‘Aiea Community Association
September 21, 2026
www.aieacommunity.org

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

I. **Introductions/Attendance:** Raquel Cloma, Ron Fitch, Brian Forsythe, Ati Jeffers-Fabro, Tessie Fernandez, Jordon Higa, Karen Higa, Tony Itoman, Andy Kaufman, Chris Kinimaka, Justin Lui, Kehaulani Lum, Melanie Martin, Phil Mok, Susan Morishige, Lance Rabacal, Brittany S [Rep. Shimizu’s Office], John and Sheryl Sakuma, Samantha Spain, Wayne Suzuki, Sally Tamai, Claire Tamamoto, Tina Tamaru

Prior to any discussions, and as stated in the agenda, Claire brought up and restated:

The Aiea Community Association’s Mission and Focus Statement:

a. To promote the common interests and the general welfare of the residents, business, and visitors of Aiea; and
b. To engage in community development activities (which may include housing and economic development activities) which are intended to lead to an improvement of the physical, economic or social environment of its geographic area of operation by addressing one or more of the critical problems of the area with attention to the needs of persons with low income. These activities shall be undertaken primarily, but not exclusively, in the Corporation's geographic area of operation.

Claire recently attended a workshop for organizations. Sometimes need to refocus on intent of the organization. When we restated our by-laws in 2017? 18? Our mission/focus was updated.

II. **Secretary Minutes:** Minutes can be reviewed online. If there are any corrections, please let us know.

III. **Treasurer's Report:** From the agenda:
Income: 14 books sold: $350 Membership: $180.00
Expenses: T-shirts: $171.39 Printing: $576.00
Balance: $35,524.42

IV. **Friends of Makalapa Park:** Ati Jeffers Fabro stated that the Makalapa Park Hui was invited to present at the Schools of the Future Conference on October 22 at the Hilton. Working with Sherry, 3 students to present. Noah will be helping, as you may recall, he created a video of how the Park needs to be restored and revitalized. Discussion on how the Hui motivated students within the Aiea complex to care for their community, started with the Park, tree planting, hope ACA can partner with the Hui for this presentation. More info will be given at the next ACA meeting.

Met with Councilperson Cordero that introduced the new Managing Director, Krishna Jayaram, to them. Several community members were there along with some Parks staff. Community insights on what the Park is all about and the different challenges [electric bikes] present to City. Message is clear that the Park is needed to incorporate green spaces with City infrastructure (Skyline). Good meeting with Parks, stated they could work with the Hui for an Inspired Play playground design and how to capitalize on CIP funding, so funding does not lapse. Also looking at tables, benches and water fountain. Would like communities’ opinion regarding the Park and connecting to skyline. Managing Director aware of shortage of playing fields for sports practice.

Questions: How can glass be removed from playing fields? Unsure.
Are there organizations that have requested to use the field? Heard of potential users need to have conversations with them.
Is there security? No, still defining needs and would like to know how Park can be of benefit to the community. Need ideas and support. Parking is a challenge there and this is a Neighborhood Park. Pathways from Skyline, Pearl Harbor Historic Trail and NASED need to be explored.

Who owns the HCAP Building as it could be utilized for the community? The children are playing in the streets.
Will the Park be actively staffed? No, there is a roving crew that services Parks. We need to build our relations with this staff.

V. **Aiea Intermediate School:** Wayne shared AIS received a $5,000 grant for an intergenerational program. Created a raised bed of vegetables. AIS would like to build better relations with the community, and the Senior Housing folks would also like to work with the students to plant their gardens.

Agro-Forestry planting to start soon under the Office of Climate Champions.

VI. **Trees of Hawaii Grant:** 40 trees are proposed to be planted at the ‘Aiea Interim Park beginning on:
October 5 - The area will be marked for the location of the trees.
October 6 - Contractors will be coming in to dig holes and then refill the dirt.
October 9 and 10 – Tree planting takes place and a backup date.
Participants will get bento and free t-shirt commemorating the event. Sign up via: https://forms.gle/qGHzJdPF1NBKTDZ79 Families are welcomed - we ask that all children be 12 years old or over and a parent/guardian be on site to work with them.

What a great experience to come back 10, 20, 30+ years from now and say "I planted this tree". You'll be helping transform a barren, forlorn City-owned land on the old ‘Aiea Sugar Mill site, with a plan that is keeping with 'Aiea Community Association's vision for a community center on the site in the future. And if you

know someone who might enjoy getting their hands in the dirt with us, please share this invitation! We ask for commitments by September 23, so we properly plan resources. Don’t worry if you are past that date! Mahalo for helping grow a greener O’ahu.
Claire discussed tree planting with football team as the team may be potential volunteers. Also asked if other volunteers are interested. The field has been divided into quadrants for maintenance of the trees. Andy’s students have signed up as volunteers. Would like to name the trees, there may be laws regarding signs on trees. Long term maintenance of the trees will be under the City.
Potential that ‘Aiea trees to be planted? Hard to find, call into a Maui nursery.
Andy will be the point person for ACA. Mahalo!

