

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

JUNE 2023

honoluluycitycouncil.org

COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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Aloha Neighbors!

We just marked six months of being in office, and in that time, I am proud to report that we have made key progress on a number of issues, many of which are covered in this newsletter. Please continue to contact my office if you are in need of assistance with a City concern, we are standing by ready to help!

-Tyler

Rail to Open June 30th from East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium

The first phase of the City's rail project will open for passenger service on June 30th between the Kualaka'i Station in East Kapolei and the Hālawā Station near Aloha Stadium. All rides on the new rail system will be free for the entire opening weekend, a period spanning between 2 p.m. on June 30, the day the system opens, until the last train runs on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. Additionally, TheBus will also be waiving fares for all riders between July 1 and July 4. Between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on June 30, rail passengers will be welcome to tour any of the nine stations that will be open for service and hop on any train, in either direction, free of charge. Fare gates at all nine stations will be open to all riders until service ends at 6 p.m. that evening. Beginning on Saturday, July 1, the first full day of rail service, passengers must have a valid HOLO card in order to take advantage of the free fare service. Riders will be required to tap their HOLO cards at fare gates to enter individual stations, but fares will not be deducted from those cards.



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Mayor Rick Blangiardi, DTS Director Roger Morton, DTS Deputy Director Jon Nouchi, Chair Tommy Waters, HART Executive Director/CEO Lori Kahikina and representatives from Hitachi.

DPP Steps Up Short-Term Rental Enforcement, Fines Violators



Above: A tourist waits to board a flight; while we welcome visitors to our islands, CM Dos Santos-Tam has been outspoken about his concerns about overcommercializing our neighborhoods.

On the heels of CM Dos Santos-Tam's efforts to encourage DPP to crack down on monster home construction in our neighborhoods, our office was pleased to see DPP stepping up on their short-term vacation rental enforcement. From March 1 to May 4, DPP issued 21 Notices of Violation for illegal short-term vacation rentals in our district, including in Ālewa Heights, Nu'uānu Valley, Pauoa, and Downtown Honolulu. DPP also issued a Notice of Violation to the operator of an illegal "Turo" rental car operation in a Nu'uānu Valley neighborhood. CM Dos Santos-Tam continues to be opposed to the proliferation of illegal short-term vacation rentals and the improper overcommercialization of our residential neighborhoods, and our office will take reports from neighbors seriously.

To report a suspected illegal vacation rental, please call DPP at (808) 768-8000.

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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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Bill 7 Project Tour

With affordable housing being such a key issue in the community, CM Dos Santos-Tam joined his state colleagues, Rep. Troy Hashimoto and Sen. Stanley Chang, for a visit to a "Bill 7" apartment project in the Makiki-Punchbowl area. The "Bill 7" project allows for more flexibility in building units in existing apartment-zoned areas, waives certain City permitting fees, and also allows developers to tap into a City incentive fund after completion. Recently, the City Council extended the lifespan of the "Bill 7" program so that it now sunsets in mid-2030. CM Dos Santos-Tam plans to introduce a proposal later this year to further refine the Bill 7 program so it provides more flexibility and also benefits to the surrounding communities.

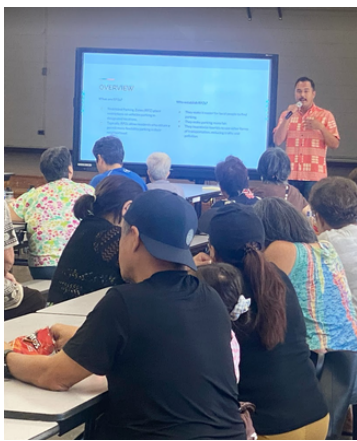
Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam with State Rep. Troy Hashimoto and State Sen. Stanley Chang, who chair their chamber's Housing Committees, along with members of the team developing one of the first Bill 7 projects on Emerson Street in the Makiki-Punchbowl area.

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 Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam is now working with the State Department 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 news story by HNN for more information on Bill 28.



