

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

March 2023



The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Trees in School's project, "Students Propagating 'Ulu Trees for Schools on O'ahu," (SPROUTS-O'ahu) has been selected to receive funding through the U.S. Forest Service's 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant. This will support Kaimukī Middle School (KMS) students in propagating and planting 'ulu trees. Senator Chang's office followed up with KMS staff to discuss what this means for the students.

Kaimukī Middle School is "a place with heart that challenges and strengthens the mind, body, and spirit." They have been recognized several times, including receiving the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award. Now, their work is being awarded again.

SPROUTS-O'ahu is a service learning project that involves both students and teachers that are typically tied up in the classroom and puts them outside working with nature. For the first time, KMS is partnering with the Hawai'i Department of Education to receive expert guidance from their staff at the Plant Nursery while propagating fifty 'ulu trees. These will be planted at 25 schools on O'ahu.

According to KMS science teacher Lianna Lam, it's not just about fighting climate change. "We've never embarked on a project of this scale across all departments, so it's quite an adventure! The teachers and kids are excited to do our little part in helping to cultivate aloha 'āina, while tackling climate

change and food sustainability challenges in our community," says Lam. It goes further than just these 50 trees, because if KMS can do this well, it may lead to other schools embarking on something similar, too.

This SPROUTS project gives students the opportunity to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real life. It will help develop a more advanced knowledge of ecology as they experiment with different environments, water management, and soils. It also involves students in the community and lets them practice other life skills. As the teachers work with the students to put aloha into action, they are also working with Community Based Instruction (CBI) to work with kids with disabilities that normally are unable to be with other students in this way.

For Lam and other teachers at Kaimukī Middle, the project is all about empowerment. "It's for the kids; I want to empower them to be visionaries in whatever community they choose." Creating the next generation of visionaries is the main goal of this project, to remind them that they are a part of the solution. "School plays an important role in the community ecosystem," cites Lam, and this program works to make that bond stronger.

In the coming months, KMS looks forward to working with the DOE to propagate 'ulu trees at public and charter schools across the island, while enhancing their students' learning through malama 'āina.



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808-586-0193

City Homelessness
complaints@honolulu.gov
808-768-4381

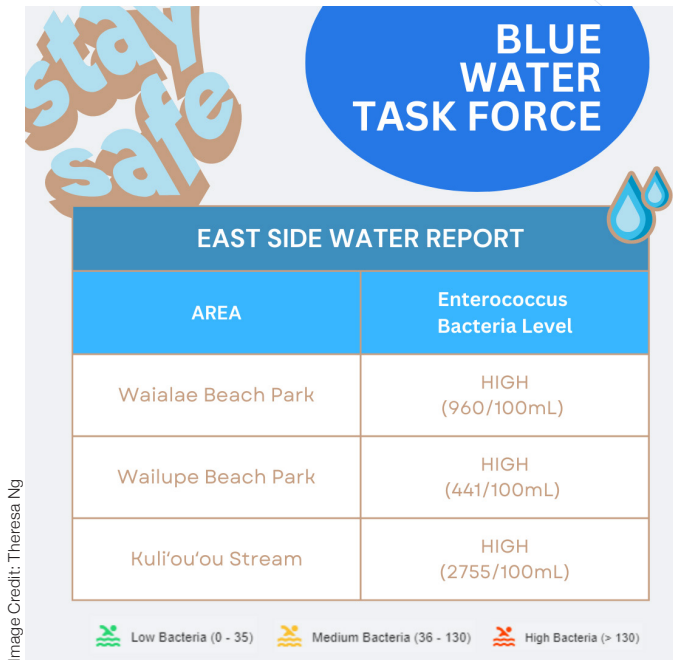
Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permits
808-768-8000

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

IN THE COMMUNITY



The Blue Water Task Force, partnering with the Surfrider Foundation and Kewalo Marine Laboratory at UH Mānoa, reports biweekly on the water quality and bacteria levels across the island of O'ahu. The mission of this partnership is "to identify polluted waters and make sure that residents and visitors alike are aware of potential health threats at the beach."

