

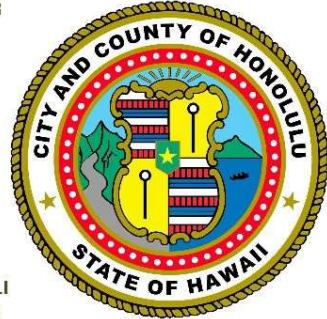
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ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 3

KIA'ĀINA

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



July 27, 2021

**Waimānalo Bay Beach Park restored
to historical name – Hūnānāniho**



Credit: Catherine Cruz/Honolulu Public Radio

In response to the Waimānalo community, the Honolulu City Council voted unanimously on July 7, on [Resolution 21-132](#), which restores the name Waimānalo Bay Beach Park to its historical name – Hūnānāniho. Earlier this year, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board adopted a resolution calling for such a request. Mahalo nui to everyone for testifying in support of this important measure!

Maunawili Falls Trail main entrance closed for 2 Years



Credit: Honolulu Magazine

Effective July 15, the main trailhead entrance near the Maunawili Estates Subdivision for the Mauanawili Falls Trail is closed for two years, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources announced. The closure is an effort to make improvements, including on-site parking and a comfort station away from the nearby neighborhoods, as well as to preserve cultural and archaeological sites. Native Hawaiian cultural and archaeological features throughout the valley included heiau, irrigated and dryland agricultural terraces, and 'auwai constructions.

While the trailhead is closed, hikers will still be able to visit Maunawili Falls via the Maunawili Trail (also known as the Maunawili Demonstration Trail), which is accessed from the scenic overlook just beyond the hairpin turn on the Pali Highway. Long-term parking is not permitted at the overlook and hikers must be dropped off.

Due to the disruptive impacts of tourists and other hikers who may disregard closure or no-trespassing signage, I am currently working with the Department of Transportation Services and the Maunawili Estates Community Association on parking restrictions for the duration of the main entrance closure.

To view my comments about community concerns, please visit a story by *Hawaiian News Now: Maunawili Falls Trail, battered by crowds of hikers, to close for 2-year repair project*, by clicking [here](#).

Special Management Area Bill Advances for Final Passage



Credit: Honolulu Civil Beat, Kaneohe Bay

[Bill 27](#), introduced by Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi and myself, was reported out of the Zoning and Planning Committee, of which I am Vice-Chair, on July 22nd. The next and last step will be third-reading passage by the full Council in August. The bill requires that an applicant for a Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit must present the project to the pertinent neighborhood board before submitting an application to the Department of Permitting and Planning. Mahalo to the Kailua and Kahalu'u Neighborhood Boards for passing resolutions in support of this measure, which is supported by the Administration.

**Community Profile: Laura E. Thielen,
Executive Director, Partners in Care**



Credit: Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Laura Thielen, a Kailua resident, is the Executive Director of [Partners In Care](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill the needs of households experiencing homelessness on O‘ahu. She has held this position for approximately two years. Laura started her service to households experiencing homelessness as a young teenager—feeding women and children at a day center. She subsequently assisted with the opening of the Kaka‘ako Next Step shelter. Before becoming the Executive Director at Partners in Care (PIC), she provided diverse direct services to homeless persons and spent nearly a decade housing and serving families through Housing First programs.

When millions of dollars were made available by the federal government to address the needs of households experiencing homelessness in light of COVID-19, PIC and its provider network leaped into action to serve O‘ahu’s most vulnerable. Amongst the many efforts that PIC volunteered to lead was the [O‘ahu Housing Now \(OHN\) program](#), which seeks to expeditiously house nearly 300 households currently experiencing homelessness—an unprecedented number of households, in a short period of time. In partnership with the City, local service

providers, and numerous philanthropic organizations, Laura and her team quickly stood up a program that housed over [118 households and over 300 household members](#) in the first few months. The OHN program is implementing a Rapid Rehousing program, which provides short-term rental assistance and support services for 12 months, to assist people to obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and ultimately maintain housing.

Mahalo to our very own Laura Thielen for her leadership and vision! We look forward to continuing to support Laura and Partners in Care to meet the critical needs of our most vulnerable community members.

Traffic Congestion in Lanikai and Kailua Beach Areas



Meeting with leaders of the Lanikai Association and officials from the Department of Transportation Services and Board of Water Supply, and BWS' contractor for the Lanikai Water System Improvements project.

My office continues to hear from the community about the parking and traffic congestion in the Lanikai and Kailua beach areas. I share your concerns.

