



Waikiki Wiki-Wiki Wire



Rail Transit and Waikiki

By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

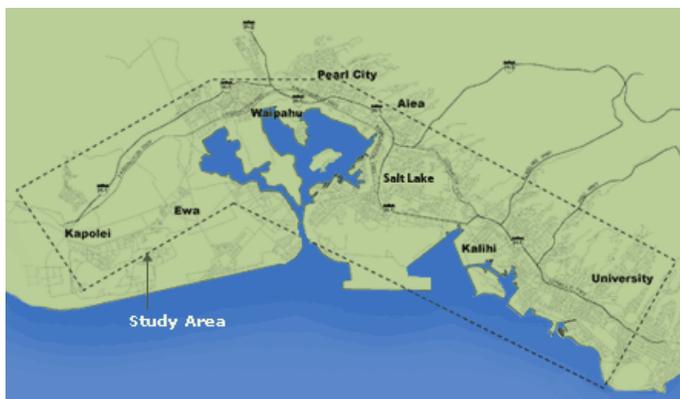
[WIA is privileged to share this timely article by Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. Mahalo to Mayor Hannemann for discussing this important issue with the Waikiki community.]

Honolulu's rail transit system won't run through Waikiki, at least not at first. But Waikiki will benefit from the system, nonetheless.

It's no secret that I favor development of a rail transit system as a vital way to meet Oahu's transportation needs. However, city planners and engineers studied other alternatives without favor over the past year as part of an alternatives analysis that the federal government requires for future funding. We are about to present results of our alternatives analysis to the City Council.

That report will include two rail proposals:

A full-length rail transit system covering the 28 miles from Kapolei to the University of Hawaii Manoa campus and the price tag for developing it.



A basic, no-frills first segment, covering the most effective stretch of the full-length system, that we could build for about \$3 billion.

The latter is a concession to fiscal reality and my administration's obligation to be fiscally accountable to taxpayers: As much as we'd love to build the full 28-mile spine in one fell swoop, that's going to cost quite a bit more than the roughly \$3 billion we care to spend. Financial conditions and the will of the people, however, might still dictate doing more than the initial operable segment. Meanwhile, we hope to break ground in 2009 and have the first phase of the system running by 2012.

Neither of those rail proposals will include a spur to Waikiki. We wouldn't rule that out at some point in the future. For now, however, we feel Waikiki would be best served with buses shuttling visitors and residents alike to and from the nearest transit station.

We expect the advent of the rail system to make more buses available to serve Waikiki, the most heavily urbanized area of our Honolulu. Building a rail line into Waikiki would be expensive and disruptive. At some point, once the rail system is up and running we might be able to extend it into Waikiki. But taking rail into Waikiki at this point would require too many tradeoffs to make it worthwhile.

We should not overlook the fact that when transit was proposed in 1992, Waikiki community opposed a spur in their neighborhood. And this year, the Waikiki Neighborhood Board voted against transit in Waikiki again.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

HTH Corp. Selects Outrigger to Manage Pacific Beach Hotel	3	Keiki Special for Magic of Polynesia Halloween Shows	6
First Coconut Trees Are Planted in the RHSC Royal Grove	4	Isobe Named Marketing & Operations Manager for Aqua	7
City Checks Lines, Bypass in Wake of Earthquake	5	Tiki's Grill & Bar Promotes Vilorio to Executive Chef	7

Rail Transit and Waikiki

By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

(continued from page 1)

Rest assured that even without rail, my administration realizes the City must improve transportation services in our tourist mecca. In addition to more buses, we will also be looking for ways to improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle flows through Waikiki and adjoining areas. After all, our visitor industry employees also need to get in and out of Waikiki and to and from their places of residence in a more efficient manner.

Transportation is all about offering people choices. That's why we are proposing a multimodal system for Oahu that will include a commuter ferry that would carry people from Barbers Point to town. A fixed guideway remains a vital element.

