

'Aiea Community Association

September 18, 2023

www.aieacommunity.org

This meeting was virtually conducted via Go To Meetings and at the 'Aiea Library
7 pm, 'Aiea, O'ahu

- I. **In Attendance:** Sherry Cassetta, Pat Beekman, Laurie Chang, Dan Dinell, David DePonte, Ronald Fitch, David Harris, Jordon Higa, Karen Higa, Joanne Iritani, Chris Kinimaka, Kehaulani Lum, Lance Maja, Bettina Mehnert, Kimberly Mills, Susan Morishige, Mavis Niino, Thomas Quattlebaum, Olivia Poblacion, Jeff Ramsey, Lydia Robertson, Erin & Jason Salvador, Lynn Sari, Robert Sato, Garner Shimizu, Samantha Spain, Meredith Speicher, Wayne Takara, Claire Tamamoto
- II. **Secretary's Minutes:** no report, posted on website
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** no report
- IV. **Mass Transit/HART:** Claire stated Johnny Reid not available tonight. See construction Notice flyer on ACA website. Can review HART Board meetings on HART website. There should be 4 handouts sent via email.
- V. **Aloha Stadium:** Samantha Spain reported the first Mega Bon exceeded expectations. Much higher response attended, about 12,000 people in attendance. The Skyline stayed open later to accommodate the crowd. Concerns regarding the noise at Aiea Neighborhood meeting. Want to come back next year with a larger production. Food concessions to be rearranged and noise mitigation will be applied. Great event.
More cars being parked in the bus lot across the street from the Skyline station for employee parking for construction at Pearl Harbor. Upcoming events: This Saturday Rebel Solider by TMR events that did past three concerts; Swap meet partnered with Hawaii Blood Bank on October 22 8am-2pm. Free admission to donors, appointments being taken now, chance to win a vendor basket for donors. Looking to do this every couple of weeks. Habilidadat Halloween Drive Thru beginning October 6, Friday, Saturday, Sundays, ticket info available online at alohastadium@hawaii.gov.
Clarified that parking is corner area of Salt Lake Blvd. and Kam Hwy. Mega Bon date return not yet decided; prefer not on August 26 as this is Aiea Hongwanji's Obon. Noise complaint was early, maybe the taiko drumming. Most likely will be at lower Halawa lot. Could Aloha Stadium be used as a feed for Keiki and Kupuna food bank?
- VI. **NASED:** Chris Kinimaka reported the market sounding efforts have been completed. Aloha Stadium and Entertainment District would be combined into one contract. Feedback discussion with industry done. Market study on the website. Primary concern is financial feasibility. Updating market analysis and hope to start procurement before the end of year with completion by 2028 football season.

September Stadium newsletter shared. Support Maui links available; project update of market soundings and key steps to take place; meeting with City Council coming up, so FAQs on city zoning; highlights of what is going on at the Stadium and upcoming events; what happened in history; Site visit to Loko Pa'aiiau; and Surveys coming up regarding the newsletter were included in the monthly newsletter. Website is Nased.hawaii.gov to review or sign up for the newsletter. <https://nased.hawaii.gov/e-newsletter/>

Civil Beat article discussed. Appears to be positive, discussed renewable energy: solar panels, onsite battery storage, generating energy for the community; the development as an investment; and seeing the area as a storytelling vessel to teach the world. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/09/lets-build-an-aloha-stadium-we-can-be-proud-of/>

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- VII. **Loko Pa'aiau:** Claire reported that there has been challenges to the proposed dredging. May need to do it manually. Trying to move forward with the drydock project.
- VIII. **Makalapa Park Project:** Meredith and Olivia from Trees for Honolulu shared the Heat Island Investigators has received an environmental justice grant to focus on urban heat and canopy cover. There are two project sites in our community: the 'Aiea Intermediate School and the Makalapa Park that were studied during Spring 2022-Summer 2023. Working with youth to engage, study the benefits of trees, environmental exploration of trees. Mapping, identifying, and collecting data on trees. Studies of trees and heat maps created by children. Data collected went into the Citizen Forestry Data base. Children had an opportunity to voice their concerns, identified, research, and came up with plans to improve the canopy with a planting plan to cool the campus. Native species proposed to be planted, 20 native trees/shrub planted at 'Aiea Intermediate. Makalapa was an afterschool program. One of the youth's made a video of his experience there and his recommendations. Partnership with Meredith of National Parks, Rivers Conservation program. Making Park safer. Park will be one of the few potential green space of the area. Survey done to reach out to community members. Park is used a lot, but conditions were not great. Reactivate and revitalize the park with PACT. After school programs to learn about possibilities of their park. Architecture School from UH came to help community envision their park. Back to School event held on August 4th, about 100 community members attended. Noah's video shared the shortcomings of the park, the tree study and mapping, and the youths hope to improve the park with trees. For Noah's video to watch/share: <https://youtu.be/ykYJEgoiq7o> . Goal is to have a community group for the long term. Friends of Makalapa Neighborhood Park to be created, see website for more info. Has there been community buy in for the Park improvements, as this is a tough neighborhood and has internal community challenges. meredith_speicher@nps.gov , 808-594-9113; ddinell@treesforhonolulu.org AND opoblacion@treesforhonolulu.org SEE: <https://www.treesforhonolulu.org/heat-island-investigators/> Hope to work with the City for large trees and plant care. Radiant's Office has been working with the community and as the plans become finalized, may seek support for proposals such as funding projects. Last Thursday night, the lights came back on. Don't expect it to be major capital expenses for the City. Info on our website. Claire shared that the 'Aiea Intermediate field has been the same for years and needs more trees. Sherry shared that the Intermediate school grew their own trees and 20 trees were planted. JoAnne shared that Police support should be there for the Parks as it attracts all kinds of people.
- IX. **Loko Pa'aiau:** Kehau shared there were about 45 visitors to the pond from Sri Lanka and Pu'uwai Momi. Next community workday is October 7, Saturday. Also 'Ohana Day for 'Aiea Hongwanji. In November large group of YMCA armed services and Ewa Dream House School to visit. Working with the Navy and NAVFAC on revising the MOU. There are discussions of restoring the entire fishpond wall and dredging the pond in addition to other mitigation projects, including lo'i kalo. Every Friday meeting about that. Possibility that the Hawai'i Voyaging Canoe be steward at Pearl Harbor.

