



## DOWNTOWN – CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/nco

### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR VIDEO RECORD**

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**

**PRINCESS RUTH KE'ELIKŌLANI MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY – 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=dJjIPf8BLk>

Reports & other meeting materials can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F4Ddl9R8Er12TNf6Bl-yb4p4EW0-68vu>

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER – [0:00:01]:** 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 8 members present.** Note: This nine-member Board requires 5 members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Robert Armstrong, Ernest Carvalho, Sean Fitzsimmons, Ross Isokane, Kevin Lye, Lori McCarney, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Travis Thompson, and Kevin McDonald (6:04 p.m.).

Members Absent: None.

Guests: Lieutenant Arnold Sagucio (Honolulu Police Department); Ben Dookchitra, Christine Camp, Leahna Luke (Avalon Group); Marion Cadora (Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts); Nanea Lum (Native Arts and Culture Foundation); Shawn Hamamoto, Steven Downes (Governor Josh Green); Richmond Luzar (Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam); Senator Karl Rhoads; Iris Oda (Honolulu Board of Water Supply); Greg Payton (Mental Health Kokua); Harry Cho (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation); Ronald Higa, Patrick Smith, Kristen Allspaw, Rick Keene, Denis Mee-Lee, Nicole Reid, P. Pang, Robert Quartero, Charles Baugh, Caroline Faringer, Candice Kraughto, Laura Sturges, Candice Kraughto, Laura Sturges, Willis Moore (Residents); Dylan Buck (Neighborhood Commission Office). **Note: Name was not included if not legible. There were 57 total attendees.**

#### **II. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS – [0:00:54]**

Honolulu Fire Department – [0:00:54]: No representative present. A report was submitted.

- Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UEb61ybSxJclQ1NvxtTrE8TFYLdmjgG5/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UEb61ybSxJclQ1NvxtTrE8TFYLdmjgG5/view?usp=drive_link)

Honolulu Police Department – [0:01:06]: Lieutenant Arnold Sagucio provided the monthly statistics for April 2024, safety tips regarding scam emails/phone calls, and responses to questions raised at the previous meeting.

- Crime Mapping Statistics: <https://www.honoluluupd.org/information/crime-mapping/>

**McDonald joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.; all 9 members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:05:00]

#### **III. PRESENTATIONS – [0:18:37]**

Potential Kauhale Development in the Iwilei Area – [0:18:37]: Chair Carvalho announced that this item was postponed to the next meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Reimagining Downtown – Avalon Group's plans to improve Downtown-Chinatown and redevelop the former Walmart on Fort Street – [0:19:13]: Christine Camp and Ben Dookchitra (Avalon Development Group) presented information on three of their new development projects aimed at revitalizing Downtown-Chinatown. Downtown-Chinatown is a 10-block radius that currently generates \$1.8 billion annually. There are various developments in the area, such as residential housing, hotels, office space, HPU's campus operations, retail, restaurants/bars, etc. With the rail project coming to Downtown around 2030, it will improve the accessibility and attraction for people to visit/work/play. The projects include: (1) Modea Residences; (2) HPU's Natural and Computational Sciences Department; and (3) Community Gathering Place (old Walmart space). The Modea Residences is the result of converting Davies Pacific Building into "middle housing" with mixed-use for food/drink, retail, office space, and a fitness

center. The Avalon Group is currently building HPU's Natural and Computational Sciences Department along Fort Street Mall. The Avalon Group acquired the old Walmart space and envisions a community gathering place with residential units, businesses, a dog park, a pickleball/padel center, golf simulators, etc. One of the key takeaways is that the Avalon Group is focused on increasing security services.

