

## EWA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 23

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817 PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET <u>http:///www.honolulu.gov/nco</u>

November 14, 2019

Mr. Jade Butay, Director State of Hawaii Department of Transportation 869 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Director Butay,

Subject: Fort Weaver Road Repaving Project between Renton Road and Liliuokalani Freeway

At the July 2019 meeting of the Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23 the Governor's representative informed the Board that a contract had been awarded in May 2019 to repave Fort Weaver Road with a start date of February 2020. The Ewa No. 23 Neighborhood Board Transportation committee contacted the Oahu District Engineer to learn more about the project and was informed that Fort Weaver Road will be repaved from Renton Road to the Queen Liliuokalani Freeway and that there are no plans to make any changes to Fort Weaver Road's current configuration.

The Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23 respectfully requests that the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) consider the following improvements to Fort Weaver Road to enhance the efficiency and safety for all users:

- 1. Fort Weaver Road has approximately a 4-foot shoulder on both sides of the roadway from Renton Road to Farrington Highway. These shoulders should be converted to and striped as bike lanes.
- 2. Fort Weaver roadway, between Farrington Highway and Kunia Road should be restriped to include bike lanes on both sides. Currently, the only way a cyclist can navigate Fort Weaver Road heading northbound, from the crossing at Farrington Highway to Kunia Road, is either to take a lane on Fort Weaver Road or to detour the area completely into Waipahu and reenter Fort Weaver Road at Leolua Street or Honowai Street in order to continue to Kunia Road. The HDOT project status for Oahu indicates that Kunia Road from the Queen Liliuokalani Freeway to Lyman Gate at Schofield Barracks is scheduled to be resurfaced August 2021. Establishing a safe connection between Fort Weaver Road and Kunia Road would facilitate future improvements to Kunia Road (a popular cycling route) for all road users.
- 3. The Fort Weaver Road ramp to Farrington Highway has many cracks and potholes. This roadway should be resurfaced when Fort Weaver is resurfaced.
- 4. The merge from Honowai Street on to Fort Weaver during morning rush hour becomes a bottle neck at the Liliuokalani Freeway, backing up traffic, because vehicles turning onto Fort Weaver Road from Honowai Street must immediately cross lanes to continue north on Fort Weaver Road. Vehicles turning onto Fort Weaver Road from Honowai Street should only be allowed to enter the Liliuokalani Freeway and blocked from crossing lanes on Fort Weaver Road.
- 5. The shared use path along the northbound lanes of Fort Weaver Road between Renton Road and Farrington Highway is in poor condition with many bumps and cracks due to tree roots and a general lack of maintenance in many years. This pathway leads to the West Loch train station and should provide pedestrians and cyclists, who prefer to ride separated from traffic, a safe route to ride rail.

The Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23 believes that this resurfacing project on Fort Weaver Road should be embraced as an ideal opportunity for HDOT to install improvements to the roadway that will move us forward to meeting the goals of Vision Zero and Complete Streets in Ewa and surrounding communities.

Very Truly Yours, Mitchell Tynanes, Chair Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23

Copy: Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23 Senator Mike Gabbard Senator Kurt Fevella Representative Ty J.K. Cullen Representative Bob McDermott Councilmember Ron Menor Ed Sniffen, Deputy Director Highways Division