

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

February 2024



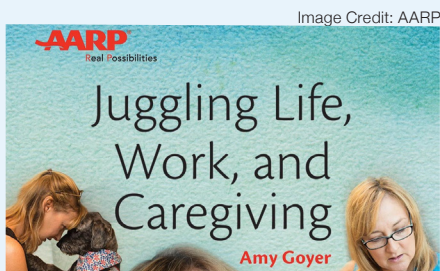
Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

It's now 2024, and our legislative session is in full swing. After the devastating wildfires on Maui left thousands of families homeless last year, the momentum to expand our housing stock is greater than ever. Since beginning work on our ALOHA Homes proposal in 2018, we've enabled three state agencies to produce income blind, 99 year leasehold housing. Pilot projects are currently underway from all three. This year, our focus is on ensuring that subsidized housing—created with your tax dollars—remains permanently affordable. The State administers millions of dollars in federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits and adds tens of millions of dollars more state taxpayer dollars annually. Yet most of the housing produced under these programs is affordable only temporarily. Over 15,000 families currently live in such temporary housing, and when their affordability periods expire between now and 2100, they will have nowhere to go. We intend to prioritize government

projects and private sector projects required to use their surplus to develop more housing. We are also hoping to facilitate projects that are exclusively for Hawaii residents who are owner- or renter-occupants and own no other real property by expanding existing programs that focus on the low income. We hope to make more efficient use of housing subsidies by making technical changes to existing bond programs and allowing for innovative ideas like credit enhancement. We also hope to streamline current county requirements on converting office buildings to housing. We always welcome your feedback on these issues and anything else that affects you. Please contact us anytime at 808-586-8420 or senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov. Together, we can make a better future for Hawai'i.

Very truly yours,

Stanley Chang



FREE WORKSHOP

Providing physical care for others can be an emotional and financial struggle for many. Especially as Hawai'i's overall population continues to age, it is more important than ever to learn about resources available for you and your family. Caregiving Expert Amy Goyer will share tips on how to handle the high cost of caring for a loved one, including helpful

advice on managing paperwork and legal and insurance issues. Among other information, you'll find out about resources and technology that can help you afford to care for a loved one. Community Resource tables and refreshments will be available at 9:30 AM on two dates:

Friday, February 23: Central Union Church, Honolulu

Saturday, February 24: Windward Community College, Kaneohe

Registration required at events.aarp.org/HICare24 or call (toll free) **877-926-8300**.

Please note that AARP Membership is not required but you'll need to create a free profile on aarp.org in order to register online.

▶ 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

STAYING PROTECTED FROM RSV

Respiratory Syncytial Virus is on the rise, which poses a risk particularly on infants, young children, and older adults. The Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum has created a fact sheet on the respiratory syncytial virus, more commonly known as RSV. Please refer to the graphic for important information.

Some everyday preventative measures to stay health include:

- Stay home when sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissue or shirt sleeve - NOT your hands
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with others (for example: kissing, shaking hands, sharing cups and eating utensils)
- Clean frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs or mobile devices

INFANTS & YOUNG CHILDREN	OLDER ADULTS (60+)
<p>The Numbers Every Year RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in the US, and accounts for 58-80,000 hospitalizations for children under 5.</p>	<p>The Numbers Every Year RSV causes severe illness in older adults, resulting in 60-160,000 hospitalizations and 6-10,000 deaths annually.</p>
<p>Protection for Babies/Toddlers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pregnant parent can get the RSV vaccine (recommended during 32-36 weeks of pregnancy) to pass on protection in the womb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ usually September-January • The baby can receive the RSV antibody directly; recommended when younger than 8 months old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ usually October-March 	<p>Protection for Older Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults 60 years and older can receive the RSV vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Cases of RSV increased as early as July in parts of the United States ◦ It is recommended to get your vaccine as soon as it is available in your community
<p>Special Considerations</p> <p>For children 8-19 months old entering their 2nd RSV season, a dose of the RSV antibody (injection) is recommended if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Indian or Alaska Native • Severely immunocompromised • Prone to chronic lung disease due to being born premature • Have severe cystic fibrosis 	<p>Special Considerations</p> <p>RSV can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pneumonia (lung infection) • Hospitalization • More severe symptoms for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or congestive heart failure

Image Credit: vvasian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum



SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

SENATE DISTRICT 9





SUMMER FUN STAFF APPLICATIONS OPEN

Hundreds of seasonal staff needed to assist programs serving thousands of keiki island-wide

- Contracts for the 2024 Summer Fun Program are from May 22 through August 3
- 5 different positions to choose from at dozens of sites with pay ranging from \$16/hour to \$19.14/hour

For adults currently enrolled in college, an improved and simplified online application can be accessed by following this link: bit.ly/applysummerfun

*An HNL info log-in is required to fill out this Student Aide application.

