



On the calendar

On November 2

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held.

For more information on the public hearings, board meetings or about HCDA visit dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda.



Park update

Due to an increase in complaints regarding unleashed dogs in Kolowalu Park, HCDA staff has taken the initiative to remind park users of the park rules to obtain voluntary compliance. Dogs must be under the physical control of an adult while in the park.

The staff periodically visits the Kolowalu Park throughout the week during peak usage times to hand out flyers with information about the park rules, engaging with the public to discuss the rules and inform them of the dog park to be built. The staff has received an overall positive response to this effort.

Kolowalu Park is divided by Queen Street into two separate areas. The northern portion is referred to as Kolowalu Mauka, and the southern portion as Kolowalu Makai.

On October 5, the Authority authorized HCDA's executive director to expend funds to build an off-leash dog park in Kolowalu Mauka. This would not only fulfill the need for a designated place for dogs to run off-leash, but would also activate the underused mauka side of Kolowalu Park.

Melting pot and mixed use

A brief history of Kaka'ako

From the HCDA archives

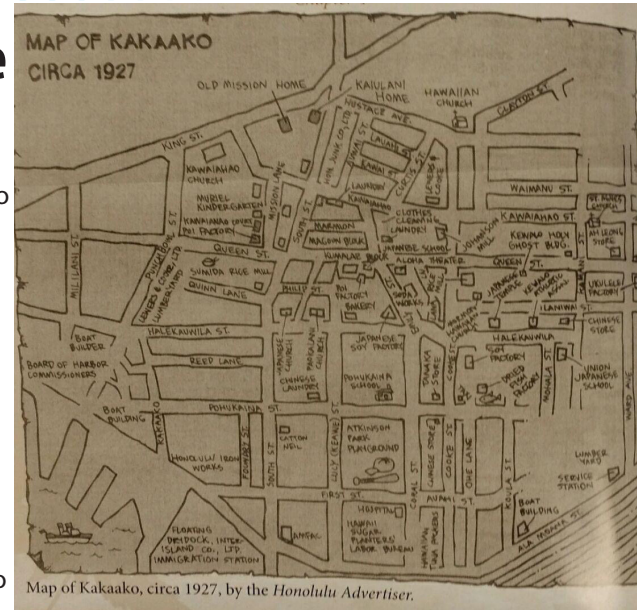
At the turn of the nineteenth century, Kaka'ako truly evolved as a residential area. Being close to Honolulu Harbor and just outside of downtown Honolulu, Kaka'ako became the home for newly arriving immigrants, people employed in the downtown areas, and for people engaged in maritime activities. The area included some light industry and various facilities such as stables, a sewage plant and crematorium. Rice fields covered nearly all of the land running north of what is now Kapiolani Boulevard between the Ward Estate's Old Plantation and Piikoi Street (then called Piikoi Avenue). Rice fields also extended south into the area that is now Ala Moana Boulevard.

Over the next 40 years the community grew, a multi-ethnic, largely working class neighborhood. Immigrant workers joined the Hawaiian community to form an area known as "Squattersville," a shantytown that sprang up along the district's southern border. In 1905, the Immigration Station was established on the mud flats across from Channel Wharf. Immigrants were processed at this station and Kaka'ako became known as Hawaii's Ellis Island. Immigrants received a medical examination and were housed in dormitories. The station also contained a "matrimony room" where Japanese picture brides first met their husbands-to-be. Many of these immigrants worked in the fields or located in rural communities. One immigrant, "Pop" MacFarland, in 1907 established the tuna fishing industry in Hawaii when he launched the first Caucasian-owned sampan.

The Camps

It was an era of: ethnic camps (Hawaiian, Japanese, Portuguese, Caucasian, Chinese, and Filipino); salt ponds and horse stables; small stores, churches, schools and parks; open markets and a coral-paved airfield from which small planes carried sightseers. Draught horses from the Hawaii Construction & Draying stables trotted daily in the maze of Kaka'ako's alleys and lanes. The ethnic camps came about because of familiar associations, and the sharing of languages, religions and customs. The camps varied in size from a few houses to entire blocks.

In the 1920s, the Ward Estate leased several areas in Kaka'ako to the Japanese for camps and other structures. Participation in various sports activities drew the Kaka'ako community together. The city, churches and other community groups organized team sports in baseball, basketball, football, boxing,



swimming, diving and gymnastics. Events such as Japanese bon dances and the Holy Ghost Parade were annual events enjoyed by all of Kaka'ako's residents. As late as 1940, Kaka'ako's population numbered more than 5,000 residents.

Post War

After World War II during the late 1940s and early 1950s, as Honolulu grew, the competition for land forced many of the traditional activities out of the central business district to areas such as Kaka'ako.

After 1941, the city redesignated Kaka'ako for industrial use. The incursion of warehousing activities into the area rapidly displaced the population.

