



DOWNTOWN–CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD № 13

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII
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WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR VIDEO RECORD PRINCESS RUTH KE'ELIKŌLANI MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY & WebEx THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023 6:00 PM

The video record of this meeting may be found on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJ1krQOJhwk> and <https://olelo.granicus.com/player/clip/88068?viewid=78&redirect=true&h=08be78cda885b753495b10c45b09b63b>.

Referenced reports and other meeting materials may be found in the [month-specific](#) folder of the [NB 13 public-facing Google Drive](#) on <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1F4DdI9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>.

I. CALL TO ORDER – [0:00:01]: 6:00 pm

Chair Ernest Carvalho called the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 meeting to order at 6:00 pm. **Quorum was established with five members present;** this nine-member board requires five members to establish quorum and to take official action.

Members Present: Robert Armstrong (7:58 pm), Ernest Carvalho, Sean Fitzsimmons (6:07 pm), Ross Isokane, Kevin Lye, Lori McCarney, Kevin McDonald (6:22 pm), Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock.

Members Absent: Travis Thompson.

Guests: Captain Sean Arakaki (Honolulu Fire Department); Lieutenant Arnold Sagucio (Honolulu Police Department); Hong Li (Department of Transportation Services); Daniel Texeria (AC Hotel by Marriott Honolulu); Robert Kurisu (WKF Inc.); Dreana Kallili (State Department of Transportation, Harbors Division); Christopher Pascua, Miku Lenentine (Center for Resilient Neighborhoods); Shawn Hamamoto (Office of the Governor); Deputy Director Ian Santee (Office of the Mayor); Richmond Luzar (Office of Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam); Senator Karl Rhoads; Jimmy Yanos (Honolulu Board of Water Supply); Greg Payton (Mental Health Kokua); Laura Sturges, Ronald Higa, Rick Keene, Alicia Salta, Charles Jonsson (Residents); Dylan Buck (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Names were not included if not recognized or not legible on the sign-in sheet; there were as many as 37 unique attendees.**

II. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS – [0:00:40]

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – [0:01:23]: Captain Arakaki spoke to a [report](#) with statistics for November 2022 and relayed a safety tip about holiday decorations. For more tips and information, visit <https://fire.honolulu.gov/>. Community discussion included a request for an update about ownership of, and future plans for, Kamali'i Mini Park.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – [0:03:27]: Lieutenant Sagucio provided statistics for November 2022 and relayed safety tips on holiday precautions related to crime. Crime mapping statistics may be found on <https://www.honolulu.org/information/crime-mapping/>. Community discussion included requirements for observation by HPD of drug offenses and enforcement of ADA laws to address expansive homeless encampments along sidewalks.

Fitzsimmons joined the meeting at 6:07 pm; six members present.

III. PRESENTATIONS – [0:14:06]

Kekaulike Mall Construction Update – [0:14:08]: [Hong Li](#) (Department of Transportation Services) spoke to a [presentation](#) about the mall rehabilitation project and emphasized that work is progressing in smaller increments to allow vendor access, project coordinators have resolved unforeseen subsurface conditions, overall the project is about 70% complete and is on track to be finished in April 2024 and under budget. Community discussion included project delays, budget, and vendor demarcation lines.

McDonald joined the meeting at 6:22 pm; seven members present.

Introduction of new AC Marriott Hotel at Hotel x Bishop Street – [0:27:40]: General Manager Daniel Texeria shared information and provided a [handout](#) about the downtown hotel set to open on 12 December 2023, and noted that the property will include

a speakeasy bar and restaurant (open to the public) as well as a business center that can be reserved for meetings. Community discussion included pricing and kama'āina rates.

Reuse conversion of 1060 Bishop Street from office building into affordable housing – [0:32:36]: Robert Kurisu (President, WKF Inc.) provided a [handout](#) and presented information on the adaptive reuse conversion [project](#) (related to Honolulu [Ordinance 19-8](#)), noting that it is an affordable housing project in a mixed-use location, with 52 units of various sizes for residents with income not exceeding 80% of the area median income (AMI). Project completion by Spring 2024 is anticipated. Community discussion included the Governor's Emergency Housing Proclamation, suggestions for improvement, commitments by the developer to continued provision of security in the area, target demographics, and crime statistics.

Updates regarding piers in the NB 13 area and expanding harbor access – [0:46:26]: Dreana Kalili (State Department of Transportation, Harbors Division) spoke to a [presentation](#) about the DOT Harbors Division's rehabilitation project for Honolulu Harbor, and noted the importance of modernizing our harbors, as 99% of imported goods enter Hawai'i through Honolulu Harbor. Planned development will impact Piers 7 and 19–23, Interisland Barge Terminal Piers 39–40, Kapalama Container Terminal Piers 41–43, and Sand Island Container Terminal Piers 51–53. Community discussion included the development of Amazon's warehouse, Aloha Tower and nearby pier operations, public versus private funding for this project, and limited ability to adapt the Sand Island Access bridge to accommodate a backup entrance to Honolulu Harbor as a mitigation against a disaster involving the harbor's current single entry.

