

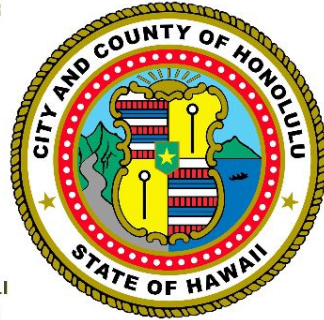
[View this email in your browser](#)



ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 3

KIA'ĀINA

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



June 28, 2022

Evaluating Real Property Tax Initiatives

1.00

RESOLUTION 22-123

6/15/2022
CITY COUNCIL

Urging the City Admin, including the Dept. of BFS, to create an annual educational campaign notifying the public of the Sept. 30 deadline and encouraging qualifying residential property owners to file their claims for real property tax home exemptions.

INSIDE HONOLULU HAIF ACCESS MEDIA SERVICES

10:03:53 AM

With the increase in property values, one of my 2022 legislative priorities is to address impacts of increased property tax liability, especially for our kūpuna on fixed incomes, by adjusting the home exemption and property tax credits available to residents. I have introduced several measures related to the real property home exemption and real property tax credit that aim to lower property tax costs for homeowners:

- [Resolution 22-123](#) - Educational Awareness: urges the City and County to implement a public campaign educating residents about the real property tax home exemptions, three months before the deadline for the exemption. On June 15th, the Budget Committee reported the resolution out for adoption, and it will be heard for final adoption at the next Council meeting on July 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Bill 37 \(2022\)](#) – Tax Credits: increases the income eligibility from \$60,000 to \$70,000, to be eligible for a property tax credit that would result in homeowners paying no more than 3% of their income to their real property taxes.
- [Bill 40 \(2022\)](#) – Home Exemption Increase: increases the standard real property tax home exemption from \$100,000 to \$110,000 and the real property tax home exemption for those 65 years or older from \$140,000 to \$150,000.
- [Bill 38 \(2022\)](#) – to promote dialogue, I also introduced Bill 38 which increases the income eligibility of the real property tax credit from a combined income of \$60,000 to 80% of Honolulu’s area median income (AMI) established for a two-person household in Honolulu that would result in homeowners paying no more than 3% of their income to their real property taxes. Currently, the 2022 AMI for a two-person household is \$83,600.

If you have not already or if you recently acquired a new home, I encourage homeowners to apply for the City and County of Honolulu’s home exemption by going to the [City and County’s Real Property Assessment Division’s website](#) and following their instructions. The deadline for home exemptions is every year on September 30th.

I also encourage homeowners to stay informed about their property tax information, by utilizing the resources provided on the [Department of Budget and Fiscal Services website](#), including their property search tool. There, you can check neighborhood sales prices in your area, by entering your address, and scrolling down to the “Recent Sales” section to find out the recent sales prices of houses in your neighborhood.

**State Champion in Track and Field –
Tatum Moku from Kāneʻohe**



Councilmember Kia'āina congratulated and honored Kamehameha Schools Kapālama junior Tatum Moku with an honorary certificate for her performance at the 2022 Island Movers/HHSAA Track and Field Championships. Born and raised in Kāne'ōhe, Tatum won the state championship in three events, which were the long jump, 100 meter hurdles, and pole vault where she set a state record of 13 feet 1 inch. Congratulations Tatum!

City Council Passes FY2023 CIP and Operating Budget



The City's FY2023 annual budget allocation process is finished, with the passage of [Bill 14](#) and [Bill 15](#) at the June 1, 2022 full City Council meeting. Some highlights from the City Council's approved amendments include the following, all of which would strengthen our community as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Over \$70 million to support increased affordable housing and increasing home ownership.
- \$29 million to support clean water initiatives, including to respond to the Red Hill Crisis
- Over \$23 million to support households experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations
- Over \$13 million to improve public safety, emergency services' response, and ocean safety initiatives
- \$5 million for cesspool conversions, particularly for low-income households
- \$5 million for job training, including green job training

I am pleased to share that I was able to secure over \$30 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the City's FY2023 budget, which include:

- \$12 million in Vacant or Abandoned Properties Improvements
- \$10 million for Affordable Housing for Pandemic Impacted Communities
- \$5 million for Home Ownership Assistance Programs
- \$2 million in funding for COVID Death Benefits for citizens of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia living on O'ahu
- Funding for staffing to execute these projects

Utilizing ARPA funds in the City budget for projects related to affordable housing was one of my budget priorities. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing insecurity and unsustainable housing cost burdens for residents, and while many COVID-19 housing support programs and other resources are slowly ending, it's critical that the City work to provide relief to our neediest community members. This funding will allow the City to continue to assist those in our community that are still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19.