Some of the Blue Water Task Force's primary concerns about water quality in District 9 relate to legacy agricultural chemicals from fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in the soil left over from past sugarcane and pineapple plantations. These

legacy chemicals run from streams and pollute the ocean. Other worries include compounds, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which funnel into enclosed areas and promote excessive growth of plants, seaweed, and algae. As vegetation overgrows, the oxygen levels in the ocean deplete and cause an imbalance that greatly disrupts marine ecosystems.

The Blue Water Task Force's recent reporting raises questions about the safety of the island's waters. It recommends checking its bi-weekly water quality report and local guidelines from the Department of Health concerning safety.

While remediation of the troubled water quality on O'ahu depends on numerous circumstances, there are actions that the task force is taking to promote improvements to water quality universally. The task force believes that regular testing of water quality and more public availability of data concerning O'ahu's waters would improve the public's ability to make educated decisions regarding their safety. To this end, the task force has advocated for bills that push for more regular water quality sampling at beaches across the island. Specifically, in 2021, the task force championed SB350, which requires the Department of Health to adhere to its regularly scheduled beach sampling schedule as well as issue advisories and explanations of health risks when atypical levels of brown water are detected. The Blue Water Task Force plans to continue its advocacy during this current legislative session.

NOTE: Due to the recent heavy rains, bacteria levels are high at Wai'ālae Beach Park, Wailupe Beach Park, and Kuli'ou'ou Stream. The Department of Health recommends reconsidering recreational activities in these waters. Please contact the Department of Health Clean Water Branch at (808) 586-4309 for more information.

OBAMA FOUNDATION VOYAGER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Obama Foundation community is searching for 100 undergraduate students to welcome into the second class of its Voyager Scholarship for Public Service program!

Any rising college junior here in the United States interested in working toward positive change in their communities is encouraged to apply. The Voyager Scholarship for Public Service includes:

- Up to \$50,000 in Financial Aid: students will receive up to \$25,000

per year in financial aid for their junior and senior years of college.

- Summer Voyage: students will receive a \$10,000 stipend and Airbnb credit to pursue a summer work-travel experience between their junior and senior years.
- Fall Summit: each fall, students will be invited to a summit to define and inspire their public service journey.
- Network of Leaders: throughout the program, students will be invited to an ongoing speaker series, giving them access to a network of leaders. This network of leaders will expose them to new areas of service and innovations happening in their fields. After graduation, they will join the Obama Foundation's global community, providing them

with Foundation resources and programming.

- 10-Year Travel Stipend: after graduation, Airbnb will provide the students with a \$2,000 Airbnb travel credit every year for 10 years, totaling \$20,000. This will allow students to continue to broaden their horizons and forge new connections throughout their public service careers.

Please share this opportunity widely to your networks and with students whom you think may be a good fit! Encourage them to apply now at obama.org/voyager-scholarship. Applications close on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 3 p.m. CT. The Obama Foundation looks forward to welcoming the next class of Voyagers!

MOVING FORWARD



Community Challenge Grant Applications

AARP Hawai'i invites local eligible organizations and governments to apply for the 2023 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 15th. The program funds quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion, and more. Now in its seventh year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

The AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities, two of which are new this year. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission. It will prioritize proposals that are inclusive, address disparities, and directly engage volunteers 50 and older.

New this year, the program will provide capacity-building microgrants paired with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability and starting or expanding a community garden.

Also new this year, the Community Challenge will also offer demonstration grants. A portion will be focused on transportation improvements with funding support provided by Toyota Motor North America. Another portion of demonstration grants will focus on promoting greater awareness of the benefits of accessory dwelling units as a housing solution.

