

## Continued Government Support is Crucial to Kapolei's Future as O'ahu's Second Urban Center

**G**overnment's policy to direct O'ahu's growth to Kapolei has been so successful that it has become the fastest growing area in the entire state. This policy was meant to manage growth and redirect the flow of traffic. In other words, create a second urban center where West O'ahu residents can work minutes rather than hours away from where they live. A continued partnership between business and government can make this a reality for more residents.

### "Traffiggedon" plagues West O'ahu commuters

With a population of more than 112,000 people — and growing — the effects of Kapolei's growth are experienced every day by long-suffering residents trapped in the grinding drive time commute to and from jobs in Downtown Honolulu and surrounding areas.

And when glitches like the recent breakdown of the zipper lane strike, the freeway and connecting roads become virtual parking lots for hours on end. No wonder Honolulu has the dubious distinction of having the third-worse traffic in the nation, and of being the second most congested metropolitan area in the world. Of course, once the 20-mile rail route is complete, this should help with the daily commute. But rail is only part of the solution. With the population projected to grow to nearly 169,000 in 2035, it is even more pressing to redirect job growth to Kapolei. Here's where government and business can work together to bring more job opportunities to Kapolei.

Recent statistics show that nearly a third of the state's labor force are public employees. It's fair to say that many of the people commuting to work every day are government workers. It's also fair to say that a significant number of them live and will live in West O'ahu in 2035 when there will be an estimated 156,000 homes in the region. Therefore, it was with some consternation that many heard of the legislature's proposal to purchase Alii Place for \$90

### Government is a major employer

million in Downtown Honolulu to consolidate state offices. A May 3, 2015 *Star-Advertiser* editorial stated that "... (state) agencies should consider plans to expand their office capacity in the 'second city' rather than continue their Honolulu-centered orientation." It went on to suggest that the proposed Alii Place purchase represents "the wrong direction for a state government that should be expanding its Kapolei presence instead."

Similar topics were the focus of the recent West O'ahu Means Business panel hosted by the business journal, *PBN*. In a wide-ranging discussion on what Kapolei needs to continue its growth as a city, some of the region's stakeholders identified a number of needs. In both the panel discussion and a follow up feature story in *PBN*, the need for additional job opportunities and government support were front and center.



### State and County have room to grow in Kapolei

Both the State of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu have supported Kapolei's growth with government offices and services. State facilities include the Kapolei State Office Building, the Judiciary Complex, the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu, and Kalaheo Harbor, while the City and County's include Kapolei Hale and the Kapolei Police Station. But there's ample room to locate even more services in the City of Kapolei's urban core.

Together, the State and the City and County own 82 acres of land in the City of Kapolei. Of the State's 38 acres, 11 of them are still available for development. Of the City and County of Honolulu's 44 acres, just 10 acres are developed, which leaves 34 acres yet to be developed. The combined 45 undeveloped acres already have the required infrastructure for building more government facilities to increase essential services and jobs in the West O'ahu region.

### Signs of support

Senate Resolution 77 and House Resolution 198 were introduced in this past legislative session by Sen. Mike Gabbard and Rep. Sharon Har and 19 of their colleagues. The resolutions requested "The Department of Business, Economic

Development, and Tourism to prioritize the development of Kapolei into a job center in support of the State and the City and County of Honolulu's policies to develop Kapolei into O'ahu's 'secondary urban center.'"

They also asked the agency to set goals and develop a strategy and implementation plan "to steer economic development, including jobs, housing, emerging industries, and education, to Kapolei and truly make it O'ahu's 'Secondary Urban Center.'"

While the Senate version was ultimately passed by the full Senate this year and the House and Senate approved funding several capital projects in Kapolei, proponents like the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce hold out hope that in the future the full Legislature will support a similar resolution and additional appropriations and incentives for Kapolei. This will also encourage more public-private initiatives that serve as valuable bridges between government and business, such as the highly successful Annual Hire Leeward Job & Career Fair spearheaded by Councilmember Kymberly Pine.

