

Waimano Ridge Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Draft: 3/16/07

Attending: Sen. David Y. Ige; Rep. Roy Takumi; Allison Yanagi, Office of Sen. David Ige; A. Furuichi, Office of Sen. David Ige; Jonathan Ching, Office of Sen. David Ige; Brandon Higa, Office of Sen. David Ige; Myrtle Nyuha, PCNB; Cruz Vina, Jr., PCNB; James Pickard, Sr., PCNB; Kevin Furutani, PCNB; Davin Takahashi, PCNB; Doreen Higa, Momilani Elementary School; Iwalani White, Dept. of Public Safety; Claire Nakamura, DPS; Jim Propotnick, DPS; Dr. A. Chris Whelen, DOH; Laurence Lau, DOH; Lance Maja, DAGS; Charlene Unoki, DLNR; Dawn Pang, Momilani Elementary School; Bob Moore, Private Citizen, Paulette Moore, Private Citizen; Darrick Baker, Private Citizen; Robert Rod, Private Citizen; Sharon Loo, Private Citizen; Alvin Loo, Private Citizen;;

1. Call to Order, 7:07pm
 - a. DYI greets all who are attending
2. Introductions
 - a. Everyone goes around the room to introduce themselves, affiliation, etc.
3. Purpose of the meeting
 - a. Educate community
 - b. DYI purpose is update of Waimano Ridge
 - c. DYI turns floor over to Mr. Larry Lau, DOH Deputy Director
 - d. LL describes map which is updated January 8, 2007 (SEE ATTACHED/PROVIDED MAP)
4. LL describes *new* budget request – provides handout on facilities, tenants
 - a. DOH seeks \$7.219 M for new water system & other building improvements
 - b. DOH seeks \$1.788 M for demolition of buildings that are fire and safety hazards in FY 08, which starts 6/1/2007
 - c. DOH seeks to make facility manager position permanent
 - d. No money sought for O&M
 - e. No money sought for master plan
 - f. Removal of various items (\$12K quote)
 - g. Fence and guardrail repair (\$13K quote)
5. Questions:
 - a. Why was \$7.219M requested, why not \$7.2 million
 - b. LL responds saying \$7.219M is only budget estimate
6. LL continues to *old* budget requests
 - a. \$436K approp. for new water system design
 - b. \$1.5M approp'd for Hale Complex improvements
 - c. 95% of sites complained of, cleaned up. Haz. waste contractor hired; will come soon.

7. LL opens floor for questions
 - a. Q about Facilities Manager: It's not permanent? If it is filled, who is it? Who is being considered?—

Post meeting correction by LL: DOH has a full time Capitol Improvements Coordinator in a permanent position for the whole DOH. DOH also has an unfilled Facilities Manager temporary position for the whole DOH and is recruiting to fill it. DOH wants to make the Facilities Manager position permanent so that facilities like Waimano Ridge will be taken care of all the time.
 - b. Q: What about cemetery? Is there money approp. for care of cemetery? These are forgotten ones.
 - c. LL says that DOH is taking it into consideration.
 - d. White (Dept. of Public Safety) responded that she has someone to look into cutting shrubs, trees
 - e. Q: Has it been maintained right now?
 - f. White: went up to cemetery 2 weeks ago, an e-mail was sent out to look into it.
 - g. Q: Can it be written down that someone NEEDS to care for cemetery?
 - h. DYI: Yes, that is what this meeting is about
 - i. Q: About map? What buildings are occupied or which ones are being demolished? Is the Public Safety Director going to render services to community?
 - j. White: We will render services to community.
 - k. LL: Thanks Public Safety Director for helping with situation.
 - l. DYI: Any further questions?
 - m. Q: What about Clean Water Branch and Noise Reduction Indoor Air Quality (NRIAQ) Branch?
 - n. LL: Money is being spent for storage of Clean Water Branch has boats and trailers. The NRIAQ Branch received Chevy Suburban trucks under Homeland Security Grant and needs space. At prior facilities plan meeting, we discussed how the branches sought space after non-profits move out.
 - o. Q: Back in 2005, there were several meetings about the bio-terrorism lab. There was a master plan being done by STUDIO 2 and PDS International. A master plan came up with sewage, water...came to \$38M. Are we starting with a clean slate or are we using any of old work?
 - p. DYI: This plan is now considered to be an initial facilities plan. Part of conversation is that the new master plan will accommodate community needs and desires. 2005 plan addresses facilities and infrastructure needs to house DOH health and existing public safety agencies. New plan will accommodate both DOH and Public needs. Old infrastructure plan still exists. Old needs for facilities and infrastructure won't change. Question is will there be new usage of land?
 - q. Q: Are we building on previous work?
 - r. DYI: YES. Those who are working, DAGS etc., will be using previous material.
8. BSL-3 work at State Lab Divisions. LL invites Dr. Whelen to help with PowerPoint, which has been provided.

