



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

HAWAI'I KAI | KULI'OU'OU | NIU VALLEY | 'ĀINA HAINA | WAILUPE
WAI'ALAE-IKI | KALANI VALLEY | KĀHALA | WILHELMINA RISE |
KAIMUKĪ KAPAHULU | WAIALAE | DIAMOND HEAD | WAIKĪKĪ

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JANUARY 2024 DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

- P1 - ALOHA & CONTACT US
- P2 - EVENTS, HOW TO TESTIFY, & D4 UPDATES
- P3 - D4 UPDATES (con't)
- P4 - D4 UPDATES (con't)
- P5 - D4 UPDATES (con't)
- P6 - D4 UPDATES (con't)
- P7 - D4 UPDATES (con't) & CCH PHONE LIST



The Makahiki was celebrated as a winter holiday before Christmas came to Hawai'i. This event marked the beginning of the Hawaiian lunar year and was highly significant to Native Hawaiians. Although the meaning of Makahiki can be confusing, it refers to the four-month season that signals the start of the New Year in the Hawaiian calendar. During this time, the people of Hawai'i reflected on their traditions, showed recognition of their culture, and took great pride in their achievements. Each land district worked hard to produce abundance and offer their finest products.

Our Honolulu City Council 'ohana pays tribute to the lessons of Makahiki and continuously aspires to improve the quality of life for our entire island community. As we enter a new year, I would like to extend warm wishes to all the residents of our beautiful city. This is a special time of year when we come together to celebrate with our family and friends and reflect on the many blessings in our lives.

The Council District 4 staff and I value your participation and insights as community members. Your thoughts and feedback are critical to making Honolulu County a wonderful and safe place to call home. We are committed to responding quickly and working tirelessly to represent and support your needs and voice. We wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and happiness. Happy Holidays from your **Honolulu City Council!**

Mahalo,

EVENTS and HAPPENINGS



HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK OR SUBMIT TESTIMONY FOR COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It's important to share your thoughts on Honolulu City Council's legislation. Attending Council or Committee in-person meetings may not always be possible, but you can submit testimony via mail, fax, email, or online. Visit hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl/doc/testimony to learn more.

JANUARY'S NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki NB No. 02

Recessed its regular meeting in January 2024

Waikīkī NB No. 09

January 9, 6:00 pm, Waikīkī Community Center

Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis NB No. 05

January 11, 6:00 pm, Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse

Kaimukī NB No. 04

January 17, 6:30 pm, Kaimukī Public Library

Wai'alae/Kāhala NB No. 03

January 18, 7:00 pm, Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse

Hawai'i Kai NB No. 01

January 30, 7:00 pm, Haha'ione Elem. School Cafeteria

DISTRICT 4 UPDATES

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION (DPR) "LET'S MEET AT THE PARK"



DPR is proud to announce the completion of the "Let's Meet at the Park" initiative, which is placing new and replacement benches in lower-income communities around O'ahu. Utilizing some \$2.88 million in federal funds, a combination of in-house and contracted staff, and support from the Honolulu City Council, this initiative resulted in 347 benches and 299 tables being placed at 61 City gardens and parks. The installations took about eight months, utilizing a variety of skilled staff ranging from masons to carpenters, heavy machine operators to utility workers. At least 20% of the new benches and tables within each park are ADA-accessible, supporting the inclusive nature of City parks by welcoming a diverse demographic of park users.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

- Crane Community Park – 5 benches/5 tables
- Paki Community Park – 5 benches/5 tables



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

EXECUTIVE MATTER & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)

Resolution 23-239: Initiating Amendments to the Revised Charter of the City & County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as Amended, Relating to the Qualifications of the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) – Reso 23-239 addresses the need for additional qualifications for the DEM Director’s position to attract and secure the best and most qualified candidates. The five proposed qualifications for the DEM Director’s position are outlined in Reso 23-239:

- **Education**: A bachelor’s degree in emergency management, public health, public administration, or a relevant field. Advanced degrees or certifications in related fields are preferred.
- **Experience**: At least five years of training or experience in emergency management or public health.
- **Leadership**: At least three years of experience leading local, state, or federal emergency management efforts.
- **Administrative**: At least three years of the experience specified in item (2) must have been in a responsible administrative capacity, demonstrating leadership and the ability to coordinate complex operations involving numerous agencies and personnel.
- **Collaboration Skills**: Demonstrated capability to collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies during emergencies.

Reso 23-239 proposes adding a question to the 2024 General Election Ballot. The question seeks public approval for proposed amendments to the City Charter. These amendments aim to involve the community in determining the qualifications required for the DEM Director’s position. If the voters approve, the proposed City Charter Amendments will become effective on January 1, 2025.

