



## KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

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### DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

Via VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (WEBEX)

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a **quorum of 13** Note: This 19-member Board requires 10 members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present – Bill Hicks, Levani Lipton, Jeff Zuckernick, Gary Weller, Susan Dowsett, Jennifer Tobarahonold, Claudine Tomasa, Daniel Vermillion, Robert Harris (Arrived online 7:10pm), Teresa Parsons (Arrived online 7:11pm), Alan Akao (Arrived online 7:11pm), Johnathan White, Donna Wong, Colin Kippen, Kelly Aylward, Josiah Akau, and Kevin Cooper.

Board Members Absent – Steve Trecker and Al Smith

Guests – Lieutenant John Asing (Honolulu Police Department); Sandra Pfund (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's representative); Danny Hayes (Marine Corps Base Hawaii); Danette Wong Tomiyasu (Governor Ige's Representative); Lee Nagano (Department of Transportation); Councilmember Alex Texeira; Senator Lauren Thielen; Senator Jarrett Keohokalole; Representative Cynthia Thielen; Representative Chris Lee; Representative Scot Matayoshi; Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg (Windward Community College); Malia Peters, Mahealani Cypher, Kukana Kama-Toth, Lea Hollingworth-Ramsey, Marya Grambs, Toni Pedro, Jeanette Bean, Dana Gusman, Greg Thielen, Kimeona Kane, Zafira Anhalt, Bobbi Gail (Residents); and Travis Saito (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Note: Name was not included if not legible or on the guest attendance sheet.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Monday, October 5, 2020 is the deadline for registering for the General Election. Ballots will be automatically mailed to all registered voters and should be received before Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. All voted ballots must be received by the Office of Elections not later than 7:00 PM on Election Day. Ballots may be deposited in the special yellow "Official Ballot Drop Box" located in the Kailua District Park parking lot on Kailua Road on the beach side of the Times Supermarket shopping center from Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> until 7:00 PM on Election Day – or they may be mailed until a week before the election, Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>, to ensure delivery by the deadline. You can verify that your ballot has been received by the Office of Elections and passed the signature check by going to [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov)

### PUBLIC AGENCIES

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lieutenant Asing reported the following:

- September 2020 Statistics – There were four (4) motor vehicle thefts, two (2) burglaries, 11 thefts, and 16 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV).

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – No report given.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – No representative was present; Chair Hicks reported the following:

- Main Breaks: There were no main breaks in September 2020

Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) – Danny Hayes was present; the following report was given:

- Marine Corps Webpage – For regularly updated information and reporting aviation noise visit the Marine Corps Webpage at <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/>
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) – Conducting a property line survey for Marine Corps training area at Bellows and community affected near Enchanted Lake.
- Environmental Compliance and Protection Division – On the Mokapu Coast, Green Sea Turtles had a larger hatching than previously anticipated.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Drones: Tomasa noted a resident expressed concerns of drones in the Kailua District and will direct the resident to file a written complaint on the Marine Corps Website.

2. Green Sea Turtles: Wong inquired if Green Sea Turtle nesting season is completed. Hayes responded nesting season went from April to early September and the Green Sea Turtles have all hatched in early September.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative – Sandra Pfund, Director of Department of Land Management (DLM), was present; the following report was given:

- Comfort Stations at Kailua District Park: Responding to previous inquires, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) noted the stand-alone comfort station on Kailua Road will be open during regular hours and closed at night. All other comfort stations at Kailua District Park will be closed during the Mayor's Emergency Order.
- Kailua Boat Ramp Status: Responding to previous inquires, DPR noted the boat ramp at Kailua Beach Park will remain closed until further notice. DPR noted to work with Department of Design and Construction (DDC) on projects involving DPR facilities.
- Kailua Beach and Kawainui Marsh Path Closures: Responding to previous inquires, DPR noted the bike path within Kailua Beach Park is closed and the unimproved sidewalk along Kawailoa Road is open. DPR noted there will be no parking along Kawailoa Road throughout the park closure. DPR noted the pathway along Kawainui Marsh is under the State's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Forestry Division. DPR noted all State and City hiking trails are closed as part of the Mayor's Emergency Order.
- Haiku Stairs: Responding to previous inquires, the City is continuing the security that BWS had in place. DPR noted the trampoline event that was posted earlier this month on social media occurred sometime last year.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Comfort Stations: Aylward expressed concerns with all other comfort stations being closed at Kailua District Park noting for all the comfort stations to be open for the community during this time.
2. Kailua Boat Ramp: White and Zuckernick expressed concerns first responders do not have to have access to the boat ramp where it needs to be a priority. White and Parsons expressed concerns there is a large hole with children swimming nearby and the boat ramp has been falling into the water. White noted not all boat sizes are allowed in other boat ramps like Kailua Boat Ramp. Councilmember Teixeira noted there are funds allocated for the boat ramp repair and will work with DPR to repair it as soon as possible. Wong inquired when the funds were received and if funds have an expiration date. Teixeira responded the funds were placed this year and have a two (2)-year shelf life. Teixeira noted there is \$25,000 for planning and design fees for the start of the project and will be able to add more if needed. Wong requested that Councilman Teixeira come back next month with updated info regarding the status of the Kailua Boat Ramp repair effort. Cooper noted from Representative Chris Lee about a jurisdictional overlap and environmental issues for reasons of delay.
3. Kailua Beach Path: Chair Hicks and Aylward expressed frustrations with the DPR response provided concerning the bike path at the mauka edge of Kailua Beach Park. Chair Hicks noted the bike path construction was funded by DTS for the purpose of bicycle safety due to the blind curve on the road and asks that the City reconsider keeping this bike path open for traversing if parks are closed in the future.

