

# Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto

FEBRUARY 2024 - ISSUE 18  
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 8 | PORTIONS OF 'AIEA, MILILANI, PEARL CITY, AND PORTIONS OF WAIPAHU



## Aloha mai kākou,

As we step into the month of February, I am filled with excitement to connect with each of you through our monthly newsletter. February is a time of reflection, celebration, and community spirit, and I am eager to share updates, highlights, and important information that will shape our shared journey over the coming weeks.

In this edition, we'll delve into key initiatives, upcoming events, and the latest developments within our vibrant community. As your dedicated Councilmember, my commitment to serving you remains unwavering, and together, we'll continue to build a thriving community.

I encourage you to stay engaged, share your thoughts, and actively participate in the various community activities lined up for this month. Your input is invaluable, and together, we can foster a sense of unity and collaboration that defines the essence of our wonderful district.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of representing you. Let's make February a month to remember as we work together to create positive and lasting impacts for our community.

Mahalo,

## Contact My Office!

My team and I are focused on serving the community and prioritizing constituent needs and concerns. If you have any questions or would like to report an issue within our district, please contact my office.



(808) 768-5008



valokimoto@honolulu.gov

## FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

1

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY



2

GROUNDHOG DAY



9

NATIONAL PIZZA DAY



11

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY



14

VALENTINE'S DAY



17

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY



19

PRESIDENT'S DAY





# Honolulu County Updates

## MAHIKU FARMERS MARKET



Immerse yourself in the community spirit at the Mahiku Farmers Market every Friday from 3 pm to 7 pm at Mililani Shopping Center. This gathering not only showcases an abundance of locally grown produce, fruits, delicious foods, vibrant flowers, plants, captivating artwork, and crafts, but it also fosters a sense of connection within the community. Join us in cultivating stronger community ties while enjoying the best offerings from dedicated local farmers. Don't miss out on this fantastic community event!

[mahikufarmersmarket.com](http://mahikufarmersmarket.com)

## VOTE FOR THE HONOLULU ZOO



The Honolulu Zoo has been nominated as one of the top 20 zoos nationwide, competing for the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for the title of BEST ZOO! You have the opportunity to vote once every day until March 4th! Honolulu Zoo deserves your vote for the title of best zoo due to its commitment to provide a captivating experience for visitors and creating a compassionate and nurturing home for diverse species. Every vote counts!

[honolulu zoo.org](http://honolulu zoo.org)

## KILOHANA HULA SHOW



Experience the enchanting Kilohana Hula Show, a captivating celebration inspired by the renowned Kodak Hula Show! Join us Sunday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., starting from Feb. 15, at the amphitheater of the Tom Moffatt Waikiki Shell. The show will include 18 dancers from at least six award-winning hlaui, including the winner of the 2023 Merrie Monarch hula competition, four musicians, a chanter and an emcee. Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness the beauty and grace of hula at its finest!

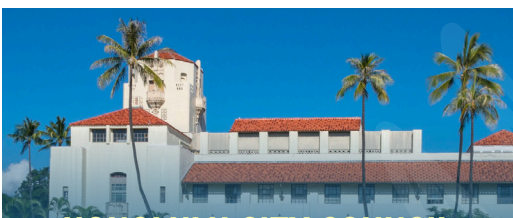
IG: [@experiencekilohana](https://www.instagram.com/experiencekilohana)



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## HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### BUDGET (BUD)

Radiant Cordero, Chair  
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

### EXECUTIVE MATTERS & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair  
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

### TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair  
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

### ZONING (ZON)

Calvin Say, Chair  
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair

### PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES & CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)

Augie Tulba, Chair  
Val Okimoto, Vice Chair

### HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH (HSH)

Matt Weyer, Chair  
Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

### PLANNING AND ECONOMY (P&E)

Esther Kia'aina, Chair  
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

### PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Val Okimoto, Chair  
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY (PIT)

Andria Tupola, Chair  
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

# Legislative Review

This week's committee meetings kick off on Wednesday at 9 am, commencing with the Committee on Budget.

Among the notable bills in focus:

Bill 44 aims to curb the construction of oversized homes by criminalizing the fabrication or encouragement of false statements to City Officials. This bill is scheduled for discussion in the Committee on Executive Management and Legal Affairs.