- Presentation: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ShYCNwz3OlxQIHq0LsUVKp-tPu3aOyRB/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ShYCNwz3OlxQIHq0LsUVKp-tPu3aOyRB/view?usp=drive_link)

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [0:36:20]

Nu'uau Stream Projection Project – [1:10:02]: Marion Cadora (Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts) and Nanea Lum (Native Arts and Culture Foundation) announced that a projection system will shine down onto Nu'uau Avenue from the Downtown Arts Center on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The purpose of this project is to creatively show the history and significance of the Nu'uau Stream for the community and environment. This is a free event that is open to the public. MOCA is assisting with the permitting process and partial funding. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> projection project that the City is involved with.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:14:24]

[1:21:27] – **Isokane MOVED and McCarney SECONDED to support the event. Hearing no objections or abstentions, the motion was ADOPTED; 9-0-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Carvalho, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock, Thompson; Nay: None; Abstain: None) – [1:22:00]**

#### IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS – [1:22:50]

Neighborhood Citizen Patrol – [1:23:08]: Robert Quartero asked if the Neighborhood Citizen Patrol operations cover 1331 River Street, and how residents could participate in the patrols.

Recycling Programs – [1:23:25]: Robert Quartero inquired if this Neighborhood Board works with any preferred nonprofit condominium recycling programs as he is interested in recycling at his condominium.

Concerts at Ke'elikōlani Middle School – [1:24:25]: Kevin Lye, on behalf of another resident, reported that various concerts are held in the school courtyard on Saturday afternoons and it's very noisy.

#### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – [1:25:22]

Thursday, April 4, 2024, Regular Meeting Written Summary for Video Record – [1:25:22]: [1:25:40] – **Lye MOVED and Thompson SECONDED to approve the Written Summary for Video Record as written. Hearing no objections or abstentions, the motion was ADOPTED as amended; 9-0-0 (Aye: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock, Thompson, Carvalho; Nay: None; Abstain: None) – [1:26:44]**

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS – [1:27:03]

Letter in Support of Bills 57 & 58 (2023) Regarding Efforts to Shutdown Illegal Game Rooms and City and County of Honolulu Resolution 23-228 – [1:27:03]: Chair Carvalho introduced the letter, which supports the City's efforts to combat illegal game rooms, and noted that Lye shared his amended version as well.

- Draft Letter Supporting Bill 57 & 58 (2023) (Carvalho):  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1drcmbQKPQYi49Zpx-0X9QX3YUttjABIC/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1drcmbQKPQYi49Zpx-0X9QX3YUttjABIC/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- Draft Letter Supporting Bill 57 & 58 (2023) (Lye):  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1valAiNvUXi72zTi4E7Ucm4AotFD2RaWd/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1valAiNvUXi72zTi4E7Ucm4AotFD2RaWd/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[1:28:48] – **Lye MOVED and McDonald SECONDED to adopt item 6.A. Floor Draft 1 Game Room Package Letter (Lye).** Discussion followed. Hearing no further discussion, the Board conducted a roll call vote. **The motion was NOT ADOPTED; 3-6-0 (Aye: Lye, McDonald, Thompson; Nay: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, McCarney, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Abstain: None) – [1:32:30]**

[1:33:32] – **Armstrong MOVED and McCarney SECONDED to adopt the original letter supporting Bills 57 & 58 (2023) (Carvalho).** Discussion followed. Hearing no further discussion, the Board conducted a roll call vote. **The motion was ADOPTED; 5-2-2 (Aye: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, McCarney, Shubert-Kwock, Carvalho; Nay: Isokane, Lye; Abstain: McDonald, Thompson) – [1:37:00]**

Dissolution of the Permitted Interaction Group on Community Events – [1:37:56]: Lori McCarney announced that the Permitted Interaction Group on Community Events has been dissolved and the Board will consider a different initiative through a resolution, which will be considered later in this meeting.

Resolution 2024-002 Requesting reconsideration and measured scrutiny of the Bethel Block acquisition by our state leaders – [1:38:54]: Ross Isokane introduced the resolution regarding the proposal to purchase the Bethel Block and convert it into mixed-use development. The resolution raises concerns with the rushed process, and requests that the Legislature adhere to better principles of transparency in matters of reasonable major importance. Even though House Bill 2328 died, several members felt it was important to consider this resolution as \$5,000,000 in due diligence funding may be allocated for this project.

