: Oishi asked and Webb replied that the funds would go to designated areas outlined in the Omnibus Bill.
2. Funding Allocation: Lau asked and Webb stated that when the funding is released it will go to the tagged items. Webb further elaborated that she will ensure the language in the bill stipulates that.
3. Effectiveness: Melendrez asked and Webb answered that if the community supports the teacher's vision then it would be more effective in accomplishing the goals outlined in the 10-point plan.
4. Community Education: Oishi stated that Hawaii is unique in the fact that funding for the school system comes from the State level rather than property taxes and he would like to see more community education in this.
5. Thank you: Costales thanked Webb and all the teachers for their efforts and hopes that the schools are properly maintained so it does not cost more to do major repairs over time.

ELECTED OFFICIALS (PART 2)

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz – David Cho distributed a newsletter and reported the following:

- Hawaii Three (3) to Six (6) Resolution: Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Kidani requested that the DOE take a comprehensive look at all the after school programs and create a funding mechanism. Senator Dela Cruz introduced Senate Bill (SB) 3099 which would provide \$21 million in funding to these programs to be phased in over three (3) years. Senator Dela Cruz is asking for people to submit testimony in favor of the bill. SB 3099 has been passed out of the Education Committee and will be going to the Ways and Means Committee.
- Mililani-Mauka Elementary School Repairs: Mililani-Mauka Elementary School recently received \$226,000 for repairs and maintenance which should begin soon.
- Whitmore Project: Senator Dela Cruz visited the Whitmore Project to learn more about food safety and scale of production which are big issues when it comes to providing local produce for the local market.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Civil Defense Siren: Chair Hazama asked and Cho responded that the Civil Defense siren is in the budget for this year. Brigadier General Hara said he will check. Cho further noted that the siren was a lower priority because Mililani is not in the inundation zone.

Lau called a point of order to return to the HSTA presentation.

Lau moved and Agader seconded to send a letter of support for SB 2586 and HB (House Bill) 2599 relating to the HSTA omnibus bill to increase the GET by one (1) percent.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Allocation of Funds: Melendrez noted that he has not read the bills and has questions as to what mechanisms in the bill allow for the proper allocation of funds to the issues outlined by Webb.
2. Intent of the Bill: Costales noted that she is in support of the intent but would like to read the specifics before providing a letter of support.
3. Mililani Legislators in Support: Costales asked and Webb responded that she does not know the Mililani legislators' positions.
4. Fund Allocation: Oishi noted that he read in the HB 2599 that the funds will be put into a general fund that is designated for the DOE (Department of Education).

The motion was ADOPTED. 7-1-1 (AYE: Agader, Cole, Hazama, Hwang, Lau, Oishi, and Tamashiro; NAY: Costales; ABSTAIN: Melendrez).

BOARD BUSINESS (PART 2)

Sun Edison Mililani-Waipio Solar Project Update – Wren Wescoatt, Developer and Director for Sun Edison, reported the following:

- Three (3) Projects: Sun Edison has plans for three projects; Kawailoa on the North Shore, Mililani near the Agriculture Park, and Waipio or Koa Ridge Mauka. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved all of the projects and the necessary permits have been obtained for the Waipio and Mililani farm.
- Waipio Project: Construction has begun with over 11,000 steel posts in the ground and tens of thousands of feet of cable have been laid. Roughly \$20 million have been spent on the project thus far and another \$140-150 million is needed to finalize the project. Sun Edison ran into some difficulty trying to finance the remaining amount through banks that they met with. There was a deadline in the contract with Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) that the projects needed to be financed by January 1, 2016.
- Cancellation of Contracts: HECO cancelled all three (3) contracts with Sun Edison since they were not able to get the projects financed by the contract deadline. The projects would have expanded Oahu's solar energy production by 30 percent. Sun Edison is not certain if HECO can unilaterally cancel the contracts.
- Next Steps: Sun Edison will continue to work with HECO to alleviate their concerns. Sun Edison is highly interested in completing the projects in 2016 due to all of their current investments. Sun Edison has since decided to sell the projects to an international private equity firm known as the De Shaw Group. De Shaw Group owns 20 other renewable projects across the country, including the wind farm on the North Shore.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Requests from the Board: Tamashiro asked and Wescoatt responded that Sun Edison is not requesting anything from the Board and they just wanted to provide an update.

