

Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto

APRIL 2024 - ISSUE 20
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 8 | 'AIEA, MILILANI, PEARL CITY, AND WAIPAHU



Aloha mai kākou,

As we welcome the month of April, I am reminded of the resilience and strength that our community embodies, especially as we navigate through the closing chapters of the school year for our keiki. With the academic year soon coming to a close, our keiki, including my own daughters, are completing their studies with determination and perseverance, showcasing their adaptability in the face of challenges. It is my hope that all students will cherish each remaining school

day and treasure these formative years.

April marks a time for us to come together in support of one another. It is a month where we can extend a helping hand, lend an empathetic ear, or simply offer a kind gesture to our neighbors. As your Councilmember, I am committed to embodying this message of solidarity and support throughout the community as I continue to serve you.

Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen the bonds that unite us, uplift those in need, and celebrate the spirit of compassion that defines our city. Together, we can make this April a month of solidarity, resilience, and shared support.

I encourage you to reach out to my office or email me with any concerns, ideas, or support you may need as we navigate through this month together.

Mahalo,



Contact My Office!

My team and I are focused on serving the community and prioritizing constituent needs and concerns. If you have any questions or would like to report an issue within our district, please contact my office.



(808) 768-5008



valokimoto@honolulu.gov

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

BUDGET (BUD)

Radiant Cordero, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Tommy Waters, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MATTERS & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH (HSH)

Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES & CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)

Augie Tulba, Chair
Val Aquino Okimoto, Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMY (P&E)

Esther Kia'aina, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY (PIT)

Andria Tupola, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Val Aquino Okimoto, Chair
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

ZONING (ZON)

Calvin Say, Chair
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair



Honolulu County Updates

THIRD PHASE OF KAPI'OLANI PARK PATHWAY



Renovations for the perimeter pathway encircling the esteemed Kapi'olani Park commenced on March 25, 2024, marking the onset of the third phase. The project aims to enhance and extend the concrete pathway along the mauka-side of Kalākaua Avenue, spanning between Monsarrat and Pali avenues. This will involve replacing the current three-foot-wide walkway with a more spacious eight-foot-wide concrete pathway. The entire project is expected to be finished before the end of summer 2024.

bit.ly/KapiolaniPark

CITY & COUNTY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



Exciting career opportunities await at the City and County of Honolulu, where new recruitments are now open across a variety of fields and positions. Whether you're seeking a role in administration, public service, or specialized sectors, there's something for everyone. Stay updated with the latest list of job postings on our hiring website, where new opportunities are regularly added. Act fast, as some of these enticing positions have deadlines just days after posting. Check out the link below for further details and to kickstart your next career move today.

www.governmentjobs.com

DISCOUNTED LIFEGUARD TRAINING



Get ready to dive into a discounted lifeguard training course coming to Kāne'ōhe District Park this April 2024! Mark your calendars for April 7, 14, 21, and 28 for this opportunity. This certification course, offered by the American Red Cross, combines online learning with hands-on training, allowing you to obtain pool lifeguard, CPR, and AED certifications for professional rescuers. Plus, the certification is valid for two years, ensuring you're equipped with the skills needed to keep others safe for the long haul. Secure your spot today by registering through the link below.

pros10.hnl.info



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High School Graduation List

High school seniors across the islands are wrapping up their final school year, and that can only mean one thing – graduation season!

FRIDAY, MAY 17

- **Radford High School** – Waikīkī Shell

SATURDAY, MAY 18

- **Farrington High School** – Stan Sheriff Center
- **Castle High School** – Neil S. Blaisdell Arena

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- **Mililani High School** – Stan Sheriff Center

TUESDAY, MAY 21

- **Kalani High School** – Stan Sheriff Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

- **Roosevelt High School** – Stan Sheriff Center
- **Kailua High School** – Hawai'i Convention Center

THURSDAY, MAY 23

- **Olomana School** – Windward Community College
- **Kekaulike High School** – school stadium

FRIDAY, MAY 24

- **Kahuku High School & Intermediate** – Brigham Young University Hawai'i Cannon Center
- **Kaiser High School** – school stadium
- **Leilehua High School** – school stadium
- **Wai'anae High School** – school stadium
- **Kapolei High School** – school stadium