ZONING (ZON)

Resolution 24-009: Authorizing Exemptions from Certain Requirements Relating to the Pāhoā Ridge Rental or For-Sale Project in Honolulu, O’ahu – The Zoning Committee has reviewed a 201H project at 2779 Wai’alae Avenue and passed out a Committee Draft (CD) 1 for this Reso. The project proposes a total of 23 stories/210 feet height on a parcel that is zoned A-2. The project will consist of affordable rentals, not for sale, as initially proposed. The project aims to provide 180 units, along with two manager units. During the January 10 Zoning Committee’s discussion, the height, traffic, affordable rentals, pedestrian access, and financing were extensively considered. Reso 24-009 is scheduled for its first reading during the full Council meeting on January 24, 2024.

PLANNING & THE ECONOMY (P&E)

Presentation Update the Department of Planning & Permitting (DPP) Backlog Permit Processing <https://hnlidoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlidoc/document-download?id=19844>

DPP provides regular updates to the City Council regarding their progress in improving the building permit issuance process. Their most recent presentation indicates a slight improvement in building permit times. However, DPP plans to implement new software soon, which they believe will further enhance the processing times for building permits. The Council District 4 office is closely monitoring this matter and will provide additional information as soon as possible.


DPP Year in Review 2023

Keeping the public safe with **116,500+** inspections performed.

17,931+ Site Development Grading, Grubbing, Stockpiling, SWP Subdivision, etc.	84,952+ Building Building, Electrical, Mechanical, ESCP, PCBMP	13,385+ Zoning Commercial, Residential, STR
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Reviewed and Processed:

- 180 subdivisions
- 220 construction plans
- 1,580 sewer capacity analyses
- 380 grading permits
- 900 trenching permits
- 3 201H permits
- 18 SMA major permits
- 1 PRU
- 1 IPD-T
- 168 affordable housing applications
- East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan Amendment
- Achieved 93% accuracy on elevation certificate reviews



Staff reviewed **16 demonstrations** of potential permitting software to complete the scope of work.

Stood up the **O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission** with a 1st of 5 meetings beginning in July. Submitted the Certified Local Government Application to SHPD in October.

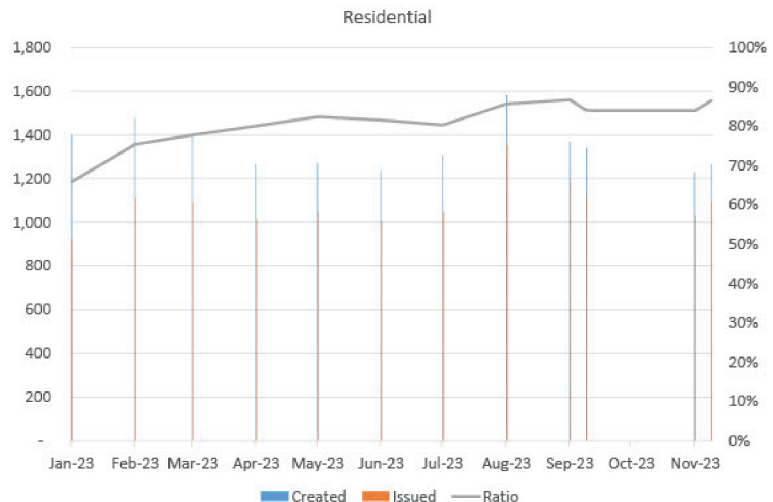
Created **140 GIS maps** serving a variety of agencies

Permitting Process Durations by Phase - Residential

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS EXCLUDING INSTANT ONLINE				
	Pre-screen	Code Review	Approve to Issue	Total Ave Duration
EMLA 11/15/2022	6 months	3 months	2 months	330 days
P&E 9/14/23	5 days	5 month 2 weeks	4.5 days	170 days/ 5 months, 3 weeks
P&E 10/19/23	5 days	5 months, 3 weeks	5 days	181 days/ 6 months
P&E 1/11/23	5 days	5 months, 4 weeks	5 days	188 days/ 6 months, 1 week

2023 Residential Permit Data

	Created*	Issued	Ratio
Jan-23	1,399	921	66%
Feb-23	1,477	1,113	75%
Mar-23	1,401	1,089	78%
Apr-23	1,265	1,012	80%
May-23	1,270	1,046	82%
Jun-23	1,233	1,005	82%
Jul-23	1,306	1,048	80%
Aug-23	1,582	1,354	86%
Sep-23	1,368	1,186	87%
Oct-23	1,340	1,125	84%
Nov-23	1,226	1,029	84%
Dec-23	1,265	1,094	86%
Total:	16,132	13,022	81%

