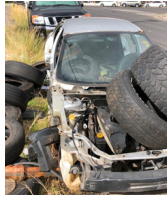


Helpful Honolulu Resources



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.citysourced.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)

Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto

AUGUST 2023 - ISSUE 13
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NEWSLETTER

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



Aloha mai kākou,

As we step into a new month, we also embark on the journey of a new school year. As you settle into this new routine, remember to embrace each day with curiosity and enthusiasm. Engage in conversations, ask questions, and don't hesitate to seek help when needed. This academic adventure is yours to shape – let your passion and dedication be your guide.

Although summer has bid us farewell, remember that life is a series of transitions. Embrace the beauty in change, and let it inspire you to adapt and grow.

In the midst of our own new beginnings, let's also extend our hearts to those in Maui who are grappling with the aftermath of wildfires. Together, we stand as a community, ready to support and uplift one another. We remember the resilience that defines us as humans, and through collective efforts, we can help them rebuild their lives and dreams. I share our solidarity with them, assuring you that the City Council is tirelessly working to provide aid during this trying time.

Let's navigate this month with determination, grace, and a spirit of unity, ensuring that each individual and community we touch finds the support they need to flourish.

Mahalo,

Val

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.

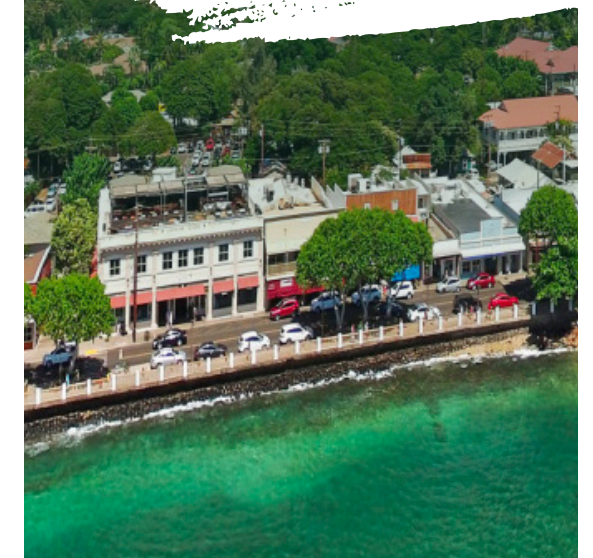
[\(808\) 768-5008](tel:(808)768-5008)

valokimoto@honolulu.gov

WE ARE
#MauiStrong

We extend our support amidst the challenging Maui wildfires. Let's rebuild and rise as a resilient community.

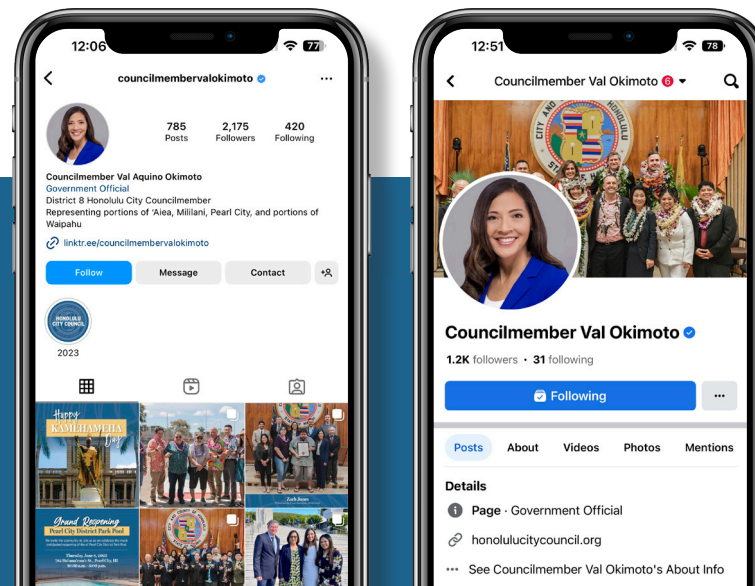
GO TO PAGES 4-5 TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP CONTRIBUTE



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.

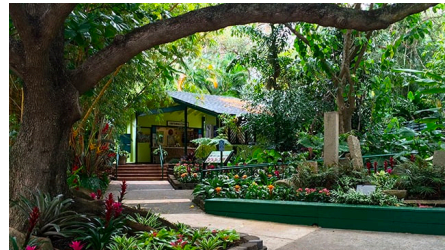
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/councilmembervalokimoto) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/councilmembervalokimoto) @councilmembervalokimoto





Honolulu County Updates

FOSTER BOTANICAL GARDEN REOPENED FOR THE PUBLIC



After months of enhancements, the beloved urban haven welcomed visitors on August 14 and its regular hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Director Joshlyn Sand expressed gratitude for the community's patience during improvements to accessibility and other garden features. Annual pass holders will receive seven extra months due to the closure period.

