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MEETING NOTES

DATE:

August 22, 2016

MEETING DATE:

August 8, 2016

MEETING LOCATION:

IBEW Local 1186 Hawai'i Headquarters, Kalihi

PRESENT:

Governor David Ige
Denise Iseri-Matsubara, Office of the Governor
Romy Cachola, State Legislature
Susan Chun-Oakland, State Legislature
Donna Mercado Kim, State Legislature
John Mizuno, State Legislature
Karl Rhoads, State Legislature
Glenn Wakai, State Legislature
Carol Fukunaga, Honolulu City Council
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Chris Lovvorn, Castle & Cook Homes Hawaii
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Cathy Ross, Department of Public Safety
Dre Kalili, Department of Transportation
Ed Sniffen, Department of Transportation
Neal Okabayashi, First Hawaiian Bank
Craig Hirai, HHFDC
Brian Lee, IBEW Local 1186
Mary Benson, Kalihi Business Association
Walter Thoemmes, Kamehameha Schools
Roger Morton, Oahu Transit Services, Inc.
David Gierlach, St. Elizabeth's Church
Layne Wada, Stars of Paradise Tours & Attractions
Ron Higashi, Susannah Wesley Community Center
Carleton Ching, UHM Vice President for Administration
Shirley Ann Templo, Honolulu City Council (Staff)
Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning
Debra Mendes, Office of Planning
Ramsay Taum, PBR Hawaii
Kimi Yuen, PBR Hawaii
Elena Chang, PBR Hawaii
Cynthia DeRosier, Good Juju Company

DISTRIBUTION:

Above List
21st Century Kalihi Vision Committee Members/
Resource Agencies

SUBJECT:

21st Century Kalihi Vision Plan Kick-Off Meeting

The following meeting notes capture the main discussion points of the meeting.

Meeting Notes

A. Welcoming Remarks

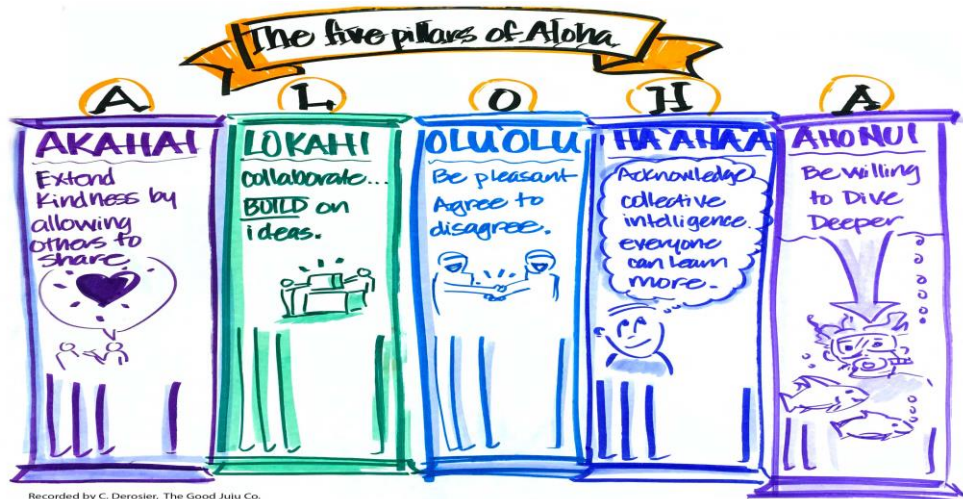
Office of Planning Director Leo Asuncion welcomed and thanked attendees for participating in the first 21st Kalihi Vision Plan Vision Committee meeting. Following his remarks, Director Asuncion introduced and welcomed Governor David Ige to officially kick-off the meeting and the initiative.

B. Introduction from Governor David Ige

Governor Ige stated that the Honolulu Rail Transit project would be a game changer for Kalihi, and that it would create opportunities for affordable housing. He emphasized that the visioning process should be a ground-up grassroots effort. He also affirmed the decision to invite landowners onto the Vision Committee.

