MEETING NOTES

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
               21st Century Kalihi Vision Committee Members/
               Resource Agencies/General Public

SUBJECT: 21st Century Kalihi Community Meeting

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