

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024

honolulucitycouncil.org

COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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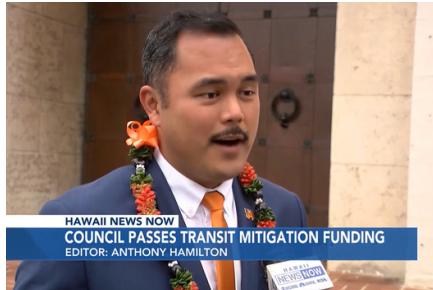


Aloha Neighbors!

I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent District 6 on the Honolulu City Council in 2024. Let's collaborate to improve our community. Your input is valuable and helps shape how my office and I serve our area. For regular updates, follow me on social media. If you have any issues that need attention, feel free to reach out to my office. We're here to assist you!

- Tyler

City Council Moving Forward with the Transit Construction Mitigation Fund



[Bill 40 \(23\)](#) Relates to the Transit Construction Mitigation Fund, specifically proposed to help Dillingham-area small businesses, on January 24, the Honolulu City Council voted 7-2 to adopt Bill 40, a measure aimed at providing financial assistance to eligible small businesses affected by ongoing rail-related construction along Dillingham Boulevard. The bill proposes a \$10,000 annual grant for qualifying businesses that opened before January 1, 2022, as long as active construction continues in the area. The measure will take effect on **July 1, 2024**, and applies only to small businesses majority-owned by residents, with 15 or fewer employees,

generating up to \$750,000 a year, and located within the same city block as the rail construction. The bill revives the city's long inactive transit construction mitigation fund, originally established in 2018.

Kalihi Town Hall with Rep. May Mizuno & Sen. Donna Mercado Kim



In January a joint community Town Hall was hosted by CM Dos Santos-Tam, newly appointed House Rep. May Mizuno, and Senator Donna Mercado Kim at Kalihi Uka Elementary School to discuss community concerns and upcoming legislative updates. Residents came together to address key concerns and outline potential actions for improvement. The discussions included traffic calming measures on Kalihi Street, particularly between Alejandro's & Nalanieha Street.



Our office will work with the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to explore dedicated left turns at strategic intersections and address traffic flow challenges. Additionally, we discussed overgrowth concerns at specific locations, such as 1534 Kalaepaa lot and 3502 Kalihi Street near St. Anthony Retreat Center. Additionally, park lighting issues at Kalihi Uka Park and DeCorte Park were also on the agenda to help to deter illicit behavior and activities. As representatives of the community, we value your input, and these discussions contribute to our ongoing efforts to enhance our community. Our office will follow up with the City issues mentioned at the meeting. For community concerns call or email our Constituent Services Director, Lynn Robinson at 808-768-5045 or l.robinson@honolulu.gov.

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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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Bill 1 (2024) Raising the Purchasing Age of Herbal Cigarettes

[Bill 1 \(24\)](#) is sponsored by CM Dos Santos-Tam and CM Weyer, who is the Chair of Housing, Sustainability, and Health. Bill 1 aims to raise the age for herbal cigarette purchases to 21 to align with state statutes regulating tobacco products, set at 18 by the City Council in 2000, while acknowledging the potential health risks posed by various herbal cigarette varieties. Herbal cigarettes lack tobacco or nicotine, research suggests their dangers are comparable to conventional cigarettes. The legislation will be heard in the Housing, Sustainability, and Health Committee next.



Bill 3 (2024): Incentives for Construction of Affordable Rental Housing

The Honolulu City Council has passed [Bill 3 \(24\)](#), a first-reading measure aimed at providing private developers of affordable rental projects with increased financial incentives. Introduced by CM Dos Santos-Tam, the bill taps into an existing \$10 million grant from the city's general fund to support the construction of over 1,100 new homes in areas zoned for denser development. The move is seen as a response to market challenges and supports small developers facing higher interest rates, supply chain shortages, and increased material costs. Bill 3 builds on [Bill 7 \(19\)](#), offering an alternative incentive to developers in the form of a grant of up to \$35,000 per unit before construction begins, with varying amounts based on area median income or AMI. The proposed measure hopes to address the slow pace of development under Bill 7 and adapt to current market realities, supporting workforce housing for essential workers.

