

FROM THE OFFICE OF

# SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

## East Honolulu Community Newsletter

October 2023



### Explaining the Tsunami Hazard Area Signs

There are 260 signs installed at key entry and exit points along coastal roadways by the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management. Three different signs are installed to alert the public when they are entering, leaving, or are within the Tsunami Hazard Area. If your home is situated above the “leaving” sign, the tsunami likely won’t reach you. If your home is below a “within” or “entering” sign, you should consider evacuating when a tsunami warning is in place.

The placement of these signs is based on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 tsunami evacuation maps. The City implemented the two-tier map after Hawai‘i scientists began investigating plausible worst-case tsunami scenarios in 2010. Scientists found that a tsunami, stemming from a 9.2 magnitude earthquake in the eastern Aleutians, would far exceed the flooding observed in Hawai‘i from past historical tsunamis. Independent geological evidence on Kaua‘i and Alaska also suggested that such a tsunami was generated sometime in the past 500 years. In response to these findings, the City & County of Honolulu, in conjunction with State, Federal, and community stakeholders, developed an additional 2nd evacuation tier (Tier 2) for the Extreme Tsunami scenario, which represents a worst-case, extreme, once-in-a-thousand years tsunami event for Hawai‘i. The Tier 2 Extreme maps represent an unlikely worst-case scenario and do not replace the current Tier 1 standard tsunami evacuation maps, based on historical tsunamis.

The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management recommends referring to their evacuation map for the most precise details: [bit.ly/hnltsunamievacuationzones](https://bit.ly/hnltsunamievacuationzones). The

newly installed signs include a QR code that, when scanned, will take you to the O‘ahu tsunami evacuation zone map.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant of \$800,000 supported most of this city project. According to Hiro Toiya, director of the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, “Improving public understanding is critical to ensuring people evacuate when they need to and reducing the number of people who evacuate unnecessarily. Unnecessary evacuation can congest roadways, making it difficult for those who must leave tsunami evacuation zones from doing so.” Though most planned Tsunami Hazard Area signs in East Honolulu are already installed, the project is still ongoing and there will be approximately 338 signs around O‘ahu at the end.



Image Credit: Stanley Chang

#### ► 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](mailto:gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov)  
808-586-0193

**City Homelessness**  
[complaints@honolulu.gov](mailto:complaints@honolulu.gov)  
808-768-4381

**Abandoned Vehicles**  
808-733-2530

**Building Permits**  
808-768-8000

**Trash Collection**  
808-768-3200

**Street Light Repair**  
808-768-5300

## MOVING FORWARD

### Protecting Newborn Turtles at Sandy's from Dangerous Lights

Just last month, five turtle nests appeared at Sandy Beach. It was a sight to see, and residents were respectful in providing the turtles with space and respect. However, there are recurring issues with the bright, white lights that illuminate the beach at night. When young turtles see these car or parking lot lights, they become disoriented and move away from the ocean, putting them at risk of exhaustion, dehydration, and being eaten by invasive predators (such as mongoose). Even more so, they may wander into parking lots where they could be run over. Fluorescent, white, unshielded lights are the number one cause of mortality in baby sea turtles. Five of seven sea turtle species make their home in Hawai'i's waters. Sadly, all five are endangered. They play a key role in the ecosystem, from maintaining healthy coral reefs to transporting nutrients between land and water. We must protect them, as only a few million are left globally. In light of this we need to take immediate action to help keep these turtles safe.

Mālama i nā Honu has been helping protect turtle nests in Sandy Beach. They have been utilizing shade cloth to cover behind and around the nests, blocking out some light pollution. For residents visiting the beach at night or bringing artificial lights, here are a few tips to protect the baby turtles:

- First, keep lighting low to the ground at a downward angle to minimize the amount of light that is shown on the beach and reduce the risk of turtles seeing it.
- Secondly, consider using red, amber, or orange colored lights, which have a lower intensity and are less visible to wildlife.
- Finally, use shielded lights to help block excess lighting from blinding the turtles. Although the nesting season has ended, it is important to remember these pointers for when they, hopefully, come back next year.



Image Credit: Sheldon Plentovich



Image Credit: Exie Wingfield

### Tips and Resources for Our Mental Health

To observe World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2023, and as more conversations take place regarding mental health, our office would like to share important information about healthy coping mechanisms to stay happy and thriving. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recommends:

- Taking care of yourself via eating healthy, exercising, and avoiding alcohol/drugs when possible.
- Speaking to someone you trust when overwhelmed. Call

or text 988 to connect with local, caring crisis counselors at Hawai'i CARES 988. They offer free support services for help with crisis, mental health, and substance use.

- Establishing and maintaining a routine, such as a sleep/eating schedule you are consistent with.

In light of the recent events in our communities and State, if you or someone you love is struggling and needs mental health or trauma care, ask them to call or text 988. Please visit [hicare.hawaii.gov](https://hicare.hawaii.gov) for more great information.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Rachel and Raeanna's Internship Reflections

Rachel: *I started my internship in Senator Chang's office in June. Throughout my time here, I've created many connections and skills that will help me in my future legal career. I learned how to draft legislation, create social media campaigns, attend hearings, etc. This opportunity has allowed me to assist in legal research and get involved in the legislative process. I gained a better understanding of the process of proposing a bill and the Interscope of the government. This experience has challenged me to produce effective work and be creative with my social media ideas. I am grateful for all the people I could spectate and converse with. I was welcomed in with open arms, and the next thing I knew, these people I worked with became my close friends and employees. Everyone was motivated, inclusive, and determined to create the best work environment for Senator Chang.*

*I come into this office with a positive attitude and smile*



Image Credit: Rachel H.

