



KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008 KAILUA RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Charles Prentiss called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m., with a quorum of **14 members present**. He apologized for the delay; the Board was not notified that they would have to meet outside in the pavilion due to electrical work in the normal meeting room. Chair Prentiss noted the death of longtime Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16 Chair and member, Bill Woods. Note – This 19-member Board requires 10 members for a quorum and to take action.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bartley (appointed at this meeting), Kalana Best, Richard Bratt, Jon Chinen, Shawn Christensen (appointed at this meeting), Jim Corcoran, Michael Correa, Virginia Enos, Debbi Glanstein, Knud Lindgard, Christian Porter, Charles Prentiss, Claudine Tomasa, Ronald Weinberg (departed at 9:50 p.m.), Donna Wong, Linda Ure.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michele Brooks, Kathy Bryant-Hunter, Joe Harding.

VACANCIES: There were two (2) vacancies on this Board, and both were filled at this meeting.

GUESTS: Capt. H. Ogata (Honolulu Fire Department); Lt. D. Eber, Officer Zane Hamrick (Honolulu Police Department); Sgt. Duane Samson (Honolulu Police Department – Community Policing); Maj. A. Crouch (Marine Corps Base Hawaii – Public Affairs Office); Molly Hassenfratz (Go Rail Go); Dennis Callan, Nancy Nagamine, Leona Perez (Stop Rail Now); Josh Wisch (U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono's Office); Senator Jill Tokuda; Representative Pono Chong; John Foster (Representative Cynthia Thielen's Office); Ann Chung (Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Office – City Office of Economic Development, Director); Maria T. Gorak (Homeless Animals); Crystale Lopez (Hawaii Pacific University); Sharon Geary (Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle); Rev. Ricky B., Kathleen Franey, Mark Franey, Joe Gilman, Shirley Hasenyager, Chris Lee, Bill Morris, Jane Morris, Jean Stromberg Reiziss, Stann Reiziss, Ursula Retherford, Mike Sober, Tracie Sober, Bill Towey, Max Towey, Anne Towey-Joyer, Corinne Waterhouse, Robert Webster; Rachel M. Glanstein (Neighborhood Commission Office).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 3, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes – The September 9, 2008 regular meeting minutes were APPROVED AS CORRECTED 13-0-1 (Aye: Best, Bratt, Chinen, Corcoran, Correa, Enos, Glanstein, Lindgard, Porter, Prentiss, Tomasa, Weinberg, Ure; Abstain: Wong), with the following corrections:

- * Page 2 – Agency Reports – Marine Corps... – item nos. 1, 2 and 4 – strike out the three instances of "Battalion" and insert "Battalion".
- * Page 6 – Presentations – State Department ...Lead Pellets... – Questions... – item no. 1 – first line – strike out "~~Dr. Brooks~~" and insert "Fenix Grange".

BOARD VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS: Chair Prentiss explained the nomination and election process.

Subdistrict 2 Vacancy (Enchanted Lake, Keolu Hills) – Porter nominated Shawn Christensen to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 2; Porter imparted that Mr. Christensen's areas of interest included transportation, park improvements, technological issues and alternative energy sources. Mr. Christensen introduced himself briefly.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) **Bed and Breakfasts (B&B) and Transient Vacation Units (TVU)** – Mr. Christensen supports the Board's position on B&Bs and TVUs, that the illegal operations should be dealt with and no new operations should be made legal. He is opposed to the proposed expansion of the ordinances related to B&Bs and TVUs.

- 2) Neighborhood Board (NB) System – Mr. Christian expressed that the NB system gives people a voice and a vote, and other elected people are often too busy to listen to their constituents. He understands that government and working through the NB system takes time.
- 3) Residence Area – Mr. Christensen lives in the Enchanted Lake area.
- 4) Committee Interests – Mr. Christensen expressed interest in the Transportation and Public Works Committee (TPW), especially with the question of rail, and the Parks and Recreation Committee (PR).
- 5) Kailua Beach Park (KBP) and Erosion – Mr. Christen noted the large erosion problem at KBP, and worldwide, and relayed that so far the solution to erosion seems to be sand replenishment/replacement, which is expensive and may only be a short term fix; he would like to see more solutions to erosion.

The motion to appoint Shawn Christensen to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 2 was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY 14-0-0 (Aye: Best, Bratt, Chinen, Corcoran, Correa, Enos, Glanstein, Lindgard, Porter, Prentiss, Tomasa, Weinberg, Wong, Ure).

Neighborhood Assistant (NA) Rachel M. Glanstein administered the Oath of Office to Christensen; **15 members present.**

Subdistrict 4 Vacancy (Coconut Grove, Aikahi, Kailua Town, Kalaheo Hills) – Porter nominated Larry Bartley to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 4; Porter indicated that Mr. Bartley was the person who got him involved with the Board, in addition to being a very active community member. Mr. Bartley introduced himself briefly as a long-time Board member, and noted his interest in zoning matters.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Leadership – Mr. Bartley served in the past as Chair of the Board.
- 2) Attendance – Mr. Bartley had an exemplary attendance record in his past Board service.
- 3) Quality of Life Issue – Mr. Bartley expressed that the greatest quality of life issue affected by Board action is to the effort to keep Kailua residential and not just a tourist destination.
- 4) Bed and Breakfasts (B&B) and Transient Vacation Units (TVU) – Mr. Bartley is the Executive Director of Save Oahu's Neighborhoods (SON), which opposes any further legalization of B&Bs and TVUs. He is opposed to City Council Bill 6 Council Draft 1 (CD1) proposing to legalize B&Bs. Many condominium associations prohibit rentals of units for less than 30 days because short term tenants treat the property differently from long term tenants, which is another reason that owners of short term rentals usually pay higher property tax. Mr. Bartley continued to say that neighborhoods are and should be for the people who live and work in the area, not for tourists.

The motion to appoint Larry Bartley to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 4 was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY 15-0-0 (Aye: Best, Bratt, Chinen, Christensen, Corcoran, Correa, Enos, Glanstein, Lindgard, Porter, Prentiss, Tomasa, Weinberg, Wong, Ure).

NA Glanstein administered the Oath of Office to Bartley; **16 members present.**

AGENCY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. H. Ogata provided the following information:

- 1) September 2008 Statistics – There were 7 structure, 2 wildland, 3 rubbish, and 2 vehicle fires; there were 82 medical emergencies, 10 search/rescues, and 28 miscellaneous calls.
- 2) Fire Safety Tip – Halloween – Select Halloween costumes that are flame-resistant, made of lightweight fabric, brightly colored, and clearly visible to motorists. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape and keep costumes short to prevent tripping. A natural mask of cosmetics is safer than a mask that may restrict breathing or obscure vision. Carry flashlights to light the way.

- 3) Fire Safety Tip – Hurricanes – The hurricane season extends through **December**, (I've always heard November) and HFD encourages every family to prepare themselves for the event of a hurricane. Prepare a survival kit and know the location of the nearest hurricane shelter. For more information, go to the City Department of Emergency Management's (DEM) website at www.honolulu.gov/ocda.

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Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. D. Eber distributed the report, introduced previous Officers of the Year Officer Zane Hamrick and Sgt. Duane Samson, and highlighted the following information:

- 1) Annual Comparison January to September 2007 and 2008 (2007/2008) – Out of the reported cases, there was no change in murder/manslaughter, there were decreases of 10% in rape, 24% in robbery, 5% in burglary, 27% in theft, 31% in theft from automobiles (UEMV), 51% in auto theft, and a sole increase of 15% in aggravated assault. Overall, there was a 26% decrease in crime from January to September 2008 as compared to 2007.
- 2) September 2008 Statistics – There were 3 aggravated assault, 21 simple assault, 13 burglary, 4 counterfeit/forgery, 3 drugs/narcotics, 9 driving under the influence (**DUI**), 9 fraud, 9 graffiti, 10 injured cared for/sick cared for (**ICF/SCF**), 1 ID theft, 9 motor vehicle theft, 17 lost property, 4 missing person, 3 missing person cancelled, 63 motor vehicle accident (**MVA**), 2 robbery, 9 runaway, 11 runaway cancelled (some were called in originally in a past month), 1 sex assault, 50 theft, 9 threatening, 44 UEMV, and 13 warrant arrest cases.
- 3) Community Policing – Sgt. Samson announced that all neighborhoods are being invited to get involved in Neighborhood Security Watches (**NSW**) and Citizen Patrols (CP). Call him at 723-8874 for details.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Neighborhood Security Watches (NSW) – Enos's neighborhood tried previously to form a NSW, and she talked about the painful process; her NSW never received the signs they requested. The process now is more streamlined, and Sgt. Samson will follow up with Enos. For more information on area NSWs, contact Sgt. Samson by email at dsamson@honolulu.gov.
- 2) Pedestrian-Related Tickets – Due to the high pedestrian fatalities, in Kailua and Waimanalo HPD has been issuing approximately 20 jaywalking tickets per year to pedestrians, along with citations given to unsafe drivers (failing to yield, etc.). The traffic code indicates that in residential areas, pedestrians may cross at intersections, and these crossings are considered to be unmarked crosswalks. A pedestrian ticketed for jaywalking by Kalapawai Market complained that there was no close crosswalk and was told that there was an unmarked crosswalk close by at the nearest intersection. In business areas, pedestrians must cross at a marked crosswalk if there is one within 200 feet. At the August 2008 Board meeting, it was stated that there was a great deal of speeding by Kalapawai Market all the way to Buzz's, and so officers monitored the area for both speeding and pedestrian-related offenses.
- 3) Vehicles Blocking Crosswalks – Delivery trucks often disregard crosswalks by parking too close or blocking them, and tickets never seem to be issued to these trucks. In addition, people block crosswalks to use the ATM machines. It's very difficult to see pedestrians in crosswalks if large vehicles are blocking the line of sight, and the example of Uluniu Street was given. These vehicles need to be ticketed.
- 4) Painted Crosswalk by Kalapa Wai Market – The issue of painting a crosswalk in front of the wheelchair ramp by **Buzz's OR Kalapa Wai Market** was brought up over a year ago; **Chair Prentiss referred the issue of lack of a crosswalk in front of the wheelchair ramp by Buzz's OR Kalapa Wai Market to TPW.**
- 5) Speed Limit by Buzz's – It was suggested to lower the speed limit to 15 miles per hour (mph) by Buzz's.
- 6) Good Traffic Direction on Keolu Drive – The HPD officers directing traffic on Keolu Drive are appreciated.
- 7) Pedestrian Warning Signs – On Hamakua Drive (near Aoloa Street), the new yellow pedestrian warning signs have been very successful in encourage vehicles to stop for pedestrians waiting to cross.

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- 8) Crime Decrease – HPD was congratulated for the substantial decrease in crime statistics.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) – Maj. A. Crouch relayed the following information:

- 1) Soldiers Returned – Hawaii Marines and Sailors have returned from Iraq; members of the U.S. Navy helicopter squadron HSL-37 returned on Tuesday, September 23, from a six-month deployment.
- 2) Memorial Service – A memorial service was held last month for Marines of "2/3" killed in Iraq.
- 3) Water Conservation – MCBH and the Board of Water Supply (BWS) have a partnership to conserve water, and are using modern technology to locate leaks in water distribution pipes.
- 4) "Lethal Breeze" Exercise – MCBH's largest annual anti-terrorism and force protection exercise, "Lethal Breeze" finished last Thursday, September 25, 2008, with large-scale response to simulated major emergencies. This was the fifth consecutive year of the exercise and involved coordination with HPD's Special Weapons and Tactics (~~SWAT~~) team, the Federal Fire Department, among other agencies.
- 5) Unit Mission – The mission of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 24 is to provide intermediate level maintenance and supply support to the 11 operational and training squadrons based at MCBH Kaneohe Bay and to provide a pool of qualified Marines and Sailors to augment other MALS and Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Departments during deployments and under wartime scenarios.
- 6) Hispanic American Awareness Month – October is Hispanic American Awareness Month.
- 7) U.S. Navy's Birthday – October 15, 2008 is the U.S. Navy's 233rd birthday. The U.S. Marine Corps' birthday is next month on November 10.
- 8) Halloween – MCBH encourages all to have a Happy Halloween and to be safe while celebrating.
- 9) New Commanding Officer – The new commanding officer on MCBH is Colonel Robert Rice, who took command at the end of August 2008.
- 10) Financial Impact of Military on Hawaii – On October 18, 2008, the financial impact of the military on Hawaii will be discussed on Hawaii Public Radio.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

The MCBH uses 1.8 million gallons per day (mgd) from the BWS and reuse/recycle approximately 300,000 gallons per day for the golf course.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Chair Prentiss reported the following information from the BWS:

Main Breaks – There were two water main breaks on September 16, 2008: (a) a 12-inch main installed in 1944 broke at 830 Auloa Road; and (b) an eight-inch main installed in 1963 broke at the intersection of Maleko and Puualoha Streets.

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) – Crystale Lopez shared the following information:

- 1) Hawaii Loa Campus Expansion Planning – Within the next year, HPU and the engineers, planners and architects of Group 70 will analyze HPU's planned academic and facilities requirements for the Hawaii Loa Campus to determine how HPU's needs match up against the proposed \$70 million budget.
- 2) Sewer Connection Project – The expansion includes a \$2.5 million sewer connection project, which must be complete before any expansion begins. HPU worked with City and State agencies since 2004 and hopes to begin construction in early 2009, and complete the sewer connection by mid-2009. The project will be accomplished primarily through underground directional drilling, thereby minimizing the impact on

the public and the traffic on Kamehameha Highway and the H-3 Freeway. The project will allow HPU to abandon its on-campus wastewater treatment plan, and improve and expand the on-campus facilities.

- 3) Updates and More Information – Ms. Lopez will continue to bring periodic updates to the Board meetings. As plans develop in more detail, full involvement with the Kaneohe and Kailua communities, as well as other public and private constituencies, will take place. For more information, call Rick Stepien, HPU Vice President of Administrative Administration at 544-0205.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) HPU Scholarships – Apply online for scholarships to HPU at www.hpu.edu/scholarship.
- 2) Project Progress – Ms. Lopez was invited to attend the meetings of the Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee (PZE) on third Tuesdays to give in-depth updates on the proposed expansion.
- 3) Campus Location – It was pointed out that the HPU Hawaii Loa Campus is actually located in the Kaneohe NB No. 30 area, not the Kailua NB No. 31 area.

Aupupu Street Additional House – Robert Webster circulated handouts, and Mark Franey communicated the following information:

- 1) Background – The property at 1384 Aupupu Street was originally a single-family residence with one house. Upon purchasing this property, the new owner started a limited liability corporation (LCC) and then submitted a permit application to the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to build an additional house behind the pre-existing house and submit the property to a condominium property regime (CPR) to make it a multi-family residence.
- 2) Concerns – The 1300 block of Aupupu Street compiled their concerns over this new development. The property is approximately 200 feet deep, with a 60 foot incline, and rocks are constantly sliding down. Since the property is owned by an LLC, the responsibility and liability for rocks falling onto the homes below were questioned. There are flooding problems and drainage issues concerning the property. Although the development is legal, it doesn't fit in with and could change the character of the neighborhood.
- 3) Permits – The previous permit submitted called for a retaining wall in drainage ditch, which would have caused the neighbors homes to flood if it hadn't been caught by DPP, who then requested an amended permit application. A new permit application was submitted, but the residents are unable to get copies until the application has been approved. The new plan may even include moving a street light. However, once the permit is granted, the owner could start building immediately, leaving the neighbors no time to protest.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee (PZE) – **Chair Prentiss referred the issue of development at 1384 Aupupu Street to PZE**; the next meeting of PZE is on October 21, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and the presenters were invited to attend and give their comments to the committee, who will make a recommendation to the Board.
- 2) No Responses – No responses have been received from letters sent to the property owner.
- 3) Spreading Development – This CPR development is occurring in other parts of Coconut Grove as well.
- 4) Letter of Inquiry – PZE Chair Wong will write a letter to DPP asking about surveys and drainage, so that the committee can get more information on the matter.
- 5) Professional Assistance – It was suggested that the concerned residents consider hiring a civil or soil engineer to help with their case.

