

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

May 2024



Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

Kalani High School has been educating the future practitioners in the field of urban planning, thanks to the efforts of **Mike Zane**, who co-teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics alongside **Shaun Mitsuda**. Kalani recently competed at a State Urban Planning competition hosted by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) of Hawai'i.

Senator Chang's office followed up with Zane who, reflecting on the evolution of the competition, notes, "initially, my students were only competing among themselves. However, in 2019 ULI-Hawai'i expanded the competition to include winning teams from each school implementing Urban Plan." It grew in subsequent years, with schools like 'Iolani, Punahou, Mid-Pacific Institute, and Le Jardin joining the ranks.

The Urban Plan curriculum challenges students to immerse themselves in the role of real estate development firms. Teams create comprehensive proposals for the redevelopment of a six-block urban site, addressing multifaceted political, social, economic, and environmental issues. Furthermore, their proposals must be aesthetically pleasing. The culmination of their efforts involves a ten-minute presentation to a mock city council, defending their proposals against a barrage of questions. The council then evaluates and selects the proposal that

best aligns with the city's Request for Proposal (RFP).

The team representing Kalani High School at the ULI-Hawai'i Urban Plan competition was "Lavander Development," comprised of **Takehiro Yaguchi**, **Salvador Soto Gheresi**, **Kyle Haubner**, **Kainoa Mackowiak**, and **Brandon Watanabe**. The Urban Land Institute started the ULI Urban Plan National Competition in 2020. "Every year Hawai'i has been well represented in the national competition by 'Iolani and Kalani. Both schools have had our teams competing in the final round of the national competition. We have been fortunate to have won the Hawai'i competition three times, including a tie with 'Iolani two years ago. We placed as high as third in the national competition, the same year Kalani won the Hawai'i competition and 'Iolani's third-place team in the Hawai'i competition won the national competition."

Under Zane and Mitsuda's mentorship, Kalani High School continues to thrive in urban planning, cultivating a culture of excellence, innovation, and real-world problem-solving among its students. As they look toward future competitions, the school remains dedicated to shaping the next generation of leaders in real estate development and community planning.

► **CALL US**

808-586-8420

► **EMAIL US**

Stanley Chang
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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

\$100,000 IN FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Started by Sister Agnes Murphy in 1965, the Special Education Center of Hawai'i (SECOH) is an important community space for people with special needs. For much of its existence, SECOH has faced an uphill battle for space, facilities, and funding due to the stigma surrounding intellectual and developmental disabilities. To continue its crucial mission, the institution relied on vital fundraising efforts by students, parents, and faculty.

Senator Chang is excited to announce that \$100,000 in Capital Improvement funds have been allocated for a remodeling project at **SECOH's Diamond Head location at 708 Palekaua Street**. The money will be used to support various upgrades and improvements across the organization.

"Since returning from the pandemic, we consolidated two centers into one at our Diamond Head location," says Bridget Panee, President & CEO. Due to the consolidation, spatial capacity has decreased and increases the likelihood of overcrowding. The funding "will be renovating a currently vacant building and creating a dining room for our older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The dining room will have seating for 60, storage, multiple wash sinks, an ADA-compliant bathroom, updated paint, windows, lighting, and air conditioning."

SECOH's primary funding is Medicaid, which authorizes only certain expenditures. With supplemental funds from the State, the Center can "improve our facilities and operations, attract and retain clients and staff, and ultimately continue our mission: to provide personalized services to people with disabilities in the spirit of enriching lives. At present, our group eats in a large room that is also used for art and activities. This new dining room not only allows for dedicated space for clients to enjoy lunch but also allows SECOH to increase capacity and serve additional clients."

The release of this funding will provide needed support to SECOH as it continues to provide a safe space, community, and in-home support and services. By ensuring it has the resources it needs, East Honolulu and the State will continue to benefit from its invaluable services.

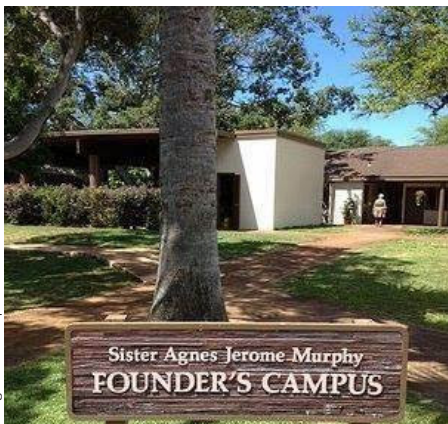


Image Credit: Special Education Center of Hawai'i

MAYOR BLANGIARDI'S TOWN HALL COMES TO EAST HONOLULU



Image Credit: Mayor's Office

Mayor Rick Blangiardi has kicked off his second annual tour of town hall meetings across O'ahu. Mayor Blangiardi and key City officials will be present at the Town Halls, providing the opportunity to interact

with Honolulu County leadership directly. The town hall meetings aim to serve as a platform for residents to voice their concerns, ask questions regarding the City's priorities, and receive updates on upcoming projects specific to their neighborhoods. Please contact Kevan Wong, at **808-768-6608** or kevan.wong@honolulu.gov, for more information.

