

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

March 2024

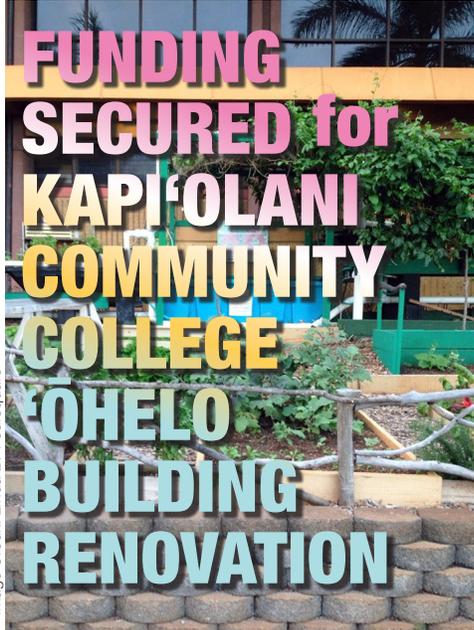


Image Credit: Linda L / Foursquare

One of Kapi'olani Community College's (KCC) highest-regarded programs is culinary arts. With courses in many different selections, KCC provides professional training to countless aspiring local chefs. KCC further strives to connect local businesses and initiatives in its courses, adding to the program's value for its students and our surrounding Honolulu community.

Senator Stanley Chang is pleased to announce that \$15,000,000 in Capital Improvement (CIP) funds are secured for the renovation of the 'Ōhelo Building, which houses the **Culinary Arts Department** and the **Ka 'Ikena Laua'e and Tamarind Dining Rooms**. Lance Yamamoto, Director of Budget Planning and Finance with the University of Hawai'i's Community College System, outlined the planned renovations, which include replacing the existing HVAC system, adding a fire sprinkler and suppression system, and updating existing

interior spaces. Director Yamamoto elaborated on the benefits of the renovations, saying, "The current HVAC system is down frequently, which leads to health and safety issues due to heat and heat-related issues. Teaching and learning will improve dramatically once the HVAC system is replaced and heat-related concerns diminish." Director Yamamoto added that the "updated fire suppression system is essential for the safety of building occupants."

KCC has educated many notable alumni, including **Sam Choy**, **Ryan Blanchard** of Disney's **Aulani Resort**, "Chopped" winner **Lance Nitahara**, **Mark "Gooch" Noguchi**, **Royce Arakaki** and **Foodland's Keoni Chang**. The culinary program offers a variety of Associate of Science (AS) degrees and certificates. Furthermore, students who join the **American Culinary Federation** before completing the AS degree program requirement will be eligible for certification upon successful completion of their cumulative practical exam. Those interested in the culinary arts course offerings should contact **Lori Maehara** at (808) 734-9466 or the **General Department** line at (808) 734-9484 / culinary@hawaii.edu.

The Culinary Arts Department and Dining Rooms located at the 'Ōhelo Building continue to inspire the culinary scene of Hawai'i and aid in driving the local economy and community. Ensuring the facility is a safe and productive environment to teach the next generation of inspiring culinary professionals will go miles in serving and improving our East O'ahu and statewide community. Governor Josh Green highlighted that improvements such as these are "critical components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better home for our kapuna, keiki, and all the residents of Hawai'i."



▶ CALL US

808-586-8420

▶ EMAIL US

Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9 (D)
senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

▶ 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

NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EAST HONOLULU WATERSHED

At the beginning of the year, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and the Department of Planning and Permitting completed the *East Honolulu Watershed Management Plan*. The plan covers the Kahala to Hawai'i Kai region, and is one of eight district plans that will together form the O'ahu Water Management Plan. The agencies' goal was to chart a sustainable pattern of water consumption, while preserving and maintaining the area's watersheds.

The planning process began in 2019 and will apply through 2040. While potable groundwater was a primary concern, the plan also addresses non-potable groundwater, surface waters, and nearshore waters. Though some water sources are not part of the island's drinking water system, maintaining their water quality, biodiversity and public access is another central component of the plan.

