



Chris Lethem

Candidate For State Senate District 12

Waikiki - Kaka'ako - Ala Moana - Moiliili - McCully

September 13, 2014

Brian Lee, Chairperson, and Members
Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)
461 Cooke Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Chun Brothers Appropriation of Parking Spaces in Kaka'ako

Dear Chair and Members,

It has just been brought to my attention that two private businessmen, the Chun brothers, are asserting ownership rights over portions of the streets in Kaka'ako and are attempting to force citizens parking on these streets to pay the brothers for this privilege. All this is on the basis of claimed (and clearly invalid) ownership of this land through a transfer in the 19th Century. I also understand that vehicles parked in these claimed spaces are being towed. This is an outrage -- and likely a direct violation of state law.

You will understand that this situation is of particular concern to the merchants who own businesses in the area, because of the threat that their clients/customers will have no place to park which will negatively affect their businesses in the extreme. This action is further disrupting a neighborhood already plagued by parking shortages and construction that constricts parking for area businesses and residents.

Your organization, by virtue of its state-granted authority over development in Kaka'ako including the streets (the latter presumably being a shared responsibility with the City and County government), should immediately take action to stop an activity that is causing such disruption and is very probably illegal, and to call the perpetrators to account.

This issue is of utmost importance to the Kaka'ako community and other small business owners and residents and should be placed on the agenda for your next meeting, hearing from affected businesses and residents and from appropriate officials on what will rectify this parking scam.

Thank you for your attention to this potentially serious and costly problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Lethem", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.