

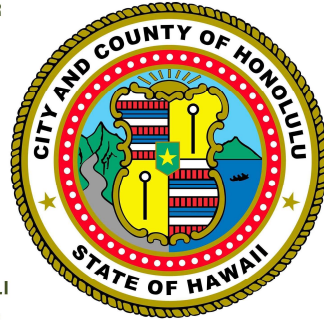
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ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 3

KIA'ĀINA

ĀHUIMANU | HE'EIA | HA'IKŪ | KĀNE'OHE | MAUNAWILI  
KAILUA | OLOMANA | ENCHANTED LAKE | WAIMĀNALO



April 1, 2021



Inauguration Day for the City Council, January 2, 2021

Aloha Kakou! I'm pleased to launch my inaugural newsletter as the City Councilmember representing District 3 (Āhuimanu, He'eia, Ha'ikū, Kāne'ohe,

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Maunawili, Kailua, Olomana, Enchanted Lake, and Waimānalo). Sworn in on January 2, it has been a whirlwind 3 months. I was honored to be selected to be Vice-Chair of the City Council along with Chair Tommy Waters and Floor Leader Andria Tupola. In addition to chairing the Committee on Housing and the Economy, I am Vice-Chair of the Committee on Zoning and Planning and a member of the following committees: Budget, Transportation, Sustainability, and Health, and Executive Matters and Legal Affairs.

I want to update you on developments at the City and County of Honolulu and ensure that you know how to get in touch with my office as well as key programs and services. At any time that you no longer want to receive such updates, please unsubscribe [here](#). Feel free to also let me know what kind of updates you would appreciate hearing about at [ekiaaina@honolulu.gov](mailto:ekiaaina@honolulu.gov).

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**Inquiries and Sharing your Concerns**

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This boat was moved from near Kainalu Elementary School after many concerns expressed by the Kailua community. Kokua was provided by the Mayor's office and the Department of Emergency Services (DES) after repeated emails and calls to my office and other local leaders. I am currently working to support the Department of Customer Services on finding a longer-term solution for abandoned vessels. We need also to hold boat owners of such vessels accountable. Photo taken by DES.

One of the most important jobs as your Councilmember is to make sure that you are able to reach me with your inquiries or to share your concerns. You can either email me at [ekiaaina@honolulu.gov](mailto:ekiaaina@honolulu.gov) or call me at (808) 768-5003. You may also want to follow me on my [Facebook page](#).

If you want to contact City agencies directly, you can also utilize the City's 311 mobile application, which provides a free, simple, and intuitive platform empowering people to report potholes, broken streetlights, cracked sidewalks, illegal dumping, vandalized/broken signs and more via your smartphone. Please note that this app serves as a tool for residents to request City services and report non-emergency issues, which will then be reviewed by the appropriate City department and assigned. You can also access this service through the City's

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website [here](#).

You can also call the City's information hotline at: (808) 768-CITY (2489).

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# Honolulu 311 App

The official citizen application for Honolulu, HI

Honolulu 311 is the official mobile application for the City & County of Honolulu, Hawai'i. Honolulu 311 provides a free, simple, and intuitive platform empowering people to report potholes, broken streetlights, cracked sidewalks, illegally dumping, vandalized/broken signs and more via your smartphone.

## Types of Issues to Report:

Abandoned Property	Parking Issues
Broken/Vandalized Signs	Parking Meter
Broken Street Lights	Broken/Missing
Clogged Catch Basin	Stored Property Violation
Construction Runoff	Storm Water Pollution
Drug Activity	Stream Maintenance
Flooding	Submit a Crime Tip
Gamehouses/Gambling	Taxi Complaints
Gang Activity	Traffic Infractions
Graffiti	Tree or Plant
Homeless Concerns	Maintenance
Illegal Dump Site	Other
Noise	

## How to File a Report

1) Download Honolulu 311 from Google Play or Apple App Store

2) Create an Account

3) Submit a Request and Attach a Photo

**\*You have the option to remain anonymous**



Request a Service, Report an Issue, and Help Improve your Community

Once submitted, your request is reviewed by the appropriate City Department and the work is assigned or scheduled.