PLAN PRIORITIES

When developing policies to include in the plan, the agencies prioritized 5 central objectives:

1. Promoting sustainable watersheds
2. Protecting and improving water quality/quantity
3. Protecting Native Hawaiian rights and traditional practices
4. Facilitating public participation and education, as well as project implementation
5. Meeting future water demands with costs at reasonable levels

After completing an evaluation of the watershed's current condition and a water demand analysis, the Board released a public review draft for comments. Public education meetings, in tandem with continual agency updates, were provided for the community.

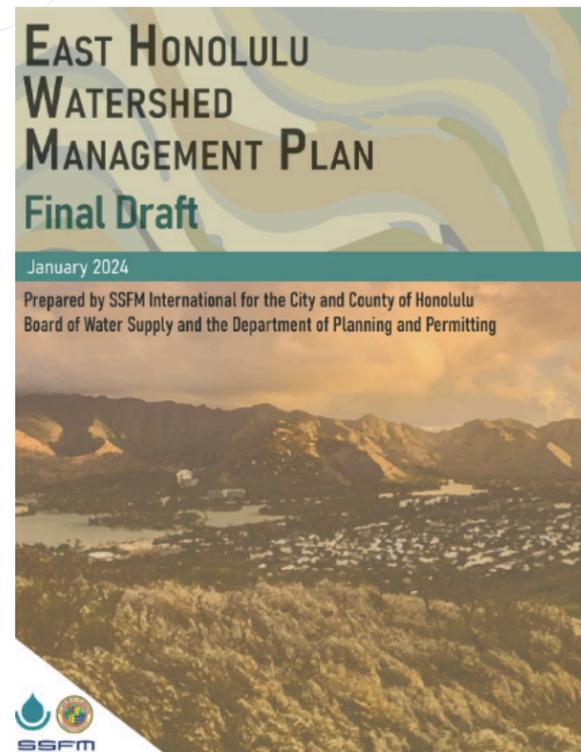
WATER ISSUES

The planning process identified eight critical water issues facing East Honolulu:

- Climate change;
- Sea level rise;
- Nearshore water quality;
- Water conservation;
- Traditional and customary practices;
- Flooding control and drainage;
- Access to mauka and makai areas; and
- Wildfires

POLICIES & STRATEGIES

To promote the sustainability of East Honolulu's watersheds, the plan moves to combat invasive species and increase native



reforestation efforts, as well as other strategies to prevent wildfires. Increasing ecosystem diversity in streams and coastal waters will be another priority, as will preparing for and mitigating climate change risks such as rising sea levels. To improve water quality, the Board will encourage low-impact development strategies to reduce the level of groundwater contamination by wastewater. It will also enhance the water quality in Maunalua Bay by reducing pollutant transfer and increasing the amount of freshwater that enters the bay. An effort to increase system stability by reevaluating aquifer yields, reducing the impact of extreme weather events, and prioritizing aquifer recharge, is also included. The plan emphasizes the importance of protecting Native Hawaiian rights by restoring fishponds, improving public shoreline access, educating the public on customary practices, and supporting community organizations. To keep water costs reasonable, the plan suggests prioritizing the health of the potable water system, which will include adapting to drought periods and continuing to implement water conservation measures.

The agencies will continue providing education to the public, seeking community input into management strategies, and facilitating collaboration

IN THE COMMUNITY

among other stakeholders such as landowners and other government entities.

