

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

August 2023



Responding to the Concerns of Our District

Throughout 2023, our district's residents raised issues regarding excessive road noise, infrastructure, homelessness, and the housing crisis. We would like to give an update about how we're tackling the problems affecting East Honolulu.

Maintaining District 9's infrastructure is a top priority for us and our friends at the City. From filling potholes, cleaning up bus stops, fixing broken slides at park playgrounds, and keeping streams from overflowing, my office is continually working to alert City agencies about where maintenance is needed. We work closely with our district's councilmember, Chair Tommy Waters, on these issues.

In addition, we see an increase of homelessness around District 9. We have heard reports about homeless walking down Kalaniana'ole Highway, living underneath highway bridges in Kāhala, and sitting at many bus stops. When we receive reports of homeless individuals, we call the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE) hotline. The CORE Program responds to non-violent calls. It sends emergency medical technicians and community health workers to assist and provide services to those in need. The CORE Program reaches homeless individuals faster than police are able to. In preparation for the 2024 legislative session, our office is working on a number of bills to address homelessness through providing improved homeless mental health and drug treatment and housing.

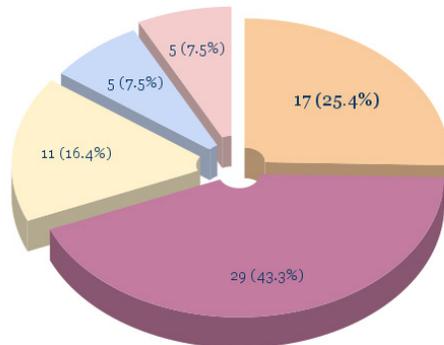
Constituents have raised concerns about vacant properties and housing in their neighborhoods. This past legislative session, I authored SB875, which would have allowed counties to force the sale of vacant, blighted properties to pay past due debts.

Our office's top priority remains increasing Hawai'i's housing supply. After working for several years on the Singapore model of housing, SB865, our ALOHA Homes proposal, passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. The State will develop low-cost residential condominium units on state-owned land near transit stations, which will be sold in leasehold by the Hawai'i Community Development Authority to owner-occupants. Because this housing will be income blind and revenue-neutral, it can expand without relying on taxpayer subsidies. This is the most powerful tool yet to produce enough housing for every generation of local people to live.

Lastly, excessive noise is continually disturbing our community, especially at night. Constituents have told us that motorcycle and moped gangs are speeding through neighborhoods, causing loud sounds and vibrations. In response to these issues, we have been in contact with the Honolulu Police Department and have passed on their guidance to call the District 9 police station's non-emergency line (808-723-3369) and report the vehicle's license plate number if you hear these loud noises.

We stand ready to work with you on the issues affecting our district. As always, feel free to reach out to my office by emailing senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov or calling 808-586-8420.

- Infrastructure
- Homelessness
- Housing Supply
- Excessive Noise
- Other



► CALL US

808-586-8420

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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

Trash Collection
 808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
 808-768-5300

MOVING FORWARD

An Interview with the Nā ‘Ae Holo Makers: Murals Along Kalaniana‘ole

by Kyle Ching



Image Credit: maunalua.net

If you’ve recently driven along Kalaniana‘ole Highway, you’ve likely been captivated by the vibrant blue and green murals that have emerged between ‘Aina Koa and Hawai‘i Kai. Depicting a school of fish traveling eastward, these works of art are part of an inspiring project entitled Nā ‘Ae Holo. Spearheaded by local nonprofit Maunalua.net, along with its founder Ann Marie Kirk and local artist Ran Noveck, the Nā ‘Ae Holo murals serve as a prime example of a community-driven initiative that simultaneously benefits the island and honors its rich cultural history.

Maunalua.net founder Ann Marie Kirk explains that the murals depict the ‘anae holo or the traveling mullet. According to Kirk, the ‘anae holo were fish that would migrate from Pearl Harbor to East Honolulu and end up at the loko i‘a or fishponds of Maunalua Bay. Given the journey of the ‘anae holo across the island of O‘ahu, Kirk wanted to highlight the fish because they “connect... all our communities on the East side.”

