

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

MARCH 2024

honoluluycitycouncil.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*

Mayor Blangiardi Signs Transit Construction Mitigation Fund Legislation Into Law



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi observing the signing of Bill 40 (23).

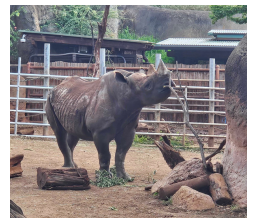
[Bill 40 \(23\)](#) Relates to the Transit Construction Mitigation Fund, specifically proposed to help Dillingham-area small businesses, on January 24, the Honolulu City Council voted 7-2 to adopt Bill 40, a measure aimed at providing financial assistance to eligible small businesses affected by ongoing 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.

Honolulu Zoo In the Running For America's Best Zoo In the Nation



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Councilmembers Weyer, Okimoto, Cordero, Tulba, and Waters with the Mayor at the zoo.

The Honolulu Zoo has achieved a significant milestone by securing a nomination for the title of Best Zoo in America in the 2024 USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards. This recognition acknowledges the Honolulu Zoo as one of the top 20 zoos in the country by a panel of industry experts and editors. Honolulu Zoo Director Linda Santos expressed gratitude for the nomination, emphasizing the collective efforts of staff, support organizations, and community partners in earning this distinction. Mayor Blangiardi made a statement praising the zoo's educational and conservation role. The voting period for the Best Readers' Choice Awards



spans 28 days. Our office urges the public to show their support for the Honolulu Zoo's selection of the best zoo. Santos encouraged community involvement in the voting process. Residents and visitors can vote once a day through Monday, **March 4, 2024**, at 6:59 a.m. HST. To vote visit the Honolulu Zoo's website here: https://www.honolulu zoo.org/usa_best_zoo_2024/.

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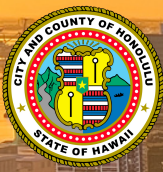
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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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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 heard [Bill 3 \(24\)](#) in its first reading. This is a 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.

Bill 9 (2024): Repealing Obsolete Transportation-Related Laws

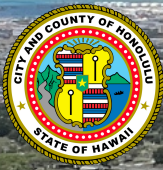


Earlier this year, Dos Santos-Tam introduced [Bill 9](#), which repeals long-obsolete provisions relating to “touring automobile services,” which was put into law in 1937 and hasn’t been utilized since the 1950s, and “U-Drive Rental Vehicles,” which are a classification of rental cars which have been fully regulated by the State since 1988. Prior to proposing the bill, CM Dos Santos-Tam’s office did extensive research into the history of these provisions, and checked with the various stakeholders such as the rental car companies to ensure that repealing these provisions would not affect their operations. There are several other obsolete provisions of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu which CM Dos Santos-Tam’s office will be proposing for repeal later this year.

Positive Impact Game Rooms Legislation Could Have on Communities

Illegal gambling rooms, often linked with criminal activities like drug trafficking and violence, pose multifaceted challenges for our community. Current operations by the Honolulu Police Department, aim to tackle illegal gambling and related criminal activities. Investigations rely on complaint submission, verification, detailed probes, warrant execution, and legal proceedings. However, existing processes face challenges such as weak penalties for landlords and minimal use of administrative penalties. Our office and CM Tupola are proposing solutions that include empowering city agencies to take legal action against landlords, to collaborate in investigations, and share evidence to combat illegal gambling rooms effectively. This legislative package ensures law-abiding landowners are not negatively impacted, but landowners complicit in these illegal activities are targeted with swift corrective action such as imposed penalties. See more information on each measure by clicking the links below:

- [Bill 57 \(23\)](#): Relating to Game Rooms, specifically to allow HPD, DPP, and other agencies to work together to stop illegal game rooms.
- [Bill 58 \(23\)](#): Relating to Authorized Personnel to Help Game Room Enforcement.
- [Reso 23-228](#): Interdepartmental Cooperation on Game Room Enforcement.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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Lelepaua Station Airport Tour with HART



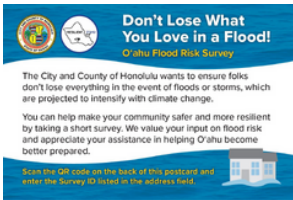
Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with the Director of Government Relations, Joey Manahan and other HART workers.