PROJECTS

The plan encompasses short-, medium-, and long-term projects in line with the general policies outlined above. Such projects include:

- Improving water quality in **Maunalua Bay**:
 - Short-term: Restore and dechannel streams in the area to improve water quality and ecosystem health (2–5 years to implement)
 - Medium-term: Create and expand boulder basins, which will slow streams down and keep debris out of channels during extreme rain events (5–10 years to implement)
 - Long-term: Restore previous hydrologic connections between springs and nearshore waters (10–20 years to implement)
- Improving water efficiency throughout **East Honolulu**:
 - Short-term: Work with communities to develop neighborhood climate change adaptation plans (2–5 years to implement)
 - Medium-term: Develop individual water use plans for farms to measure and improve efficiency (5–10 years to implement)
 - Long-term: Develop a recycled water system to replace potable irrigation of large landscaped areas in Hawai'i Kai (10–20 years to implement)

To read the full report, visit: boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/water-planning/watershed-management-plan/east-honolulu-plan. Questions about the report can be directed to Barry Usagawa at busagawa@hbws.org.



CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU FLOOD RISK SURVEY

With support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partnership Program, the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency is conducting a Flood Risk Survey, first targeting 25,000 residents who live in high flood-risk areas across O'ahu. Postcards have been mailed out inviting these residents to participate in the survey, which aims to increase the City's understanding of residents' awareness of flood risk, knowledge or experience with flood insurance, and access to local information.

This project is a partnership with the independent research firm, ReconMR, and public relations firm, Pineapple Tweed. To encourage participation, ReconMR staff will be following up with postcard recipients now through March 10, 2024 through text message, phone call and/or email. The phone correspondence will come from area code 512, and the caller ID will show "RMR." Email correspondence will come from "CCH Flood Risk."

For inquiries, please contact Sarah Harris at (808) 768-2284 or sarah.harris@honolulu.gov. The same survey will be available for participation by all O'ahu residents from March 11 through April 1, 2024.

KALANI STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM (HiSAM)

The State Foundation on Culture & the Arts is the regional affiliate for the prestigious **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**, the largest and oldest student achievement program for young creatives in the United States. This year marks the 61st year of Hawai'i's participation in this national competition with an exhibition of over 100 award-winning works of art from the Hawai'i region created by student artists from public, private, charter, and home school institutions in grades 7 through 12. Eight students from Kalani High School have their artwork displayed in this year's exhibition. Their creations will be on display at the Hawai'i State Art Museum, as part of the Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Student Art Awards:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Atona Chan | • Cindy Chong |
| • Sarah Ing | • Chiejzu Matsuo |
| • Jane Shelverton | • Marin Shiba |
| • Leona Stremick | • Tiffany Subramaniam |



YOUR CONCERNS

WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Join the Waikīkī Aquarium as it celebrates its 120th birthday! The aquarium has been open since 1904, making it the second oldest public aquarium in the country. It has evolved with the city and state to serve the needs of visitors and residents alike. The March anniversary will celebrate both the history of the institution and its bold plans for the future. The two-day event will feature hands-on activities, educational programs, and more.

On Saturday, March 16, the aquarium will host its popular SeaHunt event. Keiki can search for ocean-themed prizes and stop by booths for educational marine activities.

On Tuesday, March 19, visitors can enjoy talks from experts, interactive workshops, and special exhibits. Participants will include NOAA, SeaGrant, the UH



Image Credit: LA Times

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, and other partners.

For more information visit waikikiaquarium.org.

Dates and Times:

March 16 and 19, 2024

9am to 2pm



SENATOR STANLEY CHANG SENATE DISTRICT 9



DO YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE?

The Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Insurance Division reminds everyone to review their insurance coverage as wet season continues.

Flood insurance coverages can be purchased separately from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or supplemented on a policyholder's homeowners insurance.



**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT:
FLOODSMART.GOV**

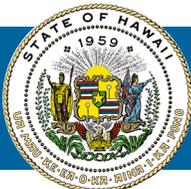
Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

28TH ANNUAL HONOLULU FESTIVAL



Image Credit: Honolulu Magazine

Join in on the cultural extravaganza featuring stage performances, Japanese Film Festival, crafts fair, Ennichi Carnival, grand parade, dance competition, and a dazzling Nagaoka fireworks display. Admission is free; visit honolulu festival.com to view the weekend schedule. March 8th (9am-8pm), March 9th (10am-6pm), March 10th (8am-9pm).



FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813