

FROM THE OFFICE OF

# SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

April 2024



Image Credit: Kaimuki Middle School

## NEW COVERED WALKWAYS FOR KAIMUKI MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kaimukī Middle School, home to the Voyagers, has been a cornerstone of education in the community since 1939. Currently, over 975 students attend Kaimukī Middle and are supported by a team of more than 60 dedicated teachers. Over the years, it has served as a nurturing environment for countless students, fostering growth in mind, body, and spirit.

Senator Chang is pleased to announce that \$805,000 in Capital Improvement Funds have been released for walkway improvements at Kaimukī. Recently, Senator Chang's office followed up with Principal Frank Fernandes to discuss the allocation of funds. Principal Fernandes outlined the plans, stating, "the funding will allow for replacement of walkways worn by decades of use as well as providing additional walking paths."

Principal Fernandes explains, "Current

school life will be positively affected by this walkway project. Students attend several classes each school day causing them to often need to traverse our campus." These improvements "will allow for more complete safety for users, increased access for students with limited ambulation, [and] smoother pathways for moving sensitive equipment between buildings." Moreover, Principal Fernandes mentions that the sloped terrain of the campus exacerbates issues during rainy periods, leading to pooling and muddy conditions. The introduction of upgraded walkways will mitigate safety concerns and reduce the problems of dirty footwear and garments for students and staff alike.

The release of this funding will provide needed support to the campus as it educates the next generation of our East Honolulu residents!



Image Credit: Go Hawai'i

## KAMA'ĀINA SUNDAYS AT 'IOLANI PALACE

Kama'āina Sundays at 'Iolani Palace (364 S King Street) offer Hawai'i residents a chance to explore the historic site, engage in Hawaiian cultural experiences, savor delicious

local food, and support vendors while enjoying lively entertainment. This **free** event occurs every second Sunday of the month—April 14<sup>th</sup> next—featuring free audio tours, presentations, and activities showcasing Hawaiian culture. Gates open at 8:30 a.m., with activities and tours running from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first 500 receive self-led audio tours, and one complimentary ticket per Hawai'i resident is available with a valid Hawai'i State ID or driver's license. [iolanipalace.org/visit/kamaaina-sundays](http://iolanipalace.org/visit/kamaaina-sundays) for more details.

### ▶ 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

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

## KALANI HIGH SCHOOL NURTURES LIFESMARTS STATE CHAMPIONS

Two teams of Kalani High School students participated in the statewide LifeSmarts Competition, a consumer education competition sponsored by the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. It covers five key areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance, and technology. The goal of LifeSmarts is to cultivate a generation of informed, equipped consumers who can navigate the complexities of today's global marketplace.

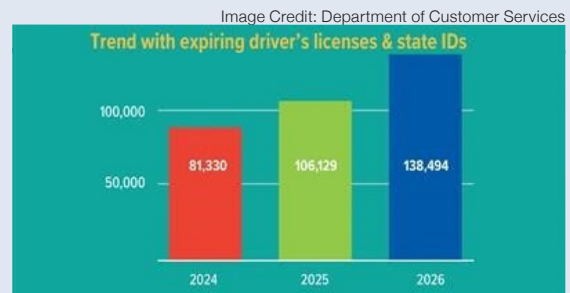
The event consists of group buzzer rounds, which is done in a quick-paced multiple-choice style fashion. Participants see their recall and understanding of consumer and business concepts against other students in real time. The culmination of these rounds is the highly anticipated state finals, where top-performing teams vie to represent their school at the national championship.

Kalani High School proudly saw two of its four teams qualify for the 2024 LifeSmarts State Finals. Not only did the students bring home numerous individual awards, but they also demonstrated the values of sportsmanship and cooperation. Team Kalani 5.0 secured a commendable fourth-place finish. The members of this team included Zhoulin Chen, Leala Florendo, Aileen Kang, and Kouki Oda.

The other team, Kalani 4.2, overcame a slow start and staged an impressive comeback that culminated in a first-place victory. This outstanding achievement has earned the team, composed of Andy Chen, Jiaorong (Michelle) He, Kyla Iglesia, Brandon Tran, and Mason Vuong—pictured with Representative Hashem—the honor of representing both their school and the State of Hawai'i at the upcoming National Championships in San Diego, California this April 18-21.



Image Credit: Stanley Chang



## EARLY DRIVER'S LICENSE AND STATE ID RENEWAL

The Department of Customer Services is reminding the 81,000-plus O'ahu residents whose driver's licenses and state identification cards will expire this year that they can renew up to six months in advance. Cardholders will be able to keep the same expiration date, which is their birthday month and day, plus whatever number of years to which they are entitled. There is no loss of time by renewing expiring driver's licenses or state IDs early.

A renewal appointment is required and completing an application ahead of time is recommended. Proof of legal name and two forms of legal presence (document displaying your name with a Hawai'i address) is also required. Kim Hashiro, director of the city's Department of Customer Services, says early renewal is part of their goal "to get customers who come prepared for their appointments in and out of driver licensing centers within 20 minutes as part of an ongoing focus on service beyond expectations."

To make an appointment, visit: [honolulu.gov/csd/appointments](https://honolulu.gov/csd/appointments). For the renewal application: [honolulu.gov/csd/forms](https://honolulu.gov/csd/forms).