- a. LL: Introduction of Dr. Whelen, Lab Director for almost a year. Ph. D. in Microbiology. Former Army lab director. Did previous work in Washington, D.C.
- b. LL: PowerPoint Slideshow (SEE ATTACHED PowerPoint)
- c. LL: Laboratory is a public health lab; it is a surveillance laboratory
 - i. We deal with diseases and pollutants already here in Hawaii. Diseases are here and coming regardless of available facilities and resources.
- d. LL: Lab is special. See attached PowerPoint slide #4
- e. LL: See new diseases coming in, Avian, E. Coli.
- f. LL: Musubi in Maui was tainted, and we tested it.
- g. LL: What are we trying to do? Find disease as early as possible to treat and control it. We have a double incentive to keep community safe. One is to try to find the disease. Two is to make sure nothing comes out of the lab
- h. LL: We are part of a larger public health system. We are part of the larger DOH (SEE SLIDE #7).
- i. LL: More specifics of medical microbiology branch (MMB)
- j. LL: Laboratory Emergency Response
- k. LL: Environmental Health Analytical Services Lab (EHASB)
- l. LL: We have come a long way
- m. LL: We are concerned with our own workers and with the community
 - i. LL: We have a clean record. Our workers have never had a lab infection at Waimano.
 - ii. No known infections in community from Lab.
- n. LL: Four Biosafety Levels (Description & Strategies)
- o. LL: What are we now? Biosafety Level 2+
 - i. We are not quite BSL3. We exceed BSL2, which is a normal hospital lab.
- p. LL: What does BSL3 add? See PowerPoint slide #19.
BSL3 adds work practices and safety equipment and safer facilities
- q. LL: We get inspected a lot!
 - i. CDC, CMMS, FDA, EPA, USDA
 - ii. Separate handout shows what credentials we have.
 - iii. We want to perform BSL3 work. We already have the practices and appropriate facilities now.
We're holding off because Dr. Fukino wants to hear what the public has to say.
- r. Q: Is the lab being looked at to upgrade BSL3?
- s. LL: Yes
- t. Q: You would be able to handle new pathogens?
- u. LL: Yes
- v. Q: This would allow us to gain faster response?
- w. LL: Yes, but we are not trying to be a RBL. We are not trying to do research on vaccines. We are not creating new things. We are trying to examine what is HERE or stepping off the plane as we speak.
- x. LL: Distinction between BSL2 & BSL3 is that if we get something in today, we might have to ship it off to mainland. We are still going to act on any surveillance information we obtain.

