

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

January 2024



Image Credit: NCSCE

Local institutions like Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) are the backbone for educating our community, as demonstrated by the host of science programs available at KCC. The course offerings range from Biotechnology to Astrophysics, offering students the foundations to achieve in countless fields and benefit communities across the state and beyond.

Senator Stanley Chang is pleased to announce that \$2,000,000 in Capital Improvement (CIP) funds have been released for renovations to KCC's Koki'o science building. Lance Yamamoto, Director of Budget Planning and Finance with Honolulu Community Colleges, explains that there will be a variety of upgrades that will enhance user experience. Among the improvements, there will be replacements of "existing HVAC system including AC equipment and venting for the entire building, [replacing the] existing exhaust system for fume hoods, providing re-roofing work and modernizing interior spaces." Science electives housed in the Koki'o building include, but are not limited to, Immunology & Protein Chemistry, Plant Evolutionary Diversity, and STEM Research in Geosciences. The HVAC enhancements will provide a more productive environment for countless students and faculty.

Kapi'olani Community College's academic offerings are well-regarded, with one such being their nationally ranked Culinary Arts program. Many students also seek their undergraduate education to study with highly

experienced faculty, such as history professor Kelli Y. Nakamura, who became the first person from Hawai'i to be awarded a Mellon/American Council Learned Societies (ACLS) Community College Faculty Fellowship. Additionally, the student body at KCC is one of the most diverse in the country, with almost 90% of students being Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). 30% of over 6000 students are from the contiguous United States or other countries, ensuring students have a unique peer-learning experience.

Furthermore, the campus is home to the Kūpuna Education Center, which develops and provides training and education for the older adult community population in active aging and family caregiving. Notable offerings include Tai Chi for Arthritis and Sun Style Tai Chi. A complete course offering is available at continuinged.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/kupuna-education-center, and kūpuna who are interested in attending these courses can register at continuinged.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/registration.

Investments in Kapi'olani Community College have a direct impact on our state, and ensuring that the facilities meet the needs of learners and staff is the best way to see that these changes positively impact the future. 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 kūpuna, keiki, and all the residents of Hawai'i."



► 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

SIGN UP OPENS FOR THE 2024 HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

‘The 2024 Open Enrollment Period for individual health insurance coverage has begun and runs through January 15, 2024. Those with coverage through the Marketplace can also renew their health plans during this period. Enroll at healthcare.gov. Enhanced subsidies to reduce premiums are available for eligible new and returning consumers in 2024. The American Rescue Plan of 2021 expanded the availability of financial assistance through the Marketplace and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extended these benefits through 2025.

“We encourage consumers to shop

and compare plans and to see if you are eligible for enhanced subsidies to reduce your premiums,” said Insurance Commissioner Gordon Ito. “What you pay each month for health insurance is important, but you also need to understand what your policy covers. Identify your current health care needs such as services, health care providers, and prescription drugs. Keep these in mind as you compare plans and see how they measure up against your current policy. Be mindful of out-of-pocket costs you may have to pay as well as the monthly premium.”

Consumers are encouraged to review and understand the plans offered during the open enrollment period happening now through January 15, 2024. For more information on health insurance please go to cca.hawaii.gov/ins/consumers/health.

FASTER CHECKOUTS WITH TECH UPGRADES AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