Estimated times to complete vary by request

If you sign up for an account, the City will send you updates as work is completed on your request.

Honolulu City Council Communications Office

**Keeping Track of What is Going on at the  
City and County of Honolulu**

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To keep track of what is going on at the City Council, please click [here](#) to find out about the council calendar, committee meetings, how to keep track of bills and resolutions, how to testify, and how to sign up for email notifications. We welcome your participation in your City government!

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## Supporting Local Agriculture



Waimanalo Agriculture. Photo taken by Nate Yuen.

On March 22, I introduced my first measure ([Res 21-079](#)) urging the Mayor to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization. It is my intent to hold a hearing by the Committee on Housing and the Economy on Res 21-079 on April 20, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. During the Committee on Budget's Special Meeting on March 31, I was able to secure \$1 million to fund the city's agriculture grant program, but will be working throughout the budgetary process to fund the program at \$5 million annually.

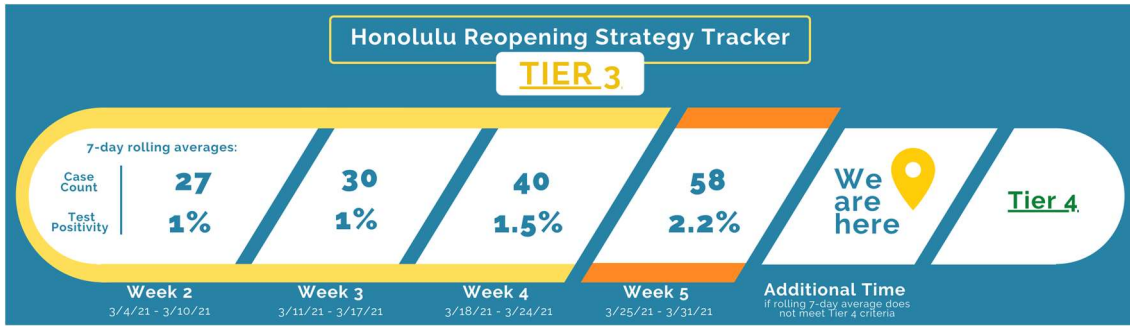
In order to truly support economic diversification and food security, I believe it is critically important to advance City programs and initiatives to get us there.

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## City's Reopening Strategy

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As we continue to move into a modified Tier 3, it is very important for all of us to get continual updates on information and resources from the City's COVID-19 website at: <https://www.oneoahu.org/>.

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# HONOLULU REOPENING STRATEGY

Tier	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	TIER 4
Case Count (7 day average)	>100	50-100	20-49	<20
Test Positivity Rate	>5%	2.5-5%	1-2.49%	<1%

