



## DOWNTOWN – CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

Ke'elikolani Middle School Cafeteria & WebEx

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ernest Carvalho called the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. **Quorum was established with six (6) 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, Sean Fitzsimmons, Kevin Lye, Lori McCarney, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Kevin McDonald (6:09 p.m.), and Willis Moore (appointed at 6:29 p.m.).

Members Absent: Laura Sturges.

Guests: Captain Sean Arakaki (Honolulu Fire Department); Lieutenant Arnold Sagucio, Sergeant Darryl Jones (Honolulu Police Department); Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Managing Director Mike Formby; Deputy Director of EMS Ian Santee (Mayor Blangiardi's Representative); Mark Tarone, Chelsea Johns (Hallowbaloo Event); Sandra Pohol (Downtown Art Center); Isaiah Sato (R.M. Towill Corporation); Christine Camp (Avalon Group); Professor Jennifer Merkel (Hawaii Pacific University); Scott Stensrud (Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Youth Council); Shawn Hamamoto (Governor Green's Representative); Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Richmond Luzar; Iris Oda (Board of Water Supply); Lee Stack (Chinatown Improvement District); Harry Cho, Johnny Reid (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation); Patrick Watson (Honua Consulting Company); Andy Dahlburg (Homeless Coordinator Veteran's Administration); Russell Lau (Finance Factors); Myoung Oh (Watanabe Ing); Greg Kawakami (Waipono Investment Corporation); Ra Long (Fred Sundries); Gary Wong, Gharry Won, Fran Butera, Christine Trecker, Travis Thompson, Wendell Miguel, Theresa Shubert, Jon Kishaba, Mike Galmiche, Hawaii News Now, KHON2 News, Keolu Peralto, Sheryl Sunia, Maria Tijerina, Alberta Lono-Morolt, Chang Chang, Claire Affron (Residents); Executive Secretary Lloyd Yonenaka, Lindon Valenciano, Dylan Buck (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Note: Name was not included if not legible. There were 69 total attendees.**

### PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Arakaki reported the following.

- January 2023 Statistics: There were three (3) nuisance fires, five (5) activated alarms (no fire), 111 medical emergencies, one (1) motor vehicle collision with pedestrian, seven (7) motor vehicle crash/collisions, and one (1) hazardous materials incident.
- Safety Tip: Lithium-Ion Battery Safety – If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode. Visit <https://fire.honolulu.gov/> to learn more.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lieutenant Sagucio reported the following.

- January 2023 Statistics: There were nine (9) motor vehicle thefts, two (2) burglaries, 41 thefts, 24 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV), 32 assaults, one (1) sexual assaults, one (1) graffiti case, five (5) drug offenses, and 2,265 total calls for service.
- Safety Tip: HPD and the Prosecutor's Office are asking the community members not to become victims of abuse or family violence. Services are available and HPD encourages those individuals to accept the help and to follow through with the process.

**McDonald joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.; seven (7) members present.**

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Noise Disturbance: Lye asked and Lieutenant Sagucio responded that he will relay the request to his staff for additional patrols along Pauahi Street and Bethel Street to address reports of screaming individuals.
2. Bicycles on Sidewalks: Lye asked and Lieutenant Sagucio responded that riding bicycles along the sidewalks of the Business District is prohibited, but HPD will use some discretion in regards to issuing citations on a case-by-base scenario.
3. Kamalii Mini Park: Lye asked and Lieutenant Sagucio responded that he will relay the request for HPD to increase patrols of Kamalii Mini Park to enforce the park's hours of operation.

Lieutenant Sagucio deferred the remainder of his time to HPD Sergeant Jones to hear agenda item IV.C. 'Walk for the Fallen' at this time. **Hearing no objections from the board, agenda item IV.C. was taken out of order.**

Police Week – 'Walk for the Fallen': Sergeant Jones announced that after several years of not hosting this event, due to the pandemic, HPD is excited to bring back the 'Walk for the Fallen' scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2023. There will be street closures from HPD Main Station on Beretania Street to Richards Street from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Shubert-Kwock MOVED and Armstrong SECONDED to support the HPD Walk for the Fallen event scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2023. Hearing no objections, the motion PASSED by Unanimous Consent.**

**Lye MOVED and Armstrong SECONDED to amend the agenda by moving agenda items VIII.A. and VIII.B. to IV.H. and IV.I, and to move agenda item III.B. to VIII.A.** Discussion followed. **Hearing an objection, the board took a roll call vote. The motion WAS NOT passed; 4-3-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Lye, McDonald, McCarney; Nay: Fitzsimmons, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Abstain: None.)**

