

# SUN NOODLE

1933 Colburn St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Hidehito Uki, founder and CEO

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With a multimillion-dollar renovation plan in the works, Sun Noodle plans to stay in the neighborhood.

Sun Noodle Founder and Chief Executive Officer Hidehito Uki said the factory, which produces 50,000 servings of ramen a day, is in a convenient location for the company and its employees.

"Being in town and close to the airport and piers are great advantages for a company that deals with fresh and frozen products," Uki told Pacific Business News. "At the same time, we have an added advantage in being close to a residential neighborhood."

Uki said most of the factory's employees live in Kalihi and often walk or ride their bikes to work.

"Some of them actually eat lunch at home and come back to work within half an hour," he added.

Sun Noodle is no stranger to the neighborhood. The company first made Kalihi its home when it opened its first factory on Hoe Street in Kalihi Kai in 1982.

The company, which also has factories on the Mainland, moved to its current 10,000-square-foot factory on Colburn Street in 1989.

But Uki said the long-established industrial area does have some disadvantages.

"The roads are narrow and many do not have drainage," he said, adding Colburn Street gets inundated with flood waters whenever



there's heavy rain.

"We are looking to be a part of the solution to this problem and have spoken to numerous officials to date," Uki said.

As far as rail goes, Uki said the company has a positive outlook on the project.

"We think it will especially help our employees who live on the west side of the island. They will no longer need to drive to work super early just to find parking," he said.

Uki said an increase in foot traffic that is expected to occur when a nearby rail stop

is in place won't have an impact on the Sun Noodle's sales, since the company does limited retailing from the factory.

But he said he expects to see a boost for other retailers in the area once the rail is completed.

"All in all, when businesses in the neighborhood do well, this will be good for everyone in the Kalihi neighborhood," he said.

—Anna Hrushka

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