

**KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT,  
VICINITY OF LANIĀKEA BEACH**

**TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 3**

**SUMMARY**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Hale‘iwa Elementary School Cafeteria

**Attendance**

**HDOT:** Alvin Takeshita, Jadine Urasaki, Ken Tatsuguchi, Darell Young, and Dave Zevenbergen

**PB:** Dexter Eji, James Hayes, Jan Reichelderfer, and Rachel Adams

**Task Force:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Antya Miller / Kathleen Pahinui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Richard Fale / Carl Hodel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Emmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Desoto
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Philips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Thielst
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carolyn Sandison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kalani Fronda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kawika Au / Gil Riviere
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sgt. Eli Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Purdy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dale Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Luann Casey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ralph Inouye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dolan Eversole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Martin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Cole		

**Public:** 85 members of the general public signed in. Kathleen Pahinui attended as an alternate for Antya Miller. Eli Walters attended as the replacement for Mark Ward. Carl Hodel attended as an alternate for Richard Fale. Gil Riviere attended as an alternate for Kawika Au.

**Purpose**

The objectives for this meeting were to:

- Provide an update on the demonstration project;
- Approve meeting summary from Task Force Meeting #2;
- Approve Draft Purpose and Need statement;
- Review initial project alternatives; and
- Begin developing screening criteria.

## Summary of Discussion:

1. Meeting began with the singing of Hawai'i Pono'i led by Mr. Thomas Shirai.
2. Opening Remarks and Introductions – Mr. Alvin Takeshita, HDOT Highways Administrator

Mr. Takeshita expressed HDOT's appreciation for the community's dedication to this process and for their attendance tonight.

3. Demonstration Project Discussion – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes indicated that after reviewing and vetting ideas (crosswalks, hiring off-duty police officers, overpasses, underpasses, using the existing bridge, etc.) from large groups of people and consulting with stakeholders, the only available solution to HDOT is to block parking with barriers as a short-term demonstration project because all actions must be within the 60-foot wide highway right-of-way. Mr. Hayes acknowledged that not everyone would be happy.

4. Public Comments

Members of the public were offered a chance to voice concerns for 30 minutes. The following is a summary of comments provided by attendees:

- Bob Leinau expressed concern that this was a temporary fix, and requested clarification on long-term. Mr. Hayes indicated a time-frame less than ten years. Speaker was dis-satisfied with the temporary solution because of the impact to surfers, and felt that HDOT lacked credibility.
- Earl Dahlin expressed concern for impacts to surfers. He indicated that tourists are the biggest problem, and the advertisement for tourists to come out to "turtle beach". It's "Laniakea Beach", and people do not want the barriers. Concerned that people will be parking along the road and on the makai side.
- Speaker #3 asked HDOT to consider different short-term solutions that target tour buses and prevent them from letting tourists off there. People will be climbing up and down the barriers and rocks. Concerned that HDOT is affecting historic character of the town. Requests a moratorium on tour buses.
- Sean Ginela identified various task forces with little to nothing happening and said he was disenfranchised. He is a surfer that would rather have something done rather than nothing. There are 11 parks in an 11 mile stretch, people can go elsewhere. It's not the best solution, but it is something. Tired of nothing being done.
- Blake McElheny has strong concerns because there was little to no communication from the contractor to the community. It's illegal to block access to the ocean. He believes it undercuts the City's Park. Feels the priority should be to have officers enforce with citations of tour buses to let them know they are not allowed to park.
- Larry McElheny feels that the traffic is symptomatic of traffic around the island. Approval of growth will just create more and more growth. Long-term solution needs to address growth. He indicated that it is irresponsible to block parking for tourists and doesn't want a band-aid solution.

- Karen Gallager indicated that if the only short-term solution that DOT would approve is “no parking”, then efforts should be put into a permanent solution. PB builds giant projects, they have the expertise to build this quickly. After the rockslide, the road was repaired in 11 days. Other things done in 2 months. Declare a “state of emergency” and get the long-term done.
- Jean Martinson indicated that the Sunset Beach Community Association supports the barriers. They had hoped that they would be put up during the summer, and not in winter. Suggested that it was a good August experiment, since the stopping tour buses are stressing the turtles.
- Marvin Heskett from the Surfrider Foundation indicated that the Surfrider Foundation produces a state of the beach annual report looking at water quality and beach access. Hawai'i gets great marks because we don't put barriers. Please reconsider the demonstration project.
- Carl Hodel indicated that traffic isn't just during the summer, it's congested in the winter too. From 10-5pm, people are stuck in traffic for 50 minutes. Everyone suffers. People won't service the area because of it. It's not fair for 70-100 surfers to infringe on traffic. He was on the 2005 task force, and there were lots of options but they weren't feasible. This is something they can do. Surfers will find a way. Please don't hold North Shore hostage.
- Thomas Shirai expressed that he was happy to hear everyone come and share. Cultural aspects are important. Maintain proper name of “Laniakea”. He was hoping that Hawaii Tourism Authority, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the State Historic Preservation Division would come and participate tonight. It is important to have cultural monitoring. He would like to see Gil Riviere back on the task force.
- Bill Quinlan discussed a proposal to move traffic mauka using City-owned property. Requested that Senator Hee see what could be done so that it could be built in 18 months.
- Speaker #13 expressed appreciation for the efforts, and acknowledged that no matter what, not everyone will be happy. He is willing to give it a try, but what if the Highway is washed out? The situation should be treated as an emergency/crisis condition. When there is tree trimming, there are two officers to move traffic, why can't that be done here? H-1 rehab was done quickly, what do we have to do to get it as high of a priority? Where are the demonstration project funds coming from? How much does it cost? Mr. Hayes indicated that the funds from the demonstration project are from maintenance funds, and that the purpose of tonight's meeting is the long-term project.

