



September 2020

Congratulations Deepak Neupane!

On September 16, 2020, the Authority members present unanimously confirmed the selection and hiring of Deepak Neupane as executive director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority. He will start at HCDA on October 20, 2020.

Neupane is currently the Development Branch Chief for HHFDC, prior to that he was the Planning Director at HCDA.

The next HCDA board meetings will be held on November 4, 2020.

Board agendas are posted on the website the Thursday before meetings.

Virtual meetings are held in accordance with social distancing guidelines and are live streamed on HCDA's website homepage at www.dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda and on Facebook www.facebook.com/HawaiiCommunityDevelopmentAuthority.

Mahalo.



A more Pedestrian-Friendly Kakaako

In October 2019, Victoria Ward/ Howard Hughes received approval for its planned development permit for Victoria Place. However, HCDA had conditions that came with the approval. One condition was, prior to approval of a foundation permit, Victoria Ward Ltd. would provide a plan to activate the sidewalk and building frontage. The design should incorporate landscaping, tree canopies and/or awnings or other architectural features to provide shade for pedestrians on Auahi Street.

This month, the Authority approved a plan proposed by Victoria Ward which provides landscaping and trees offering shade and creating a more pedestrian-friendly sidewalk and building frontage on Auahi Street. The plan is consistent with the 2016 Ward Village Tree Master Plan.

A highlight from the Tree Master Plan is: 'Ohana planting - based on the traditional Pacific island sustainable practice of a multi-species agroforestry planting system, grouping trees in plant families or 'ohana groupings not only provides lush visual and experiential interest, but also achieves greater biodiversity, a more natural habitat within the village ecosystem, assists with stormwater uptake, and provides opportunity for comfortable places of shaded refuge for the village inhabitants.

According to the Auahi Street activation plan: "Victoria Ward Makai Park, when complete, will be reminiscent of the Ward Estate providing a natural sanctuary to the neighborhood. Fronting the Park, Victoria Place takes inspiration from Victoria Ward's profound love of the land, and her legacy as a gracious host who celebrated local culture by opening her home, "Old Plantation," to Hawaiian music, traditional gatherings, and the continued practice of Hawaiian crafts and language.

The Makai side of Auahi Street is the pedestrian gateway to both Victoria Place and the Makai Park, and provides an opportunity to tell the story of the site and to understand its inspiration. The "Old Plantation" is celebrated in a song which recalls the fragrant flowers found there: Ginger, Gardenia, Pikake, Pua Male, Plumeria, Puakenikeni and Spider Lily. A combination of these flowers will be planted in the understory of the shade trees along Auahi Street, evoking the spirit of the plantation. One of these plants, Gardenia, will only be found in this portion of the site, with its unique scent heightening the attachment to the story.

Within the sidewalk, the lyrics of the song will be etched in a sequence that allows them to be read while entering the park. The sidewalk will take on a strong cultural significance relative to the site, and provide a public learning opportunity ensuring that the legacy of the Old Plantation will be present in the new park."