

‘Aiea Community Association

March 17, 2025

www.aieacommunity.org

This meeting was virtually conducted via Go To Meetings at the ‘Aiea Library, ‘Ewa, O‘ahu 7:00 pm

- I. **In Attendance:** Piia Aarma, Cecilia B, Sherry Cassetta, Laurie Chang, Loren Chang, Ken Chong, Raquel Cloma-Navy Region Hawai‘i, T. Fernandez, Gina Garcia Hee, Chris Gaydosh-AHL/OCCL, David Harris, Isaac, Jordon Higa, Karen Higa, Cathi Ho Schar, Joanne Iritani, Ati Jeffers-Fabro, Chris Kinimaka, Questor Lau, Creesha Layaoen, Kehaulani Lum, Melanie Martin, Dean Matsumura, Bettina Mehnert-AHL, Susan Morishige, Vernon Ong, Jeff Ramsey-Crawford Arch. NASED, Sho, Samantha Spain-Aloha Stadium, Claire Tamamoto, Sally Tamai DAGS/OCCC, Desiree Woodman-NCTF-Red Hill, members from EAH, 3 unidentified persons in attendance (sound was off, could not hear their names)

- II. **Secretary minutes** for February have been posted. Take a look if corrections needed, please send an email.

Treasurers Report: There is a balance of \$22,226.08; there were 2 transactions: A check to Safety Systems for \$1,749.28; and a donation of 125 for the Parade. The Friends of Aiea Library: No change to balance.

- III. **Neighborhood Watch-** Wayne not present, no report.

- IV. **UH CDC Final Report:** Melanie Martin from the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation introduced Cathi Ho Schar. Cathi introduced team members: Creesha, Dean and Vernon from the University Community Design Center. They are concluding their 2-year report entitled: Breaking Cycles: Alternative Models for Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on Oahu that is available on their website. Highlights were present to the ACA.

To recap, the jail is being relocated from Kalihi to the Animal Quarantine Site in Halawa. Jail is short term less than a year sentence, pretrial or probation.

The Design members engaged people about both system reform and facility design. Highlights of the Presentation include:

Key Concepts of System Reform: Adopt a public health perspective, prevention as early as possible, strengthen diversion, align supportive housing options, and community partnered reentry.

Key Concepts of Facility Planning: gather more research, establish a new mission, vision, values, function, create a new identity, start correctional culture change now, require qualifications that include local knowledge and lived experience, continue community engagement, plan for different population scenarios, build community partnerships, leverage federal funding, design for health and well-being of individuals, staff, and community

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The decarceration model focuses on Prevention, Diversion and Corrections. A number of programs were illustrated locally and nation wide. For the focus on health, a trauma informed design was described for prisoners and staff with clutural based knowledge prescribed.

Thre were a number of community engagement events over the two-year period that included talk stories, site visits, listening workshops, symposiums, exhibits, workshops and community meetings.

As part of curating a new identity, Hawaiian practioners of the community were consulted and the name Ke Ala Ho'oponopono I Waikahi was proposed with a cultural design framework. A number of design elements were suggested. Ritual and practice design was described in relation to spaces.

Rehabilitation programs to cultivate skills are proposed that includes art and music, learning about sustainability, and educational job training. Restorative landscapes were suggested for health benefits. The website is <https://www.breaking-cycles-symposium.org/> . Mahalo to all the community members that helped with the report.

Community comments/questions: Mahalo for all your hard work. DCR hopes to work together with UH Design Center. How do the recommendations get into the final jail? Will work with DAGS so that as many recommendations are within the RFP. DAGS and Architect Hawaii will work to implement the designs to the best of their ability.

- V. Aloha ia Halewaliko:** Questor Lau of EAH gave an update. Most recently the retaining wall above the project has big cracks from the Library side to the site. City is looking into it. The City removed the Plumeria Trees and it is believed that the City will be repairing the wall so landscaping will be done in the future when the wall is stabilized. Construction of the facility is expected to be completed in July /August.

We need to put the City on a timetable to repair the wall or have the wall reconstructed. Hau has been chosen for landscaping as the roots are not aggressive. The community is very upset regarding the removal of the plumeria trees as the trees have been on the site for 60 years, was a resting spot for shade and the flowers are used to make lei. The trees were endeared.