CM Dos Santos-Tam and staff were able to tour the ongoing construction of the Lelepaua Station. The Lelepaua station, also known as the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport station, is currently under construction next to the airport lei stands as part of the second phase of the Skyline route. Scheduled to open in the **Summer of 2025**, this station is named after the choice mother of pearl found inside the pāua bivalve and references a historic fishpond and salt production area. It will be situated between the overseas and international parking structures and will offer ADA pedestrian access, bicycle parking, elevators, pedestrian bridges, walkways, restrooms, and bus connections. Travel times from Lelepaua station include 26 minutes to East Kapolei Station, 5 minutes to Aloha Stadium Station, 12 minutes to Downtown Station, and 16 minutes to Ala Moana Center Station.

To visit HART's website scan here



City Flood Risk Survey for Residents in High Flood-Risk Areas



Residents in flood-prone areas across O'ahu are invited to participate in a Flood Risk Survey to gauge awareness, knowledge, and experiences related to floods and insurance. Those who received the mailer in District 6, will help to provide the survey findings that will guide City initiatives to increase awareness and resilience, particularly emphasizing the importance of flood insurance amidst escalating storm risks due to climate change. Over the past five years, O'ahu residents participating in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reported significant losses exceeding \$27.4 million from flooding events, highlighting the need for enhanced preparedness measures. The Mayor's Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency is conducting the survey, accessible online from **March 11 to April 1, 2024**, to equip residents with flood risk information and mitigation strategies. The initiative, funded by FEMA's Cooperating April 1, 2024, to equip residents with flood risk information and mitigation

To participate in survey scan here

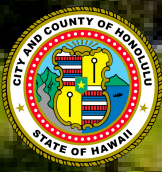


strategies. The initiative, funded by FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partnership Program, involves collaboration with ReconMR and Pineapple Tweed. to ensure robust community engagement and awareness. Through proactive measures, the FEMA's NFIP Community Rating System Program provides tangible benefits such as a 10% reduction in annual flood insurance premiums for policyholders.

The Governor's Efforts to House Homeless Individuals

Recently the third tiny home community was opened called, "kauhale" village for homeless people. The State of Hawai'i Kauhale Initiative aims to create affordable housing spaces through intentional communal design and operations. The concept of 'Kauhale', was inspired by traditional Hawaiian living, in shared spaces for communal activities. The initiative plans to establish 12 Kauhale projects over the next three years, prioritizing locations where land is available and community partnerships are strong. The goal of Kauhale is to keep rents affordable and foster a sense of shared responsibility among residents. Each Kauhale partnership will be between government and community entities, with state funding empowering local organizations and filling resource gaps. The initiative aims to provide housing and belonging.





CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Recognizing Jan Tsukazaki, Inventor Of Zippy's Napples on her Retirement



Above: Jan Tsukazaki with the Councilmembers during the Honorary Certificate ceremony.

Jan Tsukazaki has dedicated nearly 30 years of service to Zippy's, starting in 1983 until her retirement in December 2023, with a brief hiatus for education in 1986. Her favorite aspect of working for Zippy's was its local, family-owned nature and the opportunities it provided, especially for women in management. Jan's integral role in Napoleon's Bakery was marked by her creativity and leadership, notably in developing signature pastries like the Napples. According to Char Kim, Zippy's Vice President of Operation Support, Jan's presence has greatly impacted Zippy's and Napoleon's Bakery's popularity. The Honolulu City Council congratulates Jan Tsukazaki on her retirement and for providing delicious pastries that have been enjoyed for generations. After years of service, in her retirement, Jan wants to focus on her family.

