



DOWNTOWN-CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OFFICE • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HI, 96817
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REGULAR MEETING WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR VIDEO RECORD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

PRINCESS RUTH KE'ELIKŌLANI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA – 1302 QUEEN EMMA STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813
AND VIA WEBEX TELECONFERENCING

Video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkZpKdfEYAO>

Reports & other meeting materials can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

I. **CALL TO ORDER – [0:00:03]**: 6:00 p.m.

Chair Ernest Carvalho called the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Quorum was established with seven (7) members present.** Note: This nine-member Board requires five (5) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Robert Armstrong, Ernest Carvalho, Ross Isokane, Lori McCarney, Kevin McDonald, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Laura Sturges, Sean Fitzsimmons (arrived at 6:09 p.m.) and Kevin Lye (arrived at 6:18 p.m.)

Members Absent: None

Guests: Fire Captain Mark Bates (Honolulu Fire Department); Sergeant Freeman (HPD); Ian Santee (Mayor Rick Blangiardi); Jack Truesdale (Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam); Payton Haygood (Senator Karl Rhoads); Kate Ozawa and Kim Coco Iwamoto (House District 25 Representative); Chris Fong (Tradewind Capital); Rick Schneider (Events International); Sandra Pohl (Downtown Art Center); Maribell Pablan (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation); Patrick Watson (Frank V. Coluccio Construction); Lee Stack (Chinatown Improvement District); Ronald Higa (Liliha Neighborhood Board No.14); Nicole Reid, Angie Rain, Lorinda Rov, Ben Dookchitra, Kristen Allspan, Deborah King, Cardenas Pintor, Randall Jadulang (Residents); Camilia Epa Gomes (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Note: Name was not included if not legible. There were 40 total attendees.**

II. **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS – [0:02:25]**

Honolulu Fire Department – [0:01:16]: Fire Captain Bates provided the report and shared the monthly statistics for January 2025. The safety tip for the month is in regards to power outage preparedness.

- Report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17f9Rt7GqPr9LbNv0bTspgV9fqAAIswUs/view?usp=drive_link

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:03:08]

Honolulu Police Department – [0:05:44]: Sergeant Freeman provided the report and shared the monthly statistics for January 2025.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:07:11]

Member Fitzsimmons joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.; 8 members present.

Member Lye joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.; 9 members present.

III. **PRESENTATIONS – [0:20:42]**

Potential establishment of a Business Improvement District (“BID”) for Downtown Honolulu – [0:21:26]: Chris Fong (Tradewind Capital) shared a presentation on an initiative to create a BID Downtown to address safety, cleanliness, and community enhancement. Mr. Fong highlighted the following: proposed boundaries of a Downtown Honolulu BID; common services of a BID; Fort Street Mall Business Improvement District; Waikiki Business Improvement District; and how a BID is created.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:30:00]

Saint Patrick’s Day Block Party – [0:55:48]: Rick Schneider (Events International) shared an announcement that the famous block party will be back this year. The event setup will be the same as how it was done in previous years. The event will be on Monday, March 17,

2025 (St. Patrick's Day) and take place on the blocks between the intersection of Merchant St. and Nu'uuanu Ave. The event will start at 6:00 p.m. and officially end at 10:00 p.m.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:57:17]

Annual HEART of Honolulu Street Festival – [1:05:45]: Sandra Pohl (Downtown Art Center) first shared about the “Guitars and Plein Air in the Park” event that will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Park (1041 Bethel St.). The event is free for the public and there will be live music and a plein air painting competition. The second event is the annual HEART of Honolulu Street Festival that will be on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The festival is a free family friendly event that will take place on Nu'uuanu Ave. from King St. to Chaplain Lane. There will be arts, crafts, live music, food and creative local vendors, as well as make-and-take art activities for everyone.

- HEART of Honolulu Street Festival Map: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NjzAWF1avOKfO6Ya-2Pxx3sLTVX7SehW/view?usp=drive_link

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:07:40]

Member Shubert-Kwock left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.; 8 members present.