AARP will also offer grants under a flagship opportunity to support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital connections; community health and economic empowerment; and new this year community resilience; and civic engagement.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded over 1060 projects through the Community Challenge, giving more than \$12.7 million to nonprofit organizations and

government entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In Hawai'i, 20 projects have received \$234,366 to improve and create parks, beautify urban areas, bring mobile, live theatre to the Big Island, encourage bicycle sharing by older residents, make streets safer and generally make communities more livable. The program provides direct support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 11 a.m. Hawai'i time, March 15, 2023. All projects must be completed by November 30, 2023. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit [**AARP.org/CommunityChallenge**](https://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge).



LEGAL LINE

Every Wednesday evening from 6–7 p.m., HSBA attorneys are available via telephone to provide legal information. The volunteer licensed pro bono attorneys try to ascertain

the issue(s) or concern(s) and refer the callers to the appropriate HSBA staff, legal service provider, or government agency which can assist them. The Legal Line phone number in Honolulu is (808) 537-1868. Neighbor island residents can call (888) 609-5463. Please note that legal advice is not provided.

YOUR CONCERNS



Image Credit: State Courts

Online Dispute Resolution Now Active for Small Claims

In the First Circuit (Oahu) Court, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is required for the following:

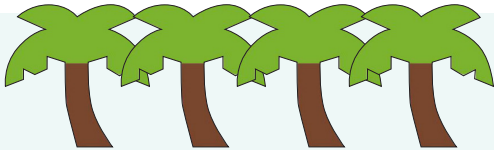
- Individuals who are not represented by an attorney.

These individuals are sometimes called Self-Represented Litigants or pro se parties.

- An individual involved in a dispute with only one other person and all parties are not represented by an attorney. For example, Party A (one person) files a complaint against Party B (another person).
- Multi-Party individuals are involved in a dispute and all parties are not represented by an attorney. For example, Party A and B (co-plaintiffs) file a complaint against Party C and D (co-defendants).

Hawai'i's ODR system uses TurboCourt, which guides self-represented litigants through personalized questions about your situation, then creates and files the required forms to the court. If you need to file a small claim, you can sign up for a TurboCourt account at turbocourt.com/hawaii. For more information or instructions to begin the claim process please visit courts.state.hi.us/small-claims-online-dispute-resolution. East O'ahu residents can call the District Court Service Center at (808) 538-5629 for additional support.

This process does not apply to businesses.



TREE CONSERVATION WORK AT FORT RUGER PATH ON MARCH 18TH

Calling all those with a passion for the environment and their community! Diamond Head State Monument and Trees for Kaimukī is looking for help to upkeep the native trees and other plants of Fort Ruger Path. Volunteers can take part in an event March 18th from 9am–12pm. You will be pulling weeds, mulching trees, and trimming up the tree canopy. Trees for Kaimukī recommends bringing shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, sunscreen, reusable water bottle, and a hat. Tools, gloves, ice water, and snacks will all be provided at the site.

Register at kanuhawaii.org/need/diamond-head-state-monument-trees-for-kaimuki.

Image Credit: Kaimukī Hawai'i

SAVE WATER, SAVE ENERGY



WATER LEAK
8 gallons a day

Fix leaks right away.
Use a leak detector available at local hardware stores.



LAUNDRY
15-25 gallons

Wash loads in cold water.



FAUCET USE
2 gallons per minute

Turn it off when not in use. For example, while hand washing dishes.



SHOWER
20 gallons

Take shorter showers.
Use high efficiency aerators for fixtures.



DISHWASHER
7 gallons per load

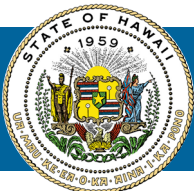
Only wash full loads. Try air drying instead of using the heat cycle.



SHAVING
2 gallons

Turn off the water while shaving. Only turn it on when you need to rinse.

Image Credit: Department of Energy



FROM THE OFFICE OF
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