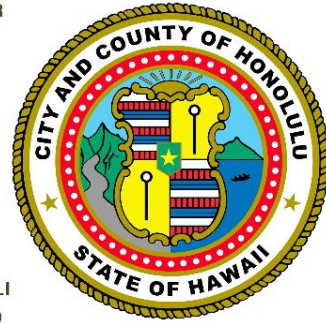




ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 3

KIA'ĀINA

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



September 28, 2023

Windward Leaders hold Invasive Species Townhall Meetings



Pictured with Councilmember Kia'aina (L-R): Representative Scot Matayoshi, Senator Chris Lee, Representative Natalia Hussey-Burdick, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, and Councilmember Matt Weyer at Waimānalo Elementary School.

On August 21, I was pleased to join the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board to facilitate a Windward Community Meeting on Invasive Species Prevention, Control, and Eradication Efforts for Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Coqui Frog Infestations. Waimānalo and other Windward communities continue to feel the impacts of invasive species, and

understanding how to prevent the further spread of invasive species within and across our communities is necessary to prevent these species from causing even more damage.

Chair Sharon Hurd, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HIDOA), Chair Dawn Chang, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Director Laura Thielen, City Department of Parks and Recreation, were joined by several experts in the field. These included Chelsea Arnott, Invasive Species Coordinator, DLNR; Darcy Oishi, Biological Control Section Chief, HIDOA; Christine Martin, Program Manager & Information Officer, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Michelle Montgomery, Hawai'i Ant Lab; Keith Weiser, Deputy Incident Commander Hawai'i, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response; and Jonathan Ho, Inspection and Compliance Section Chief, HIDOA.

To view the meeting on 'Ōlelo Community Media, please click [here](#).

Continuing the momentum, Kāne'ohe elected officials hosted a Townhall on Little Fire Ants at Ben Parker Elementary on September 20 and on October 10, Representative Lisa Marten will host a Kailua Little Fire Ant Workshop at the Lanikai Park Pavillion.



Kailua Little Fire Ant Workshop

October 10, 2023

6p.m. - 7:00p.m.

Lanikai Park Pavilion

126 Kaiolena Drive. Parking Available on the grass.

Little Fire Ants (LFA) are worse than the ants we already know--they make it impossible to enjoy the outdoors and to harvest fruit because they "rain down" from trees. They also blind pets when they bite their eyes. It is not too late to eradicate them from O'ahu by aggressively screening and treating all outbreaks.

There are multiple sites in Kailua (Lanikai, Ka'elepulu, Maunawili) that have multiple LFA outbreaks being treated right now. These are only locations that have been tested & reported. Please join us to pick up free supplies to check your property and learn how to use them. Free postage to send samples in for identification also included. The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) will have experts to check ant samples to ID LFA. For those who want to get a head start and check their ant samples the night of the event, please **SCAN QR code** below:



More info:

RepMarten@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-9450 (Rep Marten office)

**Advancing City-driven
Affordable Housing in Kailua**

Proposed Development

- 4-story apartment building
- 42 apartments
- 58 parking stalls, including 5 guest, 2 ADA



Helping families to stay in Hawai'i is a priority of mine, including through identification of city-driven projects that can help to increase much needed affordable housing. The City's Department of Land Management (DLM) acquired 734 & 735 Kihapai Place in Kailua to help pave the way for much-needed affordable housing in the Kailua area.

The \$5 million purchase includes the land and construction drawings for the development of a four-story affordable housing building containing 42 one- and two-bedroom units. The acquisition, which closed on August 31, 2023, was made possible through funds from the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for affordable housing. DLM is expecting to solicit a public-private partnership with a developer to construct, operate, and maintain the project through a ground lease in early 2024. The partnership will include rental units to eligible individuals and families at or below 80% of the area median income.

To view the project presentation, which was provided at the Kailua Neighborhood Board recently, click [here](#).

**Windward Dog Dog Park Near
Bayview Golf Course Update**



On Sept. 6, we held a community meeting to discuss the two remaining issues before the opening of the City dog park by Bayview Golf Course, which is near completion. These included the completion of a road access easement and the realignment of one of the golf holes for public safety reasons. If you want to learn more about how to help, please go to: <https://windwarddogparkhui.org/>.

Adventist Health Castle Celebrating 60 Years of Service to the Community



Pictured with Councilmember Kia'aina are (left to right) Adventist Health Castle Finance Officer Nicolas Johnson, President Ryan Ashlock, Operations Executive Katherine Saavedra, and staff members Kylee Tano, and Janel Len. Councilmember Kia'aina presented an Honorary Certificate on behalf of the Honolulu City Council to Adventist Health Castle for 60 years of service to the Windward community.

City's Feral Chicken Removal Service Extended to Private Property Owners



Photo Credit: Civil Beat

The City is offering a new capture, cage rental, and disposal service aimed at helping to tackle the increase of feral chickens in our communities. The City contracted Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions to now offer services to private-property owners at a reduced cost. In the past, the city's pest-control vendor only removed feral chickens from city-owned properties such as parks and municipal golf courses. The City's vendor will continue to set traps on public property, discourage feeding of feral chickens at public parks, and connect residents to resources for assistance. Property owners can call (808) 456-7716 for assistance.

Managing Messy Land Use Issues



Councilmember Kia'aina with Mayor Blangiardi



Pictured (left to right): Lee Einsweiler, land use expert, Councilmember Kia'aina, HCDA Executive Director Craig Nakamoto, and HCDA Director of Planning & Development Ryan Tam

I was pleased to facilitate a panel discussion on the significance of updating laws and regulations to better manage land uses at this year's Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials Conference in early September. The Panel I facilitated -- Managing Messy Land Use Issues with the Right Rules -- focused on the City and the HCDA's initiatives to revise use and zoning provisions for areas on O'ahu, and its impacts on affordable housing, agriculture, and rebuilding after a disaster. We had a robust discussion about the City's efforts to overhaul Honolulu's Land Use Ordinance, which was adopted 30 years ago. The City is in the middle of phase two of the overhaul, to replace, revise, and update the LUO's use regulations, which dictates what uses are allowed in each zoning district. As the Chair of the City Council's Planning & the Economy Committee, I encourage you to follow the progress of [Bill 10 \(2022\)](#); I anticipate hearings to restart on this measure in early 2024. The Committee has already approved amendments to the [Industrial](#) and [Commercial Uses](#) of the LUO, and future hearings will focus on the [Public, Civic, and Institutional Uses](#), [Residential Uses](#), [Agricultural Uses](#), and [Miscellaneous Uses](#). You can also stay updated by visiting the City Council's Bill 10 webpage [here](#).

Kalapawai Roundabout Project Updates



In response to concerns about the duration and impacts of the Kalapawai Roundabout Project Improvements, we held a community meeting on September 18th with the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to provide an update on the project. Mahalo to DTS Director Roger Morton, Deputy Director Jon Nouchi, Transportation Engineering Chief Kelly Akasaki, and Complete Streets Administrator Renee Espiau for the presentation, and Officer Bernie Canite from the Honolulu Police Department for fielding questions. Please see the [powerpoint presentation](#) that was presented at this meeting.

For additional project information and updates, go to <https://www.kalapawaiproject.com>. Also, please feel free to share your questions or concerns by visiting <https://www.kalapawaiproject.com/contact> or by contacting Kelly Akasaki at Kelly.akasaki@honolulu.gov.

Supporting Our Maui Families and Friends



Pictured (left to right): We Are Oceania CEO Josie Howard, Maui Councilmember Tasha Kama, Councilmember Kia'āina, and Mālama I Ke Ola Community Health worker Youlida Yoruw. The Councilmember joined the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement in support of opening its Kāko'o Maui Relief & Aid Services Center in Kahului.

Nearly two months have passed since the devastating wildfires leveled historic Lahaina. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones and continue to pray for the health, safety, and well-being of all who survived. In the days, months, and years ahead, the people of Maui will need our continuing help, including long-term recovery assistance to rebuild homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and community.

Economy revitalization will also be a critical component of disaster recovery. For more information about the economic impacts on Maui, please view the University of Hawai'i's Economic Research Organization's (UHERO) forecast for the State of Hawai'i, *Wildfires Deliver Heavy Blow to Maui Economy*, which can be found [here](#).