Here's why we all need to be pro-rail. That's P-R-O R-A-I-L.

P: A rail system is a Priority. To borrow a baseball analogy, this will be our last chance at bat. We struck out twice before when the City declined federal transit dollars in the 1980s, and again in the 1990s. Governor Lingle resurrected the idea of a rail system in 2003, but eventually withdrew her support because of opposition.

R: It's the Right thing to do. This is more than a transportation issue; it's a matter of building a livable community for us and our children. The transit speakers we heard told us that rail systems have become so popular that the issue has become which demands for extensions of existing lines should be met first. In the case of Phoenix, outlying areas are asking for extensions—even though the 57-mile system is still under construction. The same goes for Dallas.

Opponents of rail have offered toll roads and high-capacity flyover lanes as alternatives, but those ideas will not take cars off the road. Rather, they will only make commuting more costly and be less environmentally friendly.

O: Oahu. We have three-quarters of the state's population, the jobs, the economy, the lion's share of visitors, and, yes, the traffic. Oahu needs a fixed guideway system. Besides, as we expand and upgrade our system, there will be direct benefits to our sister counties, as when we transferred buses to Mayor Harry Kim and Hawaii County for its growing transit system.

R: Reducing emissions will be a direct result of mass transit, which is good news for our environment. Todd Litman of the Victoria Policy Institute noted that air pollution will be reduced from a decline in personal automobile use. Former Phoenix Mayor Skip Rimsza

said public transportation reduces the cost of travel by enabling households to manage on one less car, a cost that hovers around \$8,000 a year, according to one AAA estimate. Reducing commuting time and providing other choices will mean more time to spend with our families and on leisure activities.

A: Affordability means an affordable commute. Affordability means a fixed guideway system that we will build within our means. Speaker after speaker advised us that the longer a municipality delays a decision on developing a mass transit system, the higher the eventual cost in terms of construction costs, traffic congestion, the burden on ourselves and our families, and the toll on our quality of life. Prolonging a decision also means more competition for a shrinking pot of federal transit money. These experts were very proud that their systems came in on time and on budget, even ahead of schedule in some cities.

I: I stands for Integration. As a proponent of combining Oahu's various forms of public transportation into an integrated network, I was pleased that the experts said a fixed guideway system is just one part of a larger transportation network—"multimodal" to transportation engineers—that includes buses, taxis, a ferry in Oahu's case, bicycle lanes, even walking.

L: At the heart of the transit debate is Livability. In every municipality, transit has created opportunities for transit-oriented development and public-private partnerships that resulted in livable communities: jobs, housing, pedestrian and bicycle paths, retail and commercial space. With appropriate land use policies and community input, I would anticipate we could enjoy comparable benefits.

Mayor Rimsza and former Houston mayor Kathy Whitmire (who now lives in Windward Oahu and is president of the board of directors for The Outdoor Circle), both 10-year mayors credited with launching their rail systems, strongly endorse a transit system for Honolulu.

My administration will submit our recommendation for what's called the locally preferred alternative to the City Council in a few days. The public needs to tell the Council that a prompt decision is imperative and that a delay will be costly to our pocketbooks and our quality of life. I firmly believe a rail system is the best hope to give ourselves and future generations the livable community we deserve—and that's why I'm PRO-RAIL.

HTH Corporation Selects Outrigger to Manage Pacific Beach Hotel

HTH Corporation announced today it has selected an affiliate of Outrigger Enterprises Group to manage its 837-room flagship Pacific Beach Hotel, located at the corner of Kalakaua and Liliuokalani Avenues in Waikiki. This management change is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2007.

“We have chosen Outrigger Enterprises Group because it is a good fit for us,” said Corine Hayashi, HTH Corporation President and CEO. “My father, Herbert T. Hayashi, and Outrigger’s founder, Roy Kelley, were visionaries in the development of the state’s hospitality industry and now we have joined together to make the Pacific Beach Hotel even more successful. Pacific Beach Hotel employees will be hired under our new management agreement,” she continued.