Bill 20: Restricted Parking Zone Bill and Town Hall

CM Dos Santos-Tam and Representative Mizuno hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the City Council, Bill 20, which would make the existing RPZ program permanent and create a framework for other neighborhoods to create RPZs. Based on community input our office is further revising the bill to expand equity across the island.

How would Bill 20 affect the current RPZ zones?

Currently, all RPZs are temporary. Bill 20 would make the zones permanent. Currently, the only way to expand an RPZ is to pass a bill, which can take years. Bill 20 would allow the Department of Transportation to expand or change an RPZ at any time. Currently, households can purchase a maximum as four permits. Bill 20 would allow residents to apply for an exemption where they could purchase additional permits.

How would Bill 20 help areas without a current RPZ zone?

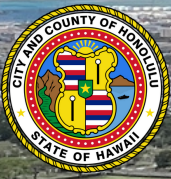
The current RPZ program can only be created after 1) residents sign and submit a petition, 2) the County becomes a study, and 3) the City Council passes a bill. Bill 20 makes it so an RPZ can be created at any time as long as there is a need and community support. At the moment the cost of an RPZ permit vary. Bill 20 would make permit costs the same for all RPZs.

Bill 3 Signed: Addresses Pālama Encampment

On May 11 CM Dos Santos-Tam and his staff were able to join the Mayor in his office to sign his bill addressing the homeless encampment in Pālama. For far too long there has been problems emanating most specifically on Kanoa Street, an area of the district which has been hit hard by crime, drugs, and homelessness. With the help of other City departments and community members we were able to pass this price of legislation.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam with Mayor Blangiardi witnessing the signing.





IN THE COMMUNITY

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Marking Marshallese Constitution Day and Micronesia Festival

CM Dos Santos-Tam joined with representatives of our local Marshallese Community and other Hawai'i elected officials to commemorate Marshallese Constitution Day, also known as Jemenei Day, in early May. Honolulu and Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, have been "sister cities" for thirteen years, and we look forward to continuing to partner with the Marshall Islands and our local Marshallese community on issues such as cultural exchanges, climate change issues, economic development, public health and more. CM Dos Santos-Tam also joined members of our local Micronesian community for the "Celebrate Micronesia"



Festival held at the Bishop Museum in mid-May. The festival showcased songs, dances, foods, arts and crafts, and the vibrant culture of the many island groups that comprise Micronesia, including Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guåhan (Guam), Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Left: Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam, Marshallese Consul General Isabela Silk, Councilmember Radiant Cordero, State Representative Adrian Tam, Marshall Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kitlang Kabua, and Marshallese community leader David Anitok at the Marshallese Constitution Day celebration in May.

Requesting State Help on Excessive Vehicle Noise

Our office often receives complaints of loud vehicular noise that occurs nearly nightly in some neighborhoods. Earlier this year, the legislature passed SB588, which was introduced by all three Senators who represent portions of Council District 6: Senators Moriwaki, Kim, and Rhoads. The bill allows the Dept. of Transportation to develop and implement a pilot program to use noise detection traffic cameras to address excessive traffic noise in urban areas in each participating county. As the program begins implementation, **CM Dos Santos-Tam** penned a letter to the Director of the State Dept. of Transportation asking for Downtown and Pali Highway to be prioritized as pilot areas.



Pearl Harbor Sub *USS Bowfin* Celebrates 80 Years

The submarine *USS Bowfin*, which proudly plied the Pacific during WWII, celebrated the 80th anniversary of her commissioning in May. The *Bowfin* is now the centerpiece of the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park at Pearl Harbor, which helps to remember those who participated in America's "silent service." At left, CM Dos Santos-Tam presented a certificate memorializing the occasion to Chuck Merkel, Executive Director of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association.

March of Dimes Walk for Infant Health with Community Leaders

CM Dos Santos-Tam joined community leaders including Gov. Josh Green, CM Radiant Cordero, State Rep. Adrian Tam, and Miss Hawai'i Lauren Teruya for a walk with mothers, children, and families at the annual March for Babies event. Together, the group demonstrated support for the March of Dimes' mission of ending preventable maternal health risks and deaths, end preventable preterm birth and infant death. Starting in 1938 with the treatment and eventual vaccine of polio, the organization has since shifted focus to address the biggest health threats to moms and babies with innovations like folic acid, newborn screening and surfactant therapy. Today, they serve as a convener to unite the nation and improve maternal and infant health in the U.S.