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Koko Head District Park Gymnasium

NEW CLOSURE HOURS FOR HAWAI'I KAI PARKS

Following input from the Hawai'i Kai community and law enforcement officials, the Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is establishing closure hours at **Maunaloa Bay Beach Park** and **Joe Lukela Beach Park** effective immediately. Both parks, which surround the State-operated Maunaloa Bay Boat Ramp, are now closed nightly from **10 p.m. to 5 a.m.** It is important to remember that the public may traverse a closed public park to access other public resources like the ocean. A closure indicates that you may not remain in the park unless otherwise permitted.

The request for regular closure hours was formally approved during the February 2024 Neighborhood Board meeting. The hours can be reconsidered after two years in March 2026.



Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

IN THE COMMUNITY

Image Credit: Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Attention!
**NEW TENANT SCREENING FEE LAW
TO TAKE EFFECT ON MAY 1, 2024**

The law prohibits a landlord from charging an applicant for a residential dwelling unit a tenant screening fee that is more than the actual costs to obtain information about the applicant.

For more information, please visit
<https://cca.hawaii.gov/ocp/landlord-tenant/>

DCCA
HAWAII

To protect renters and promote transparency in the rental application process, a new law—enacted as Act 200 (SLH 2023) and codified in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 521-46—governing tenant screening fees has taken effect.

A tenant screening report examines the financial and rental pasts of prospective tenants after they have applied for a rental. This includes looking into their credit, eviction, and criminal history. The reports can only be conducted after receiving the tenant’s consent as a signature on their rental application.

Under the new law, charges that exceed the cost of obtaining information about the applicant must be returned to the applicant. Landlords must refund the tenant any fees not used for authorized costs within 30 days of submitting the screening request. The fee can only be charged at the time the rental application is processed and may only be charged to an adult 18 years and older or an emancipated minor applying to rent the residential dwelling unit.

Landlords are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these new requirements to comply with the law. An FAQ document regarding tenant screening fees is available online at cca.hawaii.gov/ocp/tenantscreeningfeefaq.

OCP operates the Hawai‘i Residential Landlord-Tenant Information Center, a free service that offers information about Hawai‘i’s Residential Landlord-Tenant Code and other laws affecting residential landlords and tenants. Call the OCP at 808-586-2634, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

IMPROVED LIBRARY CHECKOUTS AHEAD OF THE BUSY SUMMER MONTHS



Libraries across the State have implemented a new checkout procedure, making the process of borrowing library materials much faster. Our library system now uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, utilizing a technology that uses radio waves to passively identify multiple tagged objects at a time. This system is much faster than the traditional method of scanning each barcode. In addition, visitors can avoid busy lines by using the new self-checkout stations that have been installed across O‘ahu libraries.

Libraries in East Honolulu - Senate District 9 include:

‘Āina Haina Public Library

5246 Kalaniana‘ole Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96821

Hawai‘i Kai Public Library

249 Lunalilo Home Rd, Honolulu, HI 96825

Kaimukī Public Library

041 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Waikiki-Kapahulu Public Library

400 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96815

YOUR CONCERNS

NEW MĀLAMA HAWAI‘I DASHBOARD TO CONNECT VISITORS WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) has partnered with Kanu Hawai‘i to make it easier for visitors to search and sign up for enriching volunteer opportunities throughout the state. Travelers planning their trips in the Hawaiian Islands can now access the Mālama Hawai‘i Volunteer Dashboard at gohawaii.com/malama, the official website for visitors.

Opportunities to support Maui in its recovery following the August 2023 wildfires are also featured on the website. Visitors can sign up by submitting an RSVP, which generates an email to the partner who will respond with further information. Visitors can also provide monetary donations directly to nonprofit organizations. A custom reporting dashboard has also been designed to track key metrics statewide and by island, including the number of volunteers who sign up and the number of service hours provided. HTA will gather this baseline and ongoing data of visitors participating in these volunteer opportunities, which will also minimize the burden on the organizations and community groups to collect and report the information.

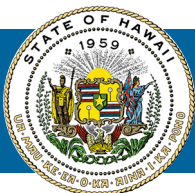
The Hawai‘i Tourism Authority encourages you to share the Mālama Hawai‘i program with prospective visitors that you may know. They can visit gohawaii.com/malama. Organizations interested in participating as volunteer partners should email hta@kanuhawaii.org for more information.



BE VIGILANT OF JURY DUTY SCAM CALLS AND EMAILS

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary warns that scammers continue to pose as police officers, sheriffs, and Judiciary employees claiming that there is a warrant for your arrest for failing to appear for jury duty. If you get a phone call regarding such a warrant, hang up without responding to any questions or pressing any numbers you may be asked to press. If you get an email that looks to be from the Judiciary, but you did not email us first, do not click on any links or attachments, and do not reply. Delete it immediately.

Court staff or law enforcement do not call or email anyone regarding outstanding bench warrants related to jury duty. Generally, all communication from the Judiciary regarding jury service is handled through the U.S. mail, unless you call or email the Judiciary first with a specific question. Call 808-539-4909 or email pao@courts.hawaii.gov with any questions.



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