“We are pleased with the opportunity to join forces with HTH Corporation,” said David Carey, President and CEO of Outrigger Enterprises Group. “With Outrigger’s advanced technology, systems and global marketing, I believe we will be able to build on a strong history of guest service and continue the success of the Pacific Beach Hotel. The current HTH management team has done very well for the property. The hotel offers one of the best locations in Waikiki – just across Kalakaua Avenue from world-famous Waikiki Beach – with a 37-year legacy of excellent service,” he continued.

“We are proud to include Pacific Beach Hotel in our fine family of accommodations in Hawaii and the Pacific,” Carey said. “The Pacific Beach Hotel will

continue to be one of the great full service hospitality choices in Waikiki, which has now returned to the top tier of world class destinations,” he added.

No change will be made to the hotel’s name. It will continue to be called the Pacific Beach Hotel. HTH Corporation will continue to manage the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu, with the famous Pagoda Floating Restaurant, and the King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel on the Island of Hawaii.



Herbert T. Hayashi purchased the Pacific Beach Hotel in 1970 and built the Oceanarium Tower. The famous landmark indoor Oceanarium, with its three-story structure and 280,000 gallons of seawater, was created in 1978 and became the largest indoor oceanarium in the state. H.T. Hayashi, one of the most innovative leaders in the visitor industry, died November 6, 2005. The founder of HTH Corporation was 85 years old.



First Coconut Trees Are Planted in the Royal Grove at Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center

The storied history of Helumoa, the first capital of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and a favorite residence of Hawai'i's ali'i, is coming to life again with the first kumu niu, or coconut palms, being planted in the area now named "The Royal Grove" at the piko (center) of Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center.

"Our plans to revitalize Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center have always been centered around the concept of pili 'āina, or being one with the land," said Dee Jay Mailer, president of Kamehameha Schools, owner of Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. "We will bring native trees and plants that proliferate our lands to create a garden unlike anything else in Waikīkī. The first step in creating the garden is the planting of the niu - a tribute to the 10,000 trees that once stood in the grove at Helumoa. And, in an effort to give back and be stewards of the land, we are including trees and plants from other lands of Kamehameha Schools."

The new Grove, now one of the largest open green spaces in Waikīkī for people to enjoy, will be approximately the same size as downtown Honolulu's Tamarind Park and feature areas for cultural programs and performances. The overall completion of the Grove is anticipated for early 2007.

"Formerly, the Royal Grove area was home to three heavy concrete bridges," said Rosalind Schurgin, principal of The Festival Companies, developer and manager of Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. "We wanted to replace that with the Grove to open up the Center and welcome visitors and kama'āina to mingle and share in the culture and tradition of the Hawaiian people. The result is now taking shape and we've installed a new, light footbridge that spans the Royal Grove linking Buildings B and C, and provides a bird's eye view of the gardens below and the activities that will take place there."

The landscape architects on the project are EDAW, Inc. and Walters Kimura Motoda, with assistance from native Hawaiian plant consultant and Kamehameha Schools graduate Rick Barboza from Hui Kū Maoli Ola.



"The concept for the Grove began with a desire to recreate the imagery of the legendary Helumoa grove of the 1800s," said Michael Motoda, principal in charge for Walters Kimura Motoda, on the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center project. "It then evolved into a program to share the Hawaiian culture and history through its native and endemic trees and plants. The final outcome will offer a unique experience for everyone who passes through the Center."

"As a Kamehameha graduate, it's a privilege for me to be a part of such an important project with so much meaning," said Rick Barboza. "Planning out the gardens that are part of the Grove really gave me the opportunity to share my knowledge of native plants and help create a place for everyone to enjoy our culture."

