

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

MARCH 2023

honoluluycouncil.org

COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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Aloha Neighbors!

We've been in office for just three short months, but we're already hitting the ground running. My team and I have been busy introducing legislation - including **half of the Council's bills thus far in 2023** - and responding to constituent issues both large and small throughout the district. If you'd like to let us know about an issue that we can help to resolve, please feel free to contact my office. We're here to serve you!

-Tyler

Improvements Coming to Chinatown

Continuing on the heels of January's Lunar New Year celebrations which saw thousands of people come to enjoy Chinatown, the City is continuing its positive momentum in this special neighborhood. Sidewalk repairs in Downtown/Chinatown began in mid-February and will last through the summer. CM Dos Santos-Tam and his team distributed multi-language flyers to Chinatown merchants to inform them of the work. CM Dos Santos-Tam also joined the *Star-Advertiser's* Spotlight Neighborhood Board member Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock to discuss ongoing efforts to cut down on crime and drug use and support a vibrant Chinatown community. [View their interview by clicking this link](#) or scanning this QR code:



Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam distributing flyers in English, Chinese, and Vietnamese to inform Chinatown merchants about the sidewalk repairs so they can plan around the work and minimize disruption to their businesses.



Many years of advocacy went into making the "Keiki Corridor" a reality. Pictured here are Former CM Joey Manahan, Fern Elem Teacher Louise Cayetano, CM Radiant Cordero, and CM Dos Santos-Tam

Safer "Keiki Corridor" Path Opens in Kalihi

As part of the Safe Routes to School Program, a new "Keiki Corridor" was opened in Kalihi near Fern Elementary School last month. The "Keiki Corridor" is a separated guideway that allows children and residents to safely traverse on foot along Kahauiki Street and Kamehameha IV Road. Previously, pedestrians had to dodge parked cars and bulky items and sometimes walk in the roadway, which was very dangerous. CM Dos Santos-Tam is looking at other ways we can promote pedestrian safety throughout the community, including both "quick build" projects and more permanent infrastructure improvements. He is also trying to find creative ways to access state and federal funding to ensure we are safeguarding local taxpayer funds. CM Dos Santos-Tam has also been meeting with school principals and other stakeholders throughout the district to identify unsafe roadways and work on solutions. See more about these meetings on Page 3!

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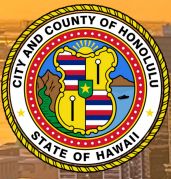
Scan to access our social media!

Connect with us!

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On Instagram @tylerdossantostam





BILLS & LEGISLATION

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Council Continues Work on Gun Safety Bill

Under the leadership of CM Dos Santos-Tam as the Chair of the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee, the City Council continues to work on Bill 57, which seeks to define which places would be designated as "sensitive places" where "concealed carry" guns would not be allowed. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that municipalities can designate schools, playgrounds, government buildings, and polling places, and some others as "sensitive places," subject to certain parameters. The Council held three hearings on the bill in February, and expects to hold one more hearing in March. We invite members of the public to share their opinion on which places should be designated as "sensitive places" where "concealed carry" guns would not be allowed.

Bill 3: Expands the Sit-Lie Ban in Pālama

After years of community concerns about the persistent homeless encampment on Kanoa Street in Pālama, CM Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 3 as one of his first bills in order to address this serious issue. Bill 3 expands the City's existing "sit-lie" ban to include portions of Kanoa St, Pua Lane, and N. King St around the Pālama business area, which includes Tamashiro Market and Talofa Market. The encampment has been the source of dozens of recent police reports and other incidents, including a fire in January in front of St. Elizabeth's church. Neighbors have reported continued vandalism of vehicles and buildings, and area residents have also been worried about the proximity of the encampment to Ka'iulani Elementary School, which is just one block away.

While the "sit-lie" ban will not alone address the root causes of homelessness, it provides a reprieve for Pālama area neighbors. To testify on the bill, scan the QR code here:



CM Dos Santos-Tam visiting the large encampment on Kanoa Street, which has persisted for many years, and negatively affected surrounding residents and businesses.

