



Freedom to Report Real News

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Page 1 of 1

Waikiki Construction Hazardous to Health of Hawaii Visitors, Residents

EMS Personnel Cannot Travel Freely Through Hawaii's Premiere Visitor Destination

By Dale Evans, 6/5/2004 3:18:13 AM

Waikiki residents are alarmed about the threat to the public safety.

At the last three Waikiki neighborhood board meetings, the city fire fighters warned that Kuhio Avenue traffic changes impair their ability to rescue in case of fire and emergency.

Fire fighters are privately saying that they are afraid of speaking out in fear of losing job promotions.

Their leadership is hushing widespread concern.

City bus drivers complain vigorously but the TheBus management is not talking, as the Harris administration is keeping a lid on their ability to talk to the press.

The recent accident on Kalakaua, one fatality and 6 other injured was a chilling example of how the traffic congestion obstructs emergency response.

Residents report that ambulances traveled down the Ala Wai Boulevard against the one way opposite bound traffic to get to the scene of the accident. Motorists traveling in the one way ewa direction were confused by the scenario.

The June 4, 2004, *The Honolulu Advertiser* contained a letter to the editor by Kimo Mack of Kaneohe highlighting these concerns, entitled "Kuhio roadwork is hazard in emergencies."

"The mayor's beautification project on Kuhio Avenue has become a nightmare for emergency vehicles. I sat in gridlock one day while EMTs struggled to get to eight people in need. And while vehicles tried to get out of the way, there was nowhere to go. Mayor Jeremy Harris should have known that digging up all of Kuhio Avenue at one time would create unreasonable response times for EMSTs. So for those who were injured and waiting for an ambulance, what seemed like an eternity probably was an eternity."

The Harris administration's total disregard of public safety is irresponsible and derelict.

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