There was no communication. Had there been a dialogue, this would not have happened. Andy expressed his frustration regarding the project from the height, to trees, to the height of light poles. EAH will continue to manage the site and they are not going away. Claire spoke to the contractor that cut the trees and they said the City hired them.

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EAH has not been communication with the community. The surrounding residents are disappointed. No one from the City was present. Claire to speak to Councilperson Radiante's Office regarding the cutting of the trees.

Regarding lighting, EAH is waiting on HECO for power. Bollard, low to the ground lighting is proposed in the back (front). Tour of the property on Thursday March 20 at 4pm. Property Supervisor Gina to oversee site staff.

Gina Garcia was introduced and explained how applications will be accepted. Will be opening the wait list on April 15 and will be accepting applications to April 30. There will be a Lottery on May 9 online at 11 am. All applicants encouraged to apply online or applicants could call (808) 556-5531 to get a hard copy application. All this info is available on the website at eah.housing.org/apartments/org. Telephone calls will be returned within 24 hours. People on interest list will be given the online application address to apply.

To be eligible for the lottery, an application must be received by April 30. The application will be reviewed to ensure applicant is compliant with requirements. Questions is there any preference given to Aiea or Oahu? No there isn't due to Fair Housing. In house staff will evaluate applications.

Request that aid be offered to seniors to help fill in the application.

GET APPLICATION IN BY APRIL 30. Lottery will determine order to process applications. Suggestions made to change language used such as eliminate the word "priority". Question regarding if the rent of the units are available? Proposed rent is online but subject to change. 45-day notice given regarding rent change. Federal cuts should not affect project.

ACA looking to fund a Park would EAH be willing to help fund the Park as we recently lost our federal grant. Hope to work with seniors to help maintain the Park lot trees. Lanikila to run community programs.

What is the AMI being used? 30 /50/60. As residents move on, the AMI will be retained to fill vacancies.

Parking: 95 parking spaces and 140 Units. One parking stall per unit. Studio up to 2 people and 1 bedroom up to 3 people. Are there any contingencies for parking? Details are still being worked out. At full capacity, there are 300 persons.

There will be an onsite property manager. Security cameras will be in place. Resource Coordinator on staff to help residents obtain resources. Hoping to create a one stop shop for seniors to go to as it is overwhelming for Seniors to find the proper services and resources.

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Would it be possible for someone from the ACA to meet with the property manager to build relations? Claire will make herself available. EAH is expected to come to the next ACA meeting.

- VI. Aloha Stadium/NASED:** Samantha stated that the Girl Scouts Cookie distribution went well on February 20, over 300,000 boxes of cookies distributed. In March, construction of Upper Halawa lot has begun to relocate the Swap Meet. FoodBank donations may be made at the Swap Meet. Donate a dollar, can good drive and selling of t-shirts all taking place this month. There are events at 10-1 on Sundays; March 30 donation drive and rummage sell at 8B and 14C with all proceeds going to the FoodBank. More info on the website: alohastadium.hawaii.gov

Question Will there be coordination for food sustainability? Not yet being organized. However there will be a gun buyback in April.

Regarding NASED, Chris shared one big mahalo for the community outreach participation. Responses to questions posed will be on the website: nased.hawaii.gov. Bills HB1494, SB1589 regarding funding SB583 regarding naming rights, SB891 regarding a Tourism and Gaming Working Group to study the potential affects and implementation of gaming in Hawaii. Question regarding no community representative on the Working Group. ACA testified to include a community member. Original Bill had 3 seats for the public, current Bill does not. There should be a seat for Aiea. Encouraged to watch the Bill as it progresses and to submit testimony.

- VII. Environmental Community Concerns:** A Civil Beats Article regarding freshwater springs was discussed regarding the value of spring water conservation; and also a Bishop Museum article about the Aiea plant. Both articles should be on our website.

ACA comments were submitted regarding the SMA removal of restrictions for development along the Pearl Harbor shoreline.

A grant, Malama O Paakea O Waimalu, from the Cooke Foundation to support the study of the Royal Fishponds of Puuloa has been awarded. Jordon will be doing the study and a space in the Aiea Hongwanji has been secured for him to conduct his work.

Feral Chickens: Meeting with the government contractors on March 21, 8:30 am at the Library for government properties.

