

ALA PONO: AN ALA WAI CROSSING ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

ALA PONO
an Ala Wai crossing

Improving access for people traveling by foot or bicycle across the Ala Wai Canal, between Ala Moana Boulevard and the Manoa/Palolo Stream.

Ala Pono evaluated alternatives for improving crossings of the Ala Wai Canal with the goal to improve multimodal network connectivity and safety for people walking and bicycling using the following steps:

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES → ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS COMMUNITY REPORT → HIGHEST SCORING ALTERNATIVE → BRIDGE TYPE EVALUATION → PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The data-driven alternatives analysis and public feedback identified the University Avenue alignment as the highest-scoring alternative.

Ala Pono conducted a data-driven analysis of crossing alternatives ultimately identifying a highest-scoring alternative best-aligned with the project purpose and need, and public feedback. Analysis included:

- Extensive, Inclusive Public Engagement** using a variety of means to learn about current travel patterns and priorities, crossing preferences as well as preferred bridge experience. Ala Pono connected with over 1,800 people using in-person intercept surveys, an online survey, public open houses, social media and web-based tools, and engagement with local elementary school students.
- Data-Driven Alternatives Analysis** that utilized evaluation criteria aligned with each of the project's primary needs to transparently assess which alternative is the most feasible and will best achieve community goals.
- Quantitative Technical Analysis** informed the evaluation of alternatives from an extensive origin-destination survey to understand current travel patterns around the canal to forecasting the use of crossing improvements to assessing the conditions for each mode of travel, including parking inventory and utilization.
- Bridge Types Evaluation** followed the identification of the highest scoring alternative to assess the types of bridges were most feasible across the Ala Wai Canal and most aligned with the community's preferred bridge experience.

Logos for OahuMPO, Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc.



City and County of Honolulu,
Department of Transportation Services
Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc.
PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.
Austin Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc.

The purpose of the Ala Pono: An Ala Wai Crossing Alternatives Analysis is to identify, develop, and evaluate opportunities for access over the Ala Wai Canal that will provide inter-neighborhood pedestrian and bicycle circulation.

Several innovations were incorporated into the Ala Pono: An Ala Wai Crossing Alternatives Analysis community engagement process that elevated standard engagement beyond best practice. The engagement team sought to hear from a diversity of voices to ensure that decision-makers were well informed of the community's desires and concerns related to transportation infrastructure in the Waikiki and McCully/Moiliili neighborhoods. DTS and their consultant team endeavored to deliver data to the public with informative, high quality, and engaging graphics throughout the alternatives analysis. At the outset of the project, a graphic scheme was established that set the course for all subsequent materials.

Public meetings were held both on weeknight evenings as well as on a Saturday to encourage participation. These meetings were also broadcast on Facebook live, augmenting the 304 in-person attendance to over 800 views. Expecting large turnouts, public meetings were designed to capture information from the greatest number of people. The meetings included live cell phone polling, engaging activities, and key staff available to talk one-on-one.

Concurrently, UH Manoa Fall, 2018 Site Planning Class and the Jefferson Elementary 3rd grade STEM unit participated in the process by using the crossing as a case study. The college students attended public meetings as part of their data collection, and the elementary students used the project to understand bridge design and had space at a public meeting to present their work to the public.

Finally, to help decision-makers (City and County of Honolulu, OahuMPO) understand user demands and needs for pedestrian and bicycle circulation, travel and crash data was augmented by an on-line survey and with an on-the-streets intercept survey that reached 890 individuals. The robust community engagement employed for the Ala Pono Alternatives Analysis provides a solid foundation for the preferred alternative (a new pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the canal) to advance. Recognizing a radical new transportation infrastructure is not without community concerns, decision-makers at the City level and federal funders can have confidence that a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the Ala Wai Canal is desired by the public. The City and County of Honolulu is currently moving forward with the design and environmental review for a new crossing.



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