## Sectors and Businesses:



<u>Essential Businesses</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Social Gatherings</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Parks, Beaches, Trails, Camping</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Outdoor sports (no permit)</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Outdoor organized team sports (permit)</u>	Closed	Closed	Allowed No Spectators	Allowed
<u>Indoor Organized Team Sports</u>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Allowed with conditions
<u>Pools</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Shooting and Archery Ranges</u>	5 people	5 people	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Golf Courses</u>	Hawaii Golf Phase 2	Hawaii Golf Phase 2.5	Hawaii Golf Phase 3	Allowed
<u>Certain Real Estate</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Car Dealerships</u>	5 people, appt only	5 people, appt only	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Automated Service Providers</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Mobile Service Providers</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Retail and Service (incl. food and beverages)</u>	50% capacity	50% capacity	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Indoor Malls</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Spiritual Services</u>	50% capacity	50% capacity	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Funerals</u>	10 people	10 people	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Restaurants/Bars &amp; Lounges (At the discretion of the County of Honolulu)</u>	5 people, same household, 50% capacity	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Zoos, Sea Life Attractions, Aquariums, Museums, Botanical Gardens</u>	5 people, 50% capacity indoor areas	5 people, 50% capacity indoor areas	10 people	25 people
<u>Other Commercial Attractions</u>	5 people, outdoor only	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Arcades</u>	Closed	25% capacity	50% capacity	50% capacity
<u>Bowling</u>	5 people, 50% capacity	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Tours</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Helicopter Tours, Plane Tours, Skydiving</u>	25% capacity	50% capacity	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Recreational Boating (personal)</u>	5 people	5 people	10 people	25 people
<u>Commercial Recreational Boating</u>	25% capacity	25% capacity	50% capacity	75% capacity
<u>Legal Short-Term Rentals</u>	Closed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Transportation for Non-Essential Activities</u>	50% capacity	50% capacity	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Hair &amp; Nail Salons, Barber Shops</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Personal Care Services</u>	Outdoors only	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Pet Services</u>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Business Offices</u>	Remote Encouraged	Remote Encouraged	Remote Encouraged	Remote Encouraged
<u>Conference/Breakrooms</u>	Spaced 6 ft apart	Spaced 6 ft apart	Spaced 6 ft apart	Spaced 6 ft apart
<u>Movie Theaters</u>	50% capacity	50% capacity	Allowed	Allowed
<u>Group Fitness Classes</u>	5 people outdoors	10 people outdoors 5 people indoors	10 people outdoors 10 people indoors	25 people outdoors 25 people indoors
<u>Gym and Fitness Facilities</u>	Outdoor	25% capacity	50% capacity	75% capacity

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## **COVID-19 Resources**

The City is currently working with community partners to develop a rent and utility relief program with \$114 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds. Once the program opens on April 5th at noon, it will help qualified people on O'ahu pay for their rent and their bills for electricity, water and sewer, and natural gas. It will pay for up to 12 months of bills, depending on a person's financial situation.

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# COMING SOON

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

## NEW RENT & UTILITIES PROGRAM



### CAN PAY FOR:

- Rent
- Household Utilities
- Supported for 12 Months

### WHO CAN QUALIFY:

- O'ahu Residents
- COVID Income or Job Loss
- Proof of Late Rent or Utilities Bills
- Household Income Limits

LANDLORDS MAY APPLY  
ON BEHALF OF RENTERS  
WITH THEIR PERMISSION

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED:

- Government Issued ID
- Rent Agreement or Bill
- Household Tax Document
- Recent Pay Stubs
- Unemployment Insurance Receipt

LEARN MORE AT  
[ONEOAHU.ORG/RENTHELP](https://www.oneoahu.org/renthelp)

PROGRAM OPENS APRIL 5



Individuals can learn more about the program at: <https://www.oneoahu.org/renthelp>. In order to prepare to apply, please prepare for the following information: government-issued photo ID, proof of O'ahu residency, rental agreement, past due rent or utility notice, tax documents or pay

stubs of two (2) months most recent income, and proof of COVID-19 pandemic related hardship, such as an unemployment insurance letter.

For other City resources, please go to: <https://www.oneoahu.org/resources/>. There you will find resources for food, healthcare, businesses, government services, keiki and kupuna, and financial and housing assistance.

There are a lot of resources that are available at all levels of government, as well as non-profit organizations for COVID-19 resources. Aloha United Way 2-1-1 specialists can search through over 4,000 government and nonprofit services and programs to find the information and resources you need. Requests include finding food, shelter, clothing, financial assistance, childcare, parenting support, elderly care, disability services and more.

## Windward City Satellite City Hall – Express Window Service



Site visit at Windward City Satellite Hall with Director Nola Miyasaki of the Department of Customer Services and Satellite City Hall Administrator Chase Masuda.