Bill 65, scheduled for discussion in the Committee on Zoning, addresses matters related to the State Building Code. The City will thoroughly review the Department of Planning & Permitting's proposed amendments to the code.

On February 8th, the Committee on Planning & The Economy will discuss Bill 64. This bill seeks to amend O'ahu's Land Use Ordinance, with a particular focus on residential land use. While no action will be taken during this session, proposed amendments will be set aside for future consideration when the bill undergoes a final comprehensive hearing.

Stay engaged as we navigate these crucial discussions to shape the future of our community.

For those seeking comprehensive information on these bills or any other legislative matters, please visit the Honolulu City Council website, [honoluluycitycouncil.org](http://honoluluycitycouncil.org).



**HONOLULU  
CITY COUNCIL**  
*Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu*



# District 8 Community Report

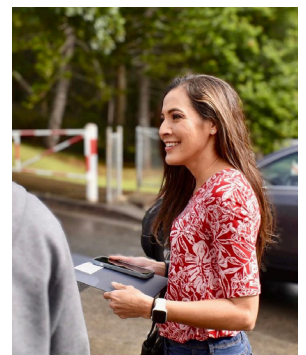
## HONORARY CERTIFICATES

I had the honor of recognizing Dr. Chadwick Kamei with an honorary certificate for being an Outstanding Bandmaster and Recipient of Doctor of Musical Arts! Dr. Kamei has always been a humble and kind leader. We deeply appreciate your outstanding contributions and are grateful for your musical wisdom. It was a privilege to have Maestro Nakasone join us at the Honolulu Hale to honor Dr. Chadwick Kamei, another humble individual whose dedication has greatly impacted the community and the future of music in our schools.



## MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL VISIT

I had a productive visit to Mililani Middle School, delving into after-school traffic concerns with Principal Shannon Tamashiro and Assistant Principals Greg Nakasone and Jeffrey Horstman. Their insights into the school's plans and achievements were enlightening. Following our discussion, I had the privilege of touring the newest building, witnessing firsthand the dedication to providing a safe and enriching environment for students. I am grateful for the opportunity to engage with school leadership and gain valuable insights into their commendable initiatives.



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## GENTRY WAIPĪ'O COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Navigating the vibrant community of Gentry Waipi'o was made insightful and informative, thanks to the gracious guidance of the Gentry Waipi'o Community Association. Board President Mary Bretschneider and Site Manager Sheryl Kaseli generously shared their time, leading me through key spots and providing perspectives on safety concerns within the community. It was a meaningful experience, shedding light on the collective efforts to ensure the well-being of the residents.



## SCHOOL STREET GROUNDBREAKING

I was honored to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the transformative School Street Affordable Housing Project, dedicated to providing 800 affordable housing units for our kūpuna. A heartfelt mahalo to the developers and everyone involved in making this visionary project a reality. Together, we're taking crucial steps toward fostering a supportive community for our beloved kūpuna. Grateful to witness the collective commitment to creating affordable, accessible and sustainable housing solutions.



## INCHEON DELEGATION DINNER

A delightful evening at the Incheon Delegation dinner provided the perfect setting to reconnect with Mayor Yoo and members of the Honolulu County Sister City Foundation.

The warmth of the occasion was heightened by the presence of Mrs. Ko, whose unwavering efforts consistently foster meaningful connections with Korea. Grateful for the camaraderie and the shared commitment to strengthening ties between our communities.



## CONSTITUENT MEETINGS

Grateful for a productive meeting with constituents Warren Oda and Charmaine Doran, Vice Chair of our Pearl City Neighborhood Board, alongside HDF's Chief Joe Kostiha and Fire Commissioner Butch Galdeira. Together, we engaged in a respectful dialogue addressing community concerns regarding HFD helicopters conducting rescue drills in the Pacific Palisades area. Collaborative discussions like these exemplify the strength of community engagement in finding solutions and ensuring the well-being of our neighborhoods.





# Happy Lunar New Year!

Embarking on the auspicious Lunar New Year, 2024 marks the vibrant Year of the Dragon, a symbol of strength, good fortune, and positive transformation. What better way to usher in this majestic year than by attending the spectacular Year of the Dragon Dinner hosted by the gracious owners, Alan and Sylvia Ho, at the esteemed Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant.