V. PUBLIC CONCERNS – [1:09:00]:

Healthy Active Aging Fair – (1:09:40): Cardenas Pintor, representing Project Dana announced an event open to the public to attend and collect resources for healthy active aging. The event will be on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at Jikoen Hongwanji Okinawa Memorial Hall (1731 N. School St.) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be presentations, speakers, and resources from various local organizations.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:11:20]

Kamali'i Mini Park – [1:13:00]: Doug Pile (Kukui Plaza resident) shared there was no public input regarding the Kamali'i Mini Park redevelopment plans. He would like to know if the public will have the opportunity to provide input before final decisions are made on the property. Mr. Pile shared various concerns regarding the removal of the park: a lack of green spaces in the Downtown district; increase in traffic; increase in population density; and impacts to the school zone.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:15:40]

VI. ELECTED OFFICIALS – [1:17:20]

[1:17:24] – Chair Carvalho announced priority will be given to elected officials/representatives that are present in-person at the meeting. Chair Carvalho will take note of who is here in-person and will call the official/representative up to the microphone in the order he noted when they arrived. He will then call up the remaining elected officials/representatives who may be online.

State House (District 25) – Kim Coco Iwamoto – [1:18:10]: Kate Ozawa introduced herself and shared Representative Iwamoto is present via WebEx. She highlighted the following from the newsletter: office staff for this legislative session; upcoming events in the community; and office contact information.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:19:16]

Congressman Ed Case's Representative – [1:32:40]: No representative present.

Governor Josh Green's Representative – [1:32:50]: No representative present. A report was submitted.

- Report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dZ3lv4yJw4aAD1oORaWsCccsqkALLqu7/view?usp=drive_link

Mayor Rick Blangiardi's Representative – [1:33:20]: Ian Santee (Deputy Director of City Department of Emergency Services) shared highlights from the newsletter for February 2025 and provided follow-up responses to questions raised in the previous Board meeting in December 2024.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:38:40]

City Council (District 6) – Tyler Dos Santos-Tam – [1:49:20]: Jack Truesdale provided the report and shared the following highlights from the newsletter: 2025 transit construction mitigation fund update; Council passes Bill 52 to regulate e-bike use and safety; legislative updates on Bill 56 (relating to pedestrian malls) and Bill 1 (relating to public spaces); Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam

hosted a Chinatown Artists Townhall for community members and artists; newly installed bike lanes on S. King St.; and continuing legislative efforts to address game room concerns.

- Newsletter: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yEX0sFHctR28QymDDlvCcsf0zE7x1qa1/view?usp=drive_link

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:52:20]

State Senate (District 13) – Karl Rhoads – [2:05:06]: Payton Haygood provided the report and highlighted the following: updates on 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines; Hawaii Dept. of Transportation received \$1.6 million in discretionary grant funding to explore the feasibility of constructing a Cap Park over H-1 Freeway, between Liliha St. and Queen Emma St.; two active sites were detected with little fire ants; Governor Green's administration has released \$550,000 in funding for the design and construction of the parking lot paving at Ke'elikōlani Middle School; and office contact information.

- Newsletter:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1znM2zEhKkp36pp0RsGMwosyARkLOToid/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=111917663458444584436&rtf=true&sd=true

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:07:08]

State House (District 28) – Daniel Holt – [2:09:50]: No representative present.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS – [2:10:05]

Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) – [2:10:10]: Iris Oda provided the report and shared that if you see water being wasted such as a broken pipe, a malfunctioning sprinkler, a running faucet, excessive watering, or something similar, to please call the water waste hotline.

- To report water waste:
 - Visit BWS website: www.boardofwatersupply.com/waterwaste
 - Email: contactus@hbws.org or call 808-748-5041

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:11:10]

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) – [2:13:00]: Maribell Pabalan (HART's Public Involvement Team) and Patrick Watson (Public Information Officer for Frank V. Coluccio Construction) provided the report. Maribell Pabalan shared construction in regards to the Downtown utilities relocation for the rail guideway (segment 3) is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025. Halekauwila St. will have periodic one-way traffic and temporary road closures for the crews to work in that area. Final inspections are being done and removal of temporary equipment on Nimitz Highway are underway in this zone. The contractors in this zone will have sidewalk restorations as well as roadway restorations. Maribell also highlighted the following: 2025 Transit Construction Mitigation Fund deadline extension; bathrooms at rail stations is still in the design phase; and heavy foundation construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025 for the City Center Guideway and stations.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:17:25]

