

## COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS RESPONSE FOR INPUT ON HCDA MAKAI AREA PARKS

Of 70 questionnaires distributed, the response rate was 16 percent. Among those who received a form were those who have expressed interest in the parks include:

- a. Frequent park users (cat caregivers, park permittees, retirees, visitors);
- b. Tenants in the park vicinity;
- c. Government officials (State Senator and Representative),
- d. Government agencies (DLNR-State Parks, DOT-Harbor, NOAA, UH JABSOM); and
- e. Interested parties (Neighborhood Board, Friends of Kewalo, Kakaako Improvement Association, Save Our Kakaako Coalition).

The questions/items were all open-ended in order to solicit top of mind, candid comments. The major findings by area, and, if applicable, actions taken or proposed are as follows:

### Homeless

With the night closure of Ala Moana Park, the homeless population has increased at the Kaka'ako Parks. They appear to be using the parklands as a "staging" area until the Next Step shelter opens. They are seen sleeping on picnic tables, having their personal belongings scattered, doing laundry and taking baths in the comfort stations. Their presence can seem intimidating and somewhat unsettling. It is definitely a challenging social issue which requires a long-term solution.

***HCDA Action:** HCDA has advised the management of the Next Step facility that their members are guests in the parks and should respect the rights of others. HCDA has also advised the park security and HPD special duty officers to make sure there are no overnight campers when the park is closed. Any personal belongings that are not attended are discarded by DLNR personnel.*

### Graffiti

The general consensus is to impose tougher laws. Punishment is far too lenient for the crime. Impose mandatory heavy fines and hold parents accountable for juveniles. Have the parents and the offenders remove the "art markings" and perform community service work.

***HCDA Action:** DLNR personnel paint over graffiti. HCDA is also using the Community Service Sentencing Program (CSSP) individuals to assist.*

## Vandalism

Comments were similar to graffiti. Like graffiti, vandalism should not be tolerated. The perpetrators should be imposed a heavy fine; serve jail time; fix and repair what they destroyed. It appears vandalism occurrences happen mostly at night although there was one individual who said that he had been a victim of a car break-in twice. It was suggested to increase security and have areas prone to vandalism monitored more frequently.

## Harassments/Threatening Incidents/Assaults

The incidents reported here seemed to involve homeless individuals as the instigator. An authorized cat feeder has been threatened six or eight times over the past five years by homeless parents when the cat feeder asked the children to leave the cats alone during feeding time. Another incident mentioned was a homeless man yelling and swearing in the men's bathroom and scaring the kids away. One respondent noted numerous incidents involving a homeless person who had a habit of sleeping at their front entry way. This individual would taunt and mock the female staff member(s) when arriving to work.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA has notified management of the Next Step facility of this situation and requested intervention assistance. The Next Step counselors also visit the homeless in the park weekly, regardless of whether they are members of the program.*

## Construction Activities in the Vicinity

This doesn't seem to be a big concern as people realize construction is unavoidable. It's a temporary situation and something to look forward to when it involves improving the area. The consensus seems to be that although it can be dusty and inconvenient, it's just something everyone needs to tolerate.

## Use of Park Parking Lots by Non-park Users (i.e., National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Kulia Grill, office workers, and car dealership employees)

Generally speaking, respondents feel the entities mentioned above need to provide parking for their own customers and staff. Patrons/entertainers of John Dominis Restaurant are dominating the Point Panic parking lot on Saturday mornings due to the Perry & Price Show. Another major concern is the parking violators who visit JABSOM. One respondent asked: "Why would anyone park in Lot C and pay \$3 when they can park at KWP for free?" Several responses indicated the need to monitor the violators.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA is monitoring parking lots and towing violators when observed illegally parking. NOAA has agreed to park its vehicles on the other side of their warehouse.*

## Availability, Hours, and Location of Parking

Majority of the responses were favorable. The current hours and location seem to be adequate and acceptable with the exception of limited parking at Kewalo Basin due to surfing contests.

***HCDA Action:*** *During the construction of Ahui Street, the Point Panic parking lot has been left open to allow access for the tenants. Signs are being fabricated that will be installed and parking rules enforced upon completion of roadwork in October.*

## Nuisance Activities

Responses ranged from: Domestic, homeless camps, excessive noise from boom boxes, motorized bikes and razors, remote cars and planes, use of a bull horn at organized activities.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA is ordering signs that display the park rules on noise and prohibited activities.*

## Feral Cats

A good number responded that feral cats are not welcomed at the parks and that feeding should be prohibited. They are mainly concerned if cats carry any diseases or endanger the health of the general public. They want the cats cleared out of the area. A few acknowledged that the feral cat population has been controlled as the cats are less visible. Another responded that the cats are a constant problem to their surrounding property. There was one positive comment that said their presence is an asset to the park because they deter rodents in an environmentally responsible way.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA is finalizing agreements with cat caregiver to formalize the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) management program designed to manage, and ultimately reduce, the feral cat population.*

## Feral Chickens

Majority of the park users responded that they haven't encountered any chickens and were not aware they even existed in the parks. The responses seem to mirror with feral cats. The bottom line is that they are not welcomed and should be eradicated. One responder is constantly experiencing numerous troublesome incidents with the chickens and noted that chickens are even more intrusive compared to feral cats.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA has advised interested parties that the chickens can be removed from Kaka'ako Makai Area. Individuals have culled some of the population using nets to capture them.*

## Unleashed Dogs

There were many unfavorable comments on this item. One reported a specific homeless woman “teaching them to hunt” and irresponsible owners who do not clean up after the dogs when they defecate. Another reported one homeless person’s Jack Russell Terrier deliberately chasing the girls and frightening them. Another individual stated the situation is beginning to be a problem at Kewalo Basin Park.