City Checks Lines, Bypass in Wake of Earthquake

(from www.beachwalkbypass.com, Oct. 23, 2006 update)

City workers rushed to Waikiki moments after a powerful earthquake rattled all of Hawaii early Sunday morning, Oct. 15. They checked for leaks in the aging wastewater pipe that is still in use until a permanent replacement project is completed. That line under Kaiolu Street transports wastewater from Makiki, Manoa and Waikiki to the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. City engineers were relieved to find no leaks.



They also inspected gauges in the Beachwalk Pump Station checking for any indication of a problem caused by the earthquakes and its aftershocks. And they checked the generator inside the pump station on the corner of Kaiolu Street and Kuhio Avenue, which worked well during the day long power outage.



"Everything went well over there," said Craig Nishimura, deputy director of the City Department of Design and Construction. More importantly, if there was a problem, Nishimura noted the City has a plan in place to avoid another major sewage spill.

The city was ready to power up seven temporary pumps that would send wastewater into a temporary bypass line now lying at the bottom of the Ala Wai Canal. In fact, city crews and contractors were on standby due to a prediction of heavy thunderstorms over that weekend. When the 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit at 7:07am Sunday, they were on the scene quickly. And they monitored the situation throughout the day and evening.

Watching all this unfold were Waikiki residents, who like everyone else in the state, were shaken out of their beds by the earthquake and then had to endure a day and night of no power. But in Waikiki, many wondered if the quake, combined with the lack of power, would trigger another sewage spill on their street. Last March, after weeks of heavy rains, a force main line cracked, forcing the diversion of millions of gallons of wastewater into the Ala Wai Canal.

But on Oct. 15, in the wake of the largest earthquake to hit the islands in 23 years, there were no wastewater problems in Waikiki. There was also no need to turn on the six temporary pumps on the makai side of Ala Wai Boulevard and the one pump on the mauka side of Ala Wai Canal.

The seven pumps remain on standby, as work continues on the two microtunneling pits that will lead to installation of a new wastewater line. That line, expected to be completed in the coming months, will replace the aging pipe that held up on a day everyone in Hawaii will long remember.

Check www.beachwalkbypass.com for weekly updates, or call the project hotline, 808-203-5777, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.



Keiki Treats and Free Admission at Special Magic of Polynesia Halloween Shows

The Magic of Polynesia, a dazzling world class production that features Hawaiian legends, music, dance and mystifying illusions, is offering a special Halloween promotion for performances on Friday, October 27 thru Tuesday, October 31. Children (4 - 11yrs old) receive one Free Keiki Kama'aina Admission with each Kama'aina Adult Admission purchased. Children 4 -11 years old will receive special Magic Trick Treats too!

The Magic of Polynesia, starring John Hirokawa, winner of the world's "Most Original" Merlin Award, is Oahu's must see attraction. Hawaiian legends unfold before your eyes and are intertwined with mystifying magic, blending to create the ultimate stage spectacular.

The Magic of Polynesia Showroom, located in the Ohana Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel, hosts a dinner and show only performance every night of the year. Dinner seating is at 7:00 p.m. Show only seating is at 8:00 p.m. The show begins at 8:20 p.m. This special October 27 thru October 31 Halloween promotion is subject to nightly availability for kama'aina admissions only. For reservations and information, call (808) 971-4321 or toll free 1 (877) 971-4321.



Nine-Year-Old Kaulana Dilliner
and master illusionist John Hirokawa

Kuhio Beach Torch Lighting and Hula Show DAILY!



Torch lighting, Hawaiian music and hula shows are performed daily **6:30PM – 7:30PM** at the Kuhio Beach Hula Mound, near the Duke Kahanamoku statue. FREE. Presented by the City's Office of Economic Development (843-8002) and the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Schedule subject to change without notice.