For more information or to get a virtual tour, please visit:

bit.ly/VirtualFosterGarden

WORKHAWAII HIRING EVENT COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Discover diverse career paths at our upcoming Hiring Event! Explore a wide range of opportunities from employers, including City and State government offices. This free event offers more than just networking – refine your job search strategy with resume workshops and apply for roles that match your aspirations using on-site computers. Join us and open the door to new possibilities!

For more information on this hiring event, please feel free to call:

(808) 768-5701

FALL PARK ACTIVITIES LIST OUT NOW



The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation introduced a rich lineup of 320+ classes and programs across City parks and gardens in O'ahu until the end of the year. From archery to yoga, arts to sports, there's something for all ages. The fall session's botanical garden classes are forthcoming. Discover free and paid options, including basketball, swimming, surfing, and more.

For more information or to check out the full events catalog, please visit:

pros.hnl.info

MAUNA 'ALA SITE VISIT

My office and I had the opportunity to join the Honolulu Fire Department in celebrating the cultural ceremony for their newest recruits. Witnessing the deep-rooted traditions and paying tribute to our ali'i buried at Mauna 'Ala was a humbling experience. This ceremony is deeply connected to the significance of this special place for the people of Hawai'i. To our newest recruits, congratulations on embarking on this journey as first responders! Mahalo for stepping into this new chapter of your lives.



MILILANI PUBLIC SAFETY TALK STORY

I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the Public Safety talk story. As Chair for the Public Safety committee, listening to our community express their concerns was invaluable in understanding how the City Council can better assist public safety efforts at the city level. Mahalo to community leaders Chief Logan, Val Mariano, Sergeant Paiva, Officer Iinuma, and Duane Samson for the meaningful insights and helpful statistics, as well as State Representative Trish La Chica for hosting the event.



PEARL CITY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

We had a community clean up and it was such a rewarding day. Together with our incredible community members, HPD, and fellow legislators, we rolled up our sleeves and transformed the area around Lehua Elementary School and the sidewalks, creating a cleaner and safer environment for our students and teachers just in time for the new school year!



KIPAPA SCHOOL SUPPLY AND FOOD DRIVE

I attended the Kipapa Elementary School Supply and Food Drive and got to help parents and their keiki prepare for the new school year. This was so much fun and seeing the joy on their faces was priceless! A big mahalo to the new school principal Jhameel Duarte for hosting the event and to our wonderful community members that also came to help. I know our students are in wonderful hands! Here's to a successful and wonderful school year for all teachers and students!



(808) 768-5008



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

We are #MauiStrong

My heart aches with a deep sorrow as we gaze upon the aftermath of the Maui wildfires. The enormity of the loss is staggering—homes reduced to ashes, businesses vanished, and lives tragically stolen from us. It's a weight on our souls that's almost too heavy to bear.

During this difficult time, we must stand together, a united 'ohana, both near and far. The Maui wildfires have etched themselves into history as one of the deadliest fires the nation has faced for over a century. But amidst this darkness, we must find the strength to lift those who've been shattered and displaced by this catastrophe.

Rebuilding Maui requires more than building materials; it demands that we extend our hands, our resources, and our empathy. We must offer comfort to shattered hearts, paying tribute to the memories of those who've left us. It's through our combined efforts that we can begin to heal the wounds, reignite the island's spirit, and rekindle hope for everyone left to pick up the pieces.

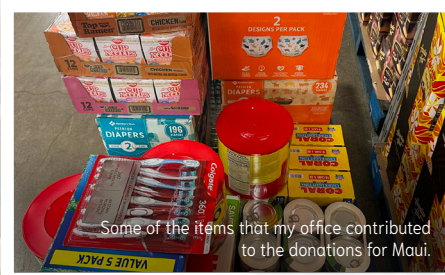
Though Maui's scars are deep, its beauty and strength endure within its people, its traditions, and its soil. As we piece things back together, remember that every small act of kindness, every dollar donated, every helping hand extended, and every prayer uttered, contributes to the process of healing. Let's show that even amidst the darkest hours, the light of compassion and unity can break through.

If you can spare the time and resources, please consider contributing to the mentioned avenues to support those in need if you haven't already done so.