Bill 25: Amended Anti-Discrimination Bill Passes Into Law

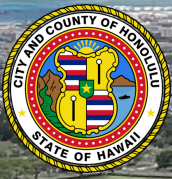
At its Feb 22nd meeting, the City Council passed Bill 25 (2021) into law. The bill aims to create an anti-bias and anti-discrimination program for City employees. As Chair of the Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee, CM Dos Santos-Tam was able to make amendments to the bill to ensure that sexual orientation, gender expression, and other protected categories were included in the program so that every City & County employee feels safe, protected, and welcomed at work so they can most effectively do their job of serving the public.

Reso 23-004: City Completes Acquisition of Kaka'ako Road



Signing off on Reso 23-004

The City Council recently approved Resolution 23-004, submitted by Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam, which completes the acquisition of Waimanu Street in Kaka'ako. The ownership of this street, along with several others in Kaka'ako, was the subject of various court cases over the years. In 2021, a judge ruled that these "roads in limbo" are indeed publicly-owned, which began the process of the City being able to definitively acquire these streets for public use.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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Getting a First-Hand Look at Homelessness

With homelessness being a top-of-mind issue in our district, Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam has spent the last few weeks getting a close, first-hand look at the issue. He joined volunteers in the Downtown area who were helping with the annual "Point in Time Count," which is an early morning survey of all the homeless on the island to try to estimate of the total number of homeless individuals and their demographics. He and his staff also toured the City's Pūnāwai Rest Stop in Iwilei, which is a City-run facility that provides medical care, laundry machines, showers and restrooms, case management, and many other services. Getting a first-hand look at homelessness will help to shape reasonable, effective solutions to this major issue in our community.



Top: Visiting the Pūnāwai Rest Stop where many services are available to homeless clients, including laundry machines. Bottom: With volunteers participating in the annual "Point in Time" Count outside of Marks Garage on Nu'uuanu Avenue.

Checking in with our District's Schools

Although schools fall under the jurisdiction of the State Dept of Education, CM Dos Santos-Tam recognizes that our principals are often the "eyes and ears" of the community. To that end, he has made it a point to meet with principals throughout the district to hear their concerns and discuss solutions. This includes ways the City can help to make their campuses more secure, create safer traffic and pedestrian patterns, and and most importantly, support their students, teachers, and administrators.



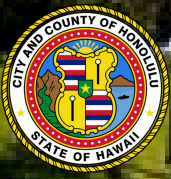
Top Right: With Fern ES Principal Miyasato and Kindergarten Teacher Shannon Kaaa. Bottom Left to Right: With Farrington HS Principal Carganilla and Administrators; with Ke'elikōlani MS Principal Passantino; with Stevenson MS Principal Luczak; and with Linapuni ES Principal Fuller.

Supporting Honolulu's Sister Cities & International Affairs



Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam welcomed Philippine Congressman Angelo Barba, who represents the 2nd District of Ilocos Norte to Honolulu Hale and coordinated the visit of the Congressman to the State Capitol, where he met with Speaker Scott Saiki and members of the House Filipino Caucus. As Chair of the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee, CM Dos Santos-Tam oversees Honolulu's Sister City relationships and International Affairs.

With Congressman Barba and leaders of the local Filipino community



CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Getting Proactive & Working Together on Dangerous Boulders



Inspecting a boulder at a home on Anu'u Place in Kalihi Valley, which has been lodged behind a neighbor's home between a retaining wall and a roofline.

In response to recent high-profile boulder incidents in 'Aiea and Pālolo, State Rep. John Mizuno and CM Dos Santos-Tam have been working together to address several precarious boulders in the Kalihi Valley area. The most recent boulder of concern was reported on 'Ūmalu Pl, and the State Dept. of Transportation was asked to provide immediate assistance. Within 24 hours, State contractors were on site to shave the boulder down to a smaller size, drill a large metal spike into place in front of the boulder, and to remove loose dirt on the surrounding hillside. Rep. Mizuno and CM Dos Santos-Tam are pushing the Dept. to install steel mesh protective fencing in certain hillside areas to protect homes.