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) – Continued – [2:19:00]: Patrick Watson shared an update from Frank V. Coluccio Construction that the activity on Alakea St. and Nimitz Highway intersection is expected to be completed with the trenching and the conduit installation and paving in February. Night work is anticipated to take place near 560 Halekauwila St.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:19:50]

Chinatown Improvement District – [2:22:30]: Lee Stack reported that a sidewalk on the west side between King St. and Nimitz Hwy. has caved in and still needs to be addressed. A community member shared a concern that some of the cameras weren't working, as he didn't see the blue lights on in the evening and in the daytime in the district. Ms. Stack also offered insight on BID's and urged the public to learn more about the benefits and drawbacks of BID's.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:26:30]

Chinatown Business Community Association (CBCA) – [2:34:39]: No representative present. A report was submitted.

- Report:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nVzi8chbAHO7KXVWYV2THmdNiJaWiuL9/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=111917663458444584436&rtf=true&sd=true

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – [2:34:45]:

Thursday, October 3, 2024, and Thursday, December 5, 2024, Regular Meeting Written Summaries for Video Record – [2:34:50]: Chair Carvalho shared that based on his observations of how other boards (that he believes exercise best practices and run smooth and efficient meetings) approach this item, he agrees with the practice to keep the written summaries for video record to a minimum (given they are accompanied by the full YouTube video record). So, in the interest of keeping meetings productive for the community, Chair Carvalho recommended that the board approve the NCO draft written summaries for video record on the NCO website (which he also noted are reviewed in advance by the Chair and the Secretary). As such, Chair Carvalho recommended for this month that the board approve the NCO draft written summaries for video record for October 3, 2024, and December 5, 2024.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:36:20]

[2:38:40] – Following the first round of discussion, Chair Carvalho reiterated his original recommendation that the board go ahead and approve the NCO draft written summaries for video record. Board Member Lye objected. Chair Carvalho allowed the board to continue with a second round of discussion.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:39:35]

[2:43:15] – Following the second round of discussion, Chair Carvalho called for a vote to approve the October 2024 and December 2024 NCO draft written summaries for video record. The board conducted a roll-call vote. The Thursday, October 3, 2024, and Thursday, December 5, 2024, Regular Meeting Written Summaries for Video Record were APPROVED; 6-2-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, McCarney, Sturges, Carvalho; Nay: Lye, McDonald; Abstain: None) – [2:44:15]

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – [2:44:20]

The next Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board No.13 regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Ke'elikolani Middle School and virtually via Webex.

[2:45:04] – Member Armstrong shared an announcement that there is a Honolulu Rate Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. at 711 Kapi'olani Blvd, Suite 1600, to discuss increases on rates for the TheBus and TheHandi-Van. He also reminded the board that four years ago, the board adopted Resolution 01 (restricting the sale on oil based spray paints and pens to reduce graffiti in the neighborhood). The board has also adopted a resolution two years ago to oppose sports book betting and it has been reintroduced again in the State legislature this year. He would like to propose and submit a draft resolution in regards to a complete and permanent ban on all personal fireworks and their sales on O'ahu. He would like the Board and the public to consider the draft resolution at the next board meeting.

YouTube – An archive of video recordings of Neighborhood Board meetings can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/@NeighborhoodCommissionOffice>

Rebroadcasts of Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board No.13 meetings are scheduled on 'Ōlelo channel 49 for every third Thursday at 9:00 p.m., as well as 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month. An archive of past meetings may be found on <http://olelo.org/olelonet/> by searching on <Downtown Chinatown>.

X. ADJOURNMENT – [2:47:07]: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by: Camilia Epa Gomes, Neighborhood Assistant, NCO

Reviewed by: Dylan Buck, Community Relations Specialist, NCO

Finalized by: Ross Isokane, Secretary, Neighborhood Board No.13