

Letters

Straight Talk From Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona

Praise For Pali Momi

Editor,

I have a wonderful feeling knowing that any emergency that eventually requires hospitalization will result in one receiving the highest caliber of patient care available at Kapiolani Medical Center at Pali Momi and Straub Clinic at Aiea.

My recent illness required me to go to Straub Clinic and then to the emergency room at Pali Momi for my diagnosis, followed by my hospitalization for treatment.

I am almost always cognizant of what goes on around me — how people function and their attitude, their propensity to serve and efficiency in their area of expertise.

The doctors, nurses, technicians and support staff are second-to-none, and I appreciate all their efforts. Everyone involved in patient care are professionals, and I for one pass the word that we have world-class health-care available to us in the Aiea area.

Lawrence O. Muraoka,
Aiea resident



Roadways in West Oahu stand to benefit as our administration becomes among the first to put federal stimulus money to work on "shovel-ready projects" across the region to begin immediately.

It turns out that the wish list we have assembled includes at least five West Oahu projects that will be funded under the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We are charged with applying \$246 million of this money for quick-turn transportation projects that will generate 3,170 jobs statewide. According to the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, for every \$1 million in federal stimulus money spent, 12.9 jobs will be created or saved.

More than \$14 million of the stimulus money from Washington will flow to projects in West Oahu. For instance, the state Department of

West Oahu Focus Of Federal Stimulus

Transportation has allotted \$5 million for various improvements to Waipio Point Access Road, which is a key corridor for commuters and an important access for traffic to the Waipio Soccer Complex and the Ted Makalena Golf Course in Waipahu. We will be ready to begin advertising for contractors in September.

In Kapolei, we also plan to use \$7 million in stimulus funds to widen a section of Kalaeloa Boulevard to six lanes as part of a reconstruction project designed to

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address urgent transportation needs by expanding roadway capacity. This is heightened by the recent grand opening of such retail-

ers as Costco and Target. We will begin collecting bids on this project in September.

In addition, we are spending \$1.8 million of federal stimulus money on upgrades to the Farrington Highway and Makakilo separation structure that carries the road over the H-1 freeway. The upgrades will allow the road to better withstand such natural disasters as an earthquake.

Two smaller projects on busy streets in Pearl City and Kapolei call for installing traffic signals and making improvements to comply

with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

All told, these projects will further our efforts to stimulate the local economy and create jobs for residents. The work cannot come too soon for our construction industry, where the number of jobs has dropped by 3,400 since December 2007. For these reasons, we are eager to see these projects get under way.

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