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STATION 10

MAKALAPA

(Edge of the ridge)



COURTESY HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is Oahu's biggest military base, and city leaders hope a lot of people living and working there will use a new Skyline rail station opening Thursday near one of the installation's secondary gates.

Skyline's Makalapa Station is at the intersection of Kamehameha Highway and Radford Drive outside the naval and air force base's guarded Makalapa Gate.

Two new city bus lines are being started to carry Skyline passengers between the station and stops on base. One will serve parts of Hickam Field entering through the base's nearby O'Malley Gate, and the other will serve parts of Pearl Harbor entering via the base's main Nimitz Gate and exiting via the Makalapa Gate.

Roger Morton, director of the city Department of Transportation Services, said roughly 18,000 military personnel and civilians work at the base, including about 6,000 at the naval shipyard, and that another roughly 12,000 dependents live on the base that includes several housing subdivisions.

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible, and the military has been helping boost the promotion of doing that," he said.

The Makalapa Station, which is named after ancient volcanic crater partially filled in and long used for military housing, is not intended to provide service to the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. This popular visitor attraction is closer to Skyline's Halawa Station next to the long-shuttered Aloha Stadium, and is accessible to passengers via a roughly 10-minute, half-mile walk.

STATION 11

LELEPAUA

(Place name of a former 300-acre fishpond in the area that refers to a clam, or paua)



COURTESY HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION

Passengers lugging suitcases on the city's Skyline rail system are expected to become more common starting Thursday with the public opening of four new stations including one at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

The station named Lelepaaua will connect travelers, as well as some of the roughly 15,000 workers at Hawaii's biggest airport, to HNL's two terminals largely via walking paths through different parking garages.

The Lelepaaua Station sits between the Terminal 2 parking structure and the international parking structure, with connections via covered walkways to the fourth floors of both garages.

The state Department of Transportation cordoned off a walkway through 12 parking spaces in the international garage that leads to an existing enclosed bridge to Terminal 2, the airport's main terminal. There is also a street-level pathway from rail station elevators to Terminal 2.

Access to Terminal 1, used for most Hawaiian Airlines flights, involves a bit lengthier trek taking about 4 minutes through 35 former parking stalls in the international parking structure, then up two levels to pass over a bridge to the interisland parking garage that leads to Terminal 1.

"At Lelepaaua, Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, visitors and locals alike take flight, seamlessly linking the island to the sky and keeping transportation alive from Oahu and beyond," the city Department of Transportation Services touted in a recent promotional video for the second segment of Skyline in operations.

STATION 12

AHUA

(To swell as a heap)



COURTESY HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION

The Skyline station at Lagoon Drive was positioned to serve much of Honolulu's industrial core, but also has an interim purpose to connect riders with waiting buses headed Diamond Head as far as Waikiki and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

This station, named Ahua, is two blocks makai of Nimitz Highway bridging Waiala Loop and is described by the city Department of Transportation Services as a link to the "backbone of Honolulu's industrial heart" that includes the adjacent airport district and Mapunapuna.

But until 2031 when the third segment of Skyline is slated for completion, a major purpose of the Ahua Station, which includes nine 10-minute parking stalls, will be a connection to three new city bus lines.

The U Line offers nonstop service via the freeway to UH-Manoa. The W Line will take riders via Nimitz Highway to stops that include Chinatown, Kakaako, Ala Moana Center and Waikiki. And the A Line will have service to downtown Honolulu and UH-Manoa.

A longer-term vision for Ahua Station, which is named after a nearby heaping offshore reef partly destroyed by airport runway and Keehi Lagoon construction, includes retail development next to the station and a multistep path to nearby Keehi Lagoon Beach Park.

Currently, the station is immediately surrounded by warehouses, two car dealerships and other industrial enterprises that include The Bathroom Store, Higa Food Service, Climate Pros Hawaii and a Landscape Hawaii equipment yard. Also nearby are Pacific Marina Inn and Lagoon Chinese Restaurant.

STATION 13

KAHAUIKI

(Land division, or ahupuaa, between Kalihi and Moanalua literally meaning "the little hibiscus tree")



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The Middle Street Transit Center is one of Honolulu's busiest city bus hubs, and Skyline's Kahauiki Station is connected to it primarily to service rail riders coming to and from Kalihi and Moanalua.

The transit center also serves TheBus routes running to other communities farther away, including Hawaii Kai and Kaneohe, and rivals a Waipahu bus hub for most use after Ala Moana Center.

A pedestrian bridge across seven lanes of Kamehameha Highway links the rail station with the bus hub, which has 95 stalls of free 24-hour parking, public bathrooms and a transit pass office.

Because buses can't turn left out of the transit center onto the divided Kamehameha Highway heading Diamond Head, Skyline's next-closest station on Lagoon Drive is being used as a better connection for buses going that direction to destinations including downtown, Kakaako, Ala Moana Center, Waikiki and the University of Hawaii at Manoa until the rail line is extended to Kakaako in 2031.

A longer-term vision by city planners includes developing an elevated pedestrian bridge from the makai side of the Kahauiki Station across eight lanes of Nimitz Highway to provide access to a waterfront peninsula fronting a mauka edge of Keehi Lagoon.

This peninsula, according to a transit-oriented development plan adopted by the Honolulu City Council, could be made into a public park with potential amenities including space to launch boats, picnicking, ball fields and a community center supporting programs and services.