Kirk knew that the walls along Kalaniana‘ole Highway were the perfect canvas to tell the story of the ‘anae holo. She was frustrated seeing constant graffiti along Kalaniana‘ole, which she described as “a real headache for the homeowners whose walls run along [the] highway.” If the graffiti was replaced

with mural artwork—as opposed to a solid coat of paint—Kirk believed that taggers would be less likely to deface the walls again. Murals with the ‘anae holo were a more permanent—and culturally important—solution to the graffiti problem.

While she had been working on the idea for over ten years, Kirk struggled to find the right artist for the project until she met Maunalua resident and mural artist Ran Noveck. Noveck shared Kirk’s vision of curbing graffiti along Kalaniana‘ole and was able to “visually capture the idea I wanted” of the ‘anae holo, Kirk says.

In order to make Kirk’s vision and Noveck’s artistry a reality, Maunalua.net relied on a team of volunteers from East O‘ahu as well as community donations to purchase the paint and supplies. Kirk further emphasizes that she “works with homeowners and gets their written permission before creating a mural.” With the collaboration between donors, volunteers, and homeowners, Kirk believes “this is a true community project.”

The response to the Nā ‘Ae Holo murals has been overwhelmingly positive. Kirk details that “people drive by and beep their horns and wave at us and yell out ‘Mahalo’ and ‘Thank you’ and ‘Love the murals.’” Community members love the murals so much that Maunalua.net has a long list of homeowners who want to have their walls painted. Kirk is overjoyed by the results: “We appreciate all the good wishes. It really is magical.



Image Credit: maunalua.net



Image Credit: First Hawaiian Bank

PROGRAM FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

First Hawaiian Bank is offering a First Step Home Loan Program for first-time homebuyers. The program requires a down payment of 10.01%, waives mortgage insurance, reduces closing costs, and gives a maximum loan amount of \$1,089,300. For information, go to: fhb.com/en/personal/mortgage/first-step-home-loan.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Ka Iwi Coast Becomes State Park

by Raeanna Dong

Growing up in Hawai'i Kai on the east side of O'ahu, I spent years of my childhood on the Ka Iwi Coast, hiking, swimming, and exploring many of its wonders. From Makapu'u Lighthouse trail to Alan Davis beach, the sights and activities offered by Ka Iwi Coast go on and on. My favorite place on the Ka Iwi Coast is the Makapu'u Tidepools.

Serene and crystal clear, the Makapu'u Tidepools sit at the bottom of the Makapu'u Lighthouse trail. Starting from middle school, I have frequented the tidepools with friends and family, making countless memories just at the tidepools alone. I recently hiked to the tidepools this past weekend where I poked around different pools to find so much wildlife; sea cucumbers, wana, opihi, cowries, fish, all in one small pool. But due to the rising popularity of the Ka Iwi Coast, negative environmental impacts caused by human traffic have been affecting the coast's diverse ecosystems including the Makapu'u Tidepools.

To protect the Ka Iwi Coast and stop negative impacts caused by human activities on the coast, Governor Josh Green signed Senate Bill 1254 into law. Senate Bill 1254 directs the state Department of Land and Natural Resources to petition the agency's board to create Ka Iwi State Park, which would be administered by DLNR and preserved primarily in its wild and natural state. The conservation and preservation of the Ka Iwi Coast is extremely important to me. I am still very young, not even in my twenties yet, and I would like to see the Ka Iwi Coast still thriving when I have my own family in Hawai'i.

By protecting the coast and designating it as a state park, future generations will be able to grow up enjoying the numerous marvels found within the Ka Iwi Coast. Hawai'i's residents and its visitors need to be good stewards of our lands for the next generations. Senate Bill 1254 being signed into law is a good first step toward conserving the Ka Iwi Coast.