C. Introduction from Ramsay Taum

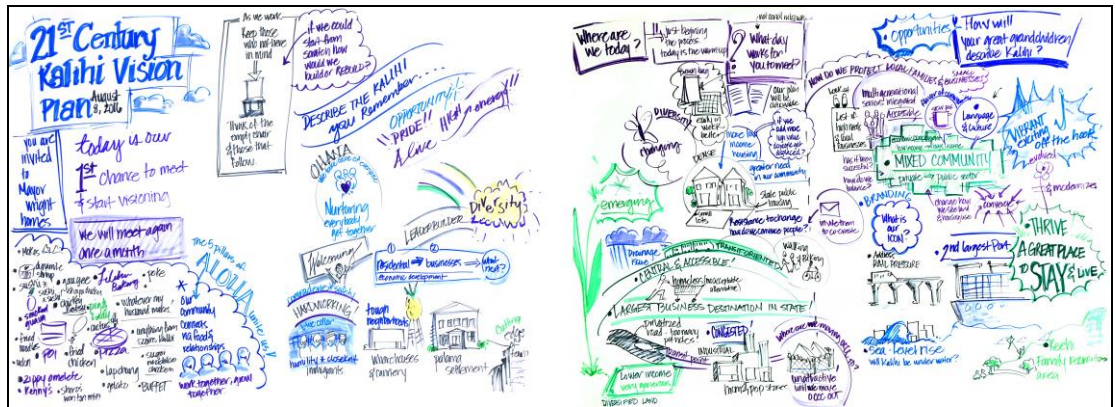
Ramsay described the goals and intent of the visioning exercise. He also presented “meeting protocols and guidelines” by referring to a graphic of the ‘5 Pillars of Aloha’ which takes inspiration from the HRS 5-7.5 the “ALOHA Spirit Law”. Ramsay introduced the principle of the “empty chair” by encouraging everyone to keep those who were not present in mind.



D. Visioning Exercise: Kalihi – Past, Present, Future

Ramsay facilitated a visioning exercise that welcomed participants to share their thoughts on Kalihi’s **Past, Present, and Future**. Graphic Recorder, Cynthia DeRosier, illustrated individual responses as they were shared.

Kalihi – Past, Present, Future



Kalihi – Past, Present, Future

Past: “Describe in one word the Kalihi that you remember...”

- Nurturing
- Warehouses, canneries
- Leader builder
- Diverse
- Alive, high energy
- Hardworking
- ‘Ohana
- Humility
- Close-knit, safety in knowing neighbors
- Opportunity
- Camaraderie
- Pride
- Tough neighborhood
- Poor, blue collar
- “Kalihi” translates to “the edge” (A cutting edge place?)
- Welcoming (usually the first place immigrants settle on O’ahu)
- Pālama Settlement (as a gathering space, safe haven)

Present: “How would you describe Kalihi today. . . in one word or phrase.”

- Emerging
- Changing, mom & pop establishments are changing
- Largest businesses
- Congested
- Central, accessible
- Lower income
- Unattractive (until OCCC is moved out, investors will not go there)
- Industrial
- Poor infrastructure (no sidewalks, flooding roads that cannot handle heavy rain, parking problems, too many potholes, privatized roads)
- Crime, drug use, homeless
- History of taking care of everyone
- Small individual lots (hard to redevelop, old structures, hard to pass on, clustered, dense, very crowded)
- Zoning problems
- Personal wealth, generous but humble, modest
- Because Kalihi is so welcoming, it has taken more than its fair share of social services
- Multiple income levels
- Aspirations for a mixed community
- Language, cultural diversity
- No icon to be proud of (need something iconic besides Farrington High)
- High transit commitment - Lots of workers/residents who walk, bike and/or take the bus already; it is a TOD transit-ready neighborhood!

Future: “How will your grandchildren describe Kalihi?”

- Good place to stay and live
- Global climate change, sea-level rise – what will it look like
- Evolved and modernized
- Kapālama second largest harbor in the state (formerly hundreds of fishponds)
- Vibrant (full of energy)
- Exciting, off-the-hook!
- Multi-generational (people come back to Kalihi)
- Ke’ehi active recreational area for families
- Seniors taken care of (housing, transportation, complete streets, services)
- Mix of housing
- Mix of uses –schools, housing, retail
- Co-locate on government properties – social services, cultural

enhancement, highest needs

- Balance aspirations without gentrification, displacement
- Needs to be affordable
- Need to change land use, zoning, density (rail will bring lots of pressure)
- Resistance to change and improvements to infrastructure because community can't afford the change in costs and increased land values
- Look at list of high needs + local businesses
- The future vision needs to have an economic component

E. Next Steps

Before thanking them for their attendance, Ramsay invited everyone to recommend names of groups or individuals that should be included in the process. He reminded everyone that the goal is to have a Draft Vision Plan by the beginning of next year and a Final Vision Plan by Summer 2017.

Ramsay concluded the meeting by highlighting “next steps”: PBR will reach out to the Vision Committee to schedule meetings through the end of the year, and copies of the graphic recordings will be shared with everyone.