



## Working to Relieve Traffic Backup At Busy Kapolei Intersections

Drivers who are frequent users of Kalaeloa Boulevard have been suffering through frustrating backups at the busy Kalaeloa Boulevard/Kapolei Parkway intersection during afternoon peak hours. The backup is usually triggered by traffic congestion at the Farrington Highway/Kalaeloa Boulevard intersection, which is served by two-way stop signs. This happens in the afternoon peak hour northbound direction and is sometimes aggravated by rush hour congestion on westbound Farrington Highway, backing up traffic all the way up the onramps.

Area legislators have been looking at different solutions for easing these choke points. Representative Sharon Har recently coordinated with the Hawaii Department of Transportation to see what could be done in the short term to alleviate the intersection congestion. HDOT responded by working with the Honolulu Police Department to assign officers to monitor and direct traffic at the affected intersection, Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. While this fix has helped mitigate some of the intersection delays, when traffic is backed up along westbound Farrington Highway, it's clear there are larger regional congestion problems in play heading to the Wai'anae Coast.

"The gridlock is beyond the control of HPD officers who are



doing the best they can to break the logjam," said Har. "In my conversations with HDOT, we knew there would be no magic bullet, but we are using common sense solutions such as the Nānākuli contraflow and completion of the Kapolei Interchange, to reduce both the magnitude and frequency of these crippling backlogs. Police, and the eventual stop light, are only partial solutions in our 'all-hands on deck' approach."

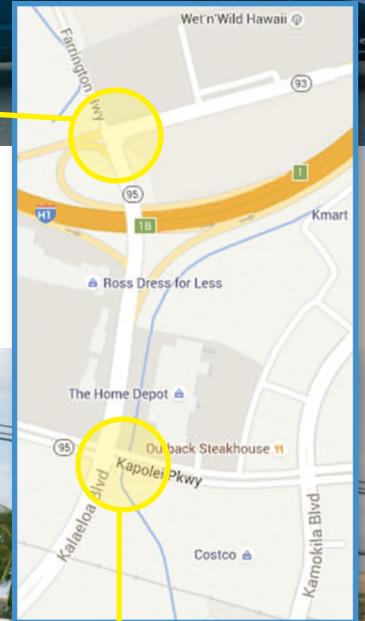
Har and other local officials such as Senator Mike Gabbard and Representative Andria Tupola are actively pushing for other traffic solutions to help ease the pain of beleaguered drivers. "With ongoing traffic congestion,

any effort to decrease it helps," said Senator Gabbard. "I'm glad HPD and DOT are working together in this to help improve the situation for drivers. Every effort helps. We will keep working together to find better fixes."

In the meantime, HDOT has programmed the design of a permanent traffic signal at the Kalaeloa Boulevard/Farrington Highway intersection.

"Governor Ige is looking for new ways to deliver immediate traffic relief," said Ford Fuchigami, HDOT Director. "We are moving forward with a permanent traffic signal at the intersection, however that will require some additional time."

HDOT Highways Deputy Director Ed Sniffen estimates it will take a number of months to appropriately phase and complete the traffic signal project so as not to worsen the existing traffic situation. Meanwhile, the use of police officers to monitor and manage traffic flow will continue throughout the duration of the Kapolei Interchange Complex, Phase 2 project. When completed in mid-2018, Phase 2 will help to relieve area congestion by providing additional ramps and a new overpass from the Wakea Street Extension to westbound lanes on H-1 Freeway.



### Kalaeloa Boulevard roadwork relief in sight

South of Kapolei Business Park, Kapolei Properties Division is widening and improving Kalaeloa Boulevard to better serve Kapolei's industrial parks and Kalaeloa Harbor. The \$50 million project also includes a new wastewater pump station and sewer system to support the area's projected industrial sector growth.

Because of the traffic backups caused by congestion at the two intersections, drivers are experiencing short delays on Kalaeloa Boulevard from Malakole Street to Lauwiliwili Street mauka during road work. However, relief is in sight. Senator Gabbard contacted the Department of Health to lobby for the required permit that would allow for night work on the Kalaeloa Boulevard project. DOH has indicated that the permit is forthcoming.

"Our contractor is doing what he can to minimize the congestion within his work area. Once the permit is issued, some of the work can be done at night which will help to reduce the aggravation for drivers and businesses in the area," said John Higham, KPD's vice president for construction and engineering. "We appreciate their patience and ask for their understanding while we work on these much needed infrastructure upgrades."



### KAPOLEI PROPERTIES DIVISION

Kapolei Properties Division is a division of the James Campbell Company LLC focusing on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

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