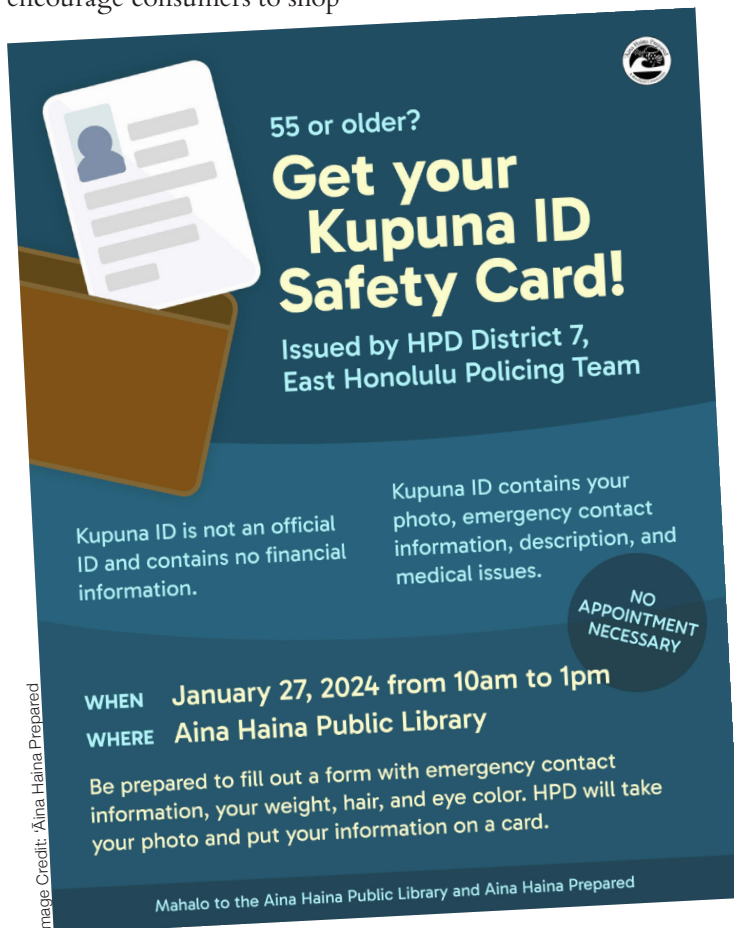


Image Credit: HSPLS

With \$3 million appropriated by the Legislature, libraries across the State will soon see new materials and equipment that will make checking out more efficient and convenient. Technology such as radio frequency identification (RFID) tags will be placed inside books, DVDs, and other materials belonging to the state public library system. These improvements allow staff to be able to check out more than one item at a time, as well as communicate with the security gates, inventory readers, and self-checkout kiosk. Such a seamless system!

With these upgrades at the top of the agenda, branches of the library may be closed for a few days as the tags are installed and equipment is brought in and tested. Additionally, the branches will need to see modifications in order to handle what the new system requires. The aforementioned closures will be announced via news releases here: librarieshawaii.org.

Most of the branch conversions to the RFID system are slated to be completed by Spring of 2024!



55 or older?
Get your Kupuna ID Safety Card!
Issued by HPD District 7,
East Honolulu Policing Team

Kupuna ID is not an official ID and contains no financial information.

Kupuna ID contains your photo, emergency contact information, description, and medical issues.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

WHEN January 27, 2024 from 10am to 1pm
WHERE Aina Haina Public Library

Be prepared to fill out a form with emergency contact information, your weight, hair, and eye color. HPD will take your photo and put your information on a card.

Mahalo to the Aina Haina Public Library and Aina Haina Prepared

Image Credit: Aina Haina Prepared

IN THE COMMUNITY

UNDERSTANDING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PROCESS IN ENGAGING WITH HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS

In addition to the City's Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement team, the Honolulu Police Department is often called to respond to houseless individuals. The process for HPD's engagement with the houseless person may typically look like the following. Please note that the dispatched officer's discretion as well as familiarity with the area, training, and years of experience may differ, leading to different responses than the one described below. Additionally, HPD or others cannot force individuals to seek help/shelter as some do not like the restrictive shelter rules (e.g., no drugs or alcohol).

A call to 911 is assigned a priority #2 (non-life threatening, no imminent

danger to the public) and HPD's response time will vary given the current caseload and higher priority calls (life threatening, weapons case, high-level of imminent danger to the public).