Windward City Satellite City Hall now offer Express Window Service, with no appointment needed, for transactions such as motor vehicle registration renewal, bus pass sales, water bill and property tax payments, spay/neuter certificates, and disability parking permits. For more information, please visit:

[https://www.honolulu.gov/csd?fbclid=IwAR0Hjj0uCDW1V-kvK\\_4HdZTMsfF1gElzbr2KKb3fXIH2OHZEhZxAc-nbakU](https://www.honolulu.gov/csd?fbclid=IwAR0Hjj0uCDW1V-kvK_4HdZTMsfF1gElzbr2KKb3fXIH2OHZEhZxAc-nbakU)

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## American Rescue Plan Act



On March 29, the Housing and Economy Committee, which I chair, held an informational briefing on the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and the development of the federal infrastructure bill. All of Hawai`i's Congressional Delegation provided updates and fielded questions: U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono, U.S. Congressman Ed Case, and U.S. Congressman Kai Kahele.

Of great concern to me and the City Council is how the \$395 million allocated for the City and County of Honolulu will be used to offset the loss in City revenues due

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to the COVID-19 pandemic as we consider the City Budget for FY 2022. We look forward to working with Mayor Blangiardi and his administration on identifying how these federal funds will be used for offsets and how further individual and small business relief will be provided.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz has one of the best websites for information on federal COVID-19 resources, including the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus>.

Key provisions in the COVID-19 relief package include:

State and county assistance – At least \$2.2 billion for Hawai'i

- Funding may be used to bolster state and local budgets that have sustained significant tax revenue loss due to the pandemic
  - \$1.6 billion for the State of Hawai'i
  - \$365 million for the City and County of Honolulu
  - Another \$116 million will go to the State of Hawai'i for critical capital projects to enable work, education, and healthcare in response to the pandemic

Unemployment assistance – At least \$575 million in estimated funding for Hawai'i workers

Rent and mortgage relief – Estimated \$226.5 million for Hawai'i

Small businesses and non-profits – \$60 billion nationally

Vaccine distribution and procurement – \$7.5 billion nationally, including at least \$20 million for Hawai'i

- Funding will be used to help distribute and administer COVID-19 vaccines

Testing, contact tracing, and mitigation – \$47.8 billion nationally

Health care – Estimated \$150 million for Hawai'i

Direct cash payments – Estimated \$1.7 billion to Hawai'i residents

Nursing homes – Estimated \$1.4 million for Hawai'i

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Education – At least \$634 million in estimated funding for Hawai'i schools

Electric and water utility assistance – Estimated \$6 million for Hawai'i households

Child care and welfare programs – Estimated \$138 million for Hawai'i

Early childhood education – Estimated \$3.5 million for Hawai'i

Transportation – At least \$380 million in estimated funding for Hawai'i

Senior and disability support programs – Estimated \$9.2 million for Hawai'i

- Funding supports several health care, nutrition, and supportive services for older Americans and people with disabilities and their caregivers

Arts and humanities – At least \$2.37 million in estimated funding for Hawai'i

Expansion of the Child Tax Credit

- These changes are estimated to help over 300,000 children in Hawai'i who currently don't qualify for the full tax credit

Health insurance

- The bill includes premium assistance of 100 percent for COBRA continuation coverage for eligible individuals and families through September 31, 2021.

Food and nutrition programs

- An extension of 15 percent in monthly SNAP benefits to ensure that all Americans receive the food they need

Agriculture – \$4 billion nationally

- \$1 billion nationally to provide technical assistance and institutional support for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including Native Hawaiians
  - The American Rescue Plan also gives the USDA authority to provide farm loan assistance by making payments of up to 120% of outstanding agricultural loans as of January 1, 2021, made to farmers and ranchers from socially disadvantaged groups.
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Councilmember Esther Kia'āina is the Vice-Chair of the City Council and represents District III  
(Āhuimanu, He'eia, Ha'ikū, Kāne'ohe, Maunawili, Kailua, Olomana, Enchanted Lake, and Waimānalo)

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