CM Dos Santos-Tam with Gov. Josh Green, CM Radiant Cordero, State Rep. Adrian Tam, and others at the March for Babies walk.





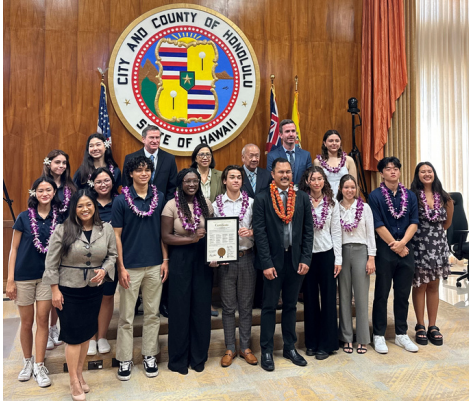
CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Honorary Certificate Recognizing High School Speech and Debate Winners



For the month of May my office had the pleasure of recognizing the Hawai'i Speech League (HSL) for the organizing of the 2023 Hawai'i Speech and Debate Tournament. The Hawai'i Speech League was organized to promote and encourage excellence in speech by sponsoring a diversified program of speech activities for intermediate and high school students. It is an organization composed of public and private schools from across the state of Hawai'i. The organization offers nine different speech events, three debate events, and congressional debate at thirteen different competitions throughout the year. The participants honored were high school students from Leilehua, Kamehameha, and Punahou High Schools. Each student is proficient orator in their individual category in speech and debate. With friends and family present these young bright students are pursuing great things. Each are going on to enroll in colleges across the mainland. Congratulations especially to Diego Carranza, Eunice Oluwafisoye, Chanel Matsumoto, Landee Resuello, Kainoa Hottendorf, Reese "Kahiau" Takahashi, Nai'a Nae'ole Baker, Maddy Hodge, Aria Saines, Sophia Espinoza, Emma Rudy, and Sean Jung!

CM Dos Santos-Tam with the Hawai'i Speech League, 2023 Hawai'i Speech and Debate Tournament winners.

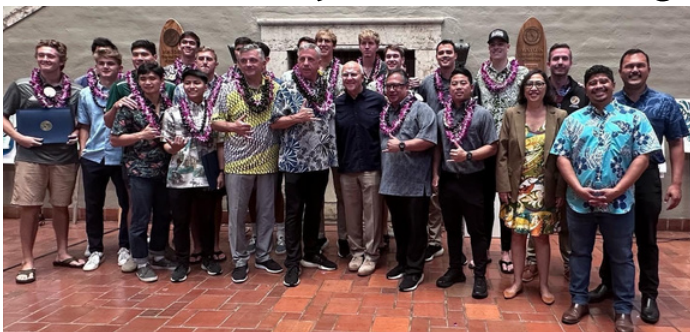


Farrington Grad Proudly Receives Diploma after 70 Years

May is graduation season, bringing bountiful lei and gifts for all the grads. CM Dos Santos-Tam was able to join several district schools for their graduation ceremonies. In addition to a video message with CM Radiant Cordero congratulating the 2023 Farrington graduates, CM Dos Santos-Tam was able to greet Farrington alumnus Daniel Young who should have graduated with his classmates in 1943. Because of the war, Young did not ever receive his diploma until this year's graduation.

CM Dos Santos-Tam speaking with Farrington graduate Daniel Young, who finally received the high school diploma he should have gotten in 1943.

UH Men's Volleyball Team Recognized for Inspirational Run this Season



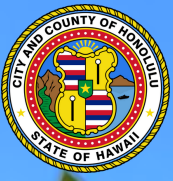
Mayor Blangiardi and members of the Honolulu City Council, honored the Rainbow Warriors team last month at Honolulu Hale for their impressive 2023 achievements. They recently became the first team ever to win back-to-back Big West Championships, and they advanced to the NCAA championship match for the fourth year in a row. At the ceremony, CM Dos Santos-Tam spoke on behalf of the Council, lauding the team for galvanizing and inspiring the state and wishing them the best in their academic and athletic careers. Go Bows!

