



**MEETING NOTES**

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*Principal*

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED®AP BD+C  
*Principal*

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA  
*Chairman Emeritus*

**ASSOCIATES**

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA  
*Senior Associate*

CATIE CULLISON, AICP  
*Senior Associate*

ROY TAKEMOTO  
*Managing Director - Hilo*

SCOTT MURAKAMI, ASLA, LEED®AP  
*Associate*

DACHENG DONG, LEED®AP  
*Associate*

MARC SHIMATSU, ASLA  
*Associate*

**DATE:**

April 4, 2017

**MEETING DATE:**

April 3, 2017

**MEETING LOCATION:**

IBEW 1186, Kalihi

**PRESENT:**

Romy Cachola, State Legislature  
 Dennis Arakaki, Representative for Office of  
 Councilmember Joey Manahan  
 Elizabeth Chinn, AARP Hawaii  
 Jeff Merz, AECOM  
 April Bautista, Aloha DREAM Team  
 Nicki Garces, Resident  
 Craig Hirai, Hawaii Housing Finance & Development  
 Corporation  
 Brian Lee, IBEW  
 Debra Mendes, Office of Planning  
 Ramsay Taum, PBR Hawaii  
 Elena Chang, PBR Hawaii

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**Above List**  
 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kalihi Vision Committee Members/  
 Resource Agencies/General Public

**SUBJECT:**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Kalihi Community Meeting

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

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## Meeting Notes

### A. Welcoming Remarks & Introduction from Ramsay Taum

Ramsay Taum welcomed and thanked attendees for their contributions to the visioning effort thus far, and expressed that the intention of the meeting is to solicit final comments on the draft report, which was made publicly available via the Office of Planning (OP) website in mid-January.

### B. Draft Vision Report

Ramsay gave a brief overview of the report and noted the shift in focus onto surrounding State-owned parcels. Ramsay read the Vision Concept out loud and highlighted the importance of having an integrative strategy and balanced approach.

### C. Responses from the Vision Committee

Following a walk-through of the draft, Ramsay invited attendees to share their input. Their comments, questions, and concerns are summarized below:

- Is there going to be more consideration paid to infrastructure improvements in light of the ongoing development in Kalihi? For example, the Kapalama Canal project. It is critical to recognize that Kalihi has serious drainage problems, among other urgent infrastructure needs. (Brian Lee)
- The streets need serious improvement. There is no plan to make improvements incrementally. The roads are privatized, making improvements difficult to finance. We are hoping that the rail and redevelopment of the OCCC will bring about infrastructure improvements. (Dennis Arakaki)
- Just wondering who/what motivated the statement about striving towards a more “polished image of Kalihi” (April Bautista)
  - Representatives from student organizations from previous meetings. (Ramsay Taum)
- The report should not be using language that suggests that OCCC may stay at its current location (referring to a section in the draft which says “...in the event the OCCC is removed or relocated”) – we need to instead acknowledge the inevitability of the OCCC moving out of Kalihi. (Romy Cachola)
  - The report holds no direct influence over the OCCC site selection outcome. In light of many moving parts, the current focus of the report is on the potential to transform surrounding State-owned properties. (Ramsay Taum)
  - Yes, I believe the relocation of the site and this visioning effort are two independent conversations (Debra Mendes)
- Another important consideration moving forward will be ensuring that Kalihi becomes more walkable for all populations, especially seniors. (Elizabeth Chinn)

- It is refreshing to see that that communities are starting to value the potential of transit-oriented development to bring about broader improvements. (Jeff Merz)
  - Yes, but on the flip side of that, communities seem to be experiencing “meeting fatigue” as they are being called to participate in so many ongoing projects in their neighborhood. In many cases, the benefits and challenges are overlapping. We have to make the distinction between buy-in and input. (Ramsay Taum)
- I’m concerned that people still strongly prefer living in low-density settings. But if we want to truly make a dent in affordable housing in Kalihi, we will need to be fitting 100 people per acre (just for example). I’m not sure the community is ready to accept that. (Brian Lee)

D. Next Steps

After thanking everyone for their attendance, Ramsay announced that further comments to the draft are welcome and can be submitted via email. The Vision Committee will reconvene on April 11, 2017 to discuss final changes to the report.