*because that's what it feels like to work for the team. Office 226 will always be the room that taught me what I need to know about the legislative process and how this became a lifelong learning experience. At the end of this summer session, I realized it wasn't the work but the people that made this internship so special.*

Raeanna: *As I was walking into the Capital for my first day interning at Senator Stanley Chang's Office with my white button up and black oxfords, I felt all of the nervous jitters creeping up on me, like ants crawling up my back. But the second I opened up the door of Office 226, relief washed over me. I was greeted with the most friendly of faces that caused*

*me to know that my time here will not only be valuable for furthering my career, but I will also be able to create genuine connections with my coworkers.*

*On my first day, I was thrown into the world of Hawai'i politics. From researching bill ideas, to creating social media content, to writing the weekly housing newsletter, all the*



Image Credit: Raeanna D.

*roles I took on within my first week and the remainder of my internship taught me the inner workings of the legislature. All of this new knowledge will help guide me through the rest of my undergraduate career and open up new realms of job possibilities in the future.*

*Now, reflecting back on my internship, I can confidently say that I have learned a lot throughout my time at Senator Chang's office. One of the most rewarding aspects was being able to research and draft bills that were approved by Senator Chang and introduced in the upcoming session. I have truly realized the importance of affordable housing for all across the State. With limited space and skyrocketing housing prices, many Native Hawaiians and long-time residents are being priced out of Hawai'i. I know that I played a small part in the battle against Hawai'i's housing crisis and urge any of those interested in housing to come intern at Senator Chang's office.*

Interested applicants for an internship should email Theresa Ng at [t.ng@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:t.ng@capitol.hawaii.gov) with their résumé and cover letter. Applicants who can 1) commit a minimum of twenty hours (in-person during January–May or hybrid during June–December) AND 2) are available between 9am–2pm are preferred.

### FREE LITTLE FIRE ANT COLLECTION KIT



Image Credit: Department of Land and Natural Resources

If you come across little fire ants, a pesky invasive species, there are several ways to get a free collection and testing kit. Little fire ants are noticeably smaller than tropical fire ants and are usually as long as a penny's thickness, but their bites, especially to animals, are horrendous. Some house pets go blind

because their corneas have been so infected by the little fire ant stings.

Luckily, collecting ants for identification is easy. Collect and submit ants from your property at least once per year (October is Stop the Ant Month!), whenever you bring new plants or materials to your home, or if you suspect you may have little fire ants or a new species of pest ant. The sooner you detect new pest ants, the easier and cheaper it will be to control them! More information and directions can be found at [stoptheant.org/request-ant-collection-kit](http://stoptheant.org/request-ant-collection-kit) or [643pest.org](http://643pest.org).

# YOUR CONCERNS

## GET FREE TECH HELP FROM REAL PEOPLE AT HAWAII'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Digital Navigators are available now through the end of the year to help answer technology questions on the phone or at select libraries in person.

### In-Person Information:

LIBRARY	DAY	TIME
Kailua	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of month	11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kaimuki	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month	2-6 p.m.
Kapolei	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month	2-6 p.m.
McCully-Moiliili	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of month	1-5 p.m.
Pearl City	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month	12-4 p.m.



Digital Navigators are available now through the end of the year to help answer technology questions on the phone or at select libraries in person. Please refer to the graphic to see the in-person availability. The statewide Hawai'i Digital Navigator Hotline Number is also in operation for those who cannot visit the select libraries. The hotline is: (808) 320-5141.

### Digital Navigators Contact Information:

Hawaii Digital Navigator Hotline Number (statewide)

- (808) 320-5141

Hours of Operation (statewide)

- Monday-Thursday (9 AM - 7 PM)
- Friday (9 AM - 4 PM)
- Saturday (9 AM - 1 PM)

Image Credit: the Office of Senator Chang



**Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation has a digital map of facilities and resources available**

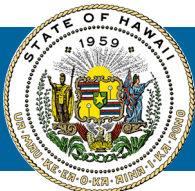
Find the new map at [bit.ly/OahuPlaygrounds](https://bit.ly/OahuPlaygrounds), which showcases the City's:

- 135 playgrounds
- 25 gymnasiums
- 15 fitness stations
- 12 swing sets
- 43 dog parks (leash and off-leash)
- 21 swimming pool sites
- 17 campgrounds
- 15 skate parks & roller rinks
- 11 community gardens
- 5 botanical gardens



Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation created a digital map of facilities and resources available around O'ahu. The new map showcases the city's playgrounds, gymnasiums, fitness stations, swing sets, dog parks, swimming pool sites, campgrounds, skate parks, roller rinks, community gardens, and botanical gardens. Families, or anyone, should utilize this great tool to explore our island's great outdoors. Check out the map at [bit.ly/OahuPlaygrounds](https://bit.ly/OahuPlaygrounds).

Image Credit: the Office of Senator Chang



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