2. Contract Review: Lau stated that when a contract is changed, new owners should be aware of any adjustments in the contract.
3. Project Progress: Chair Hazama asked and Wescoatt responded that the Waipio project has had the most work done for it and the Mililani project has had some land preparation done. All three (3) projects are currently on hold.
4. Project Manager: Hazama asked and Wescoatt responded that Sun Edision offered to be the project manager similarly to what was done with the wind project on the North Shore.
5. Worst Case Scenario: Costales asked and Wescoatt responded that it would be too depressing to discuss the worst case scenario options but it is something that will need to be considered further if the projects are not allowed to move forward.

Chair Hazama called a recess at 8:16 p.m.

Oishi and Agader left at 8:19 p.m. Seven (7) board members present.

Chair Hazama reconvened the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Honolulu Area Rapid Transit (HART) Rail Update — Bill Brennan, Public Outreach, from HART reported the following:

- Project Overview: The rail system will be 20 miles long with 21 rail stations from the eastern edge of Kapolei to Ala Moana Center. The first 10 miles from west to east are expected to be completed in 2018 and the full system is expected to be completed in 2021. All of the stations and trains will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Operating Details: Trains will be operating 20 hours a day from 4:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. During the peak hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. the trains will come every five (5) minutes and during non-peak hours the trains will come every 11 minutes.
- Ride Fares: The cost to ride the trains has not been determined. HART is meeting with various groups and working to incorporate a seamless transfer system for riders of the rail and bus routes.
- Train Cars: Surfboards, bicycles, luggage, coolers, strollers, and wheelchairs will all be permissible on the train. Four (4) cars will make up each train and each car can sit 50 people with anywhere between 100 and 150 people standing. Approximately 600 to 800 people can be moved every time a new train arrives at a station. Each train and station will be equipped with wireless internet. The trains can reach speeds of 55 miles per hour and average 30 miles per hour with all of the stops. Honolulu will have the first driver-less trains in the United States. The first train cars will be on Oahu by the end of March 2016 and will be taken to the Rail Operation Center for additional testing and completion.
- Pearl Highlands Station: HART is seeking a public/private partnership to construct the parking structure. Traffic is expected to be alleviated by the Pearl Highlands Station because residents of Mililani can drive and park their car at the station and take the train into Downtown Honolulu for work.
- Rail Information: Traffic advisories are posted weekly on the HART website and there is a 24 hour hotline for questions, concerns, and comments. The number is (808) 566-2299.
- Property Taxes: The operating budget for the rail is \$21 million annually. The operating and maintenance costs for rail will be \$120 million annually. 30% of the operating budget for public transportation on Oahu will be paid for by rider fares; the remaining amount comes from the general fund which is paid for by property taxes. The amount of property tax revenue that needs to be raised is nine (9) percent. Property tax does not necessarily need to be raised but the City needs to take in nine (9) percent more from property taxes than it currently does. Mayor Caldwell is on record saying he will not raise property taxes to help pay for rail.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Cost Overruns: Melendrez asked and Brennan responded that on the HART website there is a drop-down menu called Board Meetings with an October 2015 update that includes a presentation detailing the cost overruns. Brennan further stated that construction costs in Honolulu have increased much more than originally predicted due to construction in Kakaako.
2. Security: Costales asked and Brennan responded that all the trains and stations will be equipped with cameras. There will also be the ability to call emergency services from the trains. Environmental deterrents to crime such as greater lighting and landscaping will also be utilized at the stations.
3. Pearl Highlands Station: Chari Hazama asked and Brennan responded that the construction for the parking structure may occur at the same time as the station or they may overlap. Lau asked if that was due to a risk of more delays. Brennan said the project cannot be stopped. Brennan further assured the Board that the Pearl Highlands parking structure will be built.

4. Emergency on the Train: Cole asked and Brennan responded that the trains will have back-up power and if a train stops that a train behind it can push it to the next station.

Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise — James Oda, President-Elect, reported the following:

- Scholarship Interviews: The first round of scholarship interviews has been completed and \$17,000 in scholarships are given out every year.
- Carnival: The club will be selling hamburger steak plates from Friday, February 19, 2016, through Sunday, February 21, 2016.
- Mililani Public Library Book Sale: The Rotary club will be assisting with the set-up and breakdown of the book sale on Saturday, February 20, 2016.
- Homeless Feeding: On Sunday, February 21, 2016, the club will be going downtown to assist with feeding of the homeless.
- Car Wash: The club will be washing cars on Friday, March 12, 2016. Tickets are for sale for \$10 for cars and \$15 for trucks and vans.
- Rotaract Club: The Mililani Sunrise club is working to get their college-age club going again at Leeward Community College.
- Dan Grabauskas, Executive Director of HART: Grabauskas will be a guest speaker at the club on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Leilehua Golf Course Club House at 7:30 a.m.
- Golf Tournament: The scholarship fundraiser will be a golf tournament on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Over \$300,000 in scholarships have been given out over the past 17 years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The regular meeting minutes for January 19, 2016 were approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT as published, 7-0-0 (Aye: Cole, Costales, Hazama, Hwang, Lau, Melendrez, and Tamashiro; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Costales read the financial statement for February 2016. The remaining balance is \$135.24. The report was filed.

Committee Reports

Education – Melendrez reported the following:

Mililani Middle School (MMS) Update:

- The Girls Soccer Teams Schedule Followed by the Boys One (1) Hour After: Saturday, February 27, 2016 versus Wahiawa Middle at Mililani High at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, March 5, 2016 versus Wheeler Middle at Moanalua High at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2016 versus Aliamanu Intermediate at Leilehua High at 10:00 a.m.
- Track and Field Tryouts: Tryouts will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Character Counts Poster Contest: Winners will be announced at the Mililani Town Center on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The first place winner will receive \$75, second place will receive \$50, and third place will receive \$25.
- Spelling Bee Competition: Krislyn M of Green 7 is the winner and Alex B of Yellow 8 is the runner up. Krislyn received a \$100 grant and Alex received a \$50 grant.
- Congratulations to Torri Ishihara: Ms. Ihara was selected as the Central District Complex Area winner of the National Milken Educators of Hawaii annual Teacher Promise Award.

Military/Civil Defense: There was no report.

Parks and Recreation: There was no report.

Planning and Zoning: There was no report.

Transportation – Melendrez reported the following: Kamehameha Highway Resurfacing: The Kamehameha Highway Resurfacing project, Ka Uka Boulevard to Waihau Street, will continue to have daytime and nighttime lane closures. The daytime lane closures for Kamehameha Highway are required for crews to complete guardrail installations, shoulder improvements, and permanent stripping between Ka Uka Boulevard to Waihau Street. The nighttime lane closures are required for guardrail installations, shoulder improvements, permanent striping/marker installations, and

sign installations from Ka Uka Boulevard to the Roosevelt Bridge. Permanent striping, fencing replacement, and miscellaneous daytime roadwork will be ongoing throughout Kamehameha Highway in the upper Mililani area through February 2016. Work to increase the width of the shoulder through Kipapa Gulch is tentatively scheduled to start in January 2016. For more information, visit www.hidot.hawaii.gov, email dotpao@hawaii.gov, or call 587-2160.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Chair Hazama reported the following:

Mililani High School (MHS) Carnival: Chair Hazama noted that the MHS carnival will be held from Friday, February 19, 2016 to Sunday, February 21, 2016.

Three (3) Absences: Chair Hazama received a letter from the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) stating that Costales has missed three (3) meetings and allowed Costales to explain. Costales apologized for missing meetings and stated that she has been serving since 2009 with good attendance. Due to her work, she has had to miss meetings but would like to continue serving on the Board. No action was taken by the board regarding the absences

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: The next Mililani Mauka/Launani Valley Neighborhood Board No. 35 regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mililani Mauka Elementary School cafeteria, 95-1111 Makaikai Street.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Submitted By: Sam Wolff, Neighborhood Assistant;
Reviewed By: Uyen Vong, Public Relations Assistant;
Reviewed and Finalized By: Dean Hazama, Chair