

Nu‘uanu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board –February 21, 2023

Karl Rhoads

Last meeting: January 17, 2023

1. In response to Board Member Soon’s request for an update on the Cap Park, I received a letter from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation informing me that the recipients of the grants will be disclosed in early 2023. I will update the board when I receive further information.
2. In the last NB meeting, Board Member Chun requested information on the spacing between the highway light posts. I contacted the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and was informed that the highway lighting spacing varies between 150 – 200 feet. However, because of various factors such as the location of other utilities, driveways, drainage facilities and side streets, the light spacing may need to be adjusted.
3. In the last NB meeting , Board Member Kurashige had a concern about the falling rocks along the Pali Highway. I contacted the DOT regarding this problem and will update the Board when I receive their response.
4. In the last NB meeting, community resident Taira mentioned that the contractor’s equipment along the Pali Highway is blocking bus access to certain bus stops. I contacted the DOT with this concern and was informed that they had instructed the contractor to move their equipment. DOT’s construction engineers will work with the contractors to keep the frontage road open for buses.
5. \$300,000 in Capital Improvement Project funds was released to replace railings at the Kawanānakoā Middle School.
6. The Red light safety program is now in effect at the following locations:

Vineyard Boulevard and Palama Street – Live for Citations  
Vineyard Boulevard and Liliha Street- Live for Citations  
Vineyard Boulevard and Nuuanu Avenue- Live for Citations  
Pali Highway and Vineyard Boulevard- Live for Citations  
Pali Highway and School Street- Live for Citations

7. Last week, the Dept. of Health reported 619 new covid cases with a 7-day average of 89 cases and 17 deaths. There is also another Omicron variant, XBB.1.5, that is spreading rapidly throughout the U.S. and is more contagious. I encourage you to get your shots and boosters and continue to wear masks inside even where you don't have to.
8. I also encourage you to get your flu shots. They are available now and can be taken on the same day as the covid booster. While the flu is usually not nearly as deadly as covid, in the 2018-19 flu season it killed 27,000 Americans.
9. Don't hesitate to call my office, 586-6130, with questions or concerns or email me at [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)