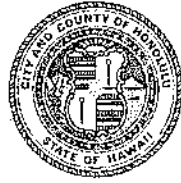


HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MANUEL P. NEVES
FIRE CHIEF

LIONEL CAMARA JR.
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 161 Requesting the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to Study Properties in or Around Kakaako and Recommend Appropriate Sites for a Fire Station

I am Manuel P. Neves, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HCR 161, which requests the HCDA to study properties in or around Kakaako and recommend appropriate sites for a fire station.

The HFD determined that increased residential and transient populations, proposed high-rise residential structures, and additional commercial development necessitate the need for a new facility. The Kakaako Fire Station is over 40 years old and was not designed to accommodate the proposed growth.

The HFD is committed to meeting national standards for the delivery of first responder services. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the industry leader in determining acceptable fire service standards throughout the United States. The HFD strives to achieve this objective by meeting the criteria set forth in NFPA 1710: Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments.

NFPA 1710 mandates that the travel time for the first-arriving unit responding to emergencies in urban communities, such as the Kakaako-Ala Moana area, be within four minutes. Every minute of increased travel time exacerbates the seriousness of an emergency, thus placing first responders and the community at greater risk.

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
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Over the past five years, the HFD has diligently worked to identify a suitable site for a new public safety facility. Our needs with were discussed with major Kakaako-Ala Moana area landowners and potential locations for a new facility were discussed. The Department has also worked with state and City agencies to determine if viable government-owned sites were available for public safety purposes. It is essential for the HFD to locate an appropriate site before available opportunities are lost to further redevelopment.

Life, safety, and property protection is the top priority for the HFD. This resolution will enable the HFD to identify ideal sites for a new fire station that will optimize the delivery of emergency services to the growing Kakaako-Ala Moana community.

The HFD urges your committee to support HCR 161 as introduced.

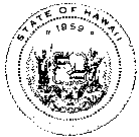
Should you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Nathan Ramos, Jr. of our Planning and Development division at 723-7106 or nramos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Fire Chief

MPN/NR:cn



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKAOKO
KALAELOA

David Y. Ige
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John Whalen
Chairperson

Aedward Los Banos
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STATEMENT OF
AEDWARD LOS BANOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, March 21, 2019
10:35 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of

HCR 161
REQUESTING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY TO STUDY PROPERTIES IN OR AROUND KAKAOKO
AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE SITES FOR A FIRE STATION.

LATE

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) respectfully offers comments on HCR 161.

Kakaako has transformed into an urban community with several high-rises. All but two of the high-rises were built after 1975, and were required by law to have automatic sprinkler systems. Such systems have a proven record of significantly reducing loss of life, injury and property damage caused by fire.

One well located fire station can provide more effective emergency response than several poorly located stations. Thus, with all due respect the Honolulu Fire Department has the expertise and better qualified than HCDA to study and make a recommendation for a fire station location, in Kakaako.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HCR 161.