## REFUNDS FOR OUTBACK GIFT CARDS

All Hawai'i locations of Outback Steakhouse have discontinued operations. To initiate the refund process, consumers should contact Bloomin' Brands as soon as possible at [GiftCardTeam@BloominBrands.com](mailto:GiftCardTeam@BloominBrands.com), with front/back images of their gift cards, full name, and complete mailing address. Consumers are also encouraged to include Pam Key ([pkey@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:pkey@dcca.hawaii.gov)), an investigator with the Office of Consumer Protection.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

**CALLING ALL UNDERGRAD AND GRADUATE STUDENTS!**

The Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation will be hosting its **5th Annual Next Gen Leaders Program** this summer

Students will work in teams to research and propose an AI-related solution to improve the lives of people in Hawaii.



Individually, students will receive 1:1 mentorship and participate in leadership development sessions and talk stories

For more info visit: [odoscholarship.org/next-gen](https://odoscholarship.org/next-gen)

Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

If you know of any college undergraduate or graduate students seeking to develop as community-minded leaders, the NextGen scholarship is for them. The program is open to students who will be a junior, senior, or graduate student in Fall 2024. Interested applicants who are incoming first year and sophomore students should apply as well, as NextGen program is open to considering the applications. The program is linking up with the O'ahu Economic Development Board to provide student participants a meaningful and memorable experience. The program will run from June 8, 2024 to August 3, 2024. Applications are due on **May 1, 2024**.

## HECO SMART RENEWABLE PROGRAMS NOW LAUNCHED

Hawaiian Electric Company's new rooftop solar and energy storage programs are now open, after a one-month postponement to make changes approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The programs, developed under the oversight of the PUC, will consolidate Hawaiian Electric's existing solar and energy storage programs into a new structure designed to streamline customer options, increase renewable energy penetration, and improve grid resilience by incentivizing customers to provide grid services.

In the past, generation of electricity took place only at power plants. This is referred to as centralized generation. Distributed energy resources, or DER, refers to smaller generators located throughout the energy grid, such as private rooftop solar systems mounted on customers' homes and businesses. Hawaii leads the country in customer-sited DER and there are several programs available to customers who want to offset their energy bill by investing in clean energy generation. The graphic below outlines types of DER.

For more information, visit [hawaiianelectric.com/products-and-services/customer-renewable-programs](https://hawaiianelectric.com/products-and-services/customer-renewable-programs) or call **(808) 548-7311**.



Private Rooftop Solar

For residential and small business customers who want to reduce their bills by installing solar systems that meet specific program requirements.



Community-Based Renewable Energy

For customers who cannot or choose not to install private rooftop solar systems to get some of the benefits of clean, renewable electricity by subscribing to a renewable energy facility.



Generate Your Own Power

For large business and commercial customers who want to generate and consume their own electricity with no system size limitation.

# YOUR CONCERNS



**17TH ANNUAL**  
**Mauka TO Makai**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO**

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
 9am-2pm at Waikīkī Aquarium

**Free Admission!**

Keiki Crafts & Hands-on Education Exhibits  
 Native Plant Giveaway  
 Free Parking & Shuttle from Jefferson Elementary  
 Bring refillable water bottles for our water stations

 @HonoluluStormWater  @cleanwaterHNL

Image Credit: Waikiki Aquarium

This family-friendly event, presented by the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Facility Maintenance, the Hawai‘i State Department of Health Clean Water Branch, and the Waikīkī Aquarium (2777 Kalākaua Avenue), promotes a clean and pollution-free Hawai‘i, from mountaintops to the ocean. Enjoy live entertainment, a native plant giveaway (one per household, while supplies last), and interactive activities showcasing ways to protect and preserve Hawai‘i’s environment. For more information, please visit: [waikikiaquarium.org/interact/annual-events/mauka-to-makai-earth-day](https://waikikiaquarium.org/interact/annual-events/mauka-to-makai-earth-day).

It is time for Spring cleaning, and light bulbs may be on your list! Light bulbs come in many different brightnesses, wattages, and life expectancies. Refer to the graphics above to see what the information on bulb labels mean, along with a comparison of LED bulbs to other kinds of light bulbs.

## GUIDE TO COMPARING HOME LIGHTBULB TYPES




LED	CFL (COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMP)	INCANDESCENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIGH EFFICIENCY</li> <li>• 12 WATTS</li> <li>• 35,000 HR LIFE SPAN</li> <li>• 9.7 KWH ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION</li> <li>• \$4.34 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER BULB</li> <li>• \$130 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER HOME</li> <li>• REPLACE EVERY 17 YEARS</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVERAGE EFFICIENCY</li> <li>• 15 WATTS</li> <li>• 10,000 HR LIFE SPAN</li> <li>• 12 KWH ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION</li> <li>• \$5.43 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER BULB</li> <li>• \$163 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER HOME</li> <li>• REPLACE EVERY 5 YEARS</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOW EFFICIENCY</li> <li>• 60 WATTS</li> <li>• 1,500 HR LIFE SPAN</li> <li>• 49 KWH ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION</li> <li>• \$21.70 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER BULB</li> <li>• \$651 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER HOME</li> <li>• REPLACE 2X A YEAR</li> </ul> 

Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang



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