***HCDA Action:*** *HCDA is ordering signs that display the park rules relative to dogs (kept on leash, owner pick-up after their pets)*

## Rats/Mice

This item does not appear to be a problem. Majority of the responses said they were unaware of any rodents during their park visits and have not seen any sightings. One responded you rarely see them thanks to the cats. Another mentioned occasionally seeing some mongoose in areas frequented by the homeless where they leave leftover food litter on the grounds.

## Birds

Generally speaking, birds are a common sight in the parks, not more than elsewhere. What can be a nuisance though are their droppings while picnicking. There have been occasional sightings of people feeding birds. Several mentioned feeding birds should be an illegal activity as it would promote more bird droppings.

## Boaters (Fishermen and Charter Operators)

Not many people commented on this item. But the few that commented said the boaters are frequently seen speeding in and out of the channel and violating the harbor speed limit of 5 knots until the outer buoy. There are incidences where some boaters seem to disregard the safety of divers, surfers, body boarders, and swimmers.

***HCDA Action:*** *On July 1, 2007, jurisdiction of the harbor will revert to HCDA. Until that time DOT-Harbors has responsibility for enforcing the no-wake rules.*

## Park Maintenance

There were 4 positive and 11 negative feedback comments. On the positive side, a few commented that the parks were generally clean and adequate. One individual commended and praised the contract workers. The biggest concerns focused on improving the conditions of the comfort stations: the need to beautify and sanitize them; lacking basic supplies (toilet tissue dispensers, soap dispensers); restroom doors do not close properly; and that the interior of the comfort stations are dark and creepy inside. A good number also emphasized the need to keep comfort stations, showers, and tables clean and sanitary at all times and scrubbed more often. Several responses indicated that

half of the water fountains were out-of-order and have not been repaired or replaced. References were made to the broken benches as well.

***HCDA Action:** HCDA has an ongoing hardscape repair/replacement program.*

## Park Caretakers

There were 10 favorable comments as opposed to 3 unfavorable comments. The positive message implied the park caretakers are doing a good job as the park looks well kept, neat and clean. They are polite, cordial, and helpful. They are very visible and work diligently. To the contrary, one responded that the caretakers can be rude and obnoxious at times. Another had indicated that a caretaker had an attitude problem.

## Surfing Contests

A few responses were supportive of surfing contests as long as the event is contained and supervised. On the other hand, recreational surfers feel restricted from surfing during organized surf meets. They feel there are far too many organized surfing events being held at Kewalo Basin and want to see some type of regulation limiting the number of surf meets held there.

## Condition of Park Landscaping

The general feedback for this category was well-received. Overall, many commented that the Kaka'ako Waterfront Park is a beautiful, well-maintained park. Although underutilized by families, the park is an ideal place for picnics, casual strolls, and just relaxing. The greens are fabulous with exceptional care to the foliage. The landscaping contractor was given high praise for their knowledge of the plants as well as their superior and conscientious workers. There were also a few suggestions about how to enhance certain areas with more landscaping and plantings. For Kewalo Basin Park, one responded that the Ewa end of the park is horrendous with weeds and little grass growing.

## Ocean Access

Some felt it is adequate with stairways concentrating to specific areas while others felt more stairways should be created.

***HCDA Action:** As part of the hardscape project, the Point Panic stairs and paving will be repaired. At Kewalo Basin Park, railings will be installed to make stairs safer.*

## Park Rules

This item received the least responses (two) because it directed the responders to review the existing park rules via HCDA's website.

## Grass Sliding on Cardboard

The general consensus was that grass sliding should be allowed with the understanding that it be at the individual's own risk. While enjoyable to kids, they acknowledged that this activity could be dangerous. Other concerns mentioned were possible damage to sprinkler heads, ruining the grass, and the litter created when people do not properly dispose of the cardboard.

## Existing Park Amenities

All positive feedback indicating the parks' existing amenities are adequate and great.

## Amenities Wish List

Some of the amenities mentioned were adding more comfort stations, pavilions, picnic tables and BBQ pits, basketball courts, ball field, skate park, tennis courts, emergency phones with blue lights, canoe hale for paddlers to name a few. A few indicated that the park is good "as is" and felt that adding other amenities would take away from the serenity and its beauty.

***HCDA Action:** HCDA will be installing 5 tables that were donated by the owners of the Gold Bond building. The hardscape project will include replacing damaged tables as well as installing a new shower at Kewalo Basin Park and repairing all drinking fountains.*

## Other Services Wish List

Majority welcomed the idea of a concessionaire selling food/drinks. There were two responses that opposed the idea of any commercial elements citing availability of many food establishments across the street and nearby. Another requested increased security.

***HCDA Action:** HCDA is issuing an Invitation for Bids for lunch wagons at Kaka'ako Waterfront Park and Kewalo Basin Park.*

## Children's Discovery Center

All responses were very encouraging stating their presence is good for the area. They see the Center as a great place for kids. One commented that more can be done to tie the Center with the Park with signage, landscaping, and a crosswalk linking the parking lot and the Center. A few did not know the Center existed and welcomed the idea of having one.

## Security/HPD Special Duty Services

Majority noted that security is inadequate and should be increased and patrolled more frequently to minimize vandalism and graffiti. Several mentioned they are not very visible.

***HCDA Action:** Work with security vendor to promote visibility, asking patrol officers to engage the public with casual conversation.*

## **Conclusion**

This feedback gives HCDA a baseline of how its perceived by park users. It also gives HCDA staff an opportunity to identify specific areas of improvement and address them as applicable.

HCDA welcomes comments from the public regarding park amenities and items of concern. Please feel free to e-mail your comments or concerns to [contact@hcdaweb.org](mailto:contact@hcdaweb.org) .