For the month of October:

Mondays & Tuesdays: "Auntie Pudgie" Young & Hawaiian Serenaders

Wednesdays: Ainsley Halemanu and Ka Liko O Kapalai

Thursdays: Val Crabbe and Halau Hula Palena

Fridays: Oct 27: Kale Pawai and Halau Na Pua Mai Ka Lani

Saturday, October 28: Coline Aiu and Halau Hula O Maiki

Sunday, October 29: Leimomi Ho and Keali'ika'apunihonua Ke'ena A'o Hula



LeeAnn Isobe Named Marketing & Operations Manager for Aqua Hotels



Aqua Hotels & Resorts named LeeAnn Isobe to the newly-created position of Marketing & Operations Manager.

In her new role, Isobe works closely with Elizabeth Churchill, Aqua's VP Marketing & Guest Services, Guy Underkoffler, Aqua's VP Operations & Finance

and Sae Design, the company's advertising agency. Her responsibilities include overseeing advertising and collateral production, supervision of media schedules and budgets, daily maintenance of the website, management of the company's image library and employee relations.

"We are very lucky to have LeeAnn on board as part of the marketing team," said Churchill. "Her extensive background in advertising and experience

working on accounts with multiple properties are great assets to us."

According to Underkoffler, "LeeAnn is incredibly organized and detail oriented and she's been a great asset to the operations division in a number of areas including employee relations."

Immediately prior to joining Aqua, Isobe was Senior Account Executive at CP Advertising. She also held supervisory and management positions with AdWorks, Marc Resorts and Aston Hotels & Resorts.

Isobe was educated at Waipahu High School and University of Hawaii.

For information on Aqua Hotels & Resorts, please visit aquaresorts.com. For reservations, see your travel agent or call toll free at 1-866-406-2782.



Tiki's Grill & Bar Promotes Ronald Vloria to Executive Chef



Tiki's Grill & Bar has announced the promotion of Ronald Vloria from Pastry Chef to Executive Chef. In addition to overseeing the pastry section of the restaurant, his new duties have him overseeing the entire culinary aspect of Tiki's Grill & Bar. His responsibilities include

maintaining the food quality and consistency, menu planning, hiring and training.

"We're proud to give Ronald the well-deserved promotion as Tiki's new executive chef," said Bill Tobin, Tiki's Grill & Bar Managing Partner and CEO. "He made such an impact as our pastry chef and he is bringing with him new ideas for our entire menu."

Vloria uses a lot of tropical ingredients in his dishes, such as fresh lilikoi, mango, pineapples,

vanilla bean and coconut, as well as Asian ingredients like gobo (burdock), lotus root, daikon (radish) and wakame (seaweed). He also has a fondness for seafood that goes back to his childhood. "I grew up fishing, from net casting and spear fishing to mussel harvesting and catching tako (octopus) and lobster," said Vloria. "At Tiki's, we are proud to say that we have at least six varieties of fresh local fish that are delivered to our restaurant daily," he added.

Tiki's features daily, contemporary island entertainment starting at 5 p.m. on weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends. Entertainer Sean Na`au`ao shares the stage with a variety of other popular local talent.

For reservations or more information, call 923-TIKI (8454) or visit www.tikisgrill.com. And get ready for Tiki's sister restaurant, Holokai Grill, opening in late 2006 at the Waikiki Beachwalk!



Waikiki Beach Clean-up!

Waikiki Ohana Workforce

Please join the Waikiki Ohana Workforce of the Waikiki Improvement Association on **Make a Difference Day** in a Waikiki Beach Clean-up, Saturday, October 28, 2006, from 7:00AM to 9:00AM.

7:00 am: Meet at the Duke Kahanamoku Statue in Kuhio Beach Park for a briefing.
(Transportation will be provided to other clean-up areas.)

9:00 am: Ends back at Kuhio Beach Park.

- Wear a company t-shirt and have a photo taken!
- All are welcome!
- RSVP 923-1094 ext. 6.

We will have a special treat from Halekulani! Pasteries!