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- XIII. **'Aiea Neighborhood Board:** Very busy, filled vacancies with at large seats for two-year terms. Three new members that are former members: Jane Sugimura, William Clark, and Russell Tsuji. Care home with 16 beds in nine-bedroom house were a concern to the neighbors, Board did not support the conditional use permit. Permit still at DPP, even tho there was opposition at the Neighborhood Board, only one individual came forward to attend but there was no additional testimony. Next hearing on October 2nd. hearing notice: <https://www.honolulu.gov/dpp/dpp-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2023/10/02/19418/1286/public-hearing-for-halawa-care-home-2-llc.html>
Would be great if local issues could be discussed in the local community. Can the Neighborhood Board submit the minutes of the meeting as the testimony. Neighborhood Board needs to take that action. Written testimony is accepted, doesn't need to be in person. Neighborhood Board is advisory to the City. Include the application # when submitting testimony.
- XIV. **Nominations Committee:** Need to appoint a nominating committee tonight. Joanne, Kehau and any other volunteers to this committee. Contact JoAnne or Kehau if you would like to volunteer. Committee is to develop a slate of nominations to the ACA. 2 meetings in October proposed.
Book Sale: November 18th. Friday night set up on the 17th at 5pm. 18th is the book sale at 9am-2pm on Saturday. Volunteers welcomed.
- XV. **Parade:** Karen reported that the Parade will be on December 9, 2023. Same route as before. Blood Drive on the same day at the library. Would like people to sign up for appointments. QR code will be put on website.
Email Karen at Aieaparade@yahoo.com with ideas for the parade and fun fair. Applications on the ACA website. Fun Fair is a community event.
Need to reach out to 'Aiea High School and Intermediate. Now there may not be a marching band at 'Aiea High School. Tree project presentation or the Intermediate Band may participate.
UH Medical School may do health screening at the Fun Fair. Thomas first Tuesday, 730am of the month, walk with the doctor at the Neal Blaisdell Park.
- XI. **OSCC:** Bettina reported the cost of the new jail may be \$937 million. Increase of 34% due to manufacturing shortage and supply chain issues. Costs is expected to level out. The loss of construction workers has stressed the labor market. The war in Ukraine has led to material shortages and destabilized the energy market. Our construction industry is small and isolated and susceptible to any impact.
This project has not yet entered the adjustment phase yet. The longer we wait, the higher the price goes up. In 5 years, the cost increased \$7 million per month. 3.5 million per month expected to go up for the next couple if years. Labor costs have also gone up. The financing and maintenance model for the project is a Public Private Partnership.
- XII. Robert Sato reported that Councilmember Cordeiro's report is on the ACA website. Looking for a stakeholder's advisory group representative; There will be a Pearl Harbor Bikeway clean up, Aiea Kai to Neal Blaisdell Park on Saturday, October 28 from 8 to 10:30am: For the Aiea area: the locations are Aiea Bay State Recreation Area, Aiea Kai Way, behind Best Buy, and Neal Blaisdell Park. For more information or to sign up, contact Kyle at kyle.tokuda@honolulu.gov.

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Bills 50/51 regarding TODs passed hearings and should be on the agenda on October 4 at Kapolei Hale. Response with DPP regarding the lack of community cultural input for the Skyline improvements. Claire noted that more cars are being parked along 'Aiea Heights Drive and individuals running across the street. Cars are blocking views of the street and cars. Very dangerous. What can be done to alleviate this matter? At Kihewa/Kealakaha Dr. Turo business may be running in area from two homes. Cars parked in area may be rental vehicles.

XIII. Announcements:

See agenda.

October 10 Neighborhood Board meeting will be hybrid.

September 27 Aiea Town Hall Meeting regarding Housing and Homelessness at Pearlridge Elementary School.