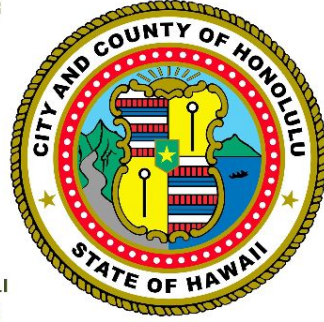




ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 3

# KIA'ĀINA

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



February 28, 2022

## Hawai'i's leaders united on Red Hill



Photo Credit: Na Leo

Despite the continuing coverage of the Red Hill crisis in the news, it is important that Hawai'i's community and political leaders be vigilant as the U.S. Navy fights

the obvious need to defuel and permanently remove its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Underground Storage Tanks.

That is why I am pleased that the City Council passed [Bill 48 \(2021\), CD2](#), which would require a City permit to operate an underground storage tank system holding more than 100,000 gallons. Under Bill 48, a permit would not be granted unless the operator could demonstrate that the tank would not leak any regulated substance into the environment during its operating life. Mayor Rick Blangiardi is expected to sign the bill into law in the near future.

In December 2021, the City Council passed [Resolution 21-276 FD1](#), which I introduced, and which calls for the permanent removal and relocation of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Underground Storage Tanks. On January 27, 2022, Chair Tommy Waters and I followed up by sending a [letter to President Joe Biden](#), reiterating our concerns and asking for him to direct the U.S. Navy to permanently remove the facility.

I am heartened by the State Legislature's efforts that call for the defueling and prohibiting of large underground fuel tanks like Red Hill, as well the Hawai'i's Congressional delegation's introduction of the Red Hill Watershed and Aquifer Initiative (WAI) Act this month in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The WAI Act would require all fuel operations at Red Hill to be discontinued, tanks to be defueled, and the facility to be permanently closed in accordance with the current practices recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, led by Senator Brian Schatz, the delegation secured \$403 million for Red Hill in the supplemental appropriations bill, including \$100 Million to comply with the Hawai'i Department of Health Order to remove the fuel and improve the infrastructure at Red Hill.

Nevertheless, because the U.S. Navy has appealed the Hawai'i Department of Health's Emergency Order in both state and federal courts, I continue to believe that we need to use every tool we have at all levels of government to safeguard our drinking water supply for now and for the future.

For those interested, please sign up for the [Board of Water](#)

[Supply's newsletter](#) as they update the community on their operational actions in response to the Red Hill crisis.

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## Waimānalo Farmers Market Returns

The Waimānalo Farmers Market returned to the Waimānalo Health Center on February 9th. The market will occur every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information on being a vendor or to reserve a spot, please contact (808) 954-7162 or [achaudhry@waimanalohealth.org](mailto:achaudhry@waimanalohealth.org). There is no vendor charge to participate.

In Kailua, you can go to the Hawai'i Farm Bureau's [Kailua Farmer's Market](#) at the Kailua Town Center on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. [The Kailua Town Farmer's Market](#) is located at the Enchanted Lake Shopping Center and operates on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The [Windward Mall Farmer's Market](#) operates on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

# WAIMĀNALO FARMERS MARKET



*2nd & 4th* **Wednesdays**

**3:30 - 6:30pm**

Waimānalo Health Center  
41-1347 Kalanianaʻole Hwy



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**Legislative Update**



- [Bill 38 \(2021\), CD2](#) – Prohibits most commercial activities at City managed parks and City-owned and -operated rights of way in Waimānalo. Bill 38 will be heard by the Parks and Community Services Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 2:30 P.M. Please find agenda here: <https://hnlldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlldoc/document-download?id=13217>.

After additional research, coordination with applicable State and County departments, and after continuing to listen to community input at the council hearings, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board meetings, and via calls and email communications, the CD 2 would: 1) Insert ‘ōlelo hawai‘i diacritical marks, and 2) Remove exemptions for still photography and special event videography. If the bill passes out of Committee on March 3rd, we anticipate a third and final reading at the full City Council meeting on March 16, 2022.

- [Bill 41 \(2021\), CD1](#) – On January 20, 2022, Bill 41, CD1 bill passed out of the Zoning and Planning Committee. The bill would change the definition of short-term rentals to be for less than 90 days instead of less than 30 days, improves enforcement tools, requires registration for all short term rentals, and adopts use and development standards for all short-term rentals (e.g. occupancy limits, parking plans, quiet hours, and restricted gatherings). I continue to listen closely to details shared by stakeholders, including in particular constituents of District 3, on how the measure may impact our residential neighborhoods and legal operations. I anticipate the measure will be heard in the next month or two, please check this link periodically for the next hearing date and for any additional

amendments: <https://hnlidoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlidoc/measure/2007>.

- Property Taxes - I know that increases in property valuations have impacted property owner's property taxes. I am looking forward to a hearing on [Bill 7](#), which would adjust the home exemption, which applies to real property owned and occupied as an owner's principle home, for inflation, and [Bill 3](#), which was co-authored by myself and Chair Tommy Waters, which would provide property owners more details on how the valuation of their properties were calculated. Bill 3 will be heard in the Budget Committee on Wednesday, March 2nd, you can find the agenda here: <https://hnlidoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlidoc/document-download?id=13203>.

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## Community Outreach



*Pleased to help respond to a concerned grandparent who asked about the lack of a basket rim and net at the Enchanted Lake basketball court so that her grandson could play with his league as part of the Kailua Basketball Association. Mahalo Parks and Rec!*

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

This month, the City Council also launched Hale Ho'okele, a new public access tool which will help to ensure that residents can navigate the Council's website, understand and participate in the legislative process, and engage with the City more effectively.

Visit [honolulucitycouncil.org/halehookele](https://honolulucitycouncil.org/halehookele) to learn more.

The graphic features the Hale Ho'okele logo at the top, which includes a stylized orange and blue sailboat with a compass rose above it. Below the logo, the text reads "Hale Ho'okele" in large, bold, black letters, followed by "HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL NAVIGATION PORTAL" in smaller, blue, all-caps letters. To the left, a computer monitor displays a webpage titled "Upcoming Virtual Workshops:" with a sub-heading "Navigate the New Council Website" and the date "February 14, 2022 6 p.m. via Zoom". A "Sign Up" button is visible on the screen. To the right of the monitor, the text "We are here to kōkua:" is followed by a list of four bullet points, each marked with a compass rose icon. At the bottom right, a yellow rounded rectangle contains a magnifying glass icon and the website URL "www.honolulucitycouncil.org".

**Hale Ho'okele**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL NAVIGATION PORTAL

**We are here to kōkua:**

- \* Answer questions about the City Council process
- \* Provide up-to-date community resources
- \* Host workshops and trainings
- \* Connect people with their Councilmembers

[www.honolulucitycouncil.org](http://www.honolulucitycouncil.org)



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