Climate and Community Resilience – [1:07:48]: Christopher Pascua and Miku Lenentine ([CERENE](#): Center for Resilient Neighborhoods) spoke to a [presentation](#) about the O'ahu Resilience Hub Network project in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i, the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, and Kapi'olani Community College. CERENE is focused on Resilience Strategy [Action 15](#) [Identify a Network of Community Resilience Hubs], with key objectives of developing partnerships, identifying locations, and working with communities. Community discussion included available budget, what CERENE has learned from the Maui wildfires, and how to narrow down an action plan from a pool of over 200 potential next steps.

IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS – [1:25:10]

Various Comments – [1:25:15]: Kevin Lye presented [concerns from constituents](#) from the prior month including (1) adverse sequelae of the continued presence of the needle exchange van near the corner of North Kukui Street near Nu'uaniu Avenue, (2) positive examples from other jurisdictions of police substations with ample signage, and (3) demonstration that putatively lesser-developed countries can provide freeways and bridges without homeless encampments, and announced that the next Downtown--Chinatown Neighborhood Citizen Patrol is scheduled for Tuesday 9 2024, departing at 7:00 pm from outside the Diamond Head Tower lobby of Kukui Plaza [GPS: 1261 Fort Street]. Please bring a friend and a camera, join the patrol, and help identify areas of concern within the community

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS – [1:28:25]

Congressman Ed Case's Representative – [1:27:32]: No representative present; no report submitted.

Governor Josh Green's Representative – [1:27:43]: [Shawn Hamamoto](#) (Hawai'i State Department of Health) spoke to a [report](#), noted the Hawaii Fire Relief Housing Program, and provided follow-up responses to certain questions raised at the previous meeting. Community discussion included notice of homeless kauhale, an appropriation of \$200,000 related to a restorative justice program, and rising energy costs.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi's Representative – [1:37:25]: [Ian Santee](#) (Deputy Director, Honolulu Emergency Services Department) spoke to a [report](#) and noted that the Neighborhood Commission Office is hiring Neighborhood Assistants; the new bus Route 151 will be implemented to provide additional service to the Downtown--Chinatown/Liliha/Kuakini area; bus Route 433 will be rerouted to provide additional service along Lumiaina and Hiapo Streets, and provided follow-up responses to certain questions raised at the previous meeting.

City Council (District 6) – Tyler Dos Santos-Tam – [1:40:21]: [Richmond Luzar](#) spoke to a [report](#) and noted a recent Downtown Neighborhood Security Watch meeting, prioritization of housing measures next quarter, Bill 45 relating to Human Resources, a resolution passed relating to pedestrian safety and speed limits, and updates from a recent town hall on crime and gambling. Community discussion included responsibilities of pedestrians to ensure their own safety and an upcoming Community Walk.

State Senate (District 13) – Karl Rhoads – [1:45:20]: [Senator Rhoads](#) spoke to a [report](#) and noted a release of \$41.5 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds to the Hawai'i State Capitol for rehabilitation of the waterproofing system, release of \$700,000 in CIP funds to the Hawai'i State Capitol for Information Technology improvements, and COVID-19 updates. Community discussion included potential impacts of a bike path along the State Capitol building, attendance at neighborhood board meetings, an estimation of 24 January 2024 as the deadline for new bills to be introduced for this legislative session, how to balance the privileges presumed by owners of non-trained support animals; and abolishment of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Representative [Scott Saiki](#) (District 26) – [1:56:44]: No representative present, no report submitted.

Representative [Daniel Holt](#) (District 28) – [1:56:52]: No representative present, no report submitted.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS – [1:57:03]

[Board of Water Supply \(BWS\) – \[1:57:09\]:](#) Jimmy Yanos, Jr. spoke to a [report](#) and noted that the 2024 BWS Water Conservation Calendar is available for pickup (while supplies last) inside the Public Service Building at 630 South Beretania Street.

Armstrong joined the meeting at 7:58 pm; eight members present.

[Safe Haven – Mental Health Kokua – 1:58:48:](#) [Greg Payton](#) spoke to a [report](#) and noted that Safe Haven is now located at 1165 Maunakea Street, Maunakea Villages is MHK's 33-unit permanent supported-housing program, and 64 homeless adults with mental illness have been placed into housing between January and November 2023.

[Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation \(HART\) – \[2:00:28\]:](#) No representative present.

[Chinatown Improvement District – \[2:00:48\]:](#) No representative present.

