An Intergenerational Approach to Exploring Walkability in Honolulu

Colby Takeda, Administrator
The Plaza at Waikiki
Agenda

1. Background
2. Honolulu Walks
3. Results
1 Background

Partners, Honolulu, `Iolani School, Intergenerational Activities
Acknowledgements
Aloha
Colby Takeda

Older Adults & Youth
Age-Friendly Communities
Built Environment
Photography
Hawaii News

Hawaii pedestrian death rate among seniors leads the nation

By Marcel Honoré and Dana Williams /
‘Iolani School’s One Mile Project Class

★ Explore aging
  ● Empathy challenges
  ● Site visits
  ● Interactions with older adults

★ Develop real-world solutions with the support of mentors
Optimal Timing

Complete Streets
streets that are safe and convenient for all people whether traveling by foot, bicycle, transit, or automobile, and regardless of age or ability.

Age-Friendly Honolulu
outdoor spaces & buildings, transportation, housing, communication & social involvement, civic participation & employment, community support & health services.

Honolulu Walks
intergenerational approach to exploring walkability and developing creative approaches towards an age-friendly community.
Intergenerational Activities

...social vehicles that offer younger and older generations the opportunities to interact and become engaged in issues concerning our society.
Grandpa is showing us how they sent a text when he was a kid.
Older adults who volunteer with children burn 20% more calories, experience fewer falls, are less reliant on canes, and have improved memory.

With older adults, youth are more likely to:

- do better in school,
- feel connected to the community,\(^8\)
- graduate from college,\(^9\)
- have social trust,
- engage in less risky behavior,\(^{10}\)
- become better readers,\(^{11}\)
- have more positive attitudes towards aging,\(^{12}\)
- gain communication & problem-solving skills,
- and grow better social networks\(^{13}\)

“Somehow we have to get older people back close to growing children if we are to restore a sense of community, a knowledge of the past, and a sense of the future.”

~ Margaret Mead
2 Honolulu Walks
Youth-led intergenerational activity to explore walkability in Hawaii
Youth-Led

One Mile Project Class
- Bryson Choy, 11th grade

Roosevelt High School
- 7 students (10th – 12th grade)
Photovoice Process

Photovoice is a participatory action research methodology allowing people to photograph their environment and experiences, promote dialogue about community issues, and to use those photos as a catalyst for change.

-Wang & Burris, 1997
Canon PowerShot ELPH 190
Digital Photography

A 2013 study found that mentally demanding activities, such as digital photography, are likely to improve cognitive functioning in older adults while less demanding activities have no noticeable benefits.

Honolulu Walks

- Introduction
- Briefing
- Camera Workshop
- Photo Walk
- Generate Ideas
- Group Evaluation
- Review Individual Photos
Introduction Briefing

- Welcome & introductions
- Ice breakers
- Introduction to photography and Honolulu Walks
  - Ethics
  - Safety
- Partnered up and distributed cameras
Honolulu Walks

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Honolulu Walks

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LIKES

- Art
- Diverse scenery
- Colorful flowers
- Bright street lights
- Animals in nature
- Nice, clean water
- People
- Designs in sidewalk
- Well-kept grass
- Function & design of bridges & buildings

DISLIKES

- Graffiti
- Bird poop
- Fallen leaves & nuts from trees
- Weeds
- Uneven surfaces

IDEAS (1)

- Build walkways with trees that don't shed (birds that don't shed)
- Grass that is green (nature)
- How to make communities pedestrian-friendly?
- How to encourage people to take pictures?
- Uneven surfaces posing threats?
- Signs for people to warn them

IDEAS

- How does the infrastructure affect how birds nest & poop?
- How do you balance blue skies with housing?
- How do we properly illuminate our roads/streets?
- How do we make sure all areas have accessible walking paths for pedestrians?
- How do we balance homeless population?
- How do we balance safety of children regarding plants (i.e., plumbago)
- How do we integrate water into our community?
- Kiosks that dispense sunscreen? (like hand sanitizers)
- How do we integrate designs into sidewalks?
3 Results
Pictures, Reflections, Next Steps
Results

10 Honolulu Walks workshops

8 different areas across the island

100+ participants from ages 9 to 90
Participant Feedback

98% of participants are now more aware of the term “walkability”

83% of the older participants are now more comfortable using a digital camera

90% of participants are now more comfortable interacting with different generations
Participant Feedback

- More workshops, consecutive classes
- Longer workshops
- Wish the photos were printed out larger

“I didn’t know I could take such nice pictures”

“More people should try this”

“I hope to make our community safer for all”
Results Outreach

National Public Health Week
Student Presentations

Complete Streets Expo
Recognition by Mayor Kirk Caldwell
Walking for safer streets is a ‘snap’

“Honolulu Walks,” an intergenerational project that encourages participants to comb Oahu’s streets with digital cameras and record pathways considered unsafe and age-unfriendly, continues in May as part of National Walking Month.

Aside from implored people of all ages to get outside and go on healthy strolls, “Honolulu Walks” takes direct aim at reducing the number of pedestrian deaths among the local senior population. Across the nation, Hawaii ranks as the most dangerous state for pedestrians over the age of 65, according to a recent report by the National Complete Streets Coalition. The study also revealed that from 2005 to 2014, Hawaii’s seniors accounted for more than 42 percent of all pedestrian fatalities in the state.

Photos taken during several upcoming walks—tomorrow near Washington Middle School, and Sunday in Pearl City—will be shared with city planners and nonprofit leaders later in the year, noted project adviser Colby Takeda.

“The point is, how can we improve our streets so that they are safer, more enjoyable and more accessible to everyone?” said Takeda, who also serves as an administrator for The Plaza Assisted Living, a senior care community on Oahu and one of the project’s 22 grantees. He added that when it comes to pedestrian safety, “our keiki and kupuna are the most vulnerable, which is why this project is important.”

In addition to senior group participation from The Plaza Assisted Living, the project brings together students from Iolani School and Roosevelt High School’s Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders, and pairs them with more than 100 participants from other Oahu schools. “We want to raise awareness about the needs and interests of our youngest and oldest generations,” said Victoria Nguyen, a student organizer from Roosevelt High School.

For more information about “Honolulu Walks” or to get involved with the project, contact Takeda at 955-0890 or ctakeda@plazaassistedliving.com.
Results Recognition

Program of Distinction

2017 - 2020
Next Steps
- More workshops
- Phase II
  - Exhibition at City Hall
  - Package photographs & reflections into a report
- Support Complete Streets & Age-Friendly Honolulu
JORDAN'S FINAL SELFIE
Thank You!

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