Celebrating Amos Kotomori at Local Launch Party

On February 8, 2024, Amos Kotomori, a prominent textile designer, stylist, auteur, and artist based in Hawai'i, launched a special collaborative event showcasing his vintage collection of Kotomori Design men's shirts, ladies scarves, and jewelry. The event was hosted at Kiholo Kai's Downtown store. This event marked Amos' debut in sharing his work with the public at a single venue. Kirk Hubbard, the CEO of Kiholo Kai, expressed the honor of featuring Amos Kotomori's unique vintage collection, emphasizing Amos' spirituality, craftsmanship, and art. Throughout his career, Amos infused his pieces with personal style, incorporating distinctive motifs into his designs. Recognized for his resilience, creativity, and compassion, Amos Kotomori's contributions to the fashion, design, and art world have been celebrated by the Honolulu City Council on behalf of the community.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi Announces FY 2025 Budget Proposals

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi recently submitted proposed budgets for the 2025 fiscal year, totaling \$3.6 billion for the **Operating budget** and \$919 million for the **Capital Improvement** Program budget. During a recent press conference, Mayor Blangiardi highlighted the importance of strengthening the public's trust in local government while continuing to support the community post-pandemic. The budget prioritizes affordable housing development near rail stations, allocating \$22.8 million for this purpose and seeking changes in laws to facilitate mixed-use development. Additionally, funding of \$19.5 million is earmarked for homeless initiatives, including support for the Housing First initiative and services at the Iwilei Center. Many of these proposals will directly impact the district. CM Dos Santos-Tam will continue to be attentive and communicative with the community.

March 2024: Ward Village Construction Update

For **March 2024**, Ward Village announced an update on ongoing developments in the Ward Village neighborhood, outlining various improvement projects that will happen in the next few months. This work details: Victoria Ward Park Makai and Victoria Place will be under construction until 2024, while the Ala Moana Boulevard Elevated Pedestrian Walkway project by the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, is also ongoing until 2024. For inquiries about specific projects, individuals may contact the designated project managers. Additional construction projects such as the Auahi Street Promenade, The Park Ward Village, Ulana, and Kalae are scheduled to continue through 2024 or beyond, with associated offsite utility work also in progress. For further information or inquiries, please reach out to Mei Parrish at mei.parrish@howardhughes.com.



DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Storm Water Management Plan at Beretania and He'eia Corporation Yard



The Board of Water Supply has scheduled a construction project at the Beretania Complex and He'eia Corporation Yard that involves asphalt concrete repaving, drain line installation, Construction Resource Management (CRM) wall construction, and construct concrete stockpile bins necessary to control stormwater discharge along the area shown on the map. The construction began on **March 1, 2024**. The work is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2025, without any unforeseen circumstances.

Volunteers Needed For the Kapalama Canal Cleanup

On **March 9**, the Storm Water Quality Division of the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) will organize a cleanup at the Kapalama Canal. The cleanup will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This event was initiated from the recent complaints the department has received regarding the trash and debris that has gathered in and around the canal. It is important to keep our local water sources clean. It's essential for the health of the island's water table as well as preserving the surrounding ecosystem. Please direct any questions to Kyle Tokuda at kyle.tokuda@honolulu.gov.

Register here for volunteer opportunities!



Night In Chinatown Festival Parade



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam walking through the Night at Chinatown Festival Parade. Right: CM with Mayor Blangiardi, Lieutenant Governor Luke, Senator Rhoads, Ann Teranishi, and Leialoha Arcangel.

The Night in Chinatown Festival & Lunar New Year Parade, originating in the 1970s through the efforts of Sun Hung Wong and Chinatown Merchants, has evolved into a event, drawing crowds and boosting the local economy in Downtown-Chinatown. Chinatown 808, a nonprofit, aims to enhance the festival's legacy by partnering with community organizations and businesses. such as the American Savings Bank, which sponsored the event in 2023. The bank has been instrumental, reflecting its broader commitment to community service through programs like Seeds of Service. Their involvement also extends to projects like revitalizing 'A'ala Park. The festival was a great success bringing hundreds of people to the festival parade. During the festival, our office was able to honor Leialoha Arcangel the manager at Zippy's Vineyard, who saved a man's life from an overdose using Naloxone. We also thanked American Savings Bank CEO, Ann Teranishi, for their positive contributions to the community.

