

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

JULY 2023

honolulu.citycouncil.org

COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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Aloha Neighbors!

We just marked six months of being in office, and in that time, I am proud to report that we have made key progress on a number of issues, many of which are covered in this newsletter. Please continue to contact my office if you are in need of assistance with a City concern, we are standing by ready to help!

-Tyler



Honolulu Skyline Has Historic Opening Weekend

On June 30th, the Honolulu Rail Transit Project, now dubbed "Skyline," entered into service, fulfilling decades of efforts to build a mass transit alternative from West O'ahu into Honolulu. Residents from all over the island came to experience the system's first phase, which had been under construction for over a decade. Riders were able to go from the Hālawā Station to Kualaka'i Station in East Kapolei. For commuters, the public transit system is integrated so now riders can utilize both TheBus and Skyline effortlessly through the HOLO card system. Starting July 1, TheBus service and routes will be updated to include access to the first nine Skyline stations. This expansion aims to provide commuters with increased accessibility and flexibility when planning their day. Skyline requires an active HOLO card loaded with funds to board. HOLO card vending machines will also be located at the entrance to each station, or they can be purchased at supermarkets around the island. HOLO cards can be managed online at holocard.net. As a frequent public transit rider himself, CM Dos Santos-Tam is excited to have Skyline available to O'ahu residents and visitors!



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam and CM Cordero with a group of riders at the Hālawā Station on Day 3 of Skyline operations. Tens of thousands of O'ahu residents checked out the system in its first few days.

New City Initiative Shuts Down Two Kalihi Game Rooms



CM Dos Santos-Tam is passionate about closing illegal game rooms. Often game rooms invite other illicit activities in the area such as gambling, drug distribution, prostitution, and gun violence. CM Dos Santos-Tam has been working with HPD and a number of other City agencies to crack down on landowners whose property is being used as a game room. Recently, the "Ohana Grocery" game room at the corner of Pālāma St and Kanoa St was shut down, and shortly thereafter, the owners of the property at 2101 Wilson St in Kalihi evicted the tenant who was operating a game room on their property. The owners also ripped out all of the the electrical wires servicing the game room machines. Our office will continue to focus on collaborating on DPP, HPD, and the Prosecutor's Office on reducing the number of game rooms in the community.

Above: An illegal game room that was shut down by the coordinated effort of HPD, DPP, and the Prosecutor's Office.

To report a suspected illegal game room, please call HPD Narcotics/Vice at (808) 723-3933.

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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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Bill 20: Restricted Parking Zones (RPZ)

The bill introduced in March by CM Dos Santos-Tam to establish Restricted Parking Zones (RPZ) island wide is progressing through City Council. However, in a Transportation Committee meeting on June 20th the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) requested the bill be deferred for a month in order for the department to have more time to work on further amendments. Our office sent a letter to DTS requesting that they provide the Transportation Committee members more information such as the base rate recommendation of the fee, the financial justification for the base rate recommendation, and a summary of the number of parking permits per household in the current RPZ pilot program. As Chair of the Transportation Committee, it is our intent to hold a hearing on Bill 20 (2023) at the July Transportation Committee meeting so it can have final approval at the Full Council meeting on Wednesday, August 9th.

Bill 28: Cutting Down on Drug Overdoses

CM Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 28 which would require bars and nightclubs to have doses of the anti-opioid spray naloxone, also called "Narcan" on premises. Because alcohol can interact with opioids in someone's system, these venues are places where there is a higher risk of a deadly overdose. "Narcan" was recently approved by the FDA for over-the-counter sales, and Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam is now working with the State Department of Health, the City's Liquor Commission, and private groups like HHHRC to make the the required prevention doses available for free to bar and nightclub owners. This is a measure to protect public health and also to get "ahead of the curve". What has to be decided is who is the official primary enforcer of the measure. CM Dos Santos-Tam is working with other City officials to find solutions to help reduce the number of fatal opioid overdoses in Hawaii. The bill is on its way to Third Reading.



Scan to view the news story by HNN for more information on Bill 28.

Bill 32: Adopting New Rules to Safely Ride Skyline

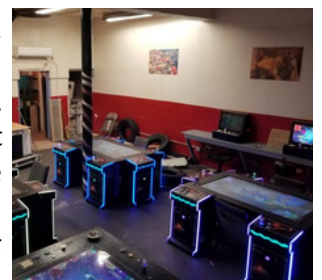
CM Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 32 (23) relating to public transit. The legislation allows for limited advertising inside rail, so the City can begin offsetting the costs of operations. It specifies that City payment cards ("HOLO cards") are accepted on all modes throughout the transit system, including Skyline and TheBus. A voucher program is established where employers can incentivize their employees to use Skyline and TheBus. The rules allow the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to implement a policing plan for the city transit system, to maximize public safety on Skyline and TheBus. to help ensure comfort and public safety, it bans the use of vapes on Skyline and TheBus and any disruptive behavior that may threaten or harm passengers or rail operators. The Chief of Police to commission officers, special officers, and contracted security officers can cite passengers for inappropriate behavior, such as public intoxication or harassment. It also allows for a reduced annual pass fare of \$45.00 for "extremely low income" individuals.