- Draft Resolution:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TtnKmkCZyS3XDnIXIVhf1HTmOqtZiPEe/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TtnKmkCZyS3XDnIXIVhf1HTmOqtZiPEe/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Questions, comments, and concerns followed – [01:40:20]

**[1:41:12] – McCarney MOVED and Thompson SECONDED to adopt Resolution 2024-002.** Discussion followed. Hearing no further discussion, the Board conducted a roll call vote. **The motion was ADOPTED; 5-3-1 (Aye:** Fitzsimmons, Isokane, McCarney, Thompson, Carvalho; **Nay:** Armstrong, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock; **Abstain:** Lye) – [1:49:35]

Resolution 2024-003 Urging City/State officials to support economy-boosting and uplifting community events in Downtown-Chinatown – [1:50:20]: Ross Isokane introduced the resolution urging City/State officials to support and encourage more events in Downtown-Chinatown. Over recent years, this Board has raised concerns after being notified that certain annual events in the community have been cancelled due to issues with permitting and/or liabilities.

- Draft Resolution:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mVTcD1nZleZsueGkQLIVhW8ndApfxx8n/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mVTcD1nZleZsueGkQLIVhW8ndApfxx8n/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**[1:51:02] – McCarney MOVED and Armstrong SECONDED to adopt Resolution 2024-003.** Discussion followed. Hearing no further discussion, the Board conducted a roll call vote. **The motion was ADOPTED; 9-0-0 (Aye:** Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock, Thompson, Carvalho; **Nay:** None; **Abstain:** None) – [1:55:37]

Motion to reschedule the July 2024 regular meeting date – [1:56:10]: **[1:56:30] – Armstrong MOVED and Thompson SECONDED to reschedule the July 2024 regular meeting to Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** Discussion followed. Hearing no further discussion, the Board conducted a roll call vote. **The motion was ADOPTED; 9-0-0 (Aye:** Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Isokane, Lye, McCarney, McDonald, Shubert-Kwock, Thompson, Carvalho; **Nay:** None; **Abstain:** None) – [1:58:23]

Chair's Report – Clean Up Project for NB13 – [1:58:40]: Chair Carvalho announced that another Community Walk is being coordinated by Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam on Saturday, June 22, 2024 (time TBD). The Board decided to hold off on scheduling their first NB13 clean up until the next meeting.

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [1:59:31]

## **VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS – [2:03:12]**

Congressman Ed Case's Representative – [2:03:12]: No representative present.

Governor Josh Green's Representative – [2:03:30]: Shawn Hamamoto provided the report and responses to questions raised at the previous meeting. Hamamoto also announced that this will be his last meeting as the Governor's Representative, and introduced Steven Downes as his replacement.

- Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9zorEXCEIjPOfXXjh4655HEIUbiKJB7/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9zorEXCEIjPOfXXjh4655HEIUbiKJB7/view?usp=drive_link)

Questions, comments, and concerns followed – [2:05:45]

Mayor Rick Blangiardi's Representative – [2:12:50]: No representative present. Two reports were submitted.

- Newsletter: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XorC76kmSE6yPUYDZPWPN0Ax6hcY2FsQ/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XorC76kmSE6yPUYDZPWPN0Ax6hcY2FsQ/view?usp=drive_link)
- Memo: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NrAqL8iOKClpvpu0-1Wqb3zNDt3G1I6s/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NrAqL8iOKClpvpu0-1Wqb3zNDt3G1I6s/view?usp=drive_link)

City Council (District 6) – Tyler Dos Santos-Tam – [2:13:16]: Richmond Luzar provided the report and highlighted the following: City Council approved the Chinatown Hotel project; the Kekaulike Mall Improvement project will be completed by the end of May 2024; updates on Bill 3 (2024) relating to incentives for the construction of affordable rental housing; updates on the Adaptive Re-Use Bill (State); and efforts to increase density in apartment zones.

- Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/16dpL3yDv18rPk4WmgTxGqHwZXuft8k0h/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16dpL3yDv18rPk4WmgTxGqHwZXuft8k0h/view?usp=drive_link)

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:16:22]

State Senate (District 13) – Karl Rhoads – [2:18:20]: Senator Rhoads provided his report and highlighted the following: responses to questions raised at the previous meeting; improvement plans for Kamamalu Neighborhood Park; funding to address feral chickens, Senator Rhoads's letter to Congress in support of establishing the National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture; and covid-19 updates.

