



AIEA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 20

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

Stadium Proposal

Several years ago, the Stadium Authority presented a plan to our respective neighborhood boards and the 'Aiea Community Association to rebuild and revitalize Aloha Stadium and the surrounding property. Initially, we were skeptical of this plan due to the long history of problems with state-run projects. However, since that time, the Stadium team has kept clear and concise communication channels open with our boards and has kept our communities keenly aware of development plans, from initial planning to the present.

With that said, it was to our amazement that Governor Ige expressed the desire to move this effort from a public private partnership (PPP) to a state-run effort to be managed by DBEDT and seemingly certain members of the political establishment. At no time did the Governor's Office share with our communities their desire to go in a different direction.

Our communities, due to the communication and education provided by the Stadium Authority, have come to expect a redevelopment effort that will combine State, City, community leaders, and private business to provide a multitude of services. Services such as a new stadium to host sports events, an open-air concert venue, a sports-medicine school and a swap meet, as well as shops, restaurants, and most importantly, decent and affordable housing for our ohana.

Governor Ige's approach does not include these important services and instead focuses solely on getting a new, basic stadium built. There is no plan to include any of the other services outlined above, and the fear is that we will end up with what we have today: a stadium that serves an occasional concert, University of Hawaii football games, a swap meet and a once-a-year fair. A diminished capacity stadium will not be able to attract revenue generating events unless we can sweeten the pot for our partners upfront. That's a significant amount of resources and space to provide so little in return. In addition, Governor Ige's decision does not address affordable housing, whereas the current PPP plan incorporates upwards of 4,000 affordable and mixed-income units. This is a significant oversight on the part of Governor Ige and those that support his decision.

Time is money when it comes to the stadium PPP development, roughly \$25 million has already been spent on moving forward with a comprehensive plan. That money has not been wasted. From the expenditure of those funds there is a concrete plan that has been put forth that addresses all the needs of our communities to include parking, noise, traffic, sewer services and many other issues. That PPP plan has been developed into two Requests for Proposal (RFP) and will be actively bid on from private businesses to include those from within our communities. Governor Ige's decision puts all that in jeopardy and will force a start over, which causes even more delays and more money to be spent to get us back to the spot we are currently in today.

With that said, it is the position of our three respective organizations that we do not approve of "a design to build a stand-alone stadium" taken by Governor Ige. Our recommendation is to continue down the current path that has been established over several years of discussion between community members, community leaders, the City and County of Honolulu, the State legislature, and the Stadium Authority. This process has allowed and will continue to allow an open dialogue in addressing cultural



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concerns not taken into account when the “ALOHA” stadium was first built. That PPP plan will continue to take all of the concerns of the stakeholders into account and address them. Anything different at this point would be going against the wishes of our communities and only fulfill the self-interests of people who do not have the well-being of our residents and kupunas at heart.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Wood, Chairman

Adopted by Aiea Neighborhood Board No.20 at its Monday, November 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting; 11-2-0