- y. LL: What are advantages and disadvantages of BSL3?
LL: Enables testing for additional infections.
 - z. LL: The record of public health laboratories is excellent. What do we have for environmental controls? High Efficiency Particulate Air Filters in BSL. All microbiology waste is sterilized. Safety is paramount. Quality management is of utmost concern and a daily focus.
 - aa. LL: Why Waimano? It is a central location. We have experienced and trained workers here. It is a state of the art facility. Other labs have other roles. SLD is a huge investment already.
9. LL Opens to questions on BSL3 proposal
- a. Q: What is status of Kakaako? How good are facilities?
 - b. Dr.W: I got tour but not sure of work practices. Facilities may be state of art but I'm not sure if they are setup for public health practices. If there is going to be an infectious outbreak, it's usually the result of a breakdown of work practices.
 - c. LL: Are they set up for CLIA certification? That's another consideration.
 - d. Q: Would State Lab upgrade overlap with Kakaako lab?
 - e. LL: Unsure of answer, not sure what UHM is cleared to do.
 - f. DYI: It is two separate things. Med School has a small laboratory, and it is a separate operation. It does lab testing for med school, not the general public. \$25M allocated to build RBL. Head of RBL lab wonders if it will ever be constructed. \$25M would not be enough to construct lab. They are having discussions to NIH over what future plans are. They are exploring options now. It's a question of sufficient funds.
 - g. Q: Primary concern is of the schools around the area? Smoke is seen coming out of the Lab.
 - h. Dr.W: Laboratory waste is steam sterilized.
 - i. LL: We are not incinerating any medical waste. We are not equipped for it if we wanted it. It could also be exhaust from the air conditioning system.
 - j. DYI: Any further questions.
 - k. Q: What is the proposal for the BSL3?
 - l. LL: We have the equipment. We have the practices. We are holding off on doing BSL3. We want external review to confirm if we have it. We are not trying to hide things.
 - m. Q: Do you want a new building?
 - n. LL: No. Changes are all inside of building.
 - o. Q: What happens 20 years down the road when you have no control over facilities and work quality? What happens when things get old?
 - p. LL: I can't promise what will happen. It is incumbent on every generation to insist that things be maintained properly. What it calls for is to continue whatever is needed. Keep the spotlight on things that are needed.
 - q. Dr.W: There are certification programs that persist over time. Outside agencies come in. Safety is incumbent on all of those. If that slips much, then we get hammered on it.
 - r. LL: I can't speak for the future. If there is something that is a red flag, I hope the future leaders take it seriously.

- s. Q: BSL3? How much and how long?
- t. Dr.W: External certification would cost \$4K to review facilities and work practices.
- u. LL: How long would it take?
- v. Dr.W: We would need to have bids renewed...probably about 2 months
- w. LL: CLIA certifications are very important. If we can't do human samples, we are nothing...zero.
- x. Dr.W: Certification is every 2 years, in the odd years. District Health Laboratories and Diamond Head lab are under my Director's License and inspected every two years during the even years.
- y. Q: When I attended other meetings, it was a very similar presentation. Now you are saying you can do the same thing in the same building. Two things going on at the same time?
- z. LL: We saw advantages of having RBL & SLD scientists working in close proximity, but there are differences between a surveillance lab and a research lab.
- aa. Q: Is a BSL3 lab unique? Where is another BSL3?
- bb. Dr.W: Many exist.
- cc. LL: I believe there are BSL3 labs on the West Coast. CDC requires that certain samples be sent directly to CDC, e.g. West Nile Virus.
- dd. Dr.W: BSL levels serve as tools to do things safely. With NIH grants, the Request For Proposals was for institutions that need to do research requiring BSL3 containment?
- ee. Q: What is BSL4?
- ff. Dr.W: That is full suits
- gg. Q: Like for Ebola?
- hh. Dr. W: Yes
- ii. LL: We want to do 600 samples a day, using latest molecular testing.
- jj. Q: What kind of security measures exist?
- kk. Dr.W: A system is in place. It would increase to a centralized system.
- ll. Q: Someone can brew something at home and let it go off?
- mm. LL: SLD does surveillance. We want to identify things as soon as possible and safely. SLD staff are human beings. They have families. We have had tours for school children. We don't want to bring people in to make them sick.
- nn. Q: Has any organization approached you about new tenants for Waimano Home?
- oo. LL: DOH has been trying to bring in new Dept. people to keep lease costs low.
- pp. Q: Will there be new approaches considered?
- qq. LL: I don't know. That is not our current direction. In the big picture, that is what still needs to be considered later.
- rr. DYI: That is part of next conversation.
- ss. Q: EMS and DLNR were looking at space here too?
- tt. Maja of DAGS: They are looking at other places, process too long and they can't wait any longer.
- uu. DYI: All of these things subject to funding. Question is what else is being considered.
- vv. Comment: For others to use land, it seems economical to do infrastructure for everyone.