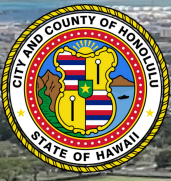
CM Dos Santos-Tam with a Nu'uuanu resident riding Skyline on its opening weekend.

Upcoming Gamework Legislation

CM Dos Santos-Tam and his staff will propose legislation to address public nuisance related gambling activities that are on the rise around the island. CM hopes to reduce illegal game rooms through the use of nuisance abatement. This is the stoppage of that which causes the nuisance, which is specifically, illegal gambling establishments. According to Honolulu Police Department (HPD) there are currently about 100 operational game rooms on the island. Our office will be collaborating with Councilmember Andria Tupola to create pieces of legislation that will approach the issue from different angles. There are indications if a building could be hosting illegal gambling operations such as large locks on the doors, no obvious business signage.



Right: HPD busted an illegal game room; removing all of the gambling machines and appliances out of the property.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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Second Kaka'ako General Managers and Board Presidents Meeting Held



CM Dos Santos-Tam with General Managers and Board Presidents listening to HPD officers discuss crime in the Kaka'ako area and efforts to establish neighborhood security watch programs in the neighborhood.

CM Dos Santos-Tam, along with our state partners Speaker Scott Saiki and Senator Sharon Moriwaki, convened the second meeting on the Kaka'ako-area condo general managers and owners' association presidents to discuss issues that Kaka'ako residents experience on a daily basis. Major discussion topics included how to connect homeless individuals with resources to help reduce vagrancy, as well as how to prevent crime and drug use in the community. New development projects in the area that might disrupt traffic and pedestrians, were also discussed, along with concerns about feral chicken and cat populations in area parks. As the Kaka'ako area legislators, we are committed to continuing to dialogue with the general managers, condo associations, and area residents to improve this quickly-growing and changing area!

As a reminder, the Kaka'ako Citizens Patrol meets every Monday from 5:15-6:15 p.m., starting at the Cooke and Halekauwila St corner of Mother Waldron Park.

City Budget Accomplishments for District 6

Our office is committed to fighting for District 6's priorities. The investments we make in our community will improve the district for everyone. Specific budget highlights include:

- \$1,350,000 for sidewalk repairs and bikeway improvements;
- \$220,000 to increase salaries for 9-1-1 dispatchers ;
- \$450,000 for additional pedestrian safety projects;
- \$100,000 for crosswalk improvements;
- \$300,000 for improvements to address the large homeless encampment on Kanoa St in Pālama;
- \$150,000 for solar speed signs, including at the intersection of Prospect St and Alapai Street;
- \$400,000 to continue funding for the Chinatown Task Force;
- \$15,000 for a speed trailer for the Honolulu Police Department; and
- \$250,000 to construct bathrooms in Chinatown parks.



Right: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Mayor Rick Blangiardi, BFS Director Andrew Kawano, Council Chair Tommy Waters, Councilmembers Esther Kia'aina, Val Okimoto, Matt Weyer, and Budget Chair Radiant Cordero.



Read the City's operating budget, Bill 11, in its entirety by scanning this QR code

Hongwanji Girl Scouts Earn Certificate

CM Dos Santos-Tam presented an honorary certificate at the Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scout Annual Awards Ceremony. Many of the young girl scouts are working hard on earning their badges through personal and community service accomplishments. The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin offers many young people the opportunity to interact and participate in events hosted at and around the temple.



Meeting Principals from Pauoa Elementary School

CM Dos Santos-Tam met with Principal Dale Arakaki and Vice Principal Julia West to discuss what resources the school needs in order to provide their students for the best opportunities and success as they advance in their schooling and life. Some topics included, investing in after school programs and equipment, clearing the overgrowth at the playground behind the school, and pedestrian safety measures around the school.



CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Five-way Stop Proposed for Prospect-'Iolani-Alapa'i Intersection

The intersection of Prospect St, Alapa'i St, and 'Iolani Ave has been recognized as a dangerous intersection for many years, with a long history of accidents and near-misses. In January 2023, a fatal accident involving a speeding drunk driver claimed the life of a local resident and catalyzed community demands for safety improvements. In response, CM Dos Santos-Tam convened a meeting in early April with area residents, neighborhood board members, HPD, and the City Dept. of Transportation



Newspaper articles from 1980 (top) and 1994 (bottom) discussing the dangerous conditions. We hope we be able to provide some sort of improvement after many years of waiting!

