



Our New Mayor: Peter Carlisle

Fresh off the victory that won him the special Honolulu mayoral election, Peter Carlisle is ready to take over the only other job he wanted besides Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney, a position he held for 14 years. He will be sworn in on Friday, October 8 to complete the remaining two years of former Mayor Mufi Hannemann's term.

"Honolulu is a safe city, and the mechanisms are in place to keep it that way. When the opportunity to run for mayor opened up, I felt I wanted to do more to make Honolulu a better place for everybody. I knew that the time was right to run for office. I felt that my job was done as prosecutor," he said.

"The issues we face are the same, like homelessness, traffic safety, and government efficiency," Carlisle said. As a fiscal conservative, he is especially concerned about bringing transparency and restraint to government spending as he tackles the job as mayor. He also relishes the chance to build coalitions, especially with the City Council, to find workable solutions for the city's problems. At the same time, he knows that the job calls for a decision maker.

"We can't afford to fritter away the future by making short-term decisions," he said. "We must have the political will to be good stewards of the future."

The new mayor sees a part of that future unfolding in Kapolei. "I have one word for Kapolei: Exciting!" he said. "It is making impressive progress towards becoming our next city with its wonderful opportunities for jobs and housing. And look at the great amenities it has, like the Kroc Center and UH West Oahu."

The prosecutor in him couldn't resist a comment about the new Kapolei Judiciary Complex. "The new complex is amazing, and the envy of all of us who work in downtown Honolulu."



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Carlisle is a strong proponent of rail transit, and sees it as key to Kapolei's development. "It's staggering how inefficient our use of the roadway is," he said. "Cars are stuck in traffic, with drivers suffering from the noise, heat and smell. It's an invitation to frustration."

On the other hand, with rail, people will be off the roads and they will know that the time to travel from Kapolei to Ala Moana

Center will be 40 minutes. "It will relieve a lot of the frustration that people now suffer," he said.

Carlisle cites how widening Kalaniana'ole Highway out to East Honolulu and building H-3 freeway to the Windward side alleviated traffic flow to those parts of the island. "It's West Oahu's turn," he said. "They deserve it and we owe it to them."

The mayor already has strong personal ties in the communities

of West Oahu, and is especially concerned about including the Waianae Coast as a participant in the vibrant growth that is taking place in Kapolei. "As Kapolei grows, it will have an enormous impact on the people in Waianae, especially in the area of jobs," he said. "The Disney resort is a very good example of this."

Over the last 14 years, Carlisle has watched Kapolei grow. "People who haven't visited Kapolei lately would be amazed at the changes. They are mind-boggling. It is definitely a city of the future, and it's going to be exciting to be a part of its growth."