Addressing Homeless-Related Concerns around District Schools

In late February, administrators and teachers at Farrington High School reported concerns about homeless individuals setting up encampments between the school fence and the H-1 freeway. They were especially concerned about the safety of these individuals because the encampment was so close to the freeway itself, and because of concerns about drug use within the encampment, including smells of marijuana smoke being detectable from classrooms. Our office's Chief of Staff/Senior Advisor Brandon Mitsuda worked with the State Dept. of Transportation to have the encampment removed and social services called to engage with the individuals living next to the school. We have also received calls regarding homeless individuals loitering near Kawānanakoa Middle School immediately before school hours who create unsanitary conditions at the nearby park and on the sidewalks adjacent to the school. Our office engaged with HPD's Community Policing Team to do patrols around Kawānanakoa Middle School to address these concerns.



One of the tents next to Farrington High School. The presence of trash and drug use from the encampments around the school have caused concern among teachers and administrators on campus.

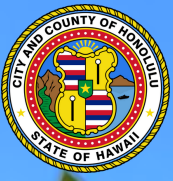
Removing Illegal Dumping and Graffiti around the District

To report illegal dumping, call 808-768-3203 or email illegaldumping@honolulu.gov.

In response to complaints from neighbors, our office's Constituent Services Director Lynn Robinson-Onderko worked with the various City Departments to remove illegal dumping near the Kuakini/Liliha St intersection, at 1041 Olemea Street, along N. School St near Frog Lane, and also had the Dept. of Parks and Recreation work to remove graffiti at Fern Park in Kalihi. Mahalo to all of the observant and proactive neighbors for reporting these!

Helping Dillingham Businesses Impacted by Rail Work

Councilmembers Radiant Cordero and Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, who share the Kalihi area, met with a group of businesses who operate along the Dillingham Blvd corridor and are deeply concerned about the impact of rail work in the area. The two Councilmembers worked together to pass a resolution asking the City to provide a plan for the "Rail Transit Construction Mitigation Program," which is intended to help these businesses, and are working on a proposal to provide financial relief, property tax deferrals or abatement, or other assistance to these businesses.



DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Safer Streets for All

View the press conference on KHON's website



As Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee, CM Dos Santos-Tam has been working with the City's Dept. of Transportation Services (DTS) and the Legislature to help promote safer streets for all. Specifically:

- Addressing speeding and street layout issues at Alapai/'Iolani/Prospect St in Punchbowl, which has long been a hazardous intersection.
- Working with our partners in the Legislature to pursue funding for Safer Routes to School, a priority of Rep. Ganaden, and improvements to the Kapi'olani Blvd corridor after the tragic death of a McKinley HS student in February.
- Reducing speed limits on certain neighborhood streets, like Hala Drive fronting Maluhia Hospital, which has been a longstanding concern of area residents and side streets in Nu'uauu Valley which are used as "shortcuts"/bypasses for Pali Hwy traffic.

CM Dos Santos-Tam joined Mayor Blangiardi, Senator Moriwaki, Speaker Saiki, Rep. Nishimoto, and Rep. Belatti at a press conference at McKinley HS to announce immediate improvements to the streets surrounding the school following the tragic death of McKinley HS student Sara Yara.

Our Eyes & Ears: Supporting Neighborhood Security Watches

In response to community concerns regarding crime, our office has been active in supporting our existing Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) programs, as well as helping neighbors to start new ones. Last month, CM Dos Santos-Tam joined with the Kaka'ako Citizens Patrol as they walked around the growing Kaka'ako neighborhood, and he hopes to be able to join every NSW in District 6 for a walk over the next several months. Along with additional resources for HPD and the Prosecutor's office, our NSWs can play a role in reducing crime in our District's various neighborhoods!

To start a neighborhood security watch in your area, call our office at 768-5006, or HPD's Community Policing Team at 723-3927 for Nu'uauu, Pauoa, and Downtown/Chinatown, or 723-8229 for Liliha, 'Ālewa, Pālama, and Kalihi.



