

Hawaii Reporter

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Hawaii Kai Residents Angered Over City's Wasteful Spending on Multi Million Dollar Street Light Project

By Natalie Iwasa, 8/18/2009 2:34:49 PM

About 25 concerned residents and representatives from the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board as well as Council Member Charles Djou, Rep. Gene Ward and Sen. Sam Slom turned out for a demonstration on Lunalilo Home Road to protest the city's lighting project that will add three times the amount of poles as well as three times the amount of light to Lunalilo Home Road.

Djou said the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Design and Construction informed him that they would change the fixtures to flat lenses which will fully shield the light. However, residents are asking for more.

At issue is the reclassification of Lunalilo Home Road from a "major roadway collector," according to the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan, to a "major commercial roadway."

In 2001, the city did a traffic study and found peak traffic flow to be 1,200 cars per hour.

This traffic study is part of the basis for the city's decision to upgrade the roadway. A copy of the study has been provided to Djou's office and will be reviewed by neighborhood board members.

Based on the recommendations in the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America and current specifications of the road, it appears the city could adequately light the roadway with 70 watt bulbs thereby reducing the amount of future electrical consumption by more than 50%.

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board will discuss this as well as other issues related to this project at its next meeting on Tuesday, August 25.

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