VII. **Aloha lā Halewilikō:** No report given

VIII. **Aloha Stadium:** Sam shared that the construction wall artwork will occur. 6 groups and community day on Saturday, September 26, 8-3pm to create little dots that create the picture of leis. Looking at 100 people/time slot.

NASED: Justin shared that there are 3 cranes on the job. Hope to finish demolition on the North side by end of September and then need to complete the south side. There was minimal disruption to the site with the storms. Demolition still on track to finish by the end of November. Design development to start soon. Schematic design complete. HECO challenges still working through it, found site for a substation, may require a supplemental EIS.
RISE Bill, Question #2, white paper done https://hipa.org/hipa-infrastructure-series/, will do presentation to neighborhood boards if asked. Will be in newsletter.
This site describes what the bonds could be used for: https://ballotpedia.org/Hawaii_Authorize_Resilient_Infrastructure_for_Shelter_and_Equity_(RISE)_Bonds_Amendment_(2026) .
Concern regarding TIP projects.
Updates, questions and concerns: alohastadium@hawaii.gov
**There will be individual seating and no bench seating.
What part of the end zones will be reused? The concrete structures will be saved; steel structures above will be dismantled.
When is groundbreaking for new Stadium? Not yet, Q1 or Q2 of next year.
Committee be able to give feedback on design? When? Design has been shared with Stadium Authority and Agencies.

IX. **OCCC:** Tessie introduced Lance Rabacal, Acting Warden at OCCC. Nothing to report. Inquiry about if there is a program to do community work? Warden will bring up with Department. Asked if would like to participate in tree planting and the parade.

X. Friends of ‘Aiea Public Library – Karen thanked everyone for helping with the book sale, as it was a great success. From the agenda: “Thank you all who helped:

Sales from books on library shelves 880.50, Library Sales 847.50, Membership 10, K-pop revenues 72 = Total Revenues $1,810.00.”

XI. **Christmas Parade:** The application is on the website. Parade is the same route, need to discuss the end. Wayne volunteered for the Fun Fair. Nancy will work with crafters; there may be a fee. Food truck, blood mobile, looking at more communication like a meeting 2 weeks prior. Send Karen an email if any ideas. Meeting with the City to take place soon. Looking for options for an early restroom. Flyers going out now.

XII. **Ma’ona Project:** (biocultural space in ‘Aiea) – Update Legacy Land Conservation Program’s application for Fiscal Year 2027 Land Acquisition Grant has been submitted. Envisioned in 2024, looking at a conservation easement. Trust for Public Lands will hopefully be helping us with this acquisition. We should have a meeting to envision what we want. The process is competitive however we have strong support. Now we must wait and see.
Loko Pa‘aiau: 26 years requested access; 12 years working with the Navy; in 2 years mitigation should be finish. Access for malama ‘aina, usually on Fridays and other days. Email: ealapaaiau@gmail.com; for more info on the fishpond: paaiau.org. Be amazed at what we can all do together!

There will be a PBS documentary on Lost Fishponds next month.

XIII. **Navy Matters/Concerns:** Raquel Cloma shared the Navy weekly moolelo is out along with the Red Hill highlights, both are on the website. The Red Hill Closure Task Force recently had a community event at the West Oahu Veterans Center. We have a new Rear Admiral, Rich Jarrett.
Comments on use of watercrafts and request for update for Drydock 5, of which the fishpond dredging project is compensatory mitigation.

XIV. **Community Concerns:**
Is there a right way and a wrong way to restore a fishpond? At one time there was 900-acres of fishponds in Pearl Harbor, now there is just 6-acres of which is Pa‘aiau. Fish and aquatic species are returning. John use to catch Nehu on Ford Island. Need to gather these stories.

Can we be more proactive? Close parking lots to decrease loitering, tag cars with outdated info that is not in compliance. What is our town’s plan for fire control? Will ask at the Neighborhood Board meeting.

The street has been improved by the ‘Aiea Shopping Center. Increase of people turning left here.

XV. **Representative Report:** Brittany from Representative Shimizu’s Office reported that Representative’s newsletter has information regarding the constitutional

amendments. The Pearl City Police Station has notified Representative’s Office that abandoned vehicles may not be removed as facilities are overwhelmed. Information regarding Elderly Affairs was sent to Aloha Iā Halewilikō.

XVI. Announcements: See agenda