As you may know, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) construction continues for the Lanikai Water System Improvements, Part II Project. The project is working to install approximately 1,455 feet of 16-inch water mains, 1,858 feet of 8-inch water mains, 200 feet of 6-inch water mains, and 180 feet of 4-inch water mains. The contractor for the job is continuing to install new water mains from Kalapawai Market on Kalaheo Avenue to Kawaiola Road near Buzz's Steakhouse.

For questions or concerns, please call the BWS Construction Section at 748-5730 or by emailing contactus@hbws.org. You can also contact Kathleen Elliott-Pahinui at kelliott-pahinui@hbws.org. Kathleen has been very helpful in pulling together all of the recommendations, pictures, and videos by the community for consideration. For further updates, please go to: <https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/lanikai>.

I continue to work with the BWS, the Department of Transportation Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to alleviate and address community concerns.

As a reminder, no parking will be allowed along any street in Lanikai including cross streets, Mokulua and Aalapapa Drives from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. These parking restrictions aim at maintaining emergency vehicle and resident access to and from the neighborhood. Please use alternate ways of access: walking, biking, or using TheBus Route 671 from Kailua Town to access Lanikai. This parking restriction is expected to last through December 2021.

Efforts on a longer-term resolution of parking in Lanikai will need the kokua of the Department of Transportation Services, the City Council, and community support.

**Ha'ikū Stairs Resolution Advances
to Full Council**



Credit: Hawaii News Now

[Resolution 21-154](#), urging the removal of Ha'ikū Stairs, was reported out of the Committee on Housing and the Economy, of which I am Chair, on July 20th. The measure now moves to the full City Council in September.

O'ahu Destination Management Action Plan



Credit: Hawaii Tourism Authority

On July 29, at 9:30 a.m., the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors will be considering the [O`ahu Destination Management Action Plan](#). To view the agenda for the presentation, discussion, and approval of the plan, please click [here](#). As the Chair of the City's Committee on Housing and the Economy, it is my intent to hold an informational briefing on the plan in late August.

Vigilance on Illegal Short-Term Rentals



Credit: Honolulu Business Magazine

With the increase of tourism and visitors to our shores, there has been an increase in the use of illegal short-term rentals in our communities. If you suspect illegal short-term rental activity in your neighborhood (rentals for less than 30 days that are not allowed by the City and County), you should first check if the unit has a nonconforming use certificate by going to visiting this [link](#).

If the rental is not listed, it may still be allowed if it is in a resort district, and in limited circumstances if it is in the designated A-1 or A-2 apartment districts. To report potential violations you can use the [short-term rental complaint portal](#) or call the short-term rental complaint hotline at 768-8127 between 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. You can also go to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) Website [here](#). Between April 2019 and July 2, 2021, the City received over 2,000 complaints and issued a total of 592 notice of violations.

As Chair of the Housing and the Economy committee, I will be requesting that DPP provide an update to the Council on enforcement of Bill 89 (2018) as well the November 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and

Airbnb. It is my intent to work to strengthen enforcement, tax, and other provisions on the books.

Community Outreach



In response to constituents concerned about the increased visitor traffic and an inoperative comfort station at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens, I visited with Director Joshlyn Sand of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens with my community liaison Georgi DeCosta. I proposed a visitor fee to be charged for the gardens and that the comfort station be prioritized in the budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

One of the most important jobs as your Councilmember is to make sure that you are able to reach me with your inquiries 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](#).

You can also call the City's information hotline at: (808) 768-CITY (2489).



Honolulu 311 App

The official citizen application for Honolulu, HI

Honolulu 311 is the official mobile application for the City & County of Honolulu, Hawai'i. Honolulu 311 provides a free, simple, and intuitive platform empowering people to report potholes, broken streetlights, cracked sidewalks, illegally dumping, vandalized/broken signs and more via your smartphone.

Types of Issues to Report:

Abandoned Property	Parking Issues
Broken/Vandalized Signs	Parking Meter
Broken Street Lights	Broken/Missing
Clogged Catch Basin	Stored Property Violation
Construction Runoff	Storm Water Pollution
Drug Activity	Stream Maintenance
Flooding	Submit a Crime Tip
Gamehouses/Gambling	Taxi Complaints
Gang Activity	Traffic Infractions
Graffiti	Tree or Plant
Homeless Concerns	Maintenance
Illegal Dump Site	Other
Noise	

How to File a Report

1) Download Honolulu 311 from Google Play or Apple App Store

2) Create an Account

3) Submit a Request and Attach a Photo

***You have the option to remain anonymous**



Request a Service, Report an Issue, and Help Improve your Community

Once submitted, your request is reviewed by the appropriate City Department and the work is assigned or scheduled.

Estimated times to complete vary by request

If you sign up for an account, the City will send you updates as work is completed on your request.

Honolulu City Council Communications Office

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