- VII. 'Aiea Intermediate SPROUTS Project:** Sherry shared her work with the students of 'Aiea Intermediate School regarding the Agricultural Technology Program Sustainable SPROUTS: **S**eeding **P**otential **R**ooted in **O**pportunities

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Understanding agriculture Tending to growth and **Skills** for the future not only in the garden but in academics and socially also.

Three ways this is taught is through aquaponics, hydroponics, and in ground growing. Bok Choi and Swiss Chard grown and shared with school. Examples of how to infuse vegetables in recipes shared with students.

Examples of how the agricultural technology program is integrated in school studies discussed along with the sharing of crops. Literacy thru gardening and scientific concepts of photosynthesis and pollination are examples of integration.

Maringa processing was used as an example to demonstrate how to get to the marketplace to sell their products. Maringa is used to make pasta and tea. Other schools are involved with the marketplace to sell their products The online market is from March 1-31 and also sold at the KCC Marketplace. Maringa pasta and Maringa powder will be sold there by 3 students with Sherry.

Sherry noted several projects created thru the program:

- Campus beatification projects also being done by students that help develop skills in working together and caring for the land. Brown areas on the school campus have been beautified.
- Native tree planting also occurring on campus.
- A pollinator garden has been created that supplement students interest
- vermicasting (worm poop) being created to support the plants.
- Card game on native trees noted as Kumulaau developed by students that are being sold at various shops and Foster Botanical Garden.

In addition, the students are working with Webling Elem Environmental Club to develop Malama Aina and sharing their knowledge. Also working with Aiea High School and Aiea Recreation Center. There are many supporters of the SPROUTS program.

In the near future, Monkey Pod trees will be received from the Stadium. Requesting help to clear land for tree planting.

Question regarding continuing the program in the High School. There is no Ag program in Aiea High School, feel free to request a program in the High School but also need teacher commitment and support for the program. Students can continue their skills at Pa'aiau and as the community grows its program, students can continue their skills here also. Very good work!

VIII. Navy Matters/Concerns: Raquel gave us some updates, Navy volunteers repainted curbs in Sand Island Park. There are monthly ship tours usually one tour per month and also the White tour around Pearl Harbor. For those

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interested please feel free to reach out to Raquel. Coming up is the Aiea Bike path clean up on April 19 at Blaisdell Park.

Desiree shared information regarding the Navy Closure Task Force. There was an Open House on March 12 and the Task Force will continue to have open house every quarter or people may attend a webinar. Air quality monitoring and other reports are located on their website. There is also a podcast with Admiral Williams with updated events. Trying different ways to communicate to the public.

Drydock: looking for former workers to do oral history.

Question: Regarding the chaos at the Federal level, will mitigation and vigilance at Red Hill stand? Commitment from the people here appear to be in place.

- IX. Friends of Makalapa Park** There will be a virtual meeting on Wednesday 10am and a meeting at the PACT room at 4pm. Contact Ati for more info.
- X. Membership:** No updates on membership, received a lifetime membership today.
- XI. Library Booksale:** Karen explained the Booksale will be March 29, 9am-2pm in the Library Program Room. Looking for volunteers to set up 4/28 starting at 4pm and take down after 2pm.
- XII. MISC:** Need a date to move the books as a resident has a room in a home to store the 'Aiea books.

Link about the 442nd website to get reinstated to be put on the website. Website has been defunded. Jill Tokuda that appears to be the lead regarding this matter is having a Town Hall meeting tomorrow night at Baldwin High School and April 5, at Waianae.

Dept of Environmental Services will be discussing sewer fee increases on March 20 at Wright Wahiwa District Park.

Moanalua Town Meeting with Councilmember Cordero and Donna Kim on March 25.

April 8 'Aiea Neighborhood Board Meeting

April 21 'Aiea Community Association Meeting

Pa'aiau fishpond federal volunteers were let go by the feds. Have been asked by National Park Services to help with a coloring book. Mahalo to Radiante for working with us regarding a cultural space. Next reading for the PUC is in April.

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Links on the ACA Website discussed:

- [Care of Honolulu’s Freshwater Springs A Shared Responsibility, by Andrew J. Lewis, Honolulu Civil Beat, February 26, 2025](#)
- [Aloha Iā Halewilikō](#)
- [Hawaii Agricultural Foundation – Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace – ‘Aiea Intermediate School products \(Agricultural Technology Program, S.P.R.O.U.T.S.\)](#)