With government fully invested in helping to move the region's growth in this direction, Kapolei will continue its expansion as the employment and economic hub of O'ahu's second urban center.

## Hawaii Tokai International College Opens New Campus in Kapolei

Traditional Hawaiian and Japanese ceremonies blessed the May 17, 2015 opening of the new Hawaii Tokai International College (HTIC) campus in East Kapolei, where the college has relocated its Honolulu campus. HTIC, which was established in 1992 and is the only American campus of the Tokai University Educational System of Japan, is a fully accredited two-year liberal arts college.

Below: Kainoa Nahalu (*oli*) and Kahu Wendell Davis (blessing).



The auditorium, officially known as the Tatsuro Matsumae Auditorium.

Left (L-R): Ray Soon, Chief of Staff to Mayor Kirk Caldwell; Yoshiaki Matsumae, Vice President and Chairperson, TES; Councilmember Kymberly Pine; Kiyoshi Yamada, Chancellor, Tokai University and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, HTIC; and Edward J. Shultz, Interim Chancellor, HTIC.



HTIC has a decidedly international flavor, with 91 percent of its 185 students coming from Japan, and the remaining from China, Korea, the Philippines, and the U.S. More than 60 percent are in the college preparatory program, which brings students' English

proficiency up to college level. The remaining students are freshmen and sophomores. HTIC's new campus can accommodate up to 300 students.

The college's location within the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Campus Village also allows for cross-educational and cultural exchanges with students at UH –

West O'ahu. "Our relocation to Kapolei adjacent to UH – West O'ahu provides an opportunity for students of both institutions to study, work, and relax together, affording a dynamic international experience," said HTIC Chancellor Edward J. Shultz.

For more information on HTIC, please go to [www.hawaiitokai.edu](http://www.hawaiitokai.edu).

## IPA Wins Rock Your School Song Contest

*School is one of three nationwide winners*

Kapolei's Island Pacific Academy rocked it in the nationwide Rock Your School Song Contest sponsored by the GRAMMY Foundation and Jostens, a company that provides school-related products and services to schools and colleges. IPA was one of three schools selected as winners by judges at the GRAMMY Foundation.

The contest challenged high schools to "rock their school song" by submitting a music video. Judges looked at how inventive the entries were in showcasing school pride, the quality of the music performance, and the editing of the finished video.

Micah Hirokawa, a history teacher and music club advisor said, "At IPA, we're a K-12

school and really work hard at being one community, one school. The students took that to heart and involved every grade in the video, not just grades 9-12."

"We worked several types of music into the video: Hawaiian chant of our *oli*, part of 'The Navigator Song' written by a student, rap, and the IPA Alma Mater. During the video you get a little tour of the school as the camera follows a lead singer from building to building and room to room."

"The songs and videos submitted showcased student's pride in their schools and their musical talent, and the GRAMMY Foundation was honored to be part of this contest and support music education in schools," said Scott Goldman, vice president, the GRAMMY Foundation. "These students have incredible talent, and should be tremendously proud of the work they accomplished to present a winning school song."

IPA received a \$2,500 GRAMMY® Signature Schools Community Award for the school's music department.



Gerald Teramae, Island Pacific Academy Head of School; Alan Yamamoto, Governor for The Recording Academy Pacific Northwest Chapter; Michael Compton, Executive Director of The Recording Academy Pacific Northwest Chapter; Micah Hirokawa, Island Pacific Academy History Teacher & Music Club Advisor; Boz Schurr, Island Pacific Academy Digital Arts Teacher; Maureen Willett, Jostens Hawaii Yearbooks; John Ferry, Membership & Special Projects for The Recording Academy



### KAPOLEI PROPERTIES LLC

Kapolei Properties LLC is an affiliate of the James Campbell Company with a focus on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KAPOLEI, PLEASE VISIT: [www.kapolei.com](http://www.kapolei.com) or contact Steve Kelly at [stevek@kapolei.com](mailto:stevek@kapolei.com)

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