Finally, I am pleased that funding will be allocated to provide relief for Micronesian residents who have suffered from the loss of loved ones due to COVID. Federal law prohibits citizens of the Freely Associated States Micronesia living in the United States to benefit from COVID-19 funeral assistance open to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, and qualified non-citizens. Accepting this amendment into

the City's budget rights a wrong that was established at the federal level and provides invaluable assistance to our Micronesian community.

Kailua Fire Station Gets New Fire Apparatus: named Ka'iwa



Earlier this month, I was honored to be a part of the Honolulu Fire Department's Apparatus Blessing at 'Iolani Palace. The newest apparatus in Kailua—Ladder 18—is aptly named Ka'iwa (the frigatebird), which is also the name of the ridge between the lands of Ka'ōhao and Ka'elepulu. As described by HFD, "like the elegant flight of the 'iwa that can soar for months without landing, what may seem

routine and effortless to onlookers, is merely the result of continuous training, learning and adapting to the many challenges we face as fire fighters.”

Congratulations to Hawaii Education of the Arts!



On June 1, Councilmember Kia'aina and the Honolulu City Council honored Hawaii Education of the Arts (Hearts) with an honorary certificate on the occasion of the organization's 20th anniversary. HEARTS is a Windward O'ahu based non-profit that provides music, theatre, and hula programs for youth, and has served well over a thousand students. Congratulations to the entire HEARTS 'ohana!

Committee on Housing and the Economy Update

Reduce Water Use by 10%



Average family water use is
200 gallons/day --
10% of 200 = 20 gallons

Ideas to help save 20 gallons



Turn off the tap when you wash hands, brush teeth, or shave.
Save: Up to 2.5 gallons/minute



Do only full loads of dishes and/or laundry instead of partial loads.
Save: 15 - 20 gallons/load



Take a short shower instead of a tub bath.
Save: Up to 25 gallons



Wash your car with a bucket & sponge instead of a garden hose.
Save: At least 60 gallons



If we all save a little water
then together we'll save a lot

Board of Water Supply

www.boardofwatersupply.com/conservation

In May and June, the Housing & the Economy Committee, which I chair, heard and moved out [Bill 27](#), which would authorize the Mayor to establish an outdoor dining service pilot. The pilot would allow permits to be issued to restaurants to use City property adjacent to their businesses for dining, as long as it is consistent with

public health and safety considerations. As one of the hardest hit industries during the pandemic, Bill 27 would provide our local restaurants with an opportunity to increase their dining occupancy, pay down debt they incurred during the pandemic, maintain their workforce, and grow and stabilize their businesses. The measure was strongly supported by the Hawai'i Restaurant Association and Kailua's own Lanikai Brewing Company. The final hearing is expected to take place on July 6 before the full City Council.

In May, the Committee also held an informational briefing on the Red Hill Crisis' impacts on City housing projects. After housing developers received letters in March that the Board of Water Supply may not be able to accommodate proposed construction projects and after shocked developers halted projects, I invited BWS to share how the Red Hill Crisis will impact housing projects in the City. The threat of a construction moratorium would not only hurt efforts to address our affordable housing crisis but also impact a critical section of our economy. Thankfully, BWS, in spite of the monumental strain this crisis has put on our island's water resources, has been diligently working on short-term and long-term plans to protect the safety of O'ahu's drinking water and mitigate impacts to our already dire affordable housing situation. At the Committee's May hearing, BWS announced that development projects that previously received letters will be allowed to proceed as normal. You can find the two BWS presentations [here](#) and [here](#). Please join us in supporting all of the hard work of BWS by continuing to do what you can to reduce your water usage by at least 10%. For conservation tips, please visit [BWS' website](#).

The Housing and the Economy Committee also obtained updates on the City's Housing and Homeless Action Plans at its June hearing. After passing [Resolution 22-2](#) and [22-3](#) in January, Councilmembers, including myself, have been anxious to work on next steps of the City's efforts to combat homelessness. While the City is continuing to implement existing successful programs and pandemic funded programs, at the hearing I expressed that there continues to be a need for more services and housing and urged that the City expedite progress on our underperforming and stalled projects targeted at helping households experiencing homelessness. You can find the administration's two presentations [here](#) and [here](#).

