

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

December 2023



Image Credit: 'Āina Haina Elementary School

Having instructed more than 460 students annually for the past seven decades, 'Āina Haina Elementary School stands as an integral institution in the 'Āina Haina community. Recognized by the International Baccalaureate Organization, the school ensures that its students receive an exceptional education up until the fifth grade.

This past legislative session, Senator Stanley Chang obtained \$1,000,000 in capital improvement funds to expand the school's educational program to pre-kindergarten students. 'Āina Haina Elementary School's Principal Brendan Burns elaborates, "The funding [will] allow for the creation of a free general education preschool program in 'Āina Haina." Indeed, 'Āina Haina Elementary will be able to establish up to twenty seats for the community's youngest keiki.

Principal Burns believes that the new funding will give 'Āina Haina the chance to teach even more children at its high educational standards. According to Burns, the new pre-kindergarten students "will be taught in alignment with our school's signature International Baccalaureate philosophy" which consists of "inquiry based learning and international-mindedness." With this extra year of high-quality education, 'Āina Haina students will be even more prepared to face the world around them.

Furthermore, Burns emphasized that the extra funds will create a nurturing environment for 'Āina Haina's children. By allowing the school to build a parking lot with secure access to the elementary's early education area, the new funding will help 'Āina Haina Elementary protect its preschool students with safer facilities. In his letter releasing the funds to the school, Governor Josh Green highlighted that improvements such as these are necessary to bolster "a strong pre-kindergarten system [that] fosters a better home for our keiki."

► **CALL US**

808-586-8420

► **EMAIL US**

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► **HANDY CONTACTS**

State Pothole Hotline
808-586-7852

City Pothole Hotline
808-768-7777

State Homelessness
gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
808-586-0193

City Homelessness
complaints@honolulu.gov
808-768-4381

Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permits
808-768-8000

Poison Control
800-222-1222

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

Domestic Abuse Hotline
800-799-7233

Public Assistance Information Line
855-643-1643

MOVING FORWARD

Honolulu City Lights Return

The Honolulu City Lights have returned this Christmas season! Open daily from 8 AM to 10 PM on the Frank F. Fasi Civic Center Grounds, the lights will be up starting December 2nd, and run through the end of the month. Several family-friendly events will be held throughout December, presented by the Friends of Honolulu City Lights. For more information, please visit the Friends of Honolulu City Lights website at: honolulucitylights.org/events-1. Free public parking is available at the Frank F. Fasi Municipal lot, with entry from



the left lane of Beretania Street just past Alapa'i Street.

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Image Credit: Friends of Honolulu City Lights

Beginning in January 2024, construction will begin on the curb ramp at Kilauea Ave. & Pāhoa Ave. The project is expected to last about two to three weeks, with work hours being Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

The project includes, but is not limited to, the demolition, removal and disposal of existing pavements, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and curb ramps; construction of new sidewalks, curb ramps, and curb and gutters; reconstructing of pavement transitions; adjustment of utility box frames and covers; and restoration of all pavement striping. The work is slated to finish by the end of January 2024.

 **SENATOR STANLEY CHANG** SENATE DISTRICT 9 

CURB RAMP WORK

Kilauea Ave. & Pāhoa Ave.

In January 2024, **Monday to Friday (8:30am-3:30 pm)**, there will be construction on the curb ramp connecting Kilauea Ave. and Pāhoa Ave. Please use caution in these areas or use alternate routes!

Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

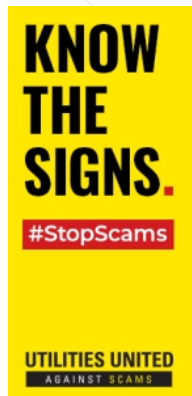
IN THE COMMUNITY

BE AWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

'Tis the season for scammers to prey on utility customers. Utility scams tend to increase over the busy holidays and in the aftermath of disasters. In some recent cases, Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) customers were told they would have their electric service shut off immediately unless they went to a Bitcoin kiosk to make a payment. HECO does not accept payment via cryptocurrency, prepaid debit cards, gift cards or money transfer.