Bed and Breakfasts (B&B) – Anne Towey-Joyer expressed her concern about all of the illegal rentals on Kailua Road, and stressed that current zoning laws should be enforced. Her property tax seems to be always increasing, and she asserted that it's short-sighted of City Council to think of further legalizing B&Bs.

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PRESENTATIONS:

Wedding Permits Rules Procedure – No representative was present.

Coqui Frogs – The presentation will be ready in November 2008. The non-attributed handout regarding Coqui Frogs was referred to, and it was requested that any disseminated materials note their origin. Chair Prentiss asked that Enos review the handout on Coqui Frogs for the next meeting.

FORUM:

Go Rail Go (GRG) – Molly Hassenfratz conveyed the following information:

- 1) Her Background – Ms. Hassenfratz is a student and a volunteer with GRG. She lives in Kailua, uses public transportation, and supports rail. Ms. Hassenfratz came from Washington D.C. and praised their metro system for its ease and efficiency.
- 2) Focus Areas in Support of Rail – The reasons to support rail focus on four areas: (a) traffic congestion; (b) preservation of ohana; (c) environment; and (d) economy.
- 3) Traffic Congestion – Traffic congestion is one of the largest challenges facing Oahu. The rail project would help to reduce traffic congestion.
- 4) Preservation of Ohana – The younger generations are leaving Oahu, since most available and affordable housing is out on the west side and the traffic congestion is so bad. Rail gives the younger generations another option to the freeway traffic and means they can stay here on Oahu.
- 5) Environment – Rail will help the environment by removing 45,000 cars from the roadways, and thereby reducing pollution and the need for foreign oil. In addition, ~~it~~ alternative sources of energy are being looked at to run the rail (solar, wind, etc.).
- 6) Economy – The rail project will bring over 11,000 jobs to Oahu.
- 7) Rail Option – Students and young professionals need a rail option in addition to personal vehicles or the bus system alone; an alternative system is needed, especially given the fact that the bus system cannot be expanded at this time. The rail will move approximately 95,000 people per day.
- 8) Financing – The federal government has \$900 million set aside for this rail project; however, the funds may be lost if the project doesn't have support again. Furthermore, plans for a rail project get more expensive every time and if not done this time, the plan will be much costlier next time it's considered.
- 9) Rail's Path – The project ~~only~~ begins with the corridor from Kapolei to Ala Moana; it will be extended later to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Waikiki.
- 10) Website – GRG's website is www.gorailgo.org.

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Questions, comments and concerns followed regarding GRG's presentation:

- 1) Ms. Hassenfratz's Credentials – Ms. Hassenfratz is a volunteer with GRG, receives no money for her services, and will receive no benefits if the rail project is successful. She has lived here for 18 months ~~so far~~, and ~~current~~ resides near the Down to Earth store in Kailua; she may make this her permanent home.
- 2) Ridership – The estimated 95,000 rail riders per day would not all be coming from Ewa Beach.
- 3) Financing – The application to request federal funding for the rail project required that the City show that it can afford to build and operate the rail project, and the application was approved.
- 4) General Excise (GE) Tax Increase – Ms. Hassenfratz will follow up on the limitations on how the money collected from the GE tax increase may be used, and on the total amount collected so far by the State.