[Chinatown Business Community Association \(CBCA\) – \[2:00:56\]:](#) Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock noted a prior meeting on 14 November 2023, disappointment with the lack of promised HPD foot patrol presence in Chinatown, and that the next CBCA meeting is planned for Tuesday 12 December 2023.

VII. APPROVAL OF WRITTEN SUMMARY OF VIDEO RECORD – [2:02:45]

[Thursday 2 November 2023 Regular Meeting Written Summary for Video Record – \[2:02:45\]: \[1:58:50\] – Isokane MOVED and Armstrong SECONDED to approve the Written Summary of the Video Record as amended and distributed by Lye; the motion WAS ADOPTED 8–0–0 \(Aye: Armstrong, Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock; Nay: None; Abstain: None\) – \[2:03:14\].](#)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – [2:03:25]

[Resolution 2023-006 – Regarding Preliminary Social Media Tenets for the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 Social Media Presence – \[2:03:30\]: \[2:03:36\] – McCarney MOVED and Isokane SECONDED to adopt the \[resolution as presented on the NB 13 Google Drive\]\(#\); discussion followed. The motion was NOT ADOPTED 2–1–4 \(Aye: McCarney, Lye; Nay: McDonald; Abstain: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Carvalho\) – \[2:05:57\].](#)

IX. NEW BUSINESS – [2:07:52]

[Determination of Board Recess Schedule – \[2:07:56\]: \[2:08:23\] – Isokane MOVED and Fitzsimmons SECONDED to recess NB 13 in January 2024; discussion followed. The motion WAS ADOPTED; 5–2–1 \(Aye: Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, McCarney, Shubert-Kwock; Nay: Lye, McDonald; Abstain: Armstrong\) – \[2:11:38\].](#)

[Resolution 2023-010 – Urging the Honolulu Police Department to implement measurable patrol increases in Downtown–Chinatown to address violent crime – \[2:13:00\]: Isokane introduced the \[resolution\]\(#\). \[2:13:45\] – Isokane MOVED and Fitzsimmons SECONDED to adopt the resolution as written; discussion followed.](#)

[2:15:48] – Lye **MOVED** and McDonald **SECONDED** to amend the motion to adopt [Floor Draft 1 of Resolution 2023-010](#); discussion followed. **The motion was NOT ADOPTED 1–7–0**; (Aye: Lye; Nay: Armstrong, Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock; Abstain: None) – [2:18:02].

[2:20:30] – Lye **MOVED** and Isokane **SECONDED** to amend the resolution by striking the second *e* from the word *Measurable* from the title. **The motion to amend WAS ADOPTED 8–0–0** (Aye: Armstrong, Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock; Nay: None; Abstain: None) – [2:21:38].

[2:21:44] – Discussion followed regarding the **main motion to adopt Resolution 2023-010 as amended. The motion to adopt Resolution 2023-010 as amended WAS ADOPTED 8–0–0** (Aye: Armstrong, Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock; Nay: None; Abstain: None) – [2:24:09].

Motion to establish a Public Events Committee – [2:25:05]: [2:25:16] – McCarney **MOVED** and Armstrong **SECONDED** to **establish a Public Events Committee**; discussion followed. [2:31:38] – McCarney **withdrew her motion with the understanding that this item will be addressed at the next meeting and it may transition to the establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group**.

Chair’s Report – Joint Neighborhood Board Special Meeting on Game Rooms, Crime Meeting about how Neighborhood Community Walk affect the community, at Downtown Arts, and Community Walk update – [2:32:16]: Chair Carvalho reported the following: a joint special meeting on Crime and Game Rooms was hosted by the Neighborhood Boards 01 (Hawaii Kai), 10 (Makiki), and 13 (Downtown–Chinatown); Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam is promoting the establishment of additional Neighborhood Watch groups; a Community Walk is scheduled for Saturday 27 January 2024 at 11:00 am with Mayor Blangiardi, Managing Director Formby, Senator Rhoads, Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam, and members of the Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13. Community discussion included Neighborhood Board outreach and awareness, and updates about developing a plan for executing plans already adopted for use of the \$1,000 one-time outreach funding from the Neighborhood Commission Office.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS – [2:40:50]

Next Regular Meeting: Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 will recess in January 2024; the next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1 February 2024, at 6:00 pm at Ke’elikolani Middle School and virtually via Webex.

Rebroadcasts and online archives: Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13 meetings are replayed on ‘Ōlelo channel 49 every third Thursday at 9:00 pm, as well as 9:00 am on the third Saturday of each month. An archive of past meetings may be found on <https://olelo.org/olelonet/> by searching on <Downtown Board>. A subset of video records of NB 13 meetings may be found on <https://www.youtube.com/@cityandcountyneighborhoodc2559/search?query=downtown%20chinatown>.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – [2:41:18]:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Submitted by Dylan Buck, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Naomi Hanohano, Community Relations Specialist

Finalized by Kevin Lye, Secretary, Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board № 13