



November 2014 HCDA Newsletter

Aloha,

November has been a busy month for the Hawaii Community Development Authority, with three development permit applications pending a board decision.

The initial public hearing for Ward Village Land Block 2, Project 2 (Ward Gateway) was held on October 1, 2014 and received mostly positive public comment. The project would include 236 new housing units, ground floor retail and commercial space, a large central public plaza, and a pedestrian connection across Ala Moana Boulevard. 17 people submitted testimony in support of the Ward Gateway project, while five opposed it.

The initial public hearing for Kamehameha Schools' Land Block I (Vida) was held on November 12, 2014. This mixed-use project requests no rule modifications and proposes 265 new residential units and retail/ office space in a tower built along Ala Moana Boulevard, at the existing Cutter auto dealership. Of the 99 comments received from the public on the Vida project, 87 were in support, 11 were in opposition, and one provided comments only.

Decision-making hearings for both the Ward Gateway project and Vida were rescheduled for November 25, 2014 due to concerns over a potential lack of quorum with the change in administration and the possibility of automatic approval per HCDA rules if a hearing could not be scheduled prior to January. More information on the reasoning behind the rescheduling can be found here: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/files/2012/11/Public-Hearing-Changes-Letter.pdf>.

Public testimony for both projects will continue to be accepted in writing or in person at two upcoming supplemental public comment sessions at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 15, and at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17. Online testimony on any pending project can be submitted here: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/submit-testimony/>.

The initial public hearing for Ward Village Land Block 1, Project 2, was held on November 5, 2014. The proposed mixed-use development at 330 Kamakee Street would include a flagship Whole Foods Market grocery store, open space, retail space, and a residential tower with 466 new housing units behind the existing Ward Consolidated Theaters complex. A modification hearing was held on November 6, 2014. Ward Village received strong public support after explaining the five requested modifications were necessary to create an aesthetically superior development that enhances the community. Developers explained without any modifications, the project would be a less appealing, large mass of concrete at the ground level that diminished the pedestrian experience. A decision-making hearing for Land Block 1, Project 2 is set for

January 7, 2015. The permit application and plans can be viewed here:
<http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/ward-village-land-block-1-project-2/>.

The HCDA is continuing with series number two of public outreach for the master planning of active use facilities at our Kakaako Makai parks. The second round of open houses attracted about 75 attendees on Thursday, October 30 and Saturday, November 8. Attendees took part in live polling to vote for their favorite park layout and also weighed in on various activities previously suggested by the public in series one. See the presentation and the community's responses here: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/files/2014/11/HCDA-Open-House-Series-2-Presentation.pdf>.

As a second component of the series two open houses, the HCDA is also planning a free community outreach event at Kakaako Gateway Parks on December 6, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "Kakaako Parks Peek" will give the public a sneak peek at many of the suggested active use activities that are being discussed in the parks master planning process. Some of these activities include a youth volleyball tournament, family friendly entertainment, a farmers market, art exhibits and demonstrations, an urban gardening depot and agricultural demonstrations, community group booths, and food truck vendors. Join us as we plan for the future of Kakaako Makai and please continue to offer your park suggestions online at:
<http://kakaakomakaiparks.mindmixer.com/>.

See Attached: Updated Project Activity Sheet, Kakaako Parks Peek Flyer

Please feel free to contact me, should you require any additional information on any of these items. For your convenience, copies of this and previous monthly newsletters and documents are posted on our website, <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/newsletters/>.

Mahalo,

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