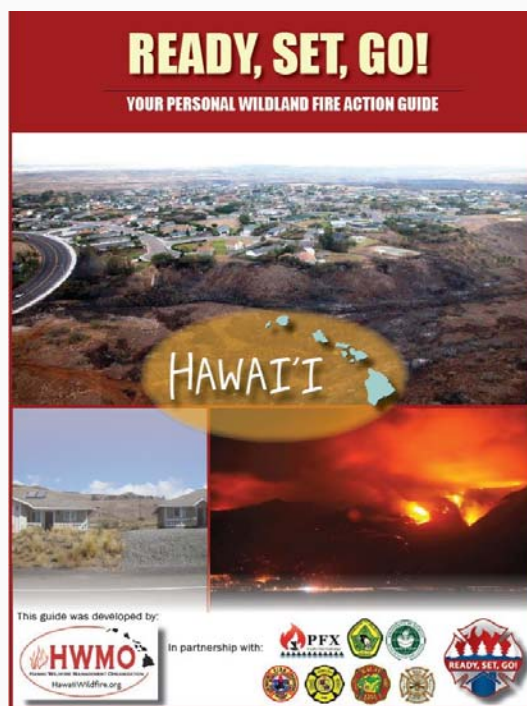
We were grateful to have Isabella Bissen, wife of Maui Mayor Richard Bissen open the Honolulu

City Council's September 6th meeting with a heartfelt message of Aloha. Filled with emotion following the wildfire tragedy, her moving words made a call to action for continued prayers and help for Maui, and expressed sincere gratitude to everyone who is giving their time and resources following the wildfires.

Mayor Blangiardi Orders Review of Wildfire Risk on O'ahu



Photo Credit: Civil Beat



In light of the recent fire tragedy in Maui, Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi has directed City Managing Director Mike Formby to assess and research wild fire risk on O'ahu. The agencies in involved will include the Department of Emergency Management, the Honolulu Fire Department, the Honolulu Police Department, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, the Board of Water Supply, and the Department of Facility Maintenance.

The new reality is that wildland fires can occur year round in various areas across the City and County of Honolulu. The Honolulu Fire Department takes every precaution to protect our residents and their property during an emergency, however HFD is urging households to empower themselves by reviewing the [Wildfire Action Guide](#) so that households are cognizant of

current fire safety standards and can learn about ways to protect their own safety. HFD also works with apartment/condo buildings, organizations, and homeowners associations to develop fire safety plans, and can be contacted at (808) 723-7139.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Highlights



Check your mailboxes! By now, budget mailers should have arrived at your homes detailing some highlights of the City's FY24 budget. The City Council, in conjunction with the Administration, is proud to prioritize funding City services that directly impact our constituents, including initiatives that help to alleviate homelessness, provide affordable housing, and improve public safety. To view the budget mailer online please click [here](#).

Community Outreach



On August 25th, I met with Maunawili Elementary School Principal Kauai Tanaka and concerned parents to discuss traffic safety at the corner of Kalaniana'ole Highway and Ulupi'i Street. This intersection is heavily utilized, especially during school pickup and drop off hours. County and State officials are exploring traffic safety measures for this area.

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

To contact the City directly, you can 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 the 311 system through the City's website [here](#), or call the City's information hotline at: (808) 768-CITY (2489).

Many inquiries to our office are for the following City Departments:

Department of Facility Maintenance

- To request stream maintenance, pothole and sidewalk repair, and request street sign replacements, email the Department of Facilities Maintenance at dfmroads@honolulu.gov.

Department of Permitting and Planning

- If you have general or specific questions regarding land use or a pending permit, and would like to speak to a City planner within the Department of Planning and Permitting, call (808) 768-8000 and dial extension 6.

Department of Transportation Services

- For roadway or traffic issues, such as street lights, parking meters, roadway hazards, DTS asks that you use the 311 system outlined above. The 311 link can also be used to request DTS conduct a traffic count or study for areas where speeding or other traffic safety issues may be prevalent.

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