SATURDAY, MAY 25

- **Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenuē** – school campus
- **Waialua High & Intermediate** – school athletics field
- **Nānākuli High & Intermediate** – school campus

SUNDAY, MAY 26

- **Pearl City High School** – Hawai'i Convention Center
- **Campbell High School** – Hawai'i Convention Center
- **McKinley High School** – school campus

MONDAY, MAY 27

- **Waipahu High School** – Stan Sheriff Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

- **'Aiea High School** – Hawai'i Convention Center
- **Moanalua High School** – Stan Sheriff Center
- **Hawai'i School for the Deaf & the Blind** – school campus

THURSDAY, MAY 30

- **Kalāheo High School** – Neil S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 31

- **Kaimukī High School** – Waikīkī Shell





District 8 Community Report

GIVING MACHINE CHECK DISTRIBUTION

For the past four years, the City and State government have partnered with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their Giving Machine program. The Giving Machine operates like a vending system, allowing individuals to donate to a range of charitable causes by purchasing items such as food and hygiene kits. I was grateful for the privilege of participating once more in the Giving Machine Check Distribution event. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the charities involved for their unwavering dedication to serving our communities.



PHILIPPINES SISTER CITY RECEPTION

A reception was held at Washington Place to honor the Sister-State Relationship between Hawai'i and its sister provinces in the Philippines. It was an opportunity for my colleagues and I to meet Governor Matthew Manotoc of Ilocos Norte and reconnect with Vigan council members whom I had met during our recent sister city visit to the Philippines. These sister city ties foster cultural exchange, diplomatic relations, and economic collaboration. I look forward to further strengthening these bonds in the future.



NECA MEETING ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Grateful for the opportunity to gather with Senator Brandon Elefante, Representative Sam Kong, and other government agencies to meet with constituents from the Newtown Estates Community Association (NECA) to address concerns about homelessness in District 8. We collaborated with Honolulu Police Department (HPD), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Office of Homelessness, and Department of Community Services to discuss and brainstorm solutions. Moving forward, my team and I are committed to work with our partners to keep our communities safe and clean.



CENTRAL O'AHU BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

I had the pleasure of participating in the COBA event once more this year! It's always a joy to connect with the teams and interact with keiki. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to COBA for inviting me back to assist with the raffle and for granting me the honor of throwing the first pitch once again! The enthusiasm and passion for the game displayed by everyone involved are truly appreciated. And a special thank you for always cheering me on as I step up to throw the first pitch. Your support means the world to me!



HONORARY CERTIFICATES

For March's Honorary Certificate I had the privilege of presenting the Mililani Community Athletic Association Youth Basketball Program. We celebrated their steadfast commitment to providing a safe and empowering environment for keiki to participate in the joy of basketball. It is their dedication that cultivates not only skilled athletes but also resilient individuals, equipped to navigate life's challenges with determination and grace.



3RD ANNUAL PEARL CITY EASTER EGG HUNT

My 'ohana and I had the pleasure of attending the 3rd Annual Pearl City Easter Egg Hunt at the Momilani Community Center! The combined effort and excitement made this event an incredible success, spreading joy and laughter to families across the neighborhood. Watching the children hunt for eggs was truly delightful! We eagerly anticipate returning next year to create even more cherished memories. It's heartening to witness how events like this make Easter a meaningful time for our community, fostering unity and celebration among us all.





Philippines Sister City Goodwill Mission

My colleagues and I traveled to the Philippines to engage with officials from five of our sister cities: Manila, Baguio, Candon, Vigan, and Laoag. Our primary objective was clear—to strengthen and revitalize the bonds of sisterhood that unite our cities.

Throughout our visit, we facilitated renewals of our sisterhood agreements through official signings, reminding us of the strong ties that bind us together. Additionally, we held meetings with officials and dignitaries, including Mayors, Vice Mayors, and members of City Councils from all five sister cities. We also visited the U.S. Embassy and had discussions with Director Elenida Basug of the Division of Environment and Natural Resources, among other engagements. These interactions further solidified our partnerships and allowed for productive exchanges on important issues.

Our interactions with officials and residents alike were marked by a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect. Sister city ties encourage cultural exchange, diplomatic relations, and economic collaboration, serving as a foundation for mutual understanding and cooperation across regions. With 25% of our O’ahu residents being of Filipino descent, these sister city relations are of great importance to my colleagues and me.

A personal highlight for me was visiting the cities in Ilocos Norte, where the first sakadas boarded ships to immigrate to Hawai’i as plantation workers. My grandparents were among

those early plantation immigrants, and I am grateful for the sacrifices made to afford me the opportunities I have been blessed with. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in this capacity at this time.

As we reflect on our journey, we are dedicated to nurturing these vital connections. Gathering together exemplifies the significance of these partnerships in strengthening bonds between Honolulu and sister cities in the Philippines, showcasing the positive impact on both communities.



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Budget Breakdown for FY25

This month's legislative update features the Mayor's 2025 fiscal year budget proposal, projecting operating resources at \$3.96 billion. With higher revenues and COVID-19 recovery, real property taxes contribute \$1.73 billion (43.34%), and the O'ahu Transient Accommodations Tax contribute \$93.9 million.

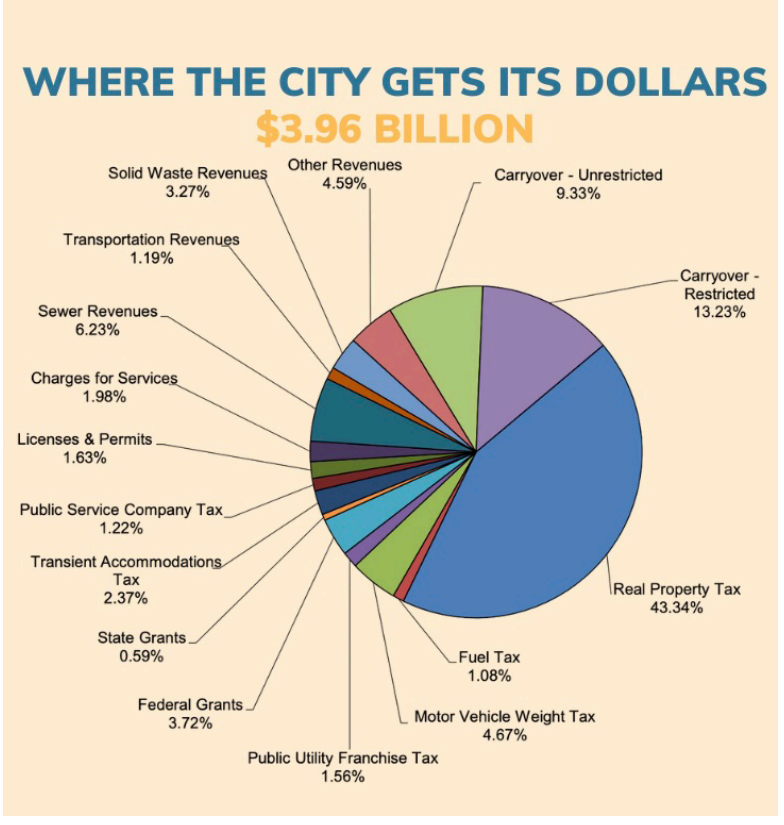
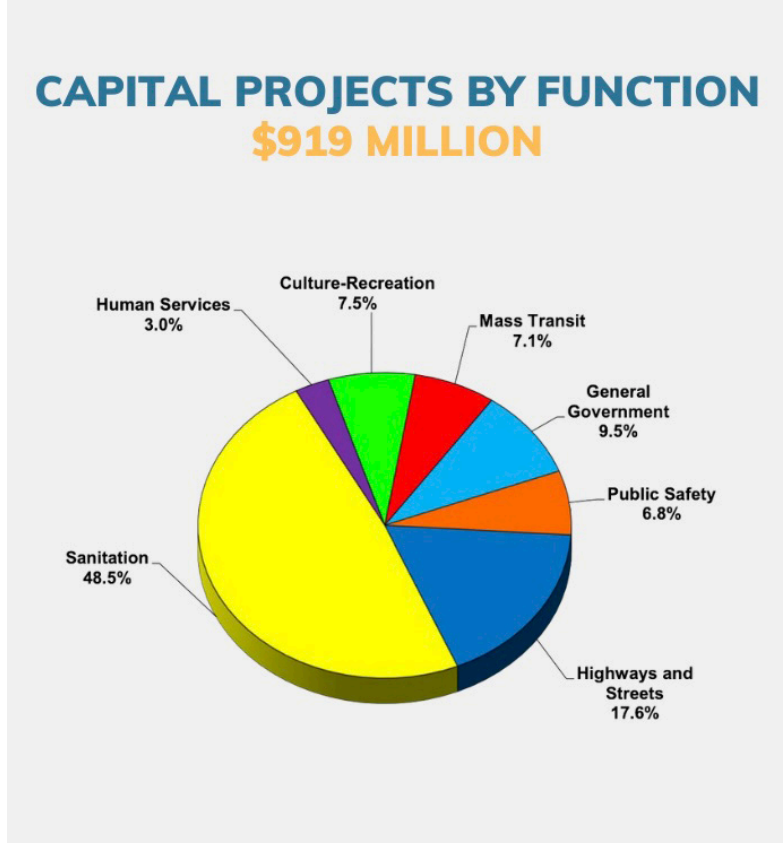
The FY25 Operating Program and Budget is \$3.63 billion. Notable appropriations include \$844.7 million (23.27%) for miscellaneous costs like retirement and healthcare, and debt service at \$677.6 million (18.65%). Public safety programs account for \$626.6 million (17.25%), and Mass Transit, mainly TheBus, rail, and Handi-Van, are budgeted \$427.7 million (11.77%).

The Mayor has established specific goals for all City agencies to aggressively recruit and hire the talent and skilled leadership necessary to drive economic recovery, provide exemplary core services and improve the lives of O'ahu residents.

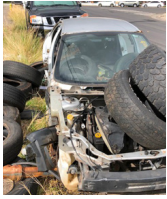
The FY25 Capital Program and Budget (CIP) proposes \$919 million, focusing on core services and includes improvements to the City's wastewater systems.

The City Council questioned the Administration and Department Directors on their budgets during Committee on Budget hearings in early March. The public will have an opportunity to provide testimony on the budget and proposed amendments during the full Council meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Source: City and County of Honolulu



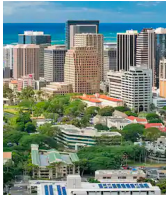
Helpful Honolulu Resources



ABANDONED VEHICLES HOTLINE

The City's Customer Service Department (CSD) manages the Abandoned Vehicle Program. If you see suspected abandoned vehicles, you can report it through the hotline below.

[\(808\) 768-2530](tel:(808)768-2530)



BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits are required to construct, alter or demolish any structure, do electrical work over \$500, or do plumbing work over \$1,000 within a 12-month period.

www.honolulu.gov/dpp/permitting/building-permits.html

[\(808\) 768-8000](tel:(808)768-8000)



BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII

Become a donor! Just 1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives. Contact the Blood Bank of Hawaii or go to their website to find the nearest blood donation center near you.

www.bbh.org/about/location/

[\(808\) 848-4770](tel:(808)848-4770)



CRIMESTOPPERS HOTLINE

If you see something, say something! Call Crimestoppers to ensure the safety of our community. The hotline is available 24/7 and callers can remain anonymous.

[\(808\) 955-8300](tel:(808)955-8300)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTIONS

Travelers must complete and return the agricultural form upon arrival to Hawai'i. For departures, please report all agricultural items in your possession to the agricultural inspectors.

[\(808\) 836-6411](tel:(808)836-6411)



HOMELESSNESS HOTLINE

The State of Hawai'i is continually working to reduce homelessness and support the homeless. Use the hotline below to request services or to report an encampment.

[\(808\) 586-0193](tel:(808)586-0193)



HONOLULU POTHOLE HOTLINE

If you see a pothole in any of O'ahu's city streets, contact the hotline below or file a report online.

honoluluhi.citysources.com/default.aspx

[\(808\) 768-7777](tel:(808)768-7777)



STREET LIGHT REPAIR

If there are street light issues within the community, call the Traffic Signals Division hotline.

[\(808\) 768-8387](tel:(808)768-8387)



Let's Stay Connected!

To get weekly updates from me and to see what's going on in our District 8 community, please follow me on social media.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/councilmembervalokimoto) [i](https://www.instagram.com/councilmembervalokimoto) @councilmembervalokimoto