Congratulations to the Po'okela Award Recipients!



Councilmember Kia'aina congratulates Amber Weiss of Kailua, a University of Hawai'i graduate and Po'okela fellow from City Council District 3.

The City and County of Honolulu's Po'okela Fellows Internship Program introduces Honolulu's next generation of leaders to the world of public service. During her fellowship, Amber Weiss, a University of Hawai'i Class of 2022 Graduate, taught environmental lessons with local middle schools, designed educational resources, and created ArcGIS storymaps to teach the community more about our urban forest resources. The City and County is grateful for her dedication and passion towards the environment and our trees. More information about the Po'okela Fellows Internship Program and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Lanikai Traffic Management Plan Discussed at City Council



On June 14, Resolution [22-125](#), which I introduced, was adopted by the Transportation, Sustainability, and Health Committee. The resolution urges the Department of Transportation Services to create a traffic management plan for the Lanikai community that would:

- Improve access to first responders and overall roadway safety,
- Provide ease of access to Lanikai Beach, and
- Provide reasonable and appropriate parking controls for Lanikai residents and Lanikai Beach users

I have also requested that the traffic management plan include an assessment which evaluates the feasibility of potential transport options for residents and visitors to visit Lanikai Beach, including additional parking restrictions, off-street and off-site parking solutions, improved transit options, and improved multi-modal

access opportunities.

This resolution was introduced after various meetings with the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS), the Lanikai Association, and community stakeholders who are frustrated by the longtime headache that traffic congestion on the loop has elicited. Understanding that the traffic situation in Lanikai has been discussed with community groups and other stakeholders long before I became a Councilmember, I recognize that many who are impacted by this issue have differing opinions on the best solution. In 2014, the Kailua Neighborhood Board passed a motion that requested the DTS install "No Parking" signs on various Lanikai streets and intersections of Mokulua and 'A'alapapa Drive. I hope that the introduction of my resolution will be the start of productive dialogue between community stakeholders and the City, and will ultimately result in a traffic plan that will accommodate all who live in Lanikai and those who want to enjoy Lanikai Beach.

ISA World Junior Surfing Champions



Kamakau student Ēwelei'ula

Congratulations to the 2022 Hawai'i Surf Team, who beat 45 countries and more than 400 competitors, and brought home to Hawai'i, the birthplace of he'e nalu (surfing), the overall team title and two individual gold medals from the 2022 International Surfing Association World Junior Surfing Championship in El Salvador. This competition features the best young surfing talent across the world and the Association is the main pathway to world class and Olympic Games Surfing. In addition to the team taking home the gold, O'ahu resident Luke Swanson and Kāne'ohe's Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau student Ēwelei'ula Wong also took home individual championship titles in their under 18-year old divisions.

Department of Parks & Recreation: Tennis & Pickleball Lessons and Glamping



Tennis & Pickleball Survey

The Department of Parks & Recreation is inviting the public to participate in a more detailed survey and public hearing focusing on whether to designate tennis or pickleball lessons for a fee in City parks as an authorized commercial activity on public courts, and if so what rules should apply to ensure primary recreational use of the courts is respected and maintained. Please have your voice heard by participating in the survey by going [here](#). The public hearing will be on June 28, 2002 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Kapolei Hale in Suite 312. You can also join via zoom at this [link](#).

Glamping

The Department also wants the public to know that it is aware of concerns about Glamping, aka businesses setting up campsites for profit in City parks, including in City Waimānalo parks where commercial activities are not allowed. Camping Specialist Shannon “Grip” Gripper has been doing site visits, including at all City parks on the Windward side. Please contact Grip with complaints or questions at (808) 768-3443.

Community Outreach



In May, Councilmember Kia'aina met leaders from community organizations Ho'okua'aina and Kauluakalana and the Trust for Public Lands and Hawai'i Land Trust. The discussion focused on the acquisition by these community organizations to protect and acquire Palawai and Makali'i lands in Maunawili for bio-cultural restoration and sustainable agriculture. These efforts will include private and public funding, including the City's Clean Water and Natural Resources Lands program.

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](#).

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 website [here](#). or call the City's information hotline at: (808) 768-CITY (2489).

Copyright © 2022 Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, District 3, All rights reserved.

Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, District 3
City and County of Honolulu

530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 768-5003
E-mail: ekiaaina@honolulu.gov

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).