Together, let's make the commitment to lift each other up, and let that commitment be the foundation upon which Maui rebuilds its resilience. As one 'ohana, we can rise above this tragedy, stronger than ever before, embodying the truest and deepest spirit of aloha.



With Councilmembers Soy, Waters, and Kia'aina during the City Council Wildfire Relief dropoff.



Some of the items that my office contributed to the donations for Maui.



My office and I helping sort items at the City Council Wildfire Relief dropoff.

1

HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Maui Strong Fund is providing financial resources that can be deployed quickly, with a focus on rapid response and recovery for the devastating wildfires on Maui.

bit.ly/30V4ac3

2

MAUI UNITED WAY

Maui United Way is accepting donations of any amount to its Maui Fire and Disaster Relief fund. Your donations will help directly aid those in need.

mauiunitedway.org/disasterrelief

3

KĀKO'O MAUI FUND

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and other partnering organizations have committed to matching funds up to \$1.5M to support Maui recovery.

hawaiiancouncil.org/maui

4

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross has set up shelters in Maui and urgently needs volunteers. You can support the by donating or volunteering through the link below.

rdcss.org/3sgDJ70

5

NA WAHINE TOA FUNDRAISER

Hawaiian MMA fighter Ilima-Lei Macfarlane has partnered up with Na Wahine Toa to provide supplies needed for rebuilding and other basic essentials.

bit.ly/3YzFMQA

6

MAUI GOFUNDME VERIFIED PAGES

GoFundMe has a verified section dedicated to the Maui Wildfire Relief. This page includes various efforts, initiatives, and individuals that are in need of support.

bit.ly/3QELT4m



rdcrss.org/3sgDJ70

District 8 Community Report


TOUR OF THE HONOLULU ZOO

My staff and I had the opportunity to tour the Honolulu Zoo and got to learn more about their agricultural and conservation efforts for all the wildlife here. We were able to see the newest member of the zoo 'ohana, baby Akamu, a precious Black Rhinoceros. And of course, I couldn't contain my excitement seeing the majestic giraffes, my ultimate favorite! If you're in the Waikiki area, don't miss this chance to marvel at these extraordinary creatures. If you would like more information, please visit www.honolulu zoo.org.



RENTAL AND UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM

Feeling incredibly grateful for the chance to connect, share stories, and lend a helping hand at the Rental and Utility Relief Program event held at the Pearl City Library. The opportunity to come together, forge connections, exchange heartfelt stories, and extend a much-needed helping hand to those in need is truly an incredible blessing. It was projected that we were able to provide assistance to 103 attendees and 79 households!

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

BUDGET (BUD)
Radiant Cordero, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MATTERS & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

ZONING (ZON)
Calvin Say, Chair
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES & CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)
Augie Tulba, Chair
Val Okimoto, Vice Chair

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH (HSH)
Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMY (P&E)
Esther Kia'aina, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)
Val Okimoto, Chair
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY (PIT)
Andria Tupola, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

Legislative Review

The Honolulu City Council met to discuss several important bills. Bill 34 passed second reading. This bill intends to effect sweeping adjustments to home exemptions. Elevating the standard home exemption from \$100,000 to a heightened threshold of \$250,000, while simultaneously raising the exemption for homeowners aged 65 and above from \$140,000 to a more robust \$300,000, this measure carries the promise of significant impact on the local housing landscape.

Bill 39 also passed through second reading, and proposes a unique real property tax exemption. This legislation aims to establish a tax exemption for specific real properties located proximate to active landfills. Within the confines of this measure, residents dwelling within a one-mile radius of these dynamic landfill sites are slated to receive an exemption not only from real property taxes but also from the assessment of the minimum real property tax under § 8-11.1.

Anchoring the legislative deliberations, Bill 42 also passed through second reading approval. The bill's intent, centered around the Residential tax class, seeks to introduce an 8% assessment cap on properties, reflecting a tangible step toward the equitable taxation of this category.

Further discussion included Bill 6, following second reading, which presents an innovative avenue for the evaluation of building applications. This legislation advocates for the empowerment of qualified third-party reviewers or professionals competent in self-certification to verify compliance with the gamut of applicable permitting ordinances and the Building Code.

Bill 46 passed first reading. Addressing the realm of flavored vaping products, this bill sets forth a prohibition on the sale of such items within the geographical scope of the City and County of Honolulu. Significantly, this ordinance's activation rests upon the outcome of State-level Act 206, demonstrating the intricate interplay of local and state-level regulatory dynamics.

For further details on these bills or any other legislative matters, additional information can be found at honolulu city council.org.