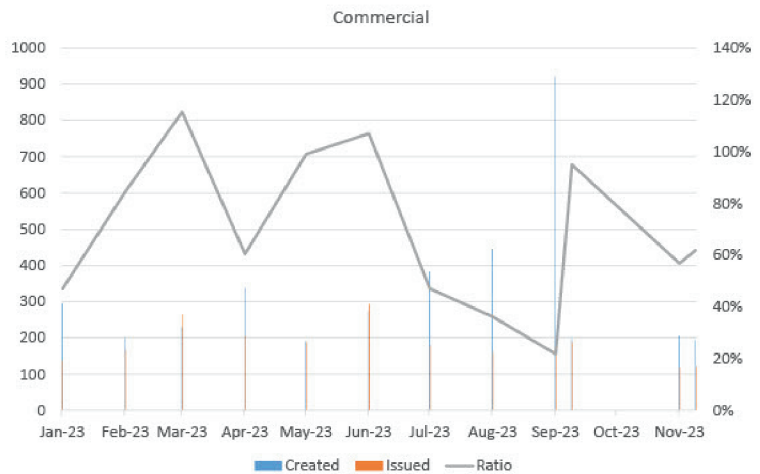


Permitting Process Durations by Phase - *Commercial*

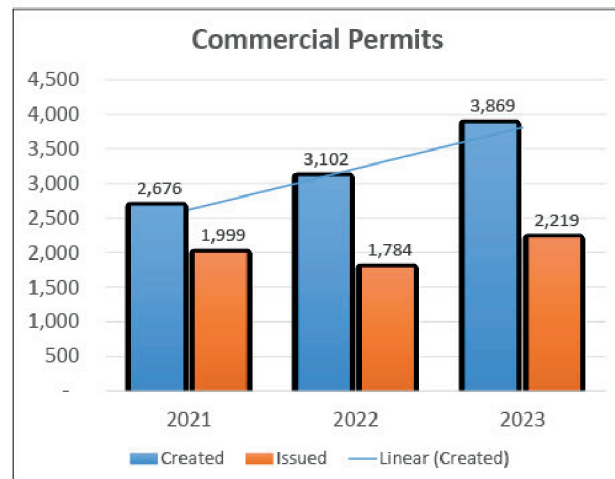
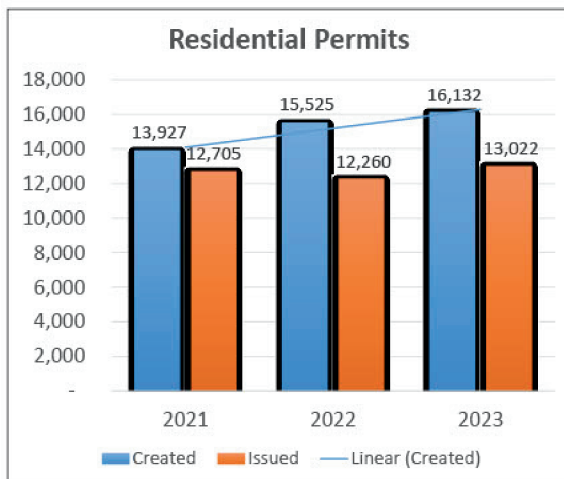
	Pre-screen	Code Review	Approve to Issue	Total Ave Duration
EMLA 11/15/2022	6 months	6 months	2 months	420 days
P&E 9/14/23	5 Days	9 months, 3 weeks	1 month, 3 weeks	345 days/ 11.5 months
P&E 10/19/23	5 Days	9 months, 4 weeks	1 month, 3 weeks	352 days/ 11.7 months
P&E 1/11/24	5 Days	11 months, 3 weeks	2 months	411 days / 13.7 months

2023 *Commercial Permit Data*

	Created	Issued	Ratio
Jan-23	295	138	47%
Feb-23	199	168	84%
Mar-23	229	264	115%
Apr-23	336	203	60%
May-23	190	188	99%
Jun-23	273	292	107%
Jul-23	383	180	47%
Aug-23	445	161	36%
Sep-23	921	200	22%
Oct-23	198	188	95%
Nov-23	206	117	57%
Dec-23	194	120	62%
Total:	3,869	2,219	57%



BP Applications & Issuances Growth Over Time



PLANNING & THE ECONOMY (P&E) (con't)

Bill 10, CD1 (2022): Relating to Use Regulations, now Bill 64 (2023): Relating to Use Regulations – Bill 64 (2023) updates the City's Land Use Ordinance for residential, commercial, agricultural, and other lands. The P&E Committee plans to discuss the amendments to Residential Uses during the upcoming February committee meeting. The City Council has put much effort and time into drafting and refining this complex legislation, considering numerous stakeholders' suggestions and inputs. If you have any questions or feedback after reviewing the presentations, please do not hesitate to contact the Council District 4 office.