Services (DTS) to evaluate possible fixes. At the June meeting of the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board,

DTS announced their proposal for a five-way stop at the intersection to address speeding, limited line-of-sight issues, and hazards for pedestrians. DTS has also explored other options, including the possibility of a "round-about" configuration. We welcome your opinions on these proposals as residents, pedestrians, and drivers in the area. Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam also successfully added funding in the 2023-24 City Budget to erect an interactive speed monitoring sign near the intersection as well to monitor driver speed on the 'Iolani Ave hill. CM Dos Santos-Tam is committed to resolving this long-standing safety issue in the community.

New 'Auwaiolimu Street Striping Coming Soon



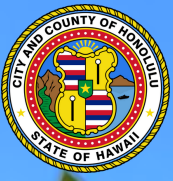
After many concerns about speeding, pedestrian safety, and traffic flow during the peak rush hour period on 'Auwaiolimu St, the City is planning to add additional striping along the entire stretch of this roadway, replace the many faded signs in the area, and reduce the speed limit to 25MPH on the "Pauoa side" of 'Auwaiolimu St. Because 'Auwaiolimu is often viewed as a "shortcut" around the back side of Pūowaina Crater, many drivers treat it as a speedway, which is a hazard to the residents in the area and the many students our office has also requested additional speeding enforcement in this area from HPD and we successfully added a line item to the FY2023-24 budget to acquire a digital speed monitoring trailer for this part of our district.

Kalihi Neighbors Mobilize to Resolve Sewer Leak on Richard Lane



The neighbors in the Kalihi area living on Richard Lane, have been experiencing constant sewage leaks for years. The contaminated water drains into the street where residents and children have to avoid stepping or driving in when coming and going from their homes. CM Dos Santos-Tam is working to determine who the owners are of this driveway off Richard Lane and who is responsible for fixing the problem. The State Department of Health (DOH), the City's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), and Department of Environmental Services (ENV) are in communications to help with this ongoing public health hazard that residents are being exposed to everyday.

Above: the sewage is seen covering a residents driveway and going down into the storm drain and into Kalihi Stream.



DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Korean Artists Association of Hawai'i Holds Exhibition



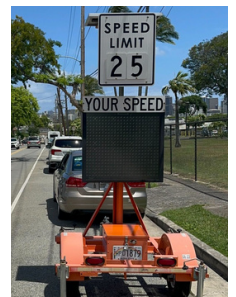
Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam speaking at the event.

CM Dos Santos-Tam attended the 2023 Korean Arts Association of Hawaii Exhibition. He was joined by artists, members of the association as well as Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, and Mayor Rick Blangiardi. The event serves as an exchange of art and culture between Hawaii and Korean artists. The Korean Artists Association was established in 1986 by Chang-jin Lee, Hwa-ja Park, Kwang Kyu Yi, Jinja Kim, Kwan Jay Cho. The artists exhibited their artwork across New York, Los Angeles, Hawaii, and Korea. The Korean Artists Association of Hawaii, actively recruits qualified members among visual artists. The group forms a community and a greater appreciation of art in Hawaii and more broadly in the United States. Artists in the association specialize in mediums such as photography, painting, and 3D arts.

Speed Trailer Behind Kapālama Elementary School

After numerous of complaints about excessive speeding around Kapālama Elementary School creating unsafe conditions for young students trying to get to school, our office requested the Department of Transportation to place a Speed Trailer behind Kapālama ES. Bernice Street, which runs between Bishop Museum and the school, is a hotspot for speeders as it's seen as a shortcut to avoid the Likelike Hwy stoplight.

Right: An HPD Speed trailer was placed behind the elementary school to help prevent speeding.



The 73rd Korean War Commemoration Ceremony

On June 25 CM Dos Santos-Tam attended the 73d Korean War Commemoration Ceremony National at the Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The special invitation came from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu and the Korean War Veterans Association Hawaii Chapter No. 1.

Mizuno/TDST Hold Joint City-State Workshop on Albizia

CM Dos Santos-Tam and State Representative John Mizuno held a workshop at St. Anthony Retreat Center Saturday, June 24th to help educate residents about Albizia trees, improve safety, and address how to slow the proliferation of the tree in the district. Many residents in the area joined to learn how to identify, asses, and remove Albizia trees on their property and throughout their neighborhood. Albizia trees are considered a high-risk invasive species, creating a safety hazard for residents and community infrastructure. The trees can grow rapidly in the first five years, making branches large and brittle. The sudden drop of branches causes impacts to roads, homes, powerlines, and culverts.