Governor David Ige's Representative – Danette Tomiyasu, Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH) and Lee Nagano Department of Transportation (DOT), were present; the following report was given:

- Traffic Signal: The pedestrian study at the intersection of Kalaniana'ole Highway and Ulupii Street has no set date scheduled at this time for the traffic signal.
- Left Turn Signal: Left turn signals at the Kailua Road and Hamakua Drive intersection are under jurisdiction of the City.
- Pesticides: DOT has taken a conservative approach to Round-Up and pesticides on DOT highways and limiting sprayers on nearby areas of pedestrian traffic and waterways. DOT noted Round-Up is used for hard to reach areas that are unable to use traditional landscaping methods. DOT has tried organic methods but they have not been as effective.
- COVID-19: Tomiyasu expressed gratitude for the Kailua community's efforts to be safe during the pandemic. Tomiyasu noted it will take everyone to fight against COVID-19.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed

1. Pesticide Follow Up: Parsons expressed concerns of hand sprayers with several workers of DOT on a State pickup truck spraying Round-Up spreading of an area of multiple blocks with high pedestrian traffic. Nagano noted the concerns and has forwarded the concerns to a DOT administrator to look into this

matter. Parsons expressed concerns of the policy, practice and worker disconnect. Parsons noted a need for legislation to ban the use of Round-Up. Harris suggested a pilot program for the Kailua Area for alternative methods of pesticides.

2. Kalaniana'ole Highway and Ulupii Street Intersection: Wong inquired if the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) has taken a position on Kalaniana'ole Highway and Ulupii Street Intersection. Nagano noted the inquiry and will report back to the board.
3. Left Turn Signal: Chair Hicks noted the left turn letter went to DOT and Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and will follow up with Brandi Higa.
4. Mold Signage: Zuckernick noted mold on speed signage of H3 is covered with mold and has not been taken care of on the town side.

#### RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Affordable Housing: Resident Grambs suggested creating a task force on Affordable Housing consisting of three (3) Kailua Neighborhood board members, three (3) community members that were for the Kaiwainui Street affordable housing, and three (3) community members that were against the Kaiwainui Street affordable housing. Grambs noted the task force should investigate parcels of land that could be used for affordable housing and report monthly. Grambs expressed concerns about families struggling to pay rent and hunger issues. Chair Hicks responded his belief is the community would support a suitable and appropriate location. Chair Hicks referred discussion on the concern to the Planning, Zoning & Environment Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Aylward supports the concerns and plans to be involved in the discussion at the Planning, Zoning & Environment Committee meeting. Resident Pedro noted previously talking with retired members of the community and creating a committee to look for affordable housing. Chair Hicks encouraged developers to support the need for affordable housing in Kailua. Resident Peters supports Grambs task force suggestion and noted Kailua has not had new affordable housing built in nearly 30 years and there should be a market analysis to look into contacts within the community.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilmember Alan Texeira: Councilmember Texeira was present; the following report was given:

- Affordable Housing: Texeira noted City Council voted "No" on the Kawainui Street affordable housing project.
- Draining Improvements: Draining improvement project starting on Kawaunila Road Work will start in 2021.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Fence on Castle Junction: Parsons expressed concerns about when will the fence with the painted campaign sign near Castle Medical Center be restored. Texeira noted he has been in contact with the resident to remove it and he is planning to remove it in the near future. Parsons noted it can be considered a billboard and residents may file a complaint with Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) if not taken down.
2. Sound System: Weller inquired about the sound system at the Kailua District Park Recreation Center. Texeira noted \$10,000 has been allocated for the sound system for Neighborhood Boards funding for two (2) years. Texeira noted he has scheduled a meeting with DPR next week to understand the timeline.