Members of the incredible UH Men's Volleyball team, head coach Charlie Wade, other coaching staff, Mayor Blangiardi, and Councilmembers Kia'aina, Tulba, Weyer, and Dos Santos-Tam

Honoring Two Retiring Kalihi Educators

With the end of the school year, two Kalihi schools said "a hui hou" to retiring educators who were beloved on their campuses. Along with Rep. Sonny Ganaden, CM Dos Santos-Tam presented a certificate to Ruth Kaopuiki (left), a retiring administrator from Kalihi Waena Elementary School who left an indelible mark on the campus, right down to the selection of the school's purple and yellow colors. CM Dos Santos-Tam also joined Rep. John Mizuno and Kalihi Uka Principal Derek Santos to honor Inga Park Okuna (right), a retiring counselor who spent 35 years in our public education system working with students with special needs, particularly our deaf students.





DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Investigating Missing and Damaged Signage in Pacific Heights



Several Pacific Heights neighbors notified our office that a high number of street signs were missing in the Pacific Heights area, some of which had been missing for years. Our staff traversed up Pacific Heights taking video of all the missing or faded signs until reaching the top and went back down, and compared the signs that are in place with what was indicated on the departmental blueprints. Beyond the missing signs, there were also a high number of faded and obstructed signs, and also signs that are currently in place but not recorded on the department's blueprints. Our office submitted a letter detailing the missing, faded, and obstructed signs to the Department of Transportation Services and the Department of Facility Maintenance for their action. Our office hopes to see their progress on replacing and providing visibility to the signs as residents go to and from their home.

A completely faded "no parking sign" on a side street in Pacific Heights. Our office's on-site investigation revealed several missing signs, and 17 signs that were unacceptably faded, many to the point of illegibility.

Honuakaha New Resident Manager Meet & Greet

After months of complaints about conditions at the Honuakaha Senior Housing complex in Kaka'ako, CM Dos Santos-Tam, Speaker Scott Saiki, and Senator Sharon Moriwaki were pleased to learn that a new manager has been brought in to help address residents' concerns. The new manager was brought in due to the recent decline in living conditions and threats of eviction during the tenure of the previous management. The new resident manager, Amanda Fryer, introduced herself to residents at a townhall sponsored by CM Dos Santos-Tam's office, along with Sen. Moriwaki and Speaker Saiki. During the townhall, she was able to speak directly with the renters to talk about ways the complex can be improved. Ms. Fryer spent most of her career in education, but a few years ago switched to being a resident manager.



Honuakaha seniors, along with Sen. Moriwaki and Speaker Saiki, listen to new resident manager Amanda Fryer.

Downtown-Chinatown Infrastructure Improvements Underway



There are several infrastructure improvements underway in the Downtown-Chinatown area, which Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam has been strongly supporting:

On Kekaulike Mall, work is underway to improve pavement, lighting and electric lines, drainage, trees and landscaping, and more. The \$4.4 million project is scheduled to be completed in October.

Repaving work on Downtown streets began in early May, and will continue until mid-November. The streets that are slated for improvement are Bishop Street, Adams Lane, Fort Street, King Street, Punchbowl Street, Richards Street, and the portion of Pali Highway between Vineyard Blvd and Beretania Street. The work will also include improvements to curbs, manhole covers, and traffic loop detectors.

Chinatown sidewalk improvement work, which began in February, has hit full swing, with work ongoing currently on Hotel Street and Maunakea Street.

In all cases, access to businesses will be maintained so minimize inconvenience to customers and area residents.

