

Green people, Greener life

Do you live on the west side of the island and need a break from the daily commute in traffic? Want to spend more time with your family? Does driving in traffic stress you out... even on weekends? If you replied "yes" to any of these questions, keep reading and I'll have a solution for you! Approximately 1.13 million cars are registered on Oahu and most are on the road for the daily commute struggling to get from one place to another according to a previously published article on the.honoluluadvertiser.com. Honolulu has been ranked third in the nation for having the worst traffic congestion according to a survey from TomTom as reported in March 2015. More cars on the road does not make Hawaii a "green" paradise that it should be. I propose the HGH (Hawaii's Greener Housing) will help accomplish these things that were listed above and more! Although people may prefer driving, the HGH is an underground mall concept beneath housing and commercial developments which will encourage people to go underground and walk to different locations for shopping and entertainment without having to use their car and be stuck in traffic. Could HGH be the "perfect" solution?

HGH will be like the Hawaii version of the PATH in Toronto which is located under various business buildings. The PATH is an eighteen (18) mile pedestrian passageway connecting office towers, attractions, hotels and shops; Guinness World Records calls it the largest underground shopping complex. People walk through temperature controlled environments and exit from the PATH and end up in another location, possibly miles away. For example, the construction of the HGH could be considered in new developments like the planned land development around UH West Oahu. The HGH

would include residential and commercial buildings above ground and connected to the pedestrian walkways linking buildings, attractions and shops below. These walkways will have retail, dining and other commercial businesses that advocate a greener way of life as people can now live, work and play in the same neighborhood leading to reduced car travel. People would become "greener" without having to consciously think about it; become healthier at the same time by decreasing the stress spent in traffic; and increase available time with families.

Although HGH will not lead to an immediate reduction in traffic, it will provide hope and an alternative for people currently needing to drive into town from the west side to shop or for entertainment. I believe, if Clarence T.C Ching were still alive today, he would concur that the HGH is a concept that is interesting, has potential, and can be applied in new developments. Just as how Mr. Ching was a visionary and used his business savvy to guide him to successfully develop the Moanalua areas of Fort Shafter and Salt Lake, the HGH could be the green innovation of the 21st century. Making the vision of HGH into a reality requires a collaborative effort between the various governments and private developers to obtain support and funding. It may be a long road ahead for a concept like the HGH, but nothing can succeed without taking the first steps...I believe Mr. Ching would agree and would be proud to help Hawaii reduce a bit of traffic, become greener and lead healthier lives.