Presentation Update Economic Revitalization Commission 2023 Annual Report

<https://hnlodoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlodoc/document-download?id=19672> The City's newly appointed Economic Revitalization Commission released its first annual report and made a presentation to the City Council. The top three recommendations were:

- Create a Grant Administrator in the Office of Economic Recovery (OER); and
- Launch the "O'ahu Business Connector" Program to Expand the City's Engagement of Local Businesses; and
- Place Business Incubators and Accelerators Where They Are Needed Most.

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY & HEALTH (HSH)

Resolution 23-308, CD1, Recognizing that the Counties of Hawai'i have an Important Role in Invasive Species Control Efforts & Urging the City Administration to Collaboratively Advance those Efforts in the City & County of Honolulu

– The Housing, Sustainability, and Health Committee received an update on invasive species from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The presence of invasive species affects every community on our island. O'ahu's distinct biodiversity, with up to 90 percent of native flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world, is threatened by invasive species. Non-native organisms, such as coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), little fire ants (LFA), and coqui frogs, pose a severe risk to our ecosystems. Invasive species damage our environment and impact agriculture, economy, and cultural practices.

Reso 23-308, CD1 urges the City's Administration to work together in addressing invasive species, providing five action items that the City's Administration is requested to report on within 180 days:

- The City Administration's current and planned efforts related to invasive species control; and
- The City Departments that manage, work on, or affect the land in a way that may contribute to the spread, prevention, and control of invasive species; and
- The City Administration's currently implemented and planned best management practices related to invasive species; and
- The selection of a lead agency for the City Administration's efforts on invasive species, including collaboration with federal, state, local, and non-governmental entities; and
- The City Administration's recommendations are to support the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and other entities working to prevent, detect, and control invasive species on O'ahu.

Reso 23-308, CD1 was reported out of the HSH Committee for adoption at the January full Council meeting on January 24, 2024. The HDOA presentation slides can be viewed at this link: <https://hnlodoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlodoc/document-download?id=19828>.

DISTRICT 4 UPDATES (con't)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CON'T)

BUDGET (BUD)

Resolution 23-304: Authorizing the Execution of an Amended Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) For Federal Transportation Assistance Authorized by United States Code Title 49, Chapter 53, & other Federal Statutes Administered by the FTA – The Budget Committee passed out Reso 23-304, which amends the City's FFGA with the FTA. Reso 23-304 is scheduled for adoption at the full Council meeting on January 24, 2024, and it was approved by the HART Board of Directors and Congress before coming to the Honolulu City Council. The Budget Committee has passed Reso 23-304, which seeks to amend the City's FFGA with the FTA. This Reso has already been approved by the HART Board of Directors and Congress before coming to the City Council. This Reso is scheduled for adoption at the January full Council meeting on January 24, 2024. This legislation allows the City to stop building Skyline at the City Center/Ka'akaukui Station. Still, it will enable the City to pursue the original alignment to the Ala Moana Shopping Center/Kālia Station. This FFGA Amendment authorizes the City to receive \$743.7 million in federal subsidies to complete construction and pay financing costs of the \$9,993,034,332 (\$9.9 billion) rail project.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?

Abandoned Vehicles	733-2530	Driver Licensing and State ID	768-9100
Building Permit	768-8220	Illegal Dumping	768-3203
Building Code Compliance	768-8259	Mayor's Office	768-4141
Bus Route/Schedule Info	848-5555	Motor Vehicle Title and Reg	768-4325
City Council	768-5010	Park Maintenance—East Honolulu	768-8944
City General Information Hotline	768-4385	Pothole Hotline	768-7777
Community Policing Team—East Honolulu	723-3354	Refuse Collection—Honolulu	832-5990
Community Policing Team—Waikīkī	723-3349	Satellite City Hall Services	768-4325
Complaint (City Government)	768-4381	Senior Helpline	768-7700
Dead Animal Pickup—City	832-3200	Stream Maintenance	768-7890
Dead Animal Pickup—State	485-6200	Street Light Repair	768-5300
Dept. of Emergency Management	723-8960	Street Sign Repair	768-6300
		Tree Trimming	971-7151

For concerns about individuals experiencing homelessness or homeless encampments, the City and County of Honolulu's Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program (C.O.R.E.) responds to medical, mental, and social needs of non-violent homeless-related concerns. Please get in touch with C.O.R.E via e-mail (HonoluluCORE@honolulu.gov) or call their hotline at (808) 768-2673 to request assistance.