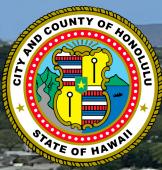


Calling Volunteers for a Cleanup at Mother Waldron Park

Community members from Rock Church are organizing a park cleanup at Mother Waldron Park. The park cleanup event at Mother Waldron Park will be on Saturday, **March 16, 2024**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They're looking for volunteers to help with litter pickup to help keep our park beautiful. Mark Richardson is the point of contact for this event, and you can reach him at mark.richardson@sdrock.com or 808-439-9681. The Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) will provide rubbish bags and gloves. The Church will also hold a picnic, with tables, and chairs after the cleanup. Please share this event with others. It's good for everyone when we take care of our community facilities.

To sign up for the cleanup scan here!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Supporting Women-Owned Businesses Workshop

On **March 7**, a workshop hosted by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) will offer support and networking opportunities for women-owned businesses. Advice tailored to all stages of entrepreneurship from local companies, start-ups, and seasoned professionals. The workshop held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Kapolei Hale or 1000 Ulu'ōhi'a Street has limited seating so it is on a first-come first serve basis. The workshop provides in-person workshops and personalized business counseling sessions. Furthermore, upcoming monthly topics include discussions on home-based businesses, marketing strategies, support for food businesses, exporting readiness, certifications, City procurement, and a mix of small business topics. Please see the link [here](#) for more information.

To sign up for this class scan here!



Mayor's Town Hall Meeting for Downtown, Chinatown, and Kalihi

Starting this month, Mayor Blangiardi and his office will host a town hall meetings all around the island. The Mayor will host a community town hall meeting within District 6 at Ke'elikōlani Middle School on Thursday, **April 18**, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Similar to last year, the Mayor and his team want to visit with residents and listen to the issues affecting them. These meetings are valuable because the Mayor directly engages with the community. It provides residents with a platform to voice their concerns, share feedback, and participate in shaping legislation and local initiatives. The meeting can provide the Mayor with a better understanding of the needs and priorities of the various districts, ultimately leading to better governance. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Dole Community Park Cleanup Hosted by the Downtown Rotary Club

On **March 30**, the Downtown Rotary Club will organize a park cleanup at Dole Community Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The activity will include picking up rubbish from the park and painting over graffiti that has accumulated over the last few months. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Robert Washington at robert.washington@finnpoartners.com or Alphonse Braggs at abraggs357@gmail.com.

UH Mānoa's Newly Unveiled Waterhouse Sports Facility

On **February 14**, [UH Mānoa Athletics Department](#) recently revealed its upgraded Alexander Waterhouse Sports Performance Facility, providing a state-of-the-art training hub for student-athletes. The \$3.3 million renovation, celebrated in a ceremony at SimpliFi Arena, boasts 24 Samson Power Racks and a new nutrition center spread across 10,000 square feet. Named after the late Alexander C. Waterhouse, the facility serves as a vital resource for the university's 500 student-athletes, supporting 21 sports programs and emphasizing efficient training methods. The revamped space, equipped with over 22,000 pounds of free weights signifies a significant investment in the well-being and performance of UH's athletic community.

See the UH Athletics video of the facility 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](#)

Save the Date: Future Park Cleanups!

1. Beretania Community Park (March 16, 2024)
2. Fern Community Park (May 18, 2024)
3. Kalihi Valley District Park (July 27, 2024)
4. Alewa Park (September 21, 2024)
5. Auwaiolimu Neighborhood Park (November 16, 2024)
6. Kamehameha Community Park (December 14, 2024)