At its economic apex, there were approximately 1,550 business establishments, that employed about 18,900 Island residents, but only a few pockets of residential structures remained.

Until the 1970s, Kaka'ako maintained its industrial orientation despite being surrounded by intensive growth in downtown Honolulu, Waikiki and the Punchbowl-Makiki area. The development boom in these areas left Kaka'ako largely untouched by new development and it continued to deteriorate. Sadly, though it still served as midtown Honolulu's garage, workshop and storeroom, Kaka'ako grew older, became more decrepit and was less capable of functioning in an efficient manner.

Renewal

In 1976, the State Legislature, recognizing that Kaka'ako was potentially too valuable to allow to deteriorate further, created the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), tasked with supplementing traditional community renewal methods by promoting and coordinating public and private sector community development.



Haunting Kaka'ako

Stories abound in the district
By Francine Murray

As Halloween approaches and stories of the unexplained circle, I'm reminded of a chicken-skin moment when I first started working at HCDA.

I came in on a Saturday, when the office was closed not expecting to see anyone. However, as I opened the door to the stairwell the motion detected lights were already on. The dark stairs are usually not lit until a second after the heavy metal door is opened.

Reassured that the lights were on, I was thinking that it was nice that someone else was in the building. I'd come in to assemble some shelves that I picked up earlier, and was happy to hear my coworkers upstairs busy about their business, talking, walking and moving about on the floor above me. I may have even heard a ball roll across the floor, which I thought was unusual, but happy sounds nonetheless.

Not very inclined when it comes to putting furniture together, I was a little proud and very relieved when I finished assembling the shelves. I walked up the stairs to say goodbye to my coworkers before leaving.

A chill ran up my spine, when I got to the top of the stairs.

It was dark, quiet and seemed like no one was there.

I had just heard footsteps and voices on the fifth floor when I was below on the fourth floor, but it was suddenly silent.

I was covered with goosebumps. With my eyes wide and all my senses on high alert, I walked around to see if anyone was in one of the offices or cubicles.

There was no one to be found.

Freaked out, I ran down five flights of stairs and left.

When I returned to work on Monday I told my coworkers the story. They chuckled and said this building is haunted.

American Brewery

The HCDA offices are in the old American Brewery Building on Queen Street. Built in 1899-1900, for the Honolulu Brewing and Malting Company. It was the original home of Primo, Hawai'i's local beer. It was probably the oldest brewery in Hawai'i, and is the only building of its type in the state, according to the National Register of Historic Places. The red brick and other materials used in its construction were shipped in from San Francisco and New York.

The Brewery was established in the old Honuakaha area, a settlement makai side of Queen Street, between Punchbowl and South streets.

According to the HCDA archives, Honuakaha Cemetery was created solely for the 1853-1854 smallpox epidemic. It was located makai of Queen Street on the west side of South Street. It was estimated about 1,000 were buried there. This cemetery is now covered by urban development, including the Old Kaka'ako Fire Station, several other buildings and a portion of the American Brewery lot.



Old Kaka'ako Fire Station

The Honolulu Fire Museum is now located at the former site of the historic Kaka'ako Fire Station, built in 1929, and is next door to the Honolulu Fire Department's headquarters building, built in 2006.

The shadow of a ghostly figure occasionally appears in an upstairs window, where the dorms of the old Fire Station used to be, even though the dorms have been closed for years. We have been told.

Others tell the tale of a choking ghost, that pressed down on a firefighter while he was sleeping, in the old building.

Tales of choking ghost have been heard in many areas around the island. The spirits torment people as they sleep, sitting on them sometimes choking them until they are awakened. Victims are often unable to breathe or scream until they wake. Some say, at times they don't wake, but we'll never know.

Kawaiaha'o Church Cemetery

In 1820, the Church was established, with the land given to the mission by Kuhina Nui Ka'ahumanu, the Queen Regent. Sometime later, it was named Kawaiaha'o Church, after a revered spring on the King and South streets side of the grounds of Kawaiaha'o, which translates to "the waters of Chiefess Ha'o."

The original mission cemetery is behind the church, but cemetery grounds are also makai, behind the prominent tomb of Lunalilo.

Old newspapers printed accounts of ghost sightings in the cemetery and quoted the witnesses.

One storyteller said Night Marchers, ancient Hawaiian warriors dressed for battle, march a path near Kawaiaha'o.

They say if you have ti leaf plants around your property the Night Marchers don't enter. Needless to say, I bought some ti leaf plants and I was gifted Hawaiian salt for our office.

We were also told that spirits sometimes appear in photos as floating orbs. So, we went out at night armed with our Nikon camera.

Surprised at what the 35-millileter lens captured, here are the photos we took at the American Brewery Building, old Kaka'ako Fire Station building and the Kawaiaha'o Church cemetery tomb of Lunalilo.