For adults not enrolled in college, a fillable PDF application is now available by following this link: bit.ly/summerfunapplication

From here, email the application to the park district that you would like to work at



For more information about the program, visit the main Summer Fun website at: bit.ly/summerfunoahu



It's never too early to think about your summer plans and the amazing job opportunities the season provides. Especially if you enjoy working with kids, at a location near you, while providing safe and enriching opportunities for the keiki during their seasonal break. All of these rewarding benefits are just a few of the perks of working as an aide for the Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) popular Summer Fun Program! You can choose from five different positions, at dozens of Summer Fun sites across the island, offering between \$16/hour and \$19.14/hour. For adults currently enrolled in college, please apply at bit.ly/applysummerfun. For adults not enrolled in college, apply at bit.ly/summerfunapplication. Please visit bit.ly/summerfunoahu for more information.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Image Credit: Vecteezy

CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR IN CHINATOWN

Chinatown is ringing in the Year of the Dragon on Saturday, February 3, from 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. all throughout Chinatown. Festive events include lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, food and craft vendors, keiki activities, live entertainment, and many other traditions and activities that will bring good luck and prosperity in the New Year.

Select events include:

- 9 am – noon (Aala Park): Free Kids Make & Take Craft
- 11 am – noon (Aala Street Stage): Hawai'i Lion Dance performance
- 4:30 pm (Hotel Street): Lunar New Year Parade starts at Hawai'i State Capitol Lawn, traveling along Hotel Street through Chinatown.

Visit chinatown808.com/nightinchinatown for the full list of events and vendors, parking instructions, and more information.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION IN HAWAI'I KAI

With the Lunar New Year right around the corner, finding a fun entertaining event to celebrate and appreciate the traditions and culture is a must. Luckily, the Hawai'i Kai Towne Center has got you covered. From 11 am – 1 pm on Saturday, February 3 make your way to the Hawai'i Kai Towne Center and enjoy the Lunar New Year Celebration by watching the captivating performance of traditional Chinese lion dance and a martial arts demonstration from the incredibly talented Wah Ngai Lion Dance Association. In addition to the performances, catch some special appearances from the Miss Chinatown Hawai'i court. Ring in the Year of the Dragon and follow the Chinese Lions as they bless the community and the center's tenants with this fun free family-friendly event! Make sure to check out the Hawai'i Kai Towne Center for similar annual events as well as other holiday and seasonal celebrations. Visit hawaiikaitownecenter.com, for more.



Image Credit: 6 Pillars Marketing

Book Your Road Test One Week in Advance!



EXPRESS ROAD TEST KAPAHULU

1112 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu HI 96816

The city's newest road test site has been expanded to a full-service operation. Drivers who pass their behind-the-wheel exam at the Kapahulu Road Test Office can process paperwork onsite for a Hawai'i driver's license. Previously, drivers had to process their paperwork at the Sheridan Road Test Office after a successful road test. Applicants can book appointments six months in advance at the Kapahulu location, located at 1112 Kapahulu Ave. "The newly upgraded road-test operation at Kapahulu is the latest example of our renewed focus on providing services that exceed expectations," said Kim Hashiro, director of the city's Department of Customer Services, which administers more than 60,000 road tests annually across O'ahu.

The road test service at Kapahulu will be available Monday through Friday, from 8 am – 3pm. An appointment must be scheduled and can be done at 12.Honolulu.gov/csdarts. Currently, only cash or checks are accepted for payment at the Kapahulu site.

YOUR CONCERNS

BEWARE OF QR CODES AROUND YOU

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is warning consumers about the possible risk of using QR (quick response) codes.

You may have scanned one to see the menu at a restaurant or pay for public parking. And you may have used one on your phone to get into a concert or sporting event, or to board a flight. There are countless other ways to use them, which explains their popularity. Unfortunately, scammers hide harmful links in QR codes to steal personal information. There are reports of scammers covering up QR codes on parking meters with a QR code of their own. Some crafty scammers might send you a QR code by text message or email and make up a reason for you to scan it. These are some of the ways they try to con you:

- they say they couldn't deliver your package and you need to contact them to reschedule
- they pretend there's a problem with your account and you need to confirm your information
- they say they noticed suspicious activity on your

account, and you need to change your password

They want you to scan the QR code and open the URL without thinking about it. A scammer's QR code could take you to a spoofed site that looks real but isn't, and once you log in to the spoofed site, the scammers could steal any information you enter. Or the QR code could install malware that steals your information before you realize it. So how can you protect yourself?

- If you see a QR code in an unexpected place, inspect the URL before you open it. If it looks like a URL you recognize, make sure it's not spoofed— look for misspellings or a switched letter.
- Don't scan a QR code in an email or text message you weren't expecting—especially if it urges you to act immediately. If you think the message is legitimate, use a phone number or website you know is real to contact the company.
- Protect your phone and accounts. Update your phone's operating system to protect against hackers and protect your online accounts with strong passwords and multi-factor authentication.

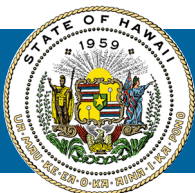
Information courtesy of Alvaro Puig from the Federal Trade Commission.

Scammers hide harmful links in QR codes to steal personal information

- Inspect the URL before clicking
- Keep your phone's OS up to date
- Use strong passwords and multi-factor authentication



Image Credit: Federal Trade Commission



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