Waikiki Beach Walk Moving Ahead

This week, the Waikiki Beach Walk project held a reception for the future tenants of its 92,000-square-foot retail entertainment center. They donned hard hats in the lobby of the OHANA Islander Waikiki next door and walked over to the construction site to inspect the progress on the shells of their shops and restaurants and enjoy some refreshments while visualizing how it will all look when completed just nine months from now.

The occasion gave me a few moments to reflect on the progress of Waikiki Beach Walk as a whole, and how well this massive project has gone since groundbreaking only a year ago. It has not been easy to demolish and remove three complete hotels, dozens of shops and restaurants, plus parking facilities in the heart of this densely built-up area of Waikiki. On any given day and at almost any hour during demolition and construction, the area has continued to teem with pedestrians, tour buses, automobiles, and delivery trucks serving the adjacent hotels and restaurants still in operation. This includes the deluxe Sheraton Waikiki, Halekulani, and Outrigger Reef hotels. Noise, access, traffic flow, pollution, and safety all had to be considered, planned for, and monitored continuously.

On top of that, there was a great deal of concern for the members of our ‘ohana who were working at the hotels scheduled for demolition or renovation. We wanted to make sure that everyone was treated fairly and had an opportunity either to continue working—as part of the project or at another Outrigger or OHANA hotel—or to take advantage of an attractive, voluntary early retirement package.

It has been a grand team effort all the way. Human Resources, Operations, Property Management, Renovations, Legal, Finance, and Administration have worked together with the contractors, suppliers, delivery companies, bus operators, the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, and the owners and managers of neighboring properties. There has been a great two-way spirit of cooperation. Disruptions and complaints have been minimal, particularly given the enormous size of the project.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who has worked on Waikiki Beach Walk. You are doing a magnificent job, and I can’t wait to see the final result of your efforts this coming November.

Waikiki Beach Walk Current Tenant List

Dining & Entertainment Establishments
• Roy’s Waikiki
• Holokai Grill
• Yard House
• Ruth’s Chris Steak House
• Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
• Coconut Willy’s
• Beard Papa’s Sweets Café
• Bob Bach/Sports Bar
• Honolulu Cookie Company

Retailers
• ABC Stores
• Crazy Shirts
• Tabora’s Diamond Head Gallery
• Folli Follie
• Freaky Tiki Tropical Optical
• Head to Toe
• Island Pearls
• King Jewelry
• Jewelry by Lea & Kea
• Malibu Shirts
• Marco Polo Watch Collection
• Maui Divers Jewelry
• Maui Surf Co.
• Na Hoku
• Peony Arts
• Sunshine Swimwear
• Surf City Trading Co
• TK Fashion
• Whalers General Store