Reuniting with them after a prolonged separation since the pre-COVID era added a special layer of warmth and joy to the celebration. The event served as a testament to the resilience of community ties and the enduring spirit that binds us together.

The evening unfolded with a mesmerizing showcase of traditional Chinese dance, beautifully encapsulating the rich cultural tapestry that defines the essence of the Lunar New Year. The intricate movements and vibrant costumes were a visual feast, transporting everyone present into the heart of Chinese heritage.

Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant spared no effort in crafting a culinary experience that was nothing short of extraordinary. The flavors of the meticulously prepared dishes reflected the diversity and symbolism associated with the Lunar New Year, each bite a nod to prosperity, longevity, and happiness.

Beyond the delectable cuisine and captivating performances, the event provided a precious opportunity to reconnect with friends, colleagues, and members of the community. Laughter

and conversations flowed freely, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie that transcended the confines of the dining tables.

As we embraced the traditions of the Year of the Dragon, this festive gathering at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant became not only a celebration of Chinese culture but also a symbolic toast to the enduring spirit of community. The shared moments of joy and reflection served as a powerful reminder of the resilience that binds us together, promising a year ahead filled with prosperity, good fortune, and the strength to overcome any challenges that may come our way.



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## Community Events

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for an array of exciting events. Whether it's the eagerly anticipated community fairs, engaging workshops, or lively performances, District 8 is buzzing with energy and enthusiasm. We believe in fostering a sense of unity and connection among our residents, and these events serve as the perfect avenues for building stronger bonds within our community.

Explore upcoming events at Mililani Public Library, featuring Palentine's Day Friendship Bracelet making and a Black History Month Movie. Find details on their website at <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/branch/mililani-public-library/>. Additionally, don't miss out on Pearl City's Public Library events, including Keiki Storytime, American Red Cross of Hawai'i: Hands-Only CPR and more! To view their event listings visit <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/branch/pearl-city-public-library/>.

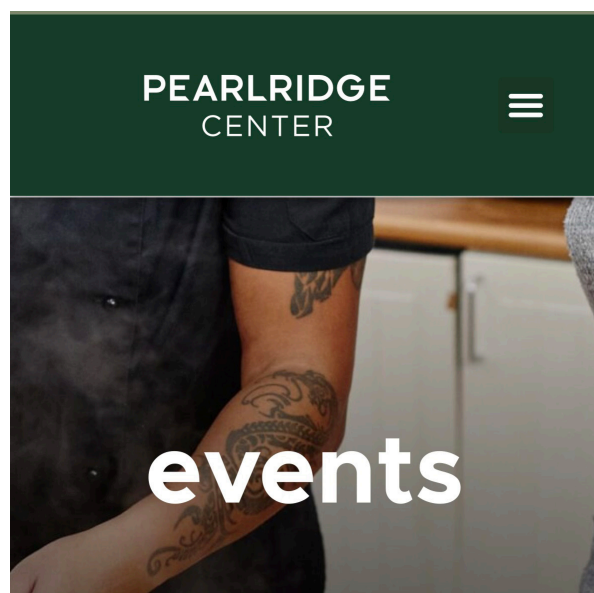
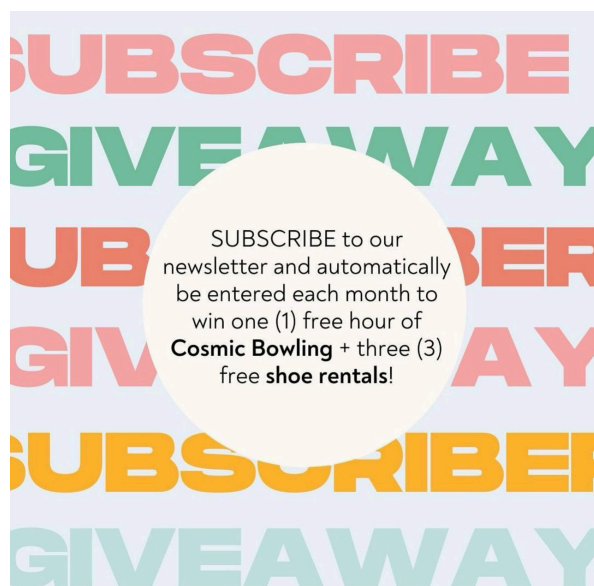
Bowling enthusiasts, don't miss out on the cosmic excitement at Aiea Bowl! Check out @AieaBowl on Instagram for a chance to win a complimentary hour of Cosmic Bowling along with three free shoe rentals. Throughout 2024, they're selecting lucky newsletter subscribers for this cosmic treat. Keep your finger on the pulse of entertainment, leisure, and community engagement with these exciting happenings in Mililani and the surrounding areas!