Our valuable sponsors: ABC Stores, C&C Lifeguards, Crazy Shirts, DFS Hawaii, E Noa Corporation, HPD-D6, Halekulani, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Hyatt Regency Waikiki, International Market Place, LVMH Fashion Group Hawaii, Pacific Beach Hotel, Roberts Hawaii, ShakaNet, Superstar Transportation, Tiffany & Co., Waikiki Beach Activities Inc., Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort, Waikiki Trade Center.



Waikiki Improvement Association

2255 Kuhio Avenue, Suite 760
Honolulu, HI 96815

Phone: 808-923-1094
Fax: 808-923-2622
E-mail: mail@waikikiimprovement.com



Honolulu Zoo Society Offers Twilight Tours, Star Gazing

What's Wild in Waikiki? Take a stroll to the Honolulu Zoo and learn the sort of monkey business that goes on after hours. Learn about the lives of the Zoo's remarkable citizens. Tours are held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Saturday evening! It's a fun evening of education never experienced by day visitors. Special arrangements can be made for large groups. Families are welcome. The tours are appropriate for all ages 5 to 105! Please purchase tickets in advance from the Honolulu Zoo Society (HZS) by calling 971-7195. Walk-ups are welcome if space is available - meet at the Front Entrance at 5:15pm. See www.honzoosoc.org for info.

Or see the stars as well as the animals on a special star-gazing tour that meets on the first Friday of each month! The evening begins with a tour of the zoo and continues on the zoo lawn with astronomer Dr. Michael Chauvin. Learn about the stars as well as some of the history and mythology of astronomy. Please call 926-3191 for times and for reservations. Recommended for adults and families with children over the age of 10.



Waikiki Parade Watch (courtesy of the City)

November 5, 2006 Sunday
5:30AM Starts
9:00AM Ends

VAL NOLASCO MEMORIAL HALF MARATHON sponsored by RRCA/Mid Pacific Roadrunners Club. The event is expected to have 1,200 runners. It will start at Kalakaua Ave., mauka side Queen Kapiolani Park, to Monsarrat Ave., to Paki Ave., to Diamond Hd. Rd., to 18th Ave., to Kilauea Ave., to Waiialae Ave., to Kalaniana'ole Hwy., turnaround near W. Hind Dr., to Kealahou St., to Kahala Ave., to Diamond Hd. Rd., to Kalakaua Ave., to Queen Kapiolani Park Bandstand/Hon Marathon Finish. Contact: John Simonds 373-3609 For more info, visit their website: <http://www.mprrc.org/>

November 23, 2006 Thursday
7:30AM Starts
9:00AM Ends

TURKEY TROT FUN RUN sponsored by Honolulu Marathon Clinic. The event is expected to have 800 runners/walkers. It will start at Paki Ave./Monsarrat Ave., to Paki Ave., onto Diamond Hd. Rd., to 22nd Ave., to Kilauea Ave., to Kealaolu Ave., to Kahala Ave., to Kalakaua Ave., to end at Honolulu Marathon Finish Line on Kalakaua Ave. near Kapiolani Park Bandstand. Contact: Alan Sunio 753-1999 Fax: 455-7574

November 24, 2006 Friday
7:00PM Starts
9:00PM Ends

WAIKIKI HOLIDAY PARADE sponsored by Gateway Music Festival & Tours. The event is expected to have 4,000 marchers, 40 vehicles, & 38 bands. It will start at Saratoga Rd/Kalakaua Avenue to Kalakaua Ave, to Monsarrat Ave., to end at Queen Kapiolani Park Contact: "Jake" John Peppers 888-892-5877, Fax: 865-448-8294

The above is based on the most current information available from the event organizers as of the date of this publication. For more information, call the Department of Transportation Services, 808-527-6009.



Waikiki Improvement
Association

2255 Kuhio Avenue, Suite 760
Honolulu, HI 96815

Phone: 808-923-1094

Fax: 808-923-2622

E-mail:

If you would like to share news with other members of WIA, please send your info to mail@waikikiimprovement.com or fax to 923-2622.

Check out our monthly calendar of free activities at:

www.waikikiimprovement.com