“No one wants to be without electricity, especially over the holidays, and scammers use the threat of disconnection to strike fear in our customers,” said Brendan Bailey, Hawaiian Electric vice president of customer service. “If you get a call, text, email or letter demanding immediate payment by Bitcoin, gift cards, money transfer or prepaid debit cards, it’s a scam.”

For fraud awareness tips, visit



Slow down

Take your time. Scammers pressure customers to act fast.



Verify

Scammers often pose as the utility. Always verify the info being provided to you matches your latest bill.



Stop

Utilities never demand immediate payment and do not accept bitcoin, prepaid cards, or third-party payment apps.

hawaiianelectric.com/stopscams. To report suspicious activity, go to hawaiianelectric.com/reportfraud. Hawaiian Electric offers the following tips:

- If a caller says your account is delinquent and threatens to shut off service immediately unless payment is made, it’s a scam. Don’t be fooled by the caller ID, which can be manipulated to show a legitimate phone number.
- If someone from ‘Hawaiian Electric’ contacts you and demands immediate payment by methods not listed at hawaiianelectric.com/

paymentoptions, it’s a scam.

- If the caller asks to meet you in person to pick up a payment, it’s a scam.
- If you receive an email urging you to click on an embedded link or attachment to pay a bill, think before you click. It’s likely a scam.
- If someone shows up at your home or place of business claiming to be from Hawaiian Electric, ensure that person is wearing official attire with a logo, driving a properly labeled vehicle and carrying company identification. When in doubt, call customer service.

FREE RECYCLING AND DONATION EVENT AT KOKO HEAD ELEMENTARY



Image Credit: Hawaii Lions

The Going Green Community Recycling Project is coming to the East Oahu Community again! Going Green will be at Koko Head Elementary School on December 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Various items accepted for recycling or donations include: computers, printers, scanners, HI-5 beverage containers, batteries, canned goods (for Hawai'i Food Bank), gently used clothing, used eyeglasses and hearing aids, pet food, pet blankets, and prom dresses and accessories. Going Green does not accept certain items: metal, tires, paint, oils, inks, hazardous fluids, plastics, and household items. For questions or to ensure that your items are recyclable or donatable, please contact **Rene Mansho** at renemansho@hawaii.rr.com or (808) 291-6151.

YOUR CONCERNS

JOB OPENINGS AT STATE PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Image Credit: Hawai'i State Public Library System

Hawai'i's public libraries are more than just places to satisfy curiosity, they're great places to work, too! The state public libraries are hiring for a range of positions and encouraging the public to apply. Current openings include: Library Assistants, Library Technicians, Children's and Young Adult Librarians, Technical Services Librarian, and Professional Librarians (including Branch Managers). Apply at librarieshawaii.org/about-us/jobs/employment

CHINATOWN WINTER WALK



Image Credit: Hawai'i Guide

The Chinatown area is certainly in the holiday spirit! Enjoy the festive decorations of storefronts in the Chinatown district from December 1st to 31st as you stroll through the streets. Walking maps will be available throughout the district from King, Hotel, Pauahi, Bethel, Nu'uuanu, and Smith Street. The decorations will be in a nine block radius from the Chinatown District in Downtown Honolulu. For more information, please visit [@discoverchinatown](https://www.facebook.com/discoverchinatown) on Facebook or [@discoverchinatownhi](https://www.instagram.com/discoverchinatownhi) on Instagram.

FREE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND PERFORMANCES



Image Credit: StarAdvertiser

The Royal Hawaiian Band has performances throughout the month at 'Iolani Palace! Come enjoy the live music with family and friends, and set up a picnic with blankets, chairs, and snacks. The event is free and takes place 12pm-1pm. Current dates are December 8th and 15th, with more

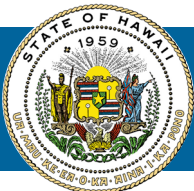
to be announced. The band is also making an appearance at the Kaimuki Christmas parade on December 7th, from 6pm-7pm. For more information and updates go to rhb-music.com.

IMPROVED SHOWER FOUNTAIN OPEN NOW AT KAIMANA BEACH



Image Credit: City and County of Honolulu

The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation reported a 15.4% decrease in water usage this past year due to renovated beach showers like this one at Kaimana Beach, which drains water run-off into a catch basin instead of the ocean.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

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