#### BOARD BUSINESS

Filling of Vacancy – One (1) At-Large: Willis Moore and Travis Thompson volunteered and were verified by the Neighborhood Assistant to fill the vacancy. Both volunteers provided a brief introduction of themselves. **Carvalho nominated Moore and Lye nominated Thompson. The board took a roll call vote. Moore was appointed to the board; (Moore: Armstrong, McDonald, McCarney, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Thompson: Fitzsimmons, Lye; Abstain: None.)**

**Chair Carvalho called a brief recess for Moore to recite the Oath of Office at 6:27 p.m.**

**Chair Carvalho called the meeting back to order at 6:29 p.m.; eight (8) members present.**

Election of Officers [Secretary]: Lye self-nominated for the Secretary position. **Hearing no other nominations, the board took a roll-call vote. Lye was elected as Secretary by Unanimous Consent.**

#### NEW BUSINESS / PRESENTATIONS

Discussion regarding a potential new venue for arts/music festivals off of the streets of Chinatown but still in the Chinatown district/area: Mayor Blangiardi and Managing Director Formby presented on the City's plans to reshape the Chinatown Riverwalk and College Walk area into a vibrant public space. A copy of the presentation can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Mayor Blangiardi highlighted that while the larger Chinatown neighborhood has been the site of festivals, parades and other street-based events for some time prior to Covid-19, the community is increasingly split over the appropriateness of these activities, especially events where alcohol is served, and a move to a neutral location off of the streets (i.e. Riverwalk) would allow more regularly scheduled arts and cultural events.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Gratitude: Armstrong expressed his gratitude towards Mayor Blangiardi's Administration for recognizing this underutilized and valuable asset.
2. Recommendations: Shubert-Kwock provided various recommendations, such as relocating tables and trees to make room for events, for the project's final design plans. Mayor Blangiardi responded that the design plans have not yet been drafted, and his staff will be sure to inform the public of their plans along the way.
3. Homelessness: McDonald asked and Mayor Blangiardi responded that this administration is addressing homelessness through increased law enforcement, the Crisis Outreach Response Engagement (CORE) Program, and additional housing/medical services.
4. Financial Relief for Small Businesses: McDonald asked and Mayor Blangiardi responded that his first two (2) years in office has been a humanitarian relief program due to the pandemic, and this administration is taking advantage of every opportunity to secure federal funding and distribute those to residents and small businesses.
5. Hale Pauahi: Lye asked and Managing Director Formby responded that there was a miscommunication to the public in regards to a handout that was distributed to the community with a blue line that depicted an area that is much broader than is the subject of a small clinic associated with the CORE program. Dahlburg (Homeless Coordinator Veteran's Administration) commented that there is a very rigid structure in place to address homelessness on O'ahu and the VA Clinic is working with the City. Butera requested a rescinding

letter and a meeting with HESD Director Ireland on his intentions for the space, and Mayor Blangiardi responding that his staff will coordinate a public meeting.

6. Next Steps: Merkel asked and Mayor Blangiardi responded that he cannot promise a timeline at this moment, but his staff is working every day on this project and added that he has six (6) years left, if re-elected in 2025, to accomplish a lengthy list of goals.
7. Maunakea Liquor Store: Wong raised several concerns relating to homeless individuals outside of the Maunakea Liquor Store and Mayor Blangiardi responded that he will relay the concerns directly to HPD Chief Logan. Miguel commented that proper signage needs to be posted in order for HPD to actually enforce the hours of operation and cite violators.

**Fitzsimmons left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.; seven (7) members present.**

Hallowbaloo – Updates on Event: Mark Tarone and Chelsea Johns updated the board on the impact/outcomes of the recent Hallowbaloo event in Chinatown on Saturday, October 9, 2022. A copy of the report can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Tarone highlighted that this was the first Hallowbaloo event in three (3) years and was a very successful private event that positively affected the community through increased revenue, foot traffic, and an improved perception of Chinatown.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Reporting Requirements: Lye asked about the parameters of Tarone's responsibilities to report back to the community following the Hallowbaloo event and if such reports will be made publicly available.
2. Assault: Lye asked and Tarone responded that this is the first he has heard of the assault that left a Honolulu Park Place Security Guard with a black eye, and added that 29 HPD Special Duty Officers and 56 Private Security Officers were hired for this event with zero reports of violence submitted. McDonald commented that events like Hallowbaloo absolutely clean up our neighborhood and cause less crime due to the heightened police presence.
3. St. Patrick's Day: McDonald commented that Murphy's Bar & Grill is no longer interested in hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day event due to criticism from the previous administration and asked if Tarone would be interested in hosting such an event. Tarone responded that it is beyond the notice deadlines for someone new to get involved this year, but is interested in the future.
4. Concerns: Shubert-Kwock disagreed with Tarone's report depicting a successful event and raised several various concerns related to the event such as diverted bus services, noise disturbances, and profits not going back into the community. Chair Carvalho commented that there was a lack of transparency and he received about 100 phone calls from residents expressing their concerns over various aspects of the event. Tarone responded that he was made aware of some of the concerns after the event, such as the wrongful charging of wristbands for the public to enter a free event, and noted that it was a communication error. Tarone added mitigation efforts that he intends to implement for future events.