State & City Legislators Come Together to Continue Fentanyl Fight



CM Dos Santos-Tam participated in a press conference with Heather Lusk Executive Director of Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC), Rep. Tam, and Rep Belatti, focused on the importance of opioid addiction prevention legislation. Two State House bills introduced by Representative Adrian Tam, [HB1669](#) and [HB2253](#) help to actualize this goal. Moreover, the 2021 historic multistate settlement agreements to address pharmaceutical companies' roles in the opioid crisis. Hawaii received multi-million dollars of funds from the settlements. The work of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee establishes procedures and plans on how to best reinvest the monies. A highlight of the meeting was in the total effort to reduce loss of life and provide resources to the people of Hawaii trapped in addiction. An understanding was made that public and private entities must collaborate to overcome bureaucratic obstacles in order to save lives.

State Capitol Legislator Counterparts to the City & County of Honolulu

CM Dos Santos-Tam is proud to represent such a broad and diverse as City Council District 6. His counterparts at the State Legislature work hard each and every day on behalf of our shared constituents. Please feel free to reach out to them with your State concerns:

Hawai'i House of Representatives

Della Au Belatti

District 26: Makiki and Punchbowl
repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-9425

Sonny Ganaden

District 30: Kalihi and Kalihi Kai
repganaden@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6010

Daniel Holt

District 28: Iwilei and Chinatown
repholt@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6180

May Mizuno

District 24: Kalihi Valley
repmmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6050

Scott Saiki

District 25: Downtown to Ala Moana
repsaiki@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6100

Jenna Takenouchi

District 27: Pauoa to Alewa
reptakenouchi@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-9415

Hawai'i State Senators

Karl Rhoads

District 13: Liliha, Nuuanu, Pauoa, and Downtown
senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6130

Donna Mercado Kim

District 14: Kapalama and Alewa to Moanalua
senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-587-7200



IN THE COMMUNITY

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Initial Chinatown Community Walk a Major Success!

Dozens of community members, advocates, business owners, and nonprofit leaders walked Downtown-Chinatown with Mayor Blangiardi, CM Dos Santos-Tam, and other elected officials to showcase the Downtown-Chinatown neighborhood and reclaim it for the community. Organized by Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board Chair Ernest Caravalho, the walk was hoped to spark interest and discussions on how to best uplift and revitalize the historic neighborhood. Along with Mayor Blangiardi's administration, CM Dos Santos-Tam is committed to making the needed changes and investments to really make Chinatown shine!



With Neighborhood Board Members and others who joined the walk

Recent Update on Mayor Wright Homes Construction



To see the most recent plans scan here



The construction of affordable for sale and rental housing at the Mayor Wright Homes on 521 North Kukui Street has been a massive project in the works for several years. The State of Hawaii, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Highridge Costa, and Form Partners collaborated to make this effort possible. Last month, on January 22, a public hearing was held at Palama Settlement to update residents on the current and future plans of the construction. The attendees were presented with a detailed overview of the different phases of redevelopment, and were given the opportunity to ask questions to the entities involved. For more information on the project visit mayorwighthomes.com or email mayorwright@hcosta.com.

Nu'uana Reservoir Tour and Improvement Plans by the Board of Water Supply



CM Dos Santos-Tam inspecting the Nu'uana #1 Dam with Mike Matsuo from BWS.

CM Dos Santos-Tam recently had the opportunity to tour the Nu'uana Reservoir with the staff from the Board of Water Supply. The tour stemmed from the Board of Water Supply's Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the [Nu'uana Reservoir No. 1 Dam Improvements Project](#). The proposed action aims to align with the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) dam safety standards for Nu'uana Reservoir No. 1 and dam. Necessary enhancements for Nu'uana Reservoir No. 1, include constructing a new outlet works pipe structure, reconstructing embankments for slope and stability compliance, building a concrete spillway, installing monitoring instrumentation, and other updates. These measures are crucial for meeting the specified purpose and addressing the priority maintenance needs of the reservoir and dam. The project sustains the life of the reservoir and health of the dam. Public comments submitted by February 7, 2024 through email to EAkana@hbws.org.

Pauoa Stream Cleaning at the Start of the Year

Last month, the Department of Facility Management (DFM) cleaned and cleared out Pauoa Stream after a long time of inattention. Workers were able to remove trash, large discarded items, and debris. Many people in my district have emphasized the need to keep our streams clean. The brush and trash build-up after storms can lead to flooding in neighboring residents' homes. My office will keep working with the department to make sure these streams are receiving the proper stewardship.

Right: CM Dos Santos-Tam with hard working DFM workers.





CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Highlighting the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworks



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam and other Councilmembers with members of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 1 of Hawai'i.