Left: Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam with staff and community members who participated in the event.

Downtown-Chinatown Property Tour

CM Dos Santos-Tam visited several of the City's affordable housing projects in Chinatown to inspect their conditions Chinatown Gateway Plaza, 1031 Nuuanu Av, 200 units, and 60% AMI, Chinatown Manor 175 North Hotel St, 89 units, and 60% AMI, Harbor Village, 901 River St., 90 units, and 60% AMI, Marin Tower, 60 North Nimitz Hwy., 236 units, and 60% AMI, and Winston Hale, 10555 River St., 100 units, Section 8, and 60% AMI. For more information visit: honolulu.gov/dlm/rentalhousingportfolio.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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City's Rental Assistance Program Reopens



CM Dos Santos-Tam helping a neighbor to apply for the City's rental kōkua program.

The City recently reopened its rental assistance program for people who have had difficulties with paying their rent and utility bills. While the online portal has been closed, my office is hosting an in-person enrollment event to reach new applicants who may not have been able to apply online. The in-person rental assistance enrollment event will be held on Wednesday, July 19th starting at 10AM at the Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center at 1640 Lanakila Ave, accessible from the #2 Bus. Please call (808) 940-5209, (808) 940-6993, or (808) 940-2838 to make an appointment for the event.

Rental Assistance Information Also Available in Vietnamese and Chinese:

Chương trình Hỗ trợ Tiền Thuê nhà của Thành phố Tái Khởi động

城市租赁援助计划重新启动



Upcoming Neighborhood Board Meetings For the 2023-2025 Term

July marks the beginning of the new terms of the Neighborhood Boards islandwide. Congratulations to all of the newly elected and reelected Neighborhood Board members throughout our district!

The **Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus NB#10** meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM at Kapālama Hale Room# 277, 925 Dillingham Blvd, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Thursday July 20; Thursday, Aug 17; and Thursday, Sep 21.

The **Ala Moana-Kaka'ako NB#11** meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at Makiki Christian Church 829 Pensacola St, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Tuesday, Jul 25; Tuesday, Aug 22; and Tuesday, Sep 26.

The **Nu'uuanu/Punchbowl NB#12** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Kapālama Hale Room# 153, 925 Dillingham Blvd, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Tuesday, Jul 18; Tuesday, Aug 15; and Tuesday, Sep 19.

The **Downtown-Chinatown NB #13** meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Ke'elikolani Middle School Cafeteria, 1302 Queen Emma St, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Thursday, Jul 6; Thursday, Aug 3; and Thursday, Sep 7.

The **Liliha/Pu'unui/Ālewa/Kamehameha Heights NB#14** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at Kapālama Hale Room# 277, 925 Dillingham Blvd, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Monday, Jul 10; Monday, Aug 14; and Monday, Sep 11.

The **Kalihi-Pālama NB#15** meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Kapālama Hale Room# 153, 925 Dillingham Blvd, and online via WebEx. Their upcoming meetings are: Wednesday, Jul 19; Wednesday, Aug 16; and Wednesday, Sep 20.

The **Kalihi Valley NB#16** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Kapālama Hale Room# 260, 925 Dillingham Blvd, online and via WebEx. Their upcoming meeting are: Wednesday, Jul 12; Wednesday, Aug 9; and Wednesday, Sep 13.

Boards may take occasional recess months from time to time. Visit www.honolulu.gov/nco for agendas and to confirm meeting locations and times.

Save the Date for Two Park Clean Up Activities This Summer!

Dole Park Clean Up To Be Held on Saturday, July 8th; Clean Up for Kamali'i Mini Park in Downtown Slated for Saturday, August 26th

Dole Park turns 110 years old this summer, having been created by Executive Order of then-Governor Walter Frear (for whom the adjacent Frear St is named) back in June 2023. To celebrate the park's birthday and to show it some much needed TLC, community volunteers including members of the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board, the Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu, and others are joining on Saturday, July 8 at 8:30AM to help freshen up the park. Scan the QR code on the right to RSVP.

Kamali'i Mini Park, the park behind the Downtown Fire Station, is turning 55 years old this summer! Dedicated in August 1968, the park was named Kamali'i, meaning "princess," after the former Princess Theater which stood nearby and because of the park's proximity to Queen Emma Square, Washington Place, and 'Iolani Palace. To show this park some much-needed love, my office is organizing a clean up of Kamali'i Mini Park on the morning of Saturday, August 26. Save the date and scan the code on the right to RSVP!