- ww. DYI: Water upgrades will be discussed in current budget. It needs to be funded. Current request is \$40M.
- xx. Q for Director of Public Safety: Do you want to expand public safety's presence?
- yy. Public Safety Director: We want to renovate...not expand.
- zz. DYI: We want to demolish unsafe buildings. We want to fix up buildings. We will be looking at that in the current session.
- aaa. Q: What about more parking for the Cultural Center?
- bbb. DYI: We are working with the schools. Not sure about anything from the high school yet. We will continue to communicate with them.
- ccc. Q/Comment: We need to know the other stakeholders to figure out how we should use \$40M? Master plan needs to tell DOH how to use land for what purposes. We need to have all the stakeholders here to discuss what we are going to do with the ridge
- ddd. DYI: We intend to include different interests. We are trying to go through tonight to contact people who should be involved. This is pre-prep for master plan. What we are trying to do is to see what new interests are to be involved.
- eee. Q: Are we looking at senior housing and a dog park, as mentioned before?
- fff. DYI: Noted and mentioned about intergenerational center, etc.
- ggg. Attendees have spoken to other legislators about senior housing and pet parks. Legislators concur that these are good ideas and that land should be kept available for future uses.
- hhh. DYI: Anything else?
- iii. Q: What else of DOH?
- jjj. LL: For the moment we are looking at planning process. Lab division has no plans of external expansion. Upgrades are internal.
- kkk. DYI: Anything else? This is an ongoing process. If something comes up in meanwhile, let my office know. Next meeting is before the end of session. We can fine-tune anything along the way.
- i. Legislative proposals.
 - ii. Anything else LL?
 - iii. DYI: I am drafting bill for funding for a master plan. I want to spotlight funds to demolish unsafe buildings. Funds for renovation. Find out what is up on ridge and get rid of what is unusable.
- lll. Attendee emphasizes discouragement of expansion of Sex Offender facility.
- mmm. Q: Will there be a lag if you don't seek money for the master plan?
- nnn. DYI: We are working together with DOH. We are looking at what made the cut in previous years. We are looking at requests and what to supplement. We will review DOH budget in the health committee. We are talking about funding for the master plan. The dilemma which occurs with a master plan is that it is a legislative problem...not executive.
- ooo. Q: \$38M is for what again?
- ppp. DYI: That is a request...
- qqq. LL: That is to fix water system.
- rrr. Q: New water tank too?
- sss. Q: Sewer too?
- ttt. Maja: Those are good for now.

- uuu. Q: For now?
- vvv. DYI: We will keep on top of legislative things as they come to us.
10. DYI: To identify any other stakeholders - please let us know of any other stakeholders or interested parties.
11. DYI: Function of lab won't change, just operation
- a. Because they are a public health lab, they are examining what is there. Whether a BSL2 or BSL3, function is the same. Action that is taken is shifted after identification is determined. Safety is function of how much information is provided.
12. LL: From my responsibility, I don't want to be dependent on outside. No one is talking about a BSL4. We think we are ready for BSL3. We think we have the good practices. We want to do things faster for the community.
13. Q: This is a level BSL2+. Will that continue?
14. LL: Yes. It is an added upgrade.
15. Q: Will it only be IN HAWAII. We won't be getting things from anywhere else?
16. LL: I can't say that. It is in our interest to identify things before they come here. Vast majority will happen here.
17. Dr.W: an example was measles in Fiji. It is in our interest to identify and contain it over there before it comes.
18. DYI: Thank you! We will be around. Next meeting is April 11, 2007. We will inform you if anything new happens.
19. DYI Adjournment at 8:44pm.