



# Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus No. 10 NEWSLETTER



Annual Issue

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*c/o Neighborhood Commission Office • 530 South King Street, Room 400 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Author: Joseph Zuiker Layout: Bryan Mick (NCO)*

## Aloha from the Board!

Your Makiki Tantalus Neighborhood Board meets each month to gather information concerning police and fire services, transportation and road safety, dangerous conditions in our neighborhood, and zoning and development matters. The Board convenes at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Arts and Crafts Room of Makiki Regional Park.

All Board members are volunteers and are elected by the community to serve a two-year term. Our next Neighborhood Board election will be in Spring 2011. The Makiki Board has 17 members when all the seats are filled, but frequently there are vacancies. If you are interested in serving on the Board, you may be eligible if there is a vacancy in your subdistrict (there are three subdistricts in the larger Makiki-Tantalus district). If you are interested in serving, attending a Board meeting would give you more information.

Under the Neighborhood Charter, all Boards have the authority to advise government agencies on matters that concern their respective communities. And we frequently pass resolutions regarding island-wide issues, such as the proposed Honolulu High Capacity Transit system. However, the Board's powers are very limited, and we have no authority to block, veto, or even alter, a proposed project. Despite these limits, the Board has quite often become the community's best forum for the airing of complaints and opposition to certain proposals. Past meetings of the Board have become an opportunity for proponents and opponents of a project to come together and listen to each other. These meetings have led to modifications to projects that probably would not have occurred if it were not for the efforts of the Board.

So please join us the third Thursday of each month at Makiki District Park's Arts and Crafts Room at 7:00 p.m. Together we can make our community better.

## Chair's Report



*(Chair John Steelquist)*

The Neighborhood Board year of 2008-2009 has been quiet in Makiki. Only one major construction project is in progress and two are planned. The medical office building on the corner of Keeaumoku and Beretania Streets is reaching its full height and will be finishing out during the rest of the year. Construction plans for the Catholic Charities site at the corner of Nehoa and Keeaumoku Streets have been prepared and reviewed by the Board and the public. Most of the construction will not be visible from outside. Construction noise, traffic, and dust have been addressed and construction will not start this year. The Holomua Project at the top of Kalakaua Ave. was vigorously opposed by the immediate neighbors, but the plan review is continuing by the City.

## Chair's Report continued...

The Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project has been discussed often by the Neighborhood Board, but the opinions are split and no position has been taken by the Board either in support or opposition. On the other hand, the Board is strongly in favor of a better solution for the Vineyard off ramp situation. Efforts to create convenience for cars passing through Makiki have caused more traffic in Makiki during morning rush hour. A bill in the legislature proposes a study to find a solution. A different off-ramp would be expensive. Spencer Street and Wilder Avenue intersections will be modified to aid pedestrians and improve visibility for drivers. A Ward Avenue widening project above Beretania was dropped by traffic planners.

Graffiti, illegal dumping and bulky item pick-up are continuing problems. Noise also seems to be a problem without resolution. "Roosters in Makiki" has been an off and on problem with continuing action by City and State departments. Racing, dangerous drivers and noise on Tantalus/Round Top has been a police focus with some results. Contemporary Museum programs continue, but construction plans are not being implemented at this time.

The Board meets every third Thursday and is happy to hear comments on all levels of government, which we pass on to the appropriate people. The Governor, the Mayor, the Legislature and the City Council are usually represented, so Makiki residents can have their concerns addressed quickly. Please come and visit.

## Recycling Can Pay By Phil Hauret



I must admit that I was skeptical of the "Bottle Bill" when it passed the Legislature several years ago. I didn't believe people would bother to turn in cans and bottles for a mere five cents each, particularly when redemption centers seemed few and far between. However, my skepticism mellowed over the years, especially when I realized that for every can and bottle I found I would earn the five cents that others have forfeited. It also

helped that a redemption center was established within walking distance of my home.