Image Credit: Outdoor Project

STAYING SAFE FROM WILDFIRES



Image Credit: Clay Trauernicht / Civil Beat

As the summer gets hotter, wildfires and droughts are more likely. Fires consume hundreds of homes nationwide in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) each year, and Hawai'i is at a similar risk. Here are some tips to protect your property and community from wildfires.

Harden Your Home

- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and roof
- Maintain 6 inches between siding and ground
- Cover eaves and vents with 1/8" mesh
- Clear combustible materials next to and under home and lanai
- Protect windows—clear vegetation, close them when the fire comes

Lighten Your Landscape

- Create defensible space within 100 feet of home or up to boundary line
- Keep grass short
- Keep tree branches high off ground
- Clear brush and leaf piles

Plan Ahead

- Create and practice a family evacuation plan
- Include assisting neighbors with special needs in your evacuation plans
- Make sure fire vehicles and personnel can defend your home from all sides
- Make sure hydrants, pools, and water tanks are accessible
- Work with your neighbors or community association to become better prepared for wildfire

For more information, visit hawaiiwildfire.org/lookout.

YOUR CONCERNS

Breaking Down AC Energy Efficiency for the Hot Summer

It's getting warmer, and it's the time of year when our home cooling systems are on more often. ACs are given ratings based on how energy-efficient they are. These ratings are: EER, CEER, and SEER. You can use this information to compare products to choose the one that will save you the most energy.

EER stands for Energy Efficiency Ratio and is an objective measurement of how efficiently a unit is engineered to run. Determined by a set outdoor temperature of 95°F, a set indoor temperature of 80°, and a relative humidity level of 50%, the air conditioner EER rating indicates how efficiently that unit will run under these specific temperature conditions. Actual temperatures and humidity levels will vary of course, but because EER ratings are all based on the same set of conditions, it becomes a useful tool for comparing units in terms of overall efficiency. Units with an EER rating of 11 are recommended.

CEER stands for Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio rating. It is one of the key energy-efficiency metrics we use to adequately evaluate how much electricity an air conditioner will spend. CEER rating measures how many BTU/hour our AC generates given how much power we provide it during normal operation *and* during the standby/off-mode. Units with an EER rating of 11.4 CEER are

recommended.

SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio and is a measurement of how efficiently a unit will operate over the course of one cooling season. Unlike EER ratings, SEER ratings are determined by varying indoor/outdoor temperatures as well as varying humidity levels, and the rating takes into consideration temperatures ranging from 60–100°F. SEER ratings are also only used for mini split and central air systems, which are larger and use more energy than smaller units such as window or through-the-wall ACs. When buying a new mini split look for a SEER rating of 16 or higher and for central air systems 15.4 SEER.

A quick way to know if an AC has a high efficiency rating is by looking for the ENERGY STAR® logo. Products that earn this certification require higher ratings and provide at least 10% more energy savings than standard models. See more information here: energystar.gov/productfinder.



Image Credit: Energy Star

FREE GUN STORAGE SAFETY EDUCATION

A part of the End Family Fire program, the “Safe Stories” campaign comes as gun suicide rates have reached a record high, with the largest one-year increase in over 40 years, accounting for more than half of all firearm deaths. In the U.S., 67 people a day die by gun suicide, more than those lost to firearm homicides and unintentional shootings combined. Access to a firearm also triples the risk of death by suicide. Evidence shows that in a moment of crisis, having a firearm that is stored securely—locked, unloaded, and away from ammunition—provides critical moments that can prevent a fatal outcome.

Through a combination of documentary-style video production and animation, “Safe Stories” vividly showcases the life-saving role of safe gun storage. In culmination, the stories live in a virtual “book safe” which features information on safe gun storage methods and resources for those in a moment of crisis.

Read about gun owners who came close to gun suicide and why they now share the importance of safe firearm storage to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Visit SafeStories.EndFamilyFire.org.



Image Credit: Catherine Cruz / Hawai'i Public Radio



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