On January 24, the Honolulu City Council expressed pride and appreciation for the commendable community service efforts of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 1 of Hawai'i. Following the vandalism of nineteen gravestones at the historic Kawaiaha'o Church cemetery in November 2023, church member Brickwood Galuteria sought assistance from Mike Lovediro, Business Manager for Local 1. Volunteers from the union, who had previously assisted in restoration work, embarked on a challenging project to repair the vandalized gravestones, varying in weight from 150 to 800 pounds. The team, consisting of eight dedicated volunteers, meticulously cleaned, re-attached, and restored all 19 gravestones in a single day. The

Honolulu City formally recognizes and honors Local 1 for their compassionate and impactful contribution to the community.

2024 Braddahood Grindz Program Kickoff

CM Dos Santos-Tam participated in the kickoff for the 2024 Braddahood Grindz program, which is an initiative put together by the Hawaii Restaurant Association to support the UH Football Team and other sports at UH. The University of Hawaii football team has partnered with the Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA) for a summer nutrition program called Braddahood Grindz. This initiative aims to provide meals to the team's players and staff throughout the summer. Four restaurants, including Giovanni Pastrami, Gyotaku Hawaii, Kuhio Food Hall, and Ruby Tuesday Hawaii, will take turns offering one meal per week. The program, valued at over \$30,000, follows NCAA guidelines and involves Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Agreements with each UH football student-athlete. The HRA hopes to expand the program to other UH sports teams in the future.



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with UH Football Coach Timmy Chang and Ryan Tanaka, founder of Braddahood Grindz and owner of Giovanni Pastrami restaurant.

Lōkahi World Music Festival

The inaugural Lōkahi Spring World Music Festival is taking place at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, celebrating unity and diversity through the power of music. Scheduled for February 14 and 25, the festival will feature a diverse lineup, including artists like Dane Lam, Tan Dun, Drum Tao, Warren Mok, Siqing Lu, Wei Luo, Zhengzhong Zhou, and Bing Bing Wang. Organized by the Lōkahi Spring Foundation, the event aims to foster a sense of community and connection across cultural boundaries, showcasing the talents of international artists. To learn more about the Lōkahi Spring Foundation click [here](#).

To sign up scan code below



Honolulu City Council Votes to Approve Federal Agreement to Fund Skyline

Councilmembers voted last month by an 8-1 decision on a Resolution authorizing a federal agreement to fund the rail system's ongoing construction to the planned end point at Kakaako rail station by 2031. Additionally, on February 2, Mayor Rick Blangiardi signed an amended Full Funding Grant Agreement, unlocking \$744 million to complete Honolulu's rail system to Kakaako. The original 2012 deal provided over \$1.5 billion, but funding halted in 2017 due to concerns about rail building, planning, and management. The new agreement immediately releases \$125 million, with the remainder to follow in four phases. [U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz](#) lauded the move, emphasizing the collaboration between HART, the city, and federal and state partners. This is a significant milestone toward completing the initial phase of the Skyline project to the Civic Center station in Kakaako. For general information on the history of the Honolulu Rail Project click [here](#).



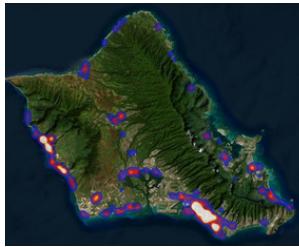
DISTRICT PROJECTS

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2024 Point In-Time Count Survey to Assess the Homelessness Population



(Image courtesy of Partners In Care)

Last month CM Dos Santos-Tam was able to participate in the 2024 Point In Time Count (PITC). Point-in-Time (PIT) counts are annual surveys conducted on a single night to gather data on individuals experiencing homelessness in a specific area. Volunteers lead these efforts, canvassing shelters, streets, and other locations, collecting demographic information such as age, gender, and veteran status comparable to the Census data. The collected data contributes to a national database and are reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Local nonprofits and organizations collaborate to allow for this event to occur such as Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) and Partners In Care. While PIT counts offer valuable insights into homelessness, the information obtained guides policy decisions, resource allocation, and targeted interventions to address homelessness. An issue affecting many men, women, and children through the State.

Various Public Housing Projects Across the Island Proceed

CM Dos Santos-Tam is passionate about expanding the affordable housing inventory on the island. There are a few public housing redevelopment projects that are underway that will help with the goal. These projects are rentals for low-income households on properties of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) including Mayor Wright Homes, Kuhio Park Terrance called Kuhio Homes, and Kuhio Park Terrance Low-Rise. Last month with approval the total development of the three projects will be \$892 mil. The project closest to beginning construction is the property of HPHA at 1002 North School Street. This project is slated to start in March. The details of these projects are the following; 1) School Street; homes 250; cost \$164 mil; completion 2026. 2) Kuhio Park; homes 304; cost \$182 mil; completion 2026. 3) Mayor Wright Homes; homes 911; cost \$546 mil; completion 2028.