Stay tuned to the vibrant pulse of Pearlridge Center by visiting their website at [pearlridgeonline.com](http://pearlridgeonline.com). Navigate through a treasure trove of upcoming events, from energetic Zumba sessions to laughter-filled comedy clubs and the bustling Village Market. Discover a calendar filled with diverse activities to cater to every interest.

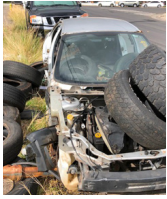
In each newsletter, we're committed to showcasing the richness of District 8's community life. Let the pages of our updates unfold a tapestry of events, revealing the heartbeat of our neighborhoods. From cultural celebrations to family-friendly festivals, we're here to keep you informed about the dynamic happenings that make District 8 a thriving hub of activity.

Your active participation in shaping our community newsletter is highly valued! If you have upcoming events in District 8 that you'd like to see featured, don't hesitate to share them with me. Your contributions help us create a newsletter that truly reflects the dynamic spirit of our district.

Feel free to reach out to me via Instagram direct message at @councilmembervalokimoto or through email at [valokimoto@honolulu.gov](mailto:valokimoto@honolulu.gov).



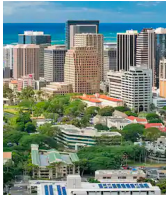
# Helpful Honolulu Resources



## ABANDONED VEHICLES HOTLINE

The City's Customer Service Department (CSD) manages the Abandoned Vehicle Program. If you see suspected abandoned vehicles, you can report it through the hotline below.

[\(808\) 768-2530](tel:(808)768-2530)



## BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits are required to construct, alter or demolish any structure, do electrical work over \$500, or do plumbing work over \$1,000 within a 12-month period.

[www.honolulu.gov/dpp/permitting/building-permits.html](http://www.honolulu.gov/dpp/permitting/building-permits.html)

[\(808\) 768-8000](tel:(808)768-8000)



## BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII

Become a donor! Just 1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives. Contact the Blood Bank of Hawaii or go to their website to find the nearest blood donation center near you.

[www.bbh.org/about/location/](http://www.bbh.org/about/location/)

[\(808\) 848-4770](tel:(808)848-4770)



## CRIMESTOPPERS HOTLINE

If you see something, say something! Call Crimestoppers to ensure the safety of our community. The hotline is available 24/7 and callers can remain anonymous.

[\(808\) 955-8300](tel:(808)955-8300)



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTIONS

Travelers must complete and return the agricultural form upon arrival to Hawai'i. For departures, please report all agricultural items in your possession to the agricultural inspectors.

[\(808\) 836-6411](tel:(808)836-6411)



## HOMELESSNESS HOTLINE

The State of Hawai'i is continually working to reduce homelessness and support the homeless. Use the hotline below to request services or to report an encampment.

[\(808\) 586-0193](tel:(808)586-0193)

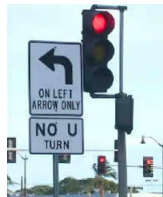


## HONOLULU POTHOLE HOTLINE

If you see a pothole in any of O'ahu's city streets, contact the hotline below or file a report online.

[honoluluhi.citysourced.com/default.aspx](http://honoluluhi.citysourced.com/default.aspx)

[\(808\) 768-7777](tel:(808)768-7777)



## STREET LIGHT REPAIR

If there are street light issues within the community, call the Traffic Signals Division hotline.

[\(808\) 768-8387](tel:(808)768-8387)



## Let's Stay Connected!

To get weekly updates from me and to see what's going on in our District 8 community, please follow me on social media.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/councilmembervalokimoto) [i](https://www.instagram.com/councilmembervalokimoto) @councilmembervalokimoto