Senator Laura Thielen: Senator Thielen was present; the following report was given:

- Gratitude: Thielen expressed gratitude serving the Kailua community on multiple issues and projects throughout her time in office.
- Affordable Housing: Thielen noted Affordable Housing is very critical as rent prices can continue to increase. Thielen noted support for looking into parcels of land to see what can and cannot work. Thielen noted searching into the markets of tax credits for affordable housing being a set rate for stability to the people who are unable buy a home. Thielen suggested the Kailua Neighborhood Board look into affordable housing to bring in Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) to help with housing studies that have been completed on a larger scale.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Tax Credits: Zuckernick noted the large tax credits for developers and inquired if there is a potential for private homeowners receiving tax credits for adding affordable ADUs. Thielen noted the low-income tax credits are Federal and State and developers sell them to investors which is designed to boost affordable housing.
2. Kaiwi Coastline: Weller expressed gratitude for Senator Thielen in part of Kaiwi Coastline protection.
3. Lani Huli: Chair Hicks noted the Lani Huli Apartments may be a starting point as a model for affordable housing.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole: Senator Keohokalole was present; the following report was given:

- COVID-19 Testing: Keohokalole noted visiting COVID-19 testing facilities, noted surge capacity requirements, and said local labs are capable to handle surges such as the one that took place in July 2020 on island.

Keohokalole noted test results are received within 24-48 hours with upcoming technology. Keohokalole noted by the end of the year local capacity will be approximately 20,000 tests per day.

- CARES Funding: Keohokalole noted 98 percent of CARES funding have been committed through rent relief, technology services for schools, and personal protection equipment (PPE) for schools and businesses. Keohokalole noted Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) and businesses need to contact them for supplies.
- Tourist Reopening: Keohokalole noted the reopening will be Thursday, October 15, 2020. Lieutenant Governor Green is in command and noted in-person arrival testing of passengers. Keohokalole noted discussions for outbound travel for testing without any invasive quarantine procedures. Keohokalole noted concerns with the new mass scale of incoming travelers.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Testing: Parsons inquired where are the people trained for the antigen testing systems coming from and are they ready to do thousands of antigen tests. Keohokalole noted the capacity Hawaii has, and we do not have the ability to do the mass testing that is needed. Keohokalole noted there is a shortage of supplies regarding swab testing and noted those are big concerns. Parsons noted the travel quarantine is not effective as travelers are out doing activities. Senator Thielen noted concerns of the rising number of tourists and this is another reason to talk about what kind of constraint we have and manage the ability to safely enter and safely leave.

Representative Cynthia Thielen: Representative Thielen was present; the following report was given:

- Gratitude: Representative Thielen expressed gratitude to the Kailua Neighborhood Board for her time as a representative for the community. Thielen noted Kailua Neighborhood Board members have developed a system that residents in our community are able to go before the board to think, analyze, and listen to take action on projects within the City and State.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Gratitude: Chair Hicks and Wong expressed gratitude for all the years Representative Thielen worked in serving the community.

Representative Scot Matayoshi: Representative Matayoshi was present; the following report was given:

- Mask Policy: Matayoshi contacted HPD and COVID Hotline on mask policy enforcement when protesters are not cited for not wearing masks, whereas people in parks who are not wearing masks are cited. Matayoshi noted there is confusion where Police were under the impression they are not able to cite protesters not wearing a mask because of manufactured free speech which is false. Matayoshi noted he was in contact with Chief of Police Ballard regarding this issue and she will clarify within HPD. Matayoshi noted to continue to report violators on the COVID Hotline to keep our communities safe.
- Uluhaku Place: Matayoshi noted the home was sold and transferred to the new buyer. Matayoshi noted he is in contact with the new owner to make sure they are legal and he is also working on new legislation to address residents not taking care of their property which impacts the community.
- Diversifying Economy: Matayoshi noted Hawaii relies too much on tourism and needs to diversify the economy with more agriculture development.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Agriculture: Akao expressed concerns about food scarcity during this time of the pandemic. Matayoshi responded the desire to cultivate agriculture for Hawaii to be a global center of export instead of heavily relying on tourism. Zuckernick suggested hemp is another agriculture product to research. Matayoshi noted hemp is a great seed crop growing here.
2. Forestry: Kama-Toth noted the unused industry of timber and suggested it would be an alternative source for economic development in the state. Matayoshi expressed gratitude for the suggestion and noted the focus is on resources Hawaii is able to compete. Matayoshi noted the State does not have the money to construct a mill for timber development during the economic situation of the pandemic. Matayoshi suggested tomato farms on the islands are able to compete with imported tomatoes at economically competitive prices.
3. Olomana Community: Zuckernick expressed gratitude for Matayoshi from Uluhaku Place residents to make the community safer.
4. Lease Extensions: Wong and Parsons suggested extending leases for farmers. Wong noted farmer Larry Jeffs is being evicted and grows local food for the community. Matayoshi noted Jeffs' land is on federal land and working with U.S. Senator Schatz on this issue and is in communication with the Navy. Matayoshi suggested for the Navy to reconsider building solar panels and magazines on non-farming lands for Jeffs to continue farming.