Although I do recycle the aluminum cans that I buy at the market, the vast majority of the cans and plastic bottles I recycle I pick up along the sidewalk while walking around Makiki. If you keep your eyes peeled, you can find them everywhere. Picking them up not only gains you a nickel, but helps to clean up your community and keeps trash out of our over-taxed landfill.

It still irks me, nonetheless, that the redemption centers still appear to cheat you, despite assurances from the Governor that this issue would be addressed and resolved. If you turn in your cans and bottles by weight, it seems you only get about 80% of what you would be owed if they were counted and redeemed at five cents each. Like many others, I have counted the cans I turned in and had a certain expectation of what I would get, only to be given significantly less. And who is keeping the difference? You guessed it—the State of Hawaii.

In spite of this, it appears the Bottle Bill has done far more good than bad. Many retirees supplement their income by recycling, and for some homeless individuals it's a major source of income. And in today's economy, we can all agree every dollar counts.

## Human Trafficking By Richard Kawano

On our agenda a few months ago was a presentation on "Human Trafficking." I had recently watched a documentary on this subject and also watched a TV movie production, starring Mira Sorvino, which was about how sexual slavery impacts our country. I had never considered its impact here in our community! It's said to be real and terrible here, not just in some faraway or imaginary place!

The presentation was made by the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (P.A.S.S.) at our February meeting. They outlined the extent and horror of

## Human Trafficking continued...

sexual slavery. From what I've been told, this may be going on in our neighborhood! It seems we tolerate "the world's oldest profession." We either romanticize it or accept it. It's here, it's always been here, and we really can't do much anything about it.

The folks at P.A.S.S. see it differently. They are working on legislation that hopefully will be acted upon at our next legislative session in 2010. I called soon after our meeting and offered my support in their efforts to deal with this problem. Their bill to address this should be available soon. I'm looking forward to seeing exactly what the bill has to offer. Let's not turn our back on this issue.

For more information, go to:  
[www.traffickjamming.org](http://www.traffickjamming.org) (P.A.S.S website), or  
[www.prostitutionresearch.com](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com), or  
National Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888  
[www.girlfsthawaii.org](http://www.girlfsthawaii.org)

Call me, Richard Kawano, at my work, 944-9780, if you want to talk about this issue.

## An Exciting New Children's Health Care Initiative! By Richard Kawano

How does pollution in the environment affect my children? Can asthma be prevented? Why is autism affecting more and more children? How do hours and hours of video games impact my son? Read on.

At our April meeting your Board members were given an information packet at the end of the meeting. When I read it the next day, I got very excited about the National Children's Study (NCS). I called Al Tachibana, their Community Engagement Coordinator. We had a nice conversation and then I attended a meeting on

Tuesday, April 28 to meet the local staff and learn more about this promising project.

Certain members of our Makiki-Punchbowl neighborhood have been selected to participate in the NCS, whose goal is to improve the health and well being of our children. This study hopes to follow 100,000 participants nationwide from pre-conception or birth to the age of 21. Recruitment will not begin until 2011.

About 100 locations nationwide are included. Your participation in this study will help children and families by forming the basis of child health guidance, interventions and policy for generations to come!

The NCS study will include these issues and factors:

- Natural and man-made environmental factors
- Biological and chemical factors
- Physical surroundings
- Social factors, behavioral influences and outcomes
- Genetics
- Cultural and family influences
- Geographic locations

Please seriously consider participating in this worthwhile project. This is an excellent way for you to leave a lasting legacy of your care and compassion for our community. Your help will get us some real answers to our questions about our children's health and well being.

To learn more about participating or supporting NCS go to [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov), or call Halida of NCS at 587-4880 for more information. You may also call me, Richard Kawano, at work at 944-9780, or at home at 524-4516. I am currently the chair of the Health, Safety and Wellness Committee and have served on your Board for about 10 years.

# Pet Peeves

Do you have any "Pet Peeves"? What should the Neighborhood Board Discuss or inform our government about? What can the city, state, or federal government do better?

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Environmental     Transportation     Environmental     Parks  
 Noise                       Health                       Services                       Other

Just fill out the form, clip it out and send it back to us at:  
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Mahalo!



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