- 5) Alternative Energy Sources – Hawaii mainly uses oil and diesel for most needs, and worry was expressed over operating empty trains using oil. If wind farms were greatly effective, then they could power homes. Gasoline consumption for motorists has already decreased 15%. The electricity price has doubled in the past two years (from 12.5 to 25 cents per kilowatt hour) for large users of energy. The prices have caused people to decrease their energy use and construction of a new power plant is being postponed. If rail is approved, then the power plant may have to be built sooner.
- 6) State History – Historically, Hawaii has had trouble building a stadium, and fixing sewers and potholes. It takes a great deal of time, effort and funds to build anything here.
- 7) Praise for Presenter – Ms. Hassenfratz was thanked for presenting to a "tough crowd" and congratulated for giving a professional presentation.

Stop Rail Now (SRN) – Dennis Callan distributed a brochure, and supplied the following information:

- 1) Charter Amendment Question No. 4 – Everyone was urged to vote "no" on charter amendment question no. 4 relating to the rail project.
- 2) Traffic Congestion – Congestion may worsen with the rail from 6% to 40% in the future. There's not enough space to add more lanes to current highways.
- 3) High Occupancy Toll Lanes (HOTlanes) – HOTlanes, which are extra lanes managed with a toll, can reduce traffic congestion levels by 60%. HOTlanes may only cost \$1 billion, instead of the possible \$6 billion price for the rail.
- 4) Financing – The \$900 million is not guaranteed, and nothing has been officially approved. With the downturn in the economy, it's possible that the federal funding may not be provided. Ultimately, the rail project may cost every household \$24,000.
- 5) Ridership – The current ridership of mass transit is 5%; the rail will increase the ridership to 7%. Some numbers indicate that 10,000 to 20,000 riders will be on the train at rush hour at best.
- 6) Political Considerations – SRN believes that the source of the rail project is the politicians and Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and so new politicians and a new mayor are needed.
- 7) Rail Ads – The City used taxpayer money to fund pro rail ads (said to be informational).
- 8) Board Support – The Board's support for SRN's position was requested.
- 9) Websites – SRN's websites are www.stoprailnow.com and www.honolulutraffic.com.

Questions, comments and concerns followed regarding SRN's presentation:

- 1) Ridership – The actual mass transit ridership is 5.9%; the increase of less than 2% with rail was questioned. It was explained that people take a while to use a new rail system and they like their cars. SRN questioned the estimate of 95,000 riders per day, and estimated that the riders will total 10,000 per hour at most, most likely 7,000 per hour, with only 14,000 total in the morning rush hour.
- 2) HOTlanes – Buses would also be allowed to travel in the HOTlanes along with cars. The HOTlanes would stretch for 10 miles from the H-1 and H-2 Freeway merge to Iwilei, with a connector to Hotel Street. Buses that need to go further than downtown will use King and Beretania Streets. The information being used in this presentation is from a study done by Dr. Panos Prevedouros, a UH professor of transportation engineering, and not only by UH students in his class. The City has stated that HOTlanes will cost \$2.7 billion, not the \$1 billion projected by Prevedouros's study. HOTlanes have a higher capacity than rail.
- 3) Rail Journey – There may be 20 segments to a future daily journey on the rail, and there may be too many transfers (from a bus to the rail then back to a bus, etc.).