Police Week – 'Walk for the Fallen': This item was taken out of order and discussed earlier in the meeting.

Motion – To support (1) Painting a mural in Smith Beretania Park (a wall behind the basketball court and the 2 basketball court backboards), and (2) Heart of Honolulu Street Festival on Nuuanu Ave from Chaplain Lane to Hotel Street, King Street, and to Pauahi Street, (½ blocks on either side of Nuuanu Avenue) event is from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, 2023: Sandra Pohol presented on both the Smith Beretania Park Art Beautification project and the Heart of Honolulu Street Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2023. A copy of the art project designs and a flyer for the festival can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Pohol highlighted that the Chinatown Lions Club has volunteered to help with the park beautification project and that anti-graffiti paint will be used.

**Shubert-Kwock MOVED and Moore SECONDED to support the Smith Beretania Park Art Beautification Project and the Heart of Honolulu Street Festival 2023.** Discussion followed. **Hearing no objections, the motion PASSED by Unanimous Consent.**

Motion – To support the Fort Street Mall Affordable Senior Rentals 201H Application: Isaiah Sato (R.M. Towill Corporation) and Christine Camp (Avalon Group) presented for the second time on the Fort Street Mall Affordable Senior Rentals 201H Application, and provided updates to the project. A copy of the original presentation can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Sato highlighted that 16 bicycle stalls have been included in the project design plans, and that the City Council Zoning Committee has included the application on their Wednesday, February 8, 2023 agenda.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Opposed: Oh provided testimony in opposition of the 201H Application in regards to concerns with the existing service lane, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4DdI9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>
2. Parking: Shubert-Kwock asked and Sato responded that there is no available parking on-site due to limitations with the size of the lot. Lau noted that he supports affordable housing projects, but commented in opposition to designing a 67-unit housing project with 17,000 square feet of office space with zero parking. Lau commented that senior citizens drive and need access to parking on-site.
3. Service Lane: Shubert-Kwock asked and Camp responded that Catholic Charities owns 10 feet of the service lane. Shubert-Kwock, Lye, and Lau raised safety concerns with traffic along the service lane, especially in regards to emergency responders.
4. Concerns of Noise and Smoke: Lye raised concerns with neighboring businesses that generate noise and smoke disturbances.

**Shubert-Kwock MOVED and Armstrong SECONDED to support the Fort Street Mall Affordable Senior Rentals 201H Application, with the condition that the private property owners can come to an agreement regarding the easement issue.** Discussion followed. **Hearing an objection, the board took a roll call vote. The motion PASSED; 5-2-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Lye, McCarney, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Nay: Moore, McDonald; Abstain: None.)**

HPU 2023 Crime and the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood: Professor Jennifer Merkel (HPU) announced that the Criminal Justice Faculty in the College of Professional Studies for Hawai'i Pacific University will be facilitating a Roundtable Event in the Spring of 2023 to assess and address perceptions of crime and safety by members of the Chinatown-Downtown Neighborhood. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023. A copy of the announcement can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4DdI9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Help improve your neighborhood by taking part in a survey on crime in your area: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CrimeCDN2023>

**McCarney left the meeting at 8:21 p.m.; six (6) members present.**

Resolution – Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact comprehensive tobacco regulations and end the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use: Scott Stensrud presented the resolution by the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Youth Council. A copy of the draft resolution can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4DdI9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

Questions, comments, and concerns followed. Gut & Replace: Lye asked and Stensrud responded that there are multiple bills/vehicles that could be gutted and replaced to include language supporting this resolution, such as House Bill 551.

**Armstrong MOVED and Lye SECONDED to adopt the resolution as written.** Discussion followed. **Hearing an objection, the board took a roll call vote. The motion PASSED; 5-1-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Moore, Lye, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Nay: McDonald; Abstain: None.)**

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS

Hallowbaloo Event: Lee Stack raised multiple concerns/complaints with the Hallowbaloo event that was held in October 2022, such as using public streets and resources to fund private events for profit and focused on the incident of Hallowbaloo staff wrongfully charging the public for wristbands to enter a free event.