5. Evictions: Chair Hicks expressed concerns when it comes to property owners ability to evict tenants from the homeowners' property if the tenants are engaging in drug activity and noted that even calling HPD is a difficult process. Chair Hicks noted homeowners may be at risk of losing their property when they have no control of the tenants. Matayoshi responded it was a different problem with the homeowner at Uluhaku Place who refused to let HPD enter when there was illegal activity.

Representative Chris Lee: Representative Lee was present; the following report was given:

- Gratitude: Lee expressed gratitude to Senator Thielen and Representative Thielen for their service and working together in the community.
- Pesticides: Lee noted several bills to not use the pesticide Round-Up and noted Maui County uses mechanical plant removal and is anticipating using similar methods to do that on Oahu.
- Public Street Safety: Lee noted one (1) million dollars will be used for public street safety improvements for our community and that it is possible to use funding for a wall at Wendy's at the appropriate time.
- 2020 Election: Lee noted working with Senator Rhodes for ballots to be sent out next week and have more ballot drop off boxes on the windward side. Lee noted ballot drop off boxes are placed at Kailua District Park nearby Times Supermarket. Lee noted ballot box tampering prevention includes protection from fires and liquid prevention and they will be monitored and ballots collected daily.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Park Project: Weller inquired about the Alexander and Baldwin park project update. Lee responded a delay with COVID-19 and sending recommendations for contractors for communities input. Lee noted he expected next year to announce the project for public discussion.
2. Conservation Corps: Parsons inquired on Conservation Corps funding and how many people were given the opportunity for it. Lee noted funding was passed in June and the Governor approved 600 positions through the end of the year for non-profits and natural resources.
3. Wendy's Wall: Zuckernick expressed confusion over the reasoning of taxpayers footing the bill and should take care of the restaurant owner. Lee agreed Wendy's should to pay for and it is a safety issue. Lee expressed concerns noting Wendy's is counting on students and pedestrians to enter the unimproved sidewalk where cars park. Kama-Toth inquired if the wall was a City or State jurisdiction. Lee responded the physical part of the wall is City jurisdiction and it is State funding for public safety and risk. Wong noted one Wendy's representative attended a community meeting once, but the community did not hear back from them again. Wong noted Wendy's representatives need to present to the community for City and State approval. Chair Hicks noted a letter from Wendy's in December although no additional dialogue has taken place.
4. Municipal Parking Lot: Chair Hicks inquired about use of the municipal parking lot nearby Cinnamons Restaurant that is 75,000 square feet, for additional affordable housing if it preserved public parking. Would there be any impediments? Lee noted collaborated discussions with the stakeholders and small businesses for a few years. Lee noted the neighborhood needs to have a discussion and he expected to discuss more about community safety in place at night and for land landowners to revitalize the area.

PRESENTATIONS – No presentations presented.

BOARD MOTION:

**The Kailua Neighborhood Board supports retaining Windward Community College (WCC) in its present form as a stand-alone community college of the University of Hawaii.**

WHEREAS, WCC is undergoing a serious review of cost-saving measures in light of fiscal challenges currently facing the University of Hawai'i (UH) system; and

WHEREAS, this college was established in 1972 in response to growing community demand for post-high school education opportunities within the Windward communities; and

WHEREAS, WCC has continued growing and improving over the past 40 years and has demonstrated its appeal and its value by a student enrollment, which has grown by 11% in the past 10 years, whereas most other community colleges have seen decreased headcount; and

WHEREAS, according to enrollment data, a great many students living on the Windward coast have chosen Windward Community College as their starting point for acquiring higher education; and