Heavy equipment started work near the intersection of Kekaulike Mall and North King Street in April, and now work has progressed further up the mall.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Hawaiian Humane Society Spay and Neuter: Free Roaming Cats Program



The Hawaiian Humane Society has a program that is humane way to lower the Free-Roaming cat population over time. The spay and neuter procedures for Free-Roaming cats include anesthesia, surgery, microchip, ear notch, FVRCP vaccine and post-operative pain medication. This service is available Free-Roaming Cat Spay/Neuter surgeries are by **online appointment only**. All online requests are first-come, first-serve for Wednesdays and Thursdays, and limited to 4 cats per person or organization.



For more information on the program, scan here!

Cockfighting Hotline Announced; Residents Can Report Suspected Activity

Cockfighting remains a prominent issue in the community. If you see it happening, the Coalition to End Cockfighting has started a hotline to report this illegal activity. You can reach the hotline at (808) 670-0439. You can report the following: Anyone with an injured rooster, anyone suspected of cockfighting, dumping of chickens or roosters in nearby wooded areas. If able, please obtain a: video or photo of the cockfighting, license plate numbers, vehicle descriptions, description(s) of person(s) suspected of cockfighting, and any relevant addresses.



Joint City-State Town Hall and Workshop on Albizia to be held

You're invited to join us!
Saturday, June 24
9:00 am to 12:00 noon
at St. Anthony Retreat Center
3351 Kalihi St
 Learn more at koolauwatershed.org/albizia

With hurricane season approaching, many neighbors have been concerned with the proliferation of Albizia trees which seemingly spring up overnight throughout our district. Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam and State Rep. John Mizuno are teaming up to hold a town hall and workshop on June 24th in Kalihi Valley so community members can learn about Albizia and how to remove the hazard.

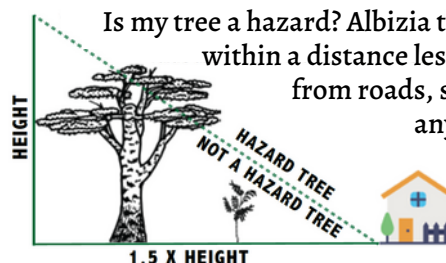
1. Identify

Albizia has small green leaves. Leaves form clusters at the growing tip. These trees grow up to 15 feet per year.



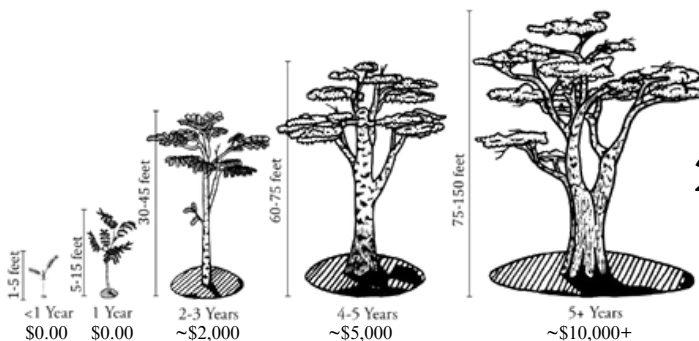
2. Assess

Is my tree a hazard? Albizia taller than 15 feet growing within a distance less than 1.5 times its height from roads, structures, power lines or anything of value are or will become hazard trees.



3. Remove

Non Hazard trees can be removed or treated with multiple cost-effective DIY strategies, including 1) Hand-pull or Cut 2) Ring Barking (Bark Stripping), or 3) Applying Herbicide. If you want to remove a hazard tree, find a local arborist specializing in Albizia removal.



Estimated growth rate of Albizia over time and approximate removal cost

Albizia grows rapidly in the first 5 years, making branches brittle. In good conditions, Albizia can grow roughly 15 feet per year, up to 150 feet.

Because of the fast growth, branches are large and brittle, causing them to drop at random. This is known as "sudden limb-shear" or "widow-makers."

Albizia can be a danger to community infrastructure like roads, homes, power lines, and culverts. Large storms and hurricane season are opportune times for many trees to drop and be costly to repair.

Mark your calendars for future park clean ups organized by CM Dos Santos-Tam's office:

Dole Community Park: July 8
Kauluwela Park: September 16

Kamali'i Mini Park: August 27
Peter Buck Park: November 5