CM Dos Santos-Tam and members of the Kaka'ako Citizens Patrol, which meets every Monday at Mother Waldron Park.

Affordable Housing Projects Advance



A rendering of the proposed Fort St Mall Senior Housing Project

The City Council approved several affordable housing project proposals recently:

- **Kuilei Place**, a 1,005-unit for sale project in Mō'ili'ili;
- **Fort Street Mall Senior Housing**, a 67-unit senior rental project in Downtown near the Catholic Cathedral, exclusively for residents at or below 30% to 60% AMI and held within these affordable income levels for 60 years;
- **Keawalau**, a 537-unit rental project in Waipahu; and
- **Kahoapili**, a 152-unit rental project in Salt Lake.

Additionally, the Council will be hearing an application on 690 Pohukaina St in Kaka'ako. CM Dos Santos-Tam along with Speaker Saiki and Senator Moriwaki sponsored a "town hall" for residents to ask questions about the project. Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam also submitted a letter of support for the proposal to renovate and do repairs to the low-income **Smith-Beretania Apartments** in Chinatown.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Kalihi Area Town Hall Coming Up on March 1st

Five of the Kalihi-area elected officials will be hosting a town hall on March 1, 5:30pm at Kapālama Elementary School to discuss community issues, such as the implementation of Restricted Parking Zones (RPZ), crime, homelessness, and more. Please come and join us!



**Councilmember
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam**

**Representative
John Mizuno**

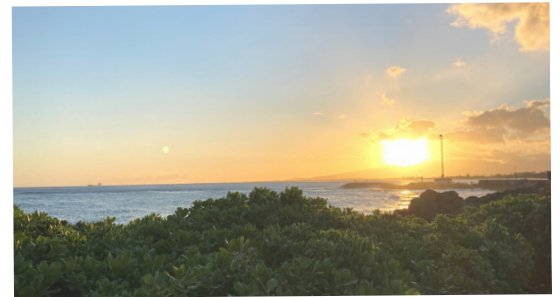
**Senator
Donna Mercado Kim**

**Representative
Micah Aiu**

**Representative
Sonny Ganaden**

Department Seeks Feedback on Commercial Activities in Parks

Because of the increase in commercial activities in City parks such as weddings, kayak/canoe rentals and tours, etc., the City's Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR) will be introducing a bill in March to attempt to better regulate commercial activities in parks island-wide, rather than on a park-by-park basis. They are welcoming feedback from the public, especially those who use popular parks where this commercial activity frequently occurs. You can provide your comments to DPR via their website at www.honolulu.gov/parks, and my office welcomes your feedback on this as well.



Sunset from the Kaka'ako Waterfront Park

City Council Honors Narcissus Court and Niuhelewai Caretaker

In February, the City Council honored the Chinese Chamber of Commerce's 73rd Narcissus Court, including Queen Laura Mei Lan Ho, 1st Princess Jacelyn Chun Wei Ho, 2nd Princess Kelly Wung Yun Yee, 3rd Princess Jessica Chen Lin, and 4th Princess Kelsie-Ann Kui Lan Suan-Kon. The members of the Narcissus Court preserve and showcase Chinese art and culture, while promoting local and international commerce. All contestants of the Narcissus Pageant develop personal and professional skills through a rigorous yet fun-filled curriculum of cultural classes taught by members of the Chinese community considered to be pillars of knowledge in their respective industries. The City Council also honored Robert Silva, Jr., the caretaker of Niuhelewai, also known as "Lo'i Kalo Mini Park" in Kapālama. This very special place is one of the last remaining flowing springs in urban Honolulu, and can be found on N. School St behind Mexico Restaurant. In addition to caring for the kalo and other plants at Niuhelewai, Silva is also an automotive instructor at Honolulu Community College.



CM Dos Santos-Tam with the 2023 Narcissus Court and with community member Robert Silva, Jr.

View the Civil Beat Video of Robert Silva, Jr.'s work in the lo'i