WHEREAS, WCC was among the vanguard of colleges to provide opportunities for high school students to earn early college credits, by opening their classes to those seeking eventual transfer to four-year colleges, including its unique focus on Native Hawaiian, first generation students with financial barriers, and students who were not on a college trajectory before ECHS (Early College High School) was initiated; and

WHEREAS, by offering liberal arts, Hawaiian studies and natural science degrees, WCC allows students with diverse career pathways to begin their journey; and

WHEREAS, veterinary technology and agripharmatech certificates and degrees are unique programs at WCC which prepare students for careers; and  
WHEREAS, WCC has fostered impactful partnerships with other UH campuses, including organized research units such as the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology; and  
WHEREAS, through its commitment to Native Hawaiians, WCC has uniquely addressed disparities in Native Hawaiian educational outcomes to have the highest graduation rate of Native Hawaiians in the UH System, as well as eliminated gaps in enrollment; and  
WHEREAS, WCC represents a model institution for the University's mission to become an indigenous-serving institution and its strategic initiative to provide "vigorous support" for Native Hawaiian students; and  
WHEREAS, WCC economically benefits our Ko'olau communities, generating \$1.15 in extramural funding and tuition for every \$1 invested in the general fund over the past five years; and  
WHEREAS, the communities of Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olauloa – which comprise the entire Windward O`ahu coastline – greatly value the benefits of having this community college that provides critical educational services to our Windward area; and  
WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i administration is in the process of considering various ways to reduce its expenses; and  
WHEREAS, among targets of these cost-cutting measures may be the consolidation or elimination of some community colleges; and  
WHEREAS, since Windward Community College is the only community college on the entire Windward coast, there is a clear and urgent need that this college be spared from proposed elimination or merger with other similar colleges;  
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kailua Neighborhood Board hereby strongly Urges the Retention of Windward Community College in its Current Status as a Stand-Alone Community College of the University of Hawai'i; and that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, to UH President David Lassner, and to Governor David Ige.**

**Weller moved and Wong seconded the motion.**

Discussion Followed:

1. Community Involvement: Cypher asked for the windward community to work together for WCC to continue to be a stand-alone college.
2. Gratitude: Chancellor Eschenberg expressed gratitude for the resolution. It is important to be proactive to preserve UH community college and this could help in preventing things from happening before they happen.
3. Improvements: Eschenberg noted the six (6) million-dollar grant improvements directly used for renovations, students, and scholarships. Chair Hicks noted WCC has more revenue generated than operating expenses.
4. Cost Saving Measures: Wong inquired if UH is conducting cost saving measures. Chancellor Eschenberg responded there is a deficit in the State. Tomasa inquired if it to protect WCC from closing and possibility of merging. Chancellor Eschenberg noted these options were considered for possible solutions but there is no concrete plan of shutting down or merging.
5. Affordable Education: Parsons noted in favor of the motion to preserve affordable education and that community college delivers an important outlook on technical trades and service industry for the community.
6. Layoff Concerns: Zuckernick expressed concerns of Kapiolani Community College (KCC) EMT training with layoffs and no support of the UH System Chancellor. Zuckernick said by the end of this year there will be seven (7) full time EMT employees for the State and we need more support.
7. State Support: Weller noted energy and time savings at WCC, compared with driving out to Leeward Community College (LCC). Lee agreed but noted he is not sure how the 2020 Elections will result and noted there is a four (4) to five (5) billion-dollar deficit in the next few years. Lee will support this action, education, and long term funding. Lee will look into the State budget with a collaborative process.
8. Importance of WCC: Resident Peters noted the personal impacts of WCC and the importance it has for everyone in the community.

**The motion PASSED by ROLL CALL VOTE, (14-0-0). (Aye: Hicks, Lipton, Zuckernick, Aylward, Weller, Dowsett, Tobar-Honold, Tomasa, Vermillion, Cooper, Harris, Parsons, Wong, and J.Akau; Nay: None; Abstain: None)**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Hearing no objections, the Thursday, AUGUST 6, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were APPROVED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT; (14-0-0) (Aye: Hicks, Lipton, Zuckernick, Aylward, Weller, Dowsett, Tobar-Honold, Tomasa, Vermillion, Cooper, Harris, Parsons, Wong, and J.Akau; Nay: None; Abstain: None)**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Harris reported September 2020 expenses of \$64.47 with a remaining balance of \$265.71.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Committee agendas for November, 2020 are due by Sunday, October 25, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Travis Saito, Neighborhood Assistant  
Reviewed by: Naomi Hanohano, Neighborhood Assistant  
Revised by: Bill Hicks, Chairman KNB