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- 4) Mr. Callan's Credentials – Mr. Callan has been involved with NBs since their beginnings, and is in the transportation business. He leads tours in foreign countries and has ridden on 45 different mass transit systems; he supports rail in general, just not in Hawaii. Mr. Callan stated that there are special conditions that make him oppose rail in Hawaii, like the 10-times higher cost to build here than in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 5) Charter Amendment Question No. 4 – The legal battle SRN was engaged in to get their rail question on the ballot is over, but the public will still get a chance to vote on the rail project by voting on the charter amendment question no. 4 ("yes" for rail and "no" to stop rail). Legally, a majority of "no" votes on question no. 4 won't stop the rail, but it will most likely kill the project politically.
- 6) Rail Project Costs – So far, \$100 million has been spent for studies and preliminary engineering. It was pointed out that property tax may have to increase up to 40% to pay any shortfall in funding. The City estimates the rail project to cost \$3.7 billion for the first portion, whereas SRN estimates the cost to be \$6 billion. Parsons Brinckerhoff America, consultants for the rail project in Hawaii, was involved with the Big Dig in Boston which far overran cost estimates. The City stated that the increase in GE tax will cover the cost of building the rail, but Mayor Hannemann originally suggested collecting 1%. Mayor Hannemann wants to get the rail project started, since once a project is started, it's rarely abandoned.
- 7) General Excise (GE) Tax Increase – The legislature can change the law providing for the GE tax increase collection during the next session.
- 8) Energy Efficiency – Cars may be more energy efficient than rail systems.

Questions, comments and concerns regarding both presentations followed:

- 1) Mr. Callan's Disposition – Disappointment was expressed in the sarcasm shown by Mr. Callan, and a resident noted that he may cause people to support rail with his attitude.
- 2) Elevated Rail in Other Cities – A resident who grew up in the South Bronx in New York lived next to an elevated train, and it was very loud; in his experience the elevated trains attracted graffiti and crime. New York City has removed all of their elevated trains. The resident also lived in Charlotte, South Carolina, and the light rail system there was successful because the city is a central crossroads with train tracks and infrastructure already present; an example was given where Charlotte had no gasoline for an entire week, and yet rail ridership only increased to 13,000 people out of a total city population of 1.5 million. Another resident put forth that Hawaii is very small and therefore can't be compared to other cities.
- 3) Rail Development – Construction of the rail will worsen traffic for years; many came to Hawaii to escape from that kind of development. Many see the proposed rail as a cute train, but it may be enormous, and will most likely have 20 stops to its journey. The rail system may disrupt 200 businesses and residential areas.
- 4) Public Meetings – A resident attended the public meetings the City held on rail, and remarked that the representatives there didn't listen to all of those who spoke out against rail.
- 5) HOTlanes – In the Alternatives Analysis done by the City regarding transportation solutions, the information about HOTlanes was taken from the rough draft of Prevedouros's study, and so the study was inaccurate when it indicated that HOTlanes wouldn't work on Oahu.
- 6) Rail Costs – A resident objected to the money needed to have a rail system, and to the possible negative impacts on the environment. Another resident wanted to petition to get rebates from the GE tax increase.
- 7) Board Position – The Board was again asked to take a vote to oppose rail. It was explained that the purpose of these presentations was to allow the community to hear and comment on the information, and no action was specifically listed on the agenda (this Board usually takes action on committee recommendations only).

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (Quarterly) – Josh Wisch furnished the following information:

- 1) Economic Rescue Bill – Congresswoman Hirono has not yet decided how she'll vote on U.S. Senate Bill 1424, also known as the Economic Rescue bill. She studied the U.S. Senate package, noting the new provisions related to tax relief, renewable energy incentives, and an increase in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance for individual bank accounts (from \$100,000 to \$250,000). Congresswoman Hirono voted against the initial U.S. House bill because she felt it didn't go far enough to protect taxpayers and assist homeowners on the verge of foreclosure.
- 2) Stimulus Package – Congresswoman Hirono voted last week to support a stimulus package; if approved by the U.S. Senate and signed into law, the package includes \$221 million for local projects and programs. Of that money, \$137,904,876 will be used to repair highways, fund transit systems, and keep Hawaii's water clean. The package also provides for \$3 billion, nationwide, to repair crumbling schools, as well as to provide students with first class technology.
- 3) Return to Hawaii – Congresswoman Hirono hopes to be back in Hawaii for most of October 2008.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) aaa –
- 2) bbb –
- 3) ccc –
- 4) ddd –