1. Upon arrival, the officer(s) will search for the person inside the park after hours and the presence of a posted park sign specifying closure hours.
2. The next steps are based on the responding officer's discretion and past encounters.
 - Initially and ideally, gaining compliance through building a rapport and educating the individual of the park closure hours, offering shelter/homeless

assistance and if they decline the offer, asking the person to move along and not return within the closure hours.

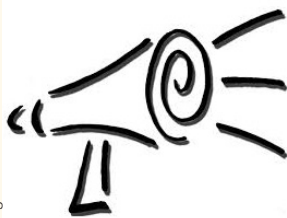
- If there is a repeat encounter for the same violation, after the initial warning, by the same responding officer a citation is issued for the violation of Park Closure Under Revised Ordinances of Hawaii (ROH 10-1.2(a)(14)).
- If the individual is found again at the same location and violation, after the initial and second contact by the same officer, another citation will be issued, and the person may be arrested.

Information courtesy of John White from the Kahala-Diamond Head NSW.



FREE ADVOCACY TRAINING AT THE LEGISLATURE

Image Credit: Public Access Room



The State Capitol's Public Access Room is offering zoom sessions to introduce (or refresh) you to advocacy at the Capitol! They will cover everything from pitching an idea for a new law to asking for hearings, testifying, and following bills throughout the legislative process. Training is offered on three different days, for approximately 45 minutes:

Tuesday, January 2nd @ 12pm: [us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-mpqz0jH9YD-3iBiNIIHKRZrFB9VYj](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98123456789) #/registration

Wednesday, January 10 @ 3pm: [us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl0f-GtqD0sHNNUmw-ZPYvDYlXZzGtLs7qr](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98123456789) #/registration

Thursday, January 18 @ 6pm: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc-yqrT0oGNGZY 1t0GkHE91jmBR3meUv](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98123456789) #/registration

The 2024 Regular Legislative Session begins on Wednesday, January 17. The State Capitol is located at **415 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96813.**

The Legislature's website is also full of useful information and tools for the public. Visit the site today at capitol.hawaii.gov.

YOUR CONCERNS

NEW METAL DETECTORS AT STATE CAPITOL ENTRANCES

All visitors entering the State Capitol are required to go through a metal detection screening from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are three entrance points at the State Capitol: two at street level (elevator Cores 1 and 3) which are located at the Diamond Head makai and 'Ewa mauka corners of the State Capitol Rotunda, and through the main basement entrance. For the safety of visitors and employees, some items are prohibited here

Items that will be held by security and returned upon exit include:

- Pocket knives
- Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Gadgets that contain a number of tools—screwdriver, file, etc. (e.g. Leatherman type tools)
- Nail Guns
- Hammers
- Corkscrews
- Syringes
- Knitting needles
- Box cutters and/or razor blades
- Martial arts weapons (nunchaku sticks, etc.)
- Any sharp or blunt heavy objects which can be used as a weapon (e.g. crowbars, sharp sticks, etc.)
- Tasers
- Pepper Spray



Image Credit: Hawai'i State Legislature

- Billy Clubs/Black Jacks
- Sling Shots

Items that are prohibited and would trigger law enforcement personnel to respond include:

- Firearms—except for on-duty law enforcement officers
- Double-edged knives
- Switchblade knives
- Butterfly knives
- Brass knuckles
- Illegal drugs and paraphernalia (the latter containing drug residue)
- Explosives
- Any other prohibited by law

Image Credit: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

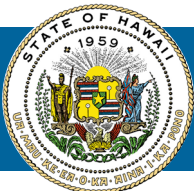


Join the community in the 31st annual New Year's Ohana Festival! The event celebrates local and Japanese New Year traditions at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Throughout the day, there will be food booths, live entertainment, and fun cultural activities inside the center and at the neighboring Moiliili Field. For more information please visit [jcchawaii.org/events/nyof2024](https://www.jcchawaii.org/events/nyof2024).

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024

Time: 10 AM – 4 PM

Address: 2454 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826



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SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

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