



News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

BARRY FUKUNAGA, Director
State Department of Transportation

DANIEL DINELL, Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority

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HCDA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON KEWALO BASIN

DOT, HCDA AGREE TO PROCESS TO TRANSFER MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEWALO BASIN HARBOR FACILITIES

Kewalo Basin will be improved and incorporated into plans for Kaka'ako Makai

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 29, 6:00 p.m. at the Ward Warehouse (2nd Floor) Kewalo Conference Room to take public comments on the proposed administrative rules for Kewalo Basin. HCDA has been meeting with the boating community in Kewalo, including the charter boats and long-line fishermen, to get their input on Kewalo Basin and the overall development of Kaka'ako. All interested stakeholders are invited and encouraged to attend Tuesday's meeting.

The discussion will also address the transfer of management and operation of Kewalo Basin harbor facilities from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to HCDA. The two agencies are working together to move forward with the transfer. HCDA already owns the harbor lands, and will soon receive ownership of the improvements, which have been managed by DOT.

"This action will culminate the transfer of both the lands and operational oversight of the activities occurring at the Basin as intended by the legislation to place the area under HCDA," said Director of Transportation Barry Fukunaga. "Both agencies recognize and agree that Kewalo Basin is part of Kaka'ako and that HCDA has been charged with the responsibility for establishing and realizing the vision for the future of all of Kaka'ako, including Kewalo Basin. Moreover, it is proper from a legal perspective that the infrastructure be owned by the agency that owns the land. DOT will assist HCDA in the transition by providing interim management during the changeover."

In 1990, the State Legislature expressed its intent that Kewalo be part of the overall Kaka'ako redevelopment. The Legislature reasoned that HCDA was equipped with the planning and regulatory tools to oversee the vision for the area. The two agencies agreed that this vision remains valid and HCDA should integrate Kewalo Basin into the overall plan for the Kaka'ako and the district's waterfront.

“Kewalo Basin lies in the heart of an area now entering a comprehensive community-based planning process,” said Daniel Dinell, executive director of HCDA, who noted that the recently convened Kaka’ako Makai Advisory Working Group is now meeting to develop recommendations for the overall future of Kaka’ako Makai. “The John A. Burns School of Medicine and Kaka’ako Waterfront Park have set the tone for the area, and we anticipate other projects in the district, including Kewalo Basin, will demonstrate the same standard of quality. We look forward to working with all stakeholders as we move forward.”

Due to natural aging and a longer transition between DOT and HCDA over the transfer of the harbor facilities, the present condition of the facilities are in critical need of repair, posing not only safety concerns for the harbor users, but also preventing the harbor from maximizing its full potential.

Once management responsibility is transferred, HCDA plans to fulfill the State vision through short-term measures and timely adoption of administrative rules that will enable proper management and operation of Kewalo Basin to the benefit of both the users and the public, as well as enabling the integration of the harbor into plans for the area currently being developed through the Kaka’ako Makai Advisory Working Group.

By having complete control of Kewalo Basin, HCDA, through the Advisory Working Group, will give consideration to the harbor in the overall redevelopment of Kaka’ako.

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For more information contact:

Scott Ishikawa, Community Development Specialist
State Department of Transportation
Phone: (808)587-2160

or

Daniel Dinell, Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority
Phone: (808)587-2870
contact@hcdaweb.org