2023 Honolulu Youth Commission Final Presentation

The 2023 Honolulu Youth Commission appointees included Diego Carranza, Pualii Ann Zidek, Asa Shimizu, Kalena Shea, Kolten Soon, and Riley Mishina. All of these individuals represented the interests and passions of young people in each of the Council districts. The office represented were Councilmembers Weyer D2, Kiaaina D3, Waters D4, Say D5, Okimoto D8, and our office. This experience and exposure to diverse perspectives and mutual commitment to service helps to create young leaders, that may one day take part in shaping the future of the city. Established in 2020 following the approval of [Resolution 19-329](#), the commission provides a platform for individuals



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with the members of the Youth Commission and Mayor Blangiardi and Councilmembers Water and Weyer.

aged 14 to 24 to actively engage in local government. The two-year term focused on youth representation and involvement in decision-making processes. CM Dos Santos-Tam was able to give a brief presentation to the group on the importance of civil service and the immense need for young, educated, enthusiastic people motivated to work for the City. For more information about the Honolulu Youth Commission, please visit www.honolulu.gov/yc.html.

Sign up For Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Updates



Due to the construction and traffic disruptions in my district, particularly in the Dillingham area, by rail construction residents and small business owners should have access to information on changes in traffic flow and public meetings. I introduced Bill 40 with CM Cordero to help small business owners affected by the utility relocation and rail construction to come. Contact our office if you have any questions. See the QR code on the right or visit honolulutransit.org.

For updates on HART
scan code below





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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U.S. Navy Hosts In-Person Meeting on Red Hill Defueling Plans

The Navy held a virtual meeting to address the public's concerns about fuel removal at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The meeting took place on Wednesday, January 17, at 1 p.m. The event was hosted by Rear Admiral Marc Williams and Brigadier General Michelle Link. Additionally, this month a public meeting at Kēehi Lagoon Memorial Hall on February 7 will offer updates on defueling, closure, and water monitoring. The Joint Task Force-Red Hill recently started removing residual fuel, with about 64,000 gallons remaining in low points of pipelines. The Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill plans to complete this process in March, including the removal of 4,000 gallons of fuel and 28,000 gallons of sludge, and initiate environmental remediation efforts. To view the virtual meeting click [here](#). Kēehi Lagoon Memorial Park, Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Memorial Hall at 2685 N Nimitz Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96819, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

To view the defueling plans scan code below



Ward Village Development Progress: February Update



As part of the growth unfolding in the Ward Village neighborhood, there are upcoming area enhancements slated for the coming months the public should be aware of. The various construction sites, each contributing to the ongoing development of the area including construction at Victoria Ward Park Makai and Victoria Place, set to extend through 2024. The Ala Moana Boulevard Elevated Pedestrian Walkway, a State of Hawaii Department of Transportation initiative, is progressing until June 2024. For specific inquiries about this project, contact HDOT Project Manager Justin Ching at justin.y.ching@hawaii.gov. Construction activities at Auahi Street

Promenade, The Park Ward Village, Ulana, and Kalae are expected to continue through 2024, 2025, 2025, and 2027, respectively. Associated utility work is ongoing in various locations. For any questions or additional information, please reach out to Mei Parrish at mei.parrish@howardhughes.com.

Help Save a Life and Reverse the Blood Donation Shortage

Blood donations are crucial for the well-being of all residents. The healthcare field and community need a consistent and adequate supply of donated blood to meet the specific medical needs of the population, addressing emergencies, surgeries, natural disasters, and various health conditions. A robust blood donation system ensures that healthcare facilities can promptly respond to local emergencies and deliver essential medical care. Fostering a strong culture of blood donation at the state and local level enhances community resilience and solidarity, emphasizing shared responsibility for public health. A district location can be found at Dillingham Donor Center at 2043 Dillingham Boulevard Friday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

See more information on blood donations here!



Frequently Called Numbers

[Council Office 768-5006](#)

Abandoned Vehicles 768-2530

City Complaints Hotline 768-4381

Graffiti Hotline 723-3475

HART Hotline 566-2299

HPD - Non-Emergency 529-3111

HPD - Downtown Station 723-3310

HPD - Kalihi Station 723-8207

HPD- Narcotics/Vice 723-3933

Illegal Dumping 768-5220

Potholes 768-7777

Refuse Pickup 768-3200

Senior Citizen Info 768-7700

Street Light Repair 768-5300

Street Sign Repair 768-3644

Tree Trimming 971-7151

Zoning Info 768-8058

[Honolulu 311 App](#)