##### 5. Task Force Discussion of the Demonstration Project

The Task Force asked to be allotted time to offer their thoughts on the Demonstration Project. Mr. Hayes indicated the purpose of tonight's meeting is the long-term project, and that the Task Force was formed to develop a long-term solution. The Task Force persisted and asked to vote on whether or not to discuss. When put to a vote as to whether to take time to discuss, 10 of the

19 voted to comment on the barriers. The following summarizes the Task Force's input on the demonstration project:

- Carol Philips indicated that the North Shore Neighborhood Board voted last night to not block the parking. Waikiki does not have parking, and no surfboards are allowed on Buses. There needs to be some entrance and exit allowed within the barriers for parking. Blocking access to the shoreline is not “pono” and not the right thing.
- Kathleen Pahinui explained that she is the Chair of the Neighborhood Board and feels that this is a serious issue. She is concerned that it isn't being treated serious-enough. Concern is for emergency vehicles, and the long-term solution should be done in less than 5 years.
- Gil Riviere indicated that there's a lack of options. Community wants alternatives and options. Perhaps just close the parking from 10am-4pm.
- Others indicated that parking should not be closed at all.
- Laura Purdy asked if there was a way to set the barriers back so that emergency vehicles can get by.
- Bill Martin indicated that he has a lot of concerns with the barriers. He is in a wheelchair, and Laniakea is the only beach on the North Shore where he has access by crawling or rolling to the water's edge. The demonstration project would eliminate this for him. It does not show Aloha to our visitors.
- Douglas Cole requested that the demonstration not be implemented and that he does not want to see the project's funds used to do so.
- Dolan Eversole indicated that he could not support the demonstration project in its current form because the task force has not been well-informed of the decision-making process. There should be a span for egress and ingress.
- Brian Emmons expressed his opposition to the temporary solution because no one likes it. Traffic won't have a place to go and people will be stuck.
- Diane Anderson indicated that traffic and congestion is a priority to address, but we don't want to do this at the expense of closing the beach. The demonstration project should be limited to a year. I want to see a solution that provides access and parking.
- John Desoto expressed concern for the health and safety of the people crossing.
- Chris Gardner recalled when there was hardly any traffic in the past, and questioned why the task force doesn't have a say to vote on the demonstration project. It's part of the purpose for the task force. KITV had a link that said the task force would vote on the barriers. Barricades are a bad idea.

Vote was taken for “support of installation of barriers for 1 year” – 7 indicated yes.

## 6. Task Force Membership

Task force members asked why Gil Riviere was no longer on the task force. Mr. Hayes explained that the task force is intended to represent a cross-section of interests. Members were selected based on their fulfillment of those categories. Mr. Riviere represented the elected

officials, since he is no longer an elected official, HDOT needed to replace him with someone that fits the category. Mr. Hayes indicated that Mr. Riviere is welcome to be part of the process as a task force friend. Task force members asked to vote Mr. Riviere back into the task force, and asked to grandfather him into a 20 member task force. In response to the Task Forces' persistent request, Mr. Hayes indicated they could take a vote for HDOT's consideration. The vote was unanimous to request Gil Riviere back onto the task force.

#### 7. Discussion of Realignment Alternatives and Screening Criteria – Mr. James Hayes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Hayes explained to the Task Force that the primary objective of the task force and the project is to address shoreline erosion and not traffic and congestion. Funding is available for the project because of shoreline erosion. Congestion and safety are part of the purpose and need, however, and those issues will be considered in the process of addressing shoreline erosion. An explanation of the three alternatives, including the project limits was provided.

The task force looked at the (3) three alternatives, and asked whether the Quinlan alternative (see attachment) could be done as a short-term solution. Mr. Hayes explained that the Quinlan alternative would take as much time as any of the other long-term alternatives being considered because it triggers the same environmental clearances. We cannot declare a state of emergency to bypass the process.

Task force members asked which would take the least amount of time, or which could be implemented the fastest. Mr. Hayes indicated that this is part of the journey of screening the alternatives. As we go through the technical studies, we will get a better idea of the existing constraints for the alternatives.

#### 8. Constraints Break Out

Given the primary purpose and need to address shoreline erosion, Mr. Hayes asked the task force to review the alternatives and consider ways that the alternatives could be better. He asked the group to determine what makes one alternative more attractive than another. The Task Force was then divided into three groups and given maps to discuss the alternatives and their constraints. Key remarks provided by each group are provided below:

- Orange Group:
  - Moderate and More Realignment were less attractive because they would impact critical farm operations
  - Moderate and More Realignments would also impact cultural and archaeological resources.
  - Impacts to residential properties were a concern.
  - Suggested an elevated roadway to allow agricultural operations to continue underneath.
- Green Group:
  - The natural shoreline should be considered.
  - Quinlan's concept should also be considered.

- Concerns for the cultural sites that would be impacted by Moderate and More Realignment.
- Suggested another alternative that curves around the undeveloped beach park, comes back to shore, and then around again to Chuns.
- Red Group:
  - Agreed with the new curving alternative as suggested by Green group because it doesn't take as much land.
  - Would like to see a bike path.
  - Consider locations of wetlands and cultural sites
  - Concern for Tinroof Ranch

#### 9. Homework and Wrap up

Participants were asked to:

- Identify the screening criteria that are most important to them.
- Consider if there are any modification to the alternatives presented, or new alternatives.
- Rank the alternatives and explain the basis for the rankings.

The work should be emailed or mailed to Darell Young by **October 25, 2013**.

Next meeting is targeted for early December 2013, in which findings of studies will be reviewed, refinements to project alternatives will be considered, and there will be an initial screening of the alternatives.