

## **Waimano Ridge Task Force: Organizational Meeting**

### **Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2006

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** Pearl City Cultural Center

Attendees: Sen. David Y. Ige, DOH Deputy Director Laurence Lau, Rep. Roy Takumi, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Councilmember Gary Okino, James Pickard Sr., Kevin Furutani, Myrtle Nyuha, Breene Harimoto, Kendall Matsuyoshi, Clarice Hashimoto, Alvin Loo, Doreen Higa, Victor Yao, Dawn Pang, Robert Sato, Sam Callejo, Lance Maja, Davin Takahashi, Charlene Unoki, Claire Nakamura, Cruz Vina Jr., Randolph Hara

1. Call to Order, 7:06 PM
  - DYI greeted all who showed up; gave short introduction of group's purpose and past events pertaining to the ridge (last plan made in '93 and included the hospital, changes in laws made plan unviable)
  - DYI stated that the group is to start a discussion about issues related to the ridge and form a consensus.
  - LL expressed DOH's desire to improve communication with the community, share information and move forward with regards to this issue.
  
2. Introductions
  - DYI asked all present to introduce themselves. He likened this initial gathering to a scoping meeting, where people can identify all stakeholders and get people involved.
  - All members introduced themselves and gave a brief description about their interest/connection with Waimano Ridge (WR).
  
3. Administration:
  - DYI introduced the administrative summary and touched on following points.
  - Meetings (frequency and location)
  - Ground rules and Guideline
    - Task Force (TF) is just advisory and holds no authority or power. The group is to begin a discussion at present and be in formation and ready to operate should funds be made available in the future.
    - Goals as written on handout were read and DYI clearly stated that DOH is manager of the land. The state of current facilities is a result of lack of money to maintain property. TF can help to create a master plan and find possible uses.
    - Reiterated that the Chairs want to include all stakeholders in discussions.

- LL commented on and recognized the roles of DOH as the agency responsible for the property, and the Legislature in providing funding and forming policy. Current concerns are identifying needs and getting funding.
- Meetings are scheduled quarterly. Next one is in January '07.
- Vina: Ques.—Who are the stakeholders?
- LL read list of invitees and organizations that were contacted. DYI stated that we can continue to identify and invite people to participate as group moves forward. The group is not exclusive.
- Myrtle: Ques.—Was this publicized?
- DYI stated that an official public announcement was not made since the group is just beginning and the chairs wanted to make sure that beginning efforts did not get out of hand.
- Kevin: Ques.—asked about infrastructure on the ridge.
- LL moved on to next item on agenda.

#### 4. Information Sharing

- Current Status/Update Property Infrastructure
  - LL discussed budgetary items regarding the ridge:
    - ❖ \$436K has been appropriated to design upgrades for water system, acknowledged Board of Water Supply's helpful cooperation with this matter.
    - ❖ \$1.5M has been appropriated to improve "Hale" facilities and buildings so that staff at Dole Cannery can be relocated to DOH buildings and DOH can stop paying rent for commercial leases.
    - ❖ DOH needs money to build improvements to the water system.
    - ❖ DOH needs money for operation and maintenance of ridge, including removal of buildings that are fire and safety hazards, and is interested in moving more staff later to the Hale complex;
    - ❖ DOH and other officials are still discussing budget proposals for next session, and the Gov. will decide later what to include in her official budget proposal.
  - LL noted that DOH's facilities manager says most of the sites complained of have been cleaned up. A hazardous waste contractor has been hired to remove batteries, paints, other items.
  - LL reported that most tenants have moved. 4 agencies are still working on moves.
  - LL reported that the State Laboratories Division has increased its ability to test for flu with money from the pandemic flu emergency appropriation; is working on improving its computer information management for better data transfer with outside parties; and did special testing after the Kauai dam break and Ala Wai sewage events.

- Myrtle: Ques.—Where is the Youth Sex Offender Treatment Facility (YSOTF) on the map?
  - LL and DYI stated that they just wanted to provide a map without the RBL.
  - Myrtle asked for a map labeling all facilities and occupants and agencies.
  - LL said that a better map will be provided at the next meeting.
  - Kevin: Ques.—How many occupants are on the property?
  - LL doesn't know but he can get a summary of the recent report on the status of the ridge done by DAGS.
  - Okino: Ques.—do all occupants need to be state agencies?
  - LL: No. Most existing tenants are relocated and will continue to clear the property. Dr. Fukino is concerned about security in the area and on the property.
  - Okino: If the state has less or little use of the land, then the needs of the community need to be addressed and satisfied.
  - LL: The Legislature probably would like a Master Plan (MP) before anything is decided. Already, an infrastructure plan has been created.
  - DYI: No appropriations have been designated since community input is needed before anything is built.
  - Pickard: Is it true that according to Dr. Fukino only DPS and the Lab are authorized to be on the property?
  - LL: Can't verify or speak for Dr. Fukino.
  - Discussion about the YSOTF and state maintenance of the property ensued. Questions on these topics could not be answered since they either dealt with departments other than DOH or pertained to events that occurred during prior administration.
  - Kevin: Ques.—What facilities can go on the ridge?
    - LL gave brief list of current facilities on the property but encouraged the group to look beyond current uses and discuss future uses and possibilities.
- Summary on Regional Biocontainment Laboratory
    - LL noted that UH decided to try to build the RBL by the medical school in Kakaako because they have a tight deadline under their grant. Kakaako already has infrastructure while Waimano needs significant upgrades.
    - LL also offered comments about need for bio-safety level 3 lab in Hawaii and current need to sample and test for diseases and bio-terror agents in order to keep Hawaii safe. The SLD is a public health lab that is part of public health surveillance, and we want to find diseases, BT agents as quickly as possible before they spread in the community. It is better if we can test here than have to send samples to the mainland to get results.
    - Okino: How does the lab affect our planning?

- LL: There is no effect to the purpose of this group. Changes will mostly happen inside the lab, not outside.
- Kevin: Ques.—What is difference between level 2 and 3 lab?
- LL gave general explanation dealing with physical features, equipment and work practices in the lab.
- Kevin: If we have to do level 3 lab work now, can we?
- LL: The public would need to be consulted first, but DOH does want to do BSL-3 work.
- Okino: What now?
- DYI: We need to look at current needs, budgetary issues, maintenance issues and a property manager. We want to identify issues and make a game plan, get assessments and comments from the public and community.
- A discussions about where to begin and what to focus on ensued. Currently what is happening now is not working since the property is not being properly maintained or used in a positive way for either community or state. Takumi refocused discussion by commending DOH for their efforts to involve the community from step one and recognized that a balance needs to be struck between community needs and state needs. LL reiterated DOH's desire for better communication. Discussion turned to possible topics for next meeting.
- Topics for next meeting:
  - Identify demolition renovation projects
  - ❖ Distribute updated map with labels and IDs
  - ❖ Discuss ideas for MP
  - ❖ Name more stakeholders
- People also stated their opposition to prisons or dewatering facilities on the property.

5. Next Meeting:

Date: January 10, 2007

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: PC Cultural Center

6. Adjournment—8:26 PM