Various Concerns: Kevin Lye raised the following concerns/announcements: (1) if any member from the public was not able to comment on agenda item IV.C. you may contact Lye; (2) encouraged leaders, owners, and tenants to take local focal responsibility, pride and ownership for their respective blocks; (3) the Neighborhood Citizen Patrol will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 rather than the regularly scheduled second Tuesday of the month; (4) asked the board members about their feelings regarding a plan that was proffered in some form to have another entity oversee operations of these meetings until the start of the next term in July 2023.

Event Announcement: Chair Carvalho announced that the 'A F#%KUP NIGHTS STORY SLAM' event scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Chinatown Speakeasy (located in Chinatown across from Next Door).

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Josh Green's Representative: Shawn Hamamoto provided the report, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Hamamoto highlighted that the Governor's Office will soon be distributing weekly newsletters.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi's Representative: Deputy Director Ian Santee (Honolulu Emergency Services Department) was unable to present. The Mayor's monthly newsletter can be found at: <https://www.oneoahu.org/newsletter>.

Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam (District 6): Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam provided his report, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam highlighted updates regarding the identification of sensitive areas relating to concealed carry of firearms, illegal gambling, construction work along Nimitz Highway for the rail project, and his interest in scheduling meetings with various associations and residents to learn about their concerns and recommendations.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed. Graffiti: Armstrong encouraged Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam to direct some of his efforts to addressing the graffiti issues.

Senator Karl Rhoads (District 13): A representative provided the report, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. To contact Senator Rhoads's Office call 808-586-6130 or email [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Representative Scott Saiki (District 26): No representative present, no report submitted.

Representative Daniel Holt (District 28): No representative present, no report submitted.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Iris Oda provided the report, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. Oda announced that the BWS offers residential and commercial customers a rebate of \$45 on a WaterSense high-efficient toilet using 1.28 gallons per flush or less. For more information visit: <https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/rebates>

Safe Haven: No representative present, a report was submitted which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

Chinatown Business Community Association (CBCA): Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock provided the report, which can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6BI-yb4p4EW0-68vu>. The next CBCA will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Yong's Kitchen (1157 Maunakea Street).

Chinatown Improvement District (CID): Lee Stack reported that the CID held a graffiti clean-up in January 2023. For more information visit: <https://cidchinatownhawaii.org/>

Neighborhood Citizen Patrol: Kevin Lye presented images and reported observations by the patrol during the prior month, and announced that this month's patrol is re-scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Lye invited the public to walk with the patrol on the regularly scheduled second Tuesday of every month, departing at 7:00 p.m. from the Diamond Head Tower lobby of Kukui Plaza. Please bring a friend, join the patrol, and help identify areas of concern within the community.

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART): Harry Cho provided follow up responses to questions raised at the last meeting. Patrick Watson provided construction updates regarding the City Center Utilities Relocation (CCUR) Phase III contract, on behalf of the Frank V. Coluccio Construction Company (FVCCC) who will be performing the work. Traffic updates can be found at: <https://honolulustransit.org/hart-traffic/>. Watson invited the public to join HCC's next monthly CCUR Phase III Business and Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. You can register at: <https://bit.ly/HARTPhase3>. Sign up for the CCUR III eBlast: <http://eepurl.com/h1g2W5>. You can also email [ccur3@honuaconsulting.com](mailto:ccur3@honuaconsulting.com) for more information.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed.

1. Security: Lye asked and Cho responded that once the rail segments are completed the project will be turned over to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) who will be responsible for security and any concerns such as graffiti. Cho added that he will provide Lye with a more comprehensive list of areas of concern.
2. Accountability: McDonald asked and Cho responded that he provided the response from HART and that he does not have any additional information to provide at this time.

**BOARD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

Resolution – Opposing Representative Holt’s and Representative Mizuno’s proposal to approve gambling halls on O’ahu: **Postponed to next meeting.** A copy of the resolution can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

Motion – Community Outreach funding of up to \$1,000 dollars to be used for a cleanup of areas within the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 District: **Postponed to next meeting.**

Amendment of Regular Meeting Minutes – Thursday, November 3, 2022: **Postponed to next meeting.**

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – Thursday, December 1, 2022: **Postponed to next meeting.**

Future Items for Board Consideration: **Postponed to next meeting.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Regular Meeting: The next meeting of the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board No. 13 is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Ke’elikolani Middle School Cafeteria and virtually via WebEx.

Rebroadcast: Rebroadcasts of Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board No 13 meetings are scheduled on ‘Ōlelo channel 49 every third Thursday at 9:00 p.m., as well as 6:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. An archive of past meetings may be found on <https://olelo.org/olelonet/> upon searching on <Downtown Chinatown>.

Archive: Find an archive of handouts and referenced materials apropos to Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board No 13 at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

**ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Dylan Buck, Neighborhood Assistant  
Reviewed by: Dylan Whitsell, Deputy  
Finalized by: