

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

APRIL 2023

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COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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Aloha Neighbors!

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Town Halls with Area Legislators

Last month, on March 1st my office was joined by other area Legislators from the State House and Senate to discuss pressing issues in the Kalihi area. Ourselves along with the Honolulu Police department (HPD) were asked about crime, homelessness, pedestrian safety, illegal parking, fireworks, feral animals, and public housing. As public servants we must listen to our constituency in order to find solutions to often complex problems. My office has been in close contact with Representative Mizuno's office to give responses back to residents that asked questions at the meeting.



With the Kalihi legislators - Rep. John Mizuno, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Rep. Sonny Ganaden and Rep. Micah Aiu, and officers from HPD's Kalihi Station at our joint town hall at Kapālama Elementary School.



On March 20th my office partnered with Senator Karl Rhoads and Representative Takenouchi to coordinate a Town Hall at Kawanānoa Middle School. Many people came out to be a part of the conversation concerning many issues in their community. Those we spoke with wanted an opportunity to interface with legislators in order to make positive change in their communities. Many City and State issues can overlap so it was good to be able to inform the public on how our offices could help solve different issues. Frequent topics of discussion involved homelessness, feral animals, transportation issues, monster homes, and overall crime occurring in the district. Our offices are working on responses to these persistent issues.

CM Dos Santos-Tam and staff worked with Senator Rhoads and Representative Takenouchi's offices to be able to provide resident answers to questions concerning the community.



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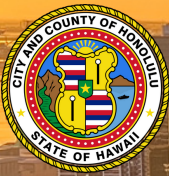
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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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FY2024 Budget Deliberations Underway

In the last several weeks my office as well as the rest of the City Council have been carefully considering projects in our districts that will impact the community and residents. The Chair of the Budget Committee is Councilmember Radiant Cordero and the Vice Chair is Councilmember Matt Weyer. The committee has held hearings inviting the different city departments to discuss the budget. The allocation of funds to different City departments, programs or projects will help to ensure our priorities will be closer to being actualized, such as increasing affordable housing, reducing homelessness, and helping to resolve the permit backlog that has persisted at the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam in the Council Chambers listening to testimony.

Bill 28: Cutting Down on Drug Overdoses

With the opioid crisis spreading nationally, including here in Hawai'i, CM Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 28 which would require bars and nightclubs to have doses of the anti-opioid spray naloxone, also called "Narcan" on premises. Because alcohol can interact with opioids in someone's system, these venues are places where there is a higher risk of a deadly overdose. "Narcan" was recently approved by the FDA for over-the-counter sales, and CM Dos Santos-Tam is now working with the State Dept. of Health, the City's Liquor Commission, and private groups like HHHRC to make the required prevention doses available for free to bar and nightclub owners. This is a measure to protect public health and also to get "ahead of the curve," especially considering the 500% increase in opioid overdoses in Hawai'i between 2018-2020 and the 274 opioid overdose deaths in the islands in 2020 alone.



Scan to view the KHON2 news story where various organizations and the City's Emergency Services Dept express their views on Bill 28.

Bill 20: Creating the Structure for Restricted Parking Zones

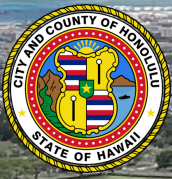
CM Dos Santos-Tam and CM Cordero, who both represent the Kalihi area, introduced Bill 20 to create a permanent structure for "Restricted Parking Zones," ("RPZ") which are areas that only allow vehicles belonging to residents or their guests to park in on-street parking stalls without being ticketed. Under the proposed bill, the Dept. of Transportation Services (DTS) may establish an RPZ, modify the boundaries, regulations, and times after appropriate neighborhood consultation and notice. This bills works to implement a clear structure so other neighborhoods can also opt into a program if they so choose.

Bill 21: Helping Affordable Housing in the Urban Core

With housing being a critical need in the community, and with the recent announcement that the downtown Walmart will be closing, the need to have policies to facilitate conversion of office or retail space into residential housing is more important than ever. Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 21 to help align the Housing Code and the Building Code to streamline production of downtown apartments.



Scan to listen to CM Dos Santos-Tam's interview with Hawai'i Public Radio on Bill 21 and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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IHS opens new homeless triage center in Iwilei

The Institute for Human Services, one of the most well-known providers for the homeless in Honolulu opened a new triage facility called 'Imi Ola Piha at the beginning of March in Iwilei. The facility is located in the former veterinarian clinic across the Kingsgate Plaza and hosts various treatment rooms and eight beds to provide urgent medical, mental health and detox care for those who are chronically homeless. This facility complements the City's Punawai Rest Stop, the existing shelters, and other service providers in the area and helps to provide yet another option along the spectrum of assistance for homeless individuals in our community.

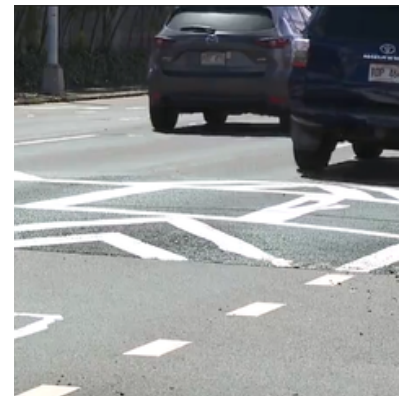


Left: With IHS Executive Director Connie Mitchell. Center: Speaking with the Director of the City's Dept. of Land Management, Scott Hayashi, and Deputy Director of the Dept. of Community Services, Aedward LosBanos. Right: With Prosecutor Steve Alm, HPD Chief Joe Logan, and EMS Director Jim Ireland.

Pedestrian Safety Remains Top of Mind Across the District

In response to several incidents in the community, Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam has been working with stakeholders to promote pedestrian safety in all corners of our district:

- On Kapi'olani Boulevard fronting McKinley HS, speed bumps and cameras have been installed, and more improvements are underway.
- A community meeting is being organized for April 5th, 6:30PM at Stevenson MS to discuss the Prospect-Alapa'i-'Iolani five-way intersection, where the Dept. of Transportation Services will be in attendance.
- Kalihi Waena ES Principal Dan Larkin has been advocating for sidewalks and speed humps on Gulick Avenue after a student was hit by a car at the beginning of March and another near-miss occurred in the same week.



Chinatown Paintout Removes Graffiti, Uplifts Neighborhood



With volunteers painting out graffiti on Maunakea St in Chinatown

Alongside volunteers from Weed & Seed Hawai'i, Downtown Chinatown Neighborhood Board #13, the HPD Community Policing Team, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, 808 Cleanups, SHADE, Hawai'i Theater, the Prosecutor's Office, and several other organizations, CM Dos Santos-Tam helped to paint out graffiti throughout Chinatown on Saturday, March 11th. Eliminating graffiti helps to clean up this historic neighborhood and also shows would-be vandals that the community cares and will not tolerate further tagging or graffiti, whether on public or private property.

Save the Date: American Savings Bank will be hosting another Chinatown cleanup on the morning of Saturday, April 29th!

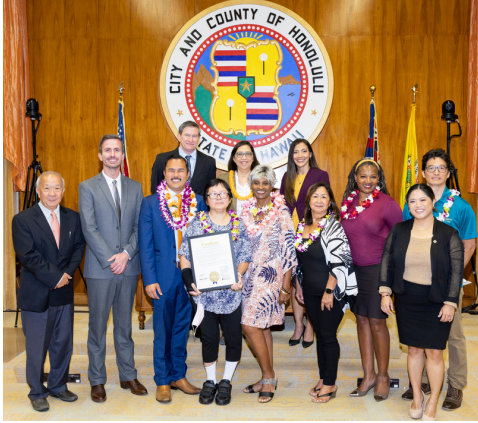


CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Honorary Certificate Recognizing the Brain Injury Association of Hawai'i



On March 15th my office was able to recognize The Brain Injury Association of Hawai'i, and encourage public participation in Brain Injury Awareness Month, which is in March of every year. All nine Councilmembers were able to hear from the survivors and family members of survivors of brain injuries, which may stem from car accidents, concussions, impacts, falls, or other incidents. The Brain Injury Association of Hawai'i is a dedicated organization working to improve the quality of life for survivors of brain injuries and their families. The group has locations all over the island and can provide education, information, advocacy and resources to survivors. The members share and promote the rights of individuals experiencing a brain injury.

On the left CM Dos Santos-Tam and other Councilmembers with members of the Brain Injury Association of Hawai'i, recognizing March as Brain Injury Awareness Month.



Visiting the Hawaiian Humane Society

With feral cats and chickens being a top of mind issue in the community, CM Dos Santos-Tam and his staff did a tour of the Hawaiian Humane Society to inspect how they keep their animals, track lost pets, and do spay and neuter surgeries to prevent overpopulation in the community. Later this Spring, the City anticipates issuing two contracts to assist with feral chicken trapping and removal, and CM Dos Santos-Tam will be pushing for additional funding in the upcoming budget for spay-and-neuter services.

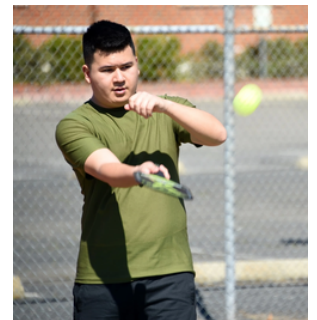
CM Dos Santos-Tam and staff visited the Humane Society touring the facilities available for the many animals that require their care on a regular basis. On the left, CM Dos Santos-Tam is petting a small rabbit named "Marshmallow" that is available for adoption.

To view animals available for adoption, [click here!](#)



Pickleball Courts Coming to Three District Parks

One of the latest crazes in our community is Pickleball! This easy-to-learn sport combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, and has become popular with players of all ages and abilities. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation recently announced that additional pickleball courts will be coming to three parks in our district: eight new courts at Kamāmalu Neighborhood Park, two new courts at Smith-Beretania Park, and two volleyball courts will be converted to pickleball courts at Nu'uuanu Community Park.



Request for Tree Trimming on Nu'uuanu Ave

In response to community concerns, the City's Department of Parks & Recreation Division of Urban Forestry maintenance crews trimmed back the branches of the large trees that overhang Nu'uuanu Avenue, between Bates Street and Pauoa Road, and block electrical lines, obstruct visibility, and create dark shadows for pedestrians below. This request was submitted by the members of the Bates Neighborhood Security Watch, who are excellent advocates for safety in their area. CM Dos Santos-Tam's office will be working to ensure that continued maintenance occurs not only in this area, but other areas where large trees grow and may pose hazards.



DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Upgrades coming to Chinatown's Kekaulike Mall



The City is starting work to upgrade Kekaulike Mall in Chinatown. This pedestrian mall is a major attraction in the Chinatown area because of the fruit and vegetable vendors who line the mall and because it's a major pedestrian thoroughfare from King to Hotel Street. There will be improvements to the storm drains, landscaping materials, lighting, electrical infrastructure, and pavement, including elements that reflect the area's historical Chinese cultural legacy. The working hours of this project will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during weekdays, with no work scheduled on weekends or holidays. Throughout the construction, the access to all businesses will be maintained. For more info, please call the **Project Hotline: (808) 979-1291**.

A rendering of Kekaulike Mall after the City's upcoming improvements are completed. The \$4.4M project is estimated to finish in October 2023.

Community Meetings Ongoing to Shape Future of 'A'ala Park

The Trust for Public Land is continuing its "Parks for People" pilot program to shape the future of 'A'ala Park. Through this program, TPL is working with stakeholders from the surrounding area through a collaborative grass-roots community-based participatory design process where residents, park users, and businesses create a shared vision for the future of 'A'ala Park, honoring its rich history and diversity. Some ideas that have emerged include a walking path, new restrooms, a lei garden, community garden plots, and more. We invite community members to participate in future meetings to continue developing ideas for this important public space.



A young skateboarder at a skateboarding exhibition recently held at 'A'ala Park. Organized activities like this are a critical part of activating 'A'ala Park and cleaning up this important recreational space at the edge of Chinatown.

Save the date for the next public meeting about 'A'ala Park on Tuesday 4/25 in the early evening at Waiwai Collective's Chinatown location, 1164 Nuuanu Avenue!

Cleaning Up Neighborhoods in Pālama and Iwilei



Left: CM Dos Santos-Tam and community volunteers from the Salvation Army and other organizations participated in an Iwilei beautification project at the end of March.

Right: City crews removed 4.85 tons of trash on March 20th and 3.42 tons of trash on March 28th from the homeless encampment on Kanoa St in Pālama.

CM Dos Santos-Tam joined with community members at the end of March to help beautify the Iwilei area, which has long been in need of some "TLC." Volunteers helped to remove litter, clean sidewalks, and paint out graffiti. The cleanup was supported by the Salvation Army and HPD's Community Policing Team. CM's office plans to organize another cleanup in June to continue the beautification of the area.

In Pālama, City crews removed a total of 8.27 tons of trash from the homeless encampment on Kanoa St. Trash has been piling up behind the concrete barriers on the street for years, and in some areas it was piled nearly three feet deep. The concrete barriers were also moved further out from the private property lines to create more open space for pedestrian circulation and to prevent trash from piling up.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Changes Coming to Kaka'ako Farmers Market

Later this month, the Kaka'ako Farmers Market will be consolidating to the makai side of Ala Moana Boulevard, so shoppers will no longer need to cross this very busy roadway to visit the market's over 110 vendors, restaurant stalls, and booths. This important change will help to promote pedestrian safety and reduce chances of an accident or other incident. Over the next few months, Victoria Ward will be opening other small business pop-up events in this part of Kaka'ako to continue supporting entrepreneurs in our community.

At left: Humans aren't the only ones who enjoy visiting the Kaka'ako Farmers Market! Furry and friendly four-legged 801 South St resident "Tilly" loves to stop by the market every Saturday for the yummy treats.

Celebrating the Success of our Micronesian Students

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam and Councilmember Cordero joined with hundreds of Micronesian students from across O'ahu - many of whom live in the Kalihi portions of Council Districts 6 and 7 - to celebrate their academic and community success as part of the 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Summit held on March 11th at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

At the summit, Micronesian students attended workshops on College Preparedness, Career Readiness and Community Involvement, and were also able to hear from Micronesian elders who have succeeded in their respective fields. Additionally, the students organized and presented cultural dances and songs and a cultural fashion show. Councilmembers Dos Santos-Tam and Cordero presented a certificate to We Are Oceania, the premiere community group serving the Micronesian community, to recognize their efforts to support our island brothers and sisters.

*Top (L-R): CM Cordero; Shanty Sigrah Asher, the City's Pacific Islander Liaison Officer; Josie Howard, CEO of We Are Oceania; CM Dos Santos-Tam; and Keoni Williams, a UH Law Student who is part-Micronesian.
Bottom: CMs Dos Santos-Tam and Cordero presenting an Honorary Certificate to We Are Oceania to recognize their work in the Micronesian community.*



Upcoming Summer Park Clean-Ups

Numerous parks in my district are marking a milestone birthday later this year. I would like to celebrate these parks in our community that so many residents frequent to maintain our beautiful parks for our friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy the parks safely. We implore volunteers to register with my office if you would like to participate in any of these park clean-ups, email my office at tdossantos-tam@honolulu.gov.

- Dole Park July 8
- Kauluwela Park September 16
- Kamali'i Mini Park August 27
- Peter Buck Park November 5



CM Dos Santos-Tam at a community clean up last year

Coming Soon: Makiki & Punchbowl Neighborhood Security Watches

Many constituents in the Makiki and Punchbowl area have been passionate about starting a Neighborhood Security Watch in their neighborhood and recently met to set one up. Many residents are coming together to form these groups on their own. **To start or become a part of a neighborhood security watch in your area, call our office at 768-5006, or HPD's Community Policing Team at 723-3927 for Nu'uaniu, Pauoa, and Downtown/Chinatown, or 723-8229 for Liliha, 'Ālewa, Pālama, and Kalihi.**