



ISLAND MATTERS *Mufi Hannemann*

Kalihi's 21st Century Transformation

Earlier this August, the state unveiled a comprehensive vision for Kalihi. Created through a community-based process, dubbed the Kalihi 21st Century Transformation Initiative, Gov. David Ige proclaimed a number of priorities, including economic development; affordable housing; ensuring the safety, health and well-being of current and future residents; creating open spaces; developing the infrastructure; and preserving pride and culture in an iconic district of Honolulu.

This laser-like focus on Kalihi is way overdue given the longtime negligence of an area of our urban core that is home to many local working-class residents, immigrant groups, scores of businesses, schools, public works and more.

I grew up in Kalihi and have always supported and applauded those who harbor a strong desire to help revitalize the community. When I became Honolulu mayor, one project we initiated was the Taste of Kalihi, in which the city joined with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce to showcase businesses and draw attention to the challenges and opportunities in the area.

The centerpiece through the past 10 years has always been rail transit, because we saw the selected route along Dillingham Boulevard, with stops at the Middle Street transit center and Honolulu Community College, as the catalyst for transit-oriented development in a part of Honolulu long in need of rejuvenation.

With rail moving forward, the state's plan capitalizes on the anticipated transit-oriented development and the likelihood of relocating the 16-acre O'ahu Community Correctional Center. It will emphasize state-owned property in the Kalihi-Dillingham corridor, which includes the prison, schools and public housing, as well as other public lands.

I would hope that we would see the emergence of a P-3 (public-private partnership) development scheme that could bolster private investment which would capitalize on the benefits of rail operating through Kalihi, with HART playing a leading role with state and county government involvement and com-

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munity participation.

If planned and executed properly, a P-3 could breathe new life and bring hope for a better future for Kalihi.

But realizing Kalihi's potential will require deft, decisive leadership if we are to avoid repeating the miscues and missteps of other overhyped urban redevelopment efforts.

You will recall that the state had lofty goals for Kaka'ako when it created its blueprint for the district more than 30

years ago. Scores of businesses moved or were evicted to make way for a brand-new, master-planned community of apartments and businesses. Instead, much of Kaka'ako consisted of vacant lots for decades while the state waited for developers and businesses to invest. Development is finally being realized in Kaka'ako, partly due to a stronger economy, and

largely due, I would argue, to the rail project that will link Kaka'ako with the rest of urban Honolulu.

Unfortunately, with the exception of a few state-owned affordable housing projects, Kaka'ako has become ground zero for more and more expensive luxury condominiums that are hardly affordable for our people. The Kaka'ako experience cannot be repli-

cated in Kalihi.

Now, I don't foresee the same thing happening in Kalihi, but strong leadership will be required to stay on point. Too much can happen in the intervening years as state and city administrations sometimes change, priorities are reshuffled, public funding ebbs and flows, economies shift and change, and the acceptance of the status quo is the path of least resistance.

Let's hope that this ambitious plan for Kalihi does take off, so that in a few years from now, it does not remain just "a vision thing."

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SPEED BUMP *by Dave Coverly*



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PCF Announces 2018 Fellows

FROM PAGE 22

Newest Pacific Century Fellows Class Selected

We've just announced our Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2018. The group, consisting of 37 men and women, represents the 16th class of Fellows since I introduced the program back in 1996.

For those unfamiliar with the Pacific Century Fellows, it's modeled after the White House Fellows, of which I was a member in 1983-84. I was so impressed with the program that I decided to establish a similar leadership initiative in the islands to foster the development of our young local leaders.

Reflecting the diversity of our islands, this year's class includes four members from the Neighbor Islands (two from Kaua'i, one from Maui, and one from Hawai'i Island), four representatives from government and an officer from the U.S. Pacific Command.

The Fellows will have direct contact with senior community, social and government leaders. A goal of the program is to nurture relationships among individuals who are committed to exploring creative and constructive solutions to far-reaching challenges facing the state, nation and region. They will also interact with other emerging leaders in the Pacific through working relationships with the East-West Center and alliance with the Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows, now in its fourth year of operation.

The Class of 2018 includes Tori Abe, chief strategy officer, Hospice Hawai'i; Alison Tomisato Alves, senior marketing manager, Marriott International; Gabe Amey, founder and president, Hawai'i VA Loans; Keith Asato, chief financial officer, Marathon Group; Corey Campbell, CEO and founder, Akamai

Training and Consulting; Caroline Carl, deputy director, Hawai'i Energy, Leidos Engineering; John Chandler, vice president of technology, Locations LLC; Dylan Ching, regional director, TS Restaurants; Daniel Chun, regional manager, Alaska Airlines; Yunji de Nies, freelance journalist; Malika Dudley (Maui), chief meteorologist/reporter, Pacific Media Group; Kawika Fiddler, vice president, Bank of Hawai'i; Kanani Fu (Kaua'i), housing director, Kaua'i County Housing Agency; Jared Grugett, president and chief operating officer, Hawai'i Dialogix Telecom; Naomi Hazelton, cofounder/owner, Element Media (Pacific Edge); Keslie Hui, owner/president, Monarch Properties; Daniel Ito, digital media director, *Hawai'i Business Magazine*; Matthew Kaneshiro, vice president, Honolulu Disposal Service; Yoh Kawa-

Each Fellow will be afforded a unique and tremendous opportunity to receive personalized, professional executive coaching, rounding out an exceptional program year.

nami, director of demand response, Hawaiian Electric; Taylor Kellerman, director of diversified agriculture, Kualoa Ranch; Erin Kogen, senior human resources consultant, ProService; Justin Kollar (Kaua'i), prosecuting attorney, County of Kaua'i; Jason Lazzerini, senior vice president, American Savings Bank; Christopher Letoto, manager, HMSA; LorMona Meredith, coordinator, Promise to Pae' Āina o Hawai'i, a project of Polynesian Voyaging Society; Eric Miller, strategic analyst, U.S. Pacific Command; Jonathan Mitchell (Hawai'i Island), manager of

corporate development, Parker Ranch; Jessica Munoz, president and founder, Ho'ola Nā Pua; Ashley Nagaoka, reporter, Hawai'i News Now; Kristine Nakamatsu, team captain and deputy prosecuting attorney, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu; Thomas Park, owner, Leather Soul and Bar Leather Apron; Savan Patel, president/managing principal, Infinium Interiors, Inc.; Jeff Pauker, vice president, investments, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.; Doug Shimokawa, senior vice president, Pacxa; Elizabeth Valentin, executive direc-

tor, Project Vision Hawai'i; Christopher Wong, public involvement manager, Honolulu Rail Transit Project; and Emmanuel Zibakalan, principal, Pacific Business Advocates.

The program will begin with a two-day retreat in September and then during the year, Fellows will take part in at least one day-long program each month to investigate critical issues facing Hawai'i in such areas as crime, education, environment, quality of life, military and economy. Finally, for the very first time since the inception of the program, each Fellow will be afforded a unique and tremendous opportunity to receive personalized, professional executive coaching, rounding out an exceptional program year.

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