- Report: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mHFLuNhAGerXCT6o48xltKT\\_kTB67y4H/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mHFLuNhAGerXCT6o48xltKT_kTB67y4H/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- Letter to Congress: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NHdYJhETLGT356aFRHy7I6k5n33YWSx2/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NHdYJhETLGT356aFRHy7I6k5n33YWSx2/view?usp=drive_link)

Questions, comments and concerns followed – [2:22:55]

State House (District 26) – Scott Saiki – [2:47:10]: No representative present.

State House (District 28) – Daniel Holt – [2:47:35]: No representative present.

#### **VIII. MONTHLY REPORTS – [2:47:45]**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) – [2:47:45]: Iris Oda reported that updated Red Hill Crisis information is now available on the BWS website: [https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/protectoahuwater?utm\\_source=web-btn&utm\\_medium=hp-banner&utm\\_campaign=pow-get-info](https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/protectoahuwater?utm_source=web-btn&utm_medium=hp-banner&utm_campaign=pow-get-info)

Questions, comments, and concerns followed – [2:48:20]

Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Highways Division – [2:49:35]: No representative present.

Safe Haven – Mental Health Kokua – [2:49:46]: Greg Payton provided the report and highlighted the following: Mental Health Kokua (MHK) has reduced their operational footprint by 50%; MHK has placed 49 individuals into permanent housing since January 2024; and these reports will transition from monthly to quarterly.

- Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qZvhtyFU5vwLLw1jVxJx8Sjz20PmdSXR/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qZvhtyFU5vwLLw1jVxJx8Sjz20PmdSXR/view?usp=drive_link)

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) – [2:52:36]: Harry Cho reported the following: the final train (20<sup>th</sup>) has arrived on island; HART received \$125 million in federal funding, which is the latest funding grant since 2017; and upcoming lane closure notices affecting Halekauwila Street.

- Nimitz Hwy Notice: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I0FoilQDU\\_PE8hydzhLokS1yOttHtQJl/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I0FoilQDU_PE8hydzhLokS1yOttHtQJl/view?usp=drive_link)
- Halekauwila Street Notice: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CkQT32NypHKLM05fR\\_Ptj1o3z4bs0I0s/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CkQT32NypHKLM05fR_Ptj1o3z4bs0I0s/view?usp=drive_link)
- Updates on HART's Downtown Utilities Relocation (CCUR III) project: <https://eepurl.com/h1g2W5>
- Contact for Questions/Assistance: [ccur3@honuaconsulting.com](mailto:ccur3@honuaconsulting.com)

Questions, comments, and concerns followed – [2:54:30]

Chinatown Improvement District – [2:56:00]: No representative present.

Chinatown Business Community Association (CBCA) – [2:56:09]: Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock provided her report and highlighted that the last meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 focused on promoting the Hawai'i Buddha Peace Festival on Saturday, August 3, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

- Report: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kEIEAk5\\_qFNUPx6HYSXq8I9yC6DS9h3F/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kEIEAk5_qFNUPx6HYSXq8I9yC6DS9h3F/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=112972764551395013814&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Neighborhood Citizen Patrol – [2:56:48]: Kevin Lye provided his report of various observations made by the patrol in April 2024. Lye invited the public to join the patrol, on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Diamond Head Tower lobby of Kukui Plaza, and help identify areas of concern within the Downtown-Chinatown community.

- Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f6Rta\\_VRp2Mko6OUm2Pshfc7Rj0mrm\\_Y/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f6Rta_VRp2Mko6OUm2Pshfc7Rj0mrm_Y/view?usp=drive_link)

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – [2:58:13]**

The Downtown–Chinatown Neighborhood Board No.13 is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Ke’elikolani Middle School and virtually via Webex.

YouTube – An archive of video recordings of Neighborhood Board meetings can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityandcountyneighborhoodc2559>

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 – [2:33:02]**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Submitted by: Dylan Buck, Community Relations Specialist, NCO

Reviewed by: Dylan Whitsell, Deputy, NCO

Finalized by: