

Subscribe

Past Issues

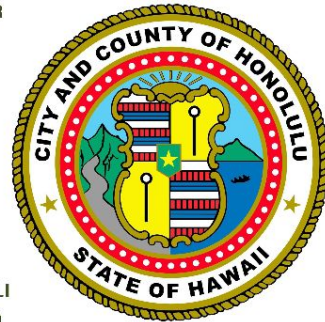
Translate ▼

[View this email in your browser](#)



ESTHER CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 3

KIA'ĀINA



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

August 30, 2022

**\$30 Million in Funding for
COVID Impacted Non-Profits**



The City and County of Honolulu has allocated \$30 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the purpose of awarding up to \$100,000 in grant funding to O'ahu non-profit organizations adversely impacted by COVID-19. This funding may be used as working capital, as well as to cover day-to-day expenses including rent or lease payments, mortgage payments, asset maintenance, utility expenses, payroll, and other expenses.

Funds will be awarded to non-profit organizations on a first come, first serve basis. Eligible non-profits include organizations that can demonstrate the need

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

public health emergency.

The City is not currently accepting applications but will begin accepting applications as soon as early September. However, non-profits are encouraged to begin gathering the necessary paperwork that must be included with their application. See the list of minimum requirements and required documents [here](#).

If you would like to be notified when applications are being accepted, please subscribe to the City's Department of Community Services Funding Opportunities email list by clicking [here](#).

City to Issue Outdoor Dining Permits Soon



The City has extended the Outdoor Dining program established during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Ordinance 22-19](#), which was signed into law by Mayor Blangiardi on July 20, 2022, and would allow the City to issue permits to restaurants to once again provide outdoor dining services for their customers

restaurant industry, which is the City's largest private employer. Restaurants were one of the hardest hit industries of the pandemic, and as a result many restaurants shut down their businesses and laid off staff.

The Department of Transportation Services is moving as quickly as it can to start the program. Bill 27 provides tools to help eligible restaurants recover financially by increasing dining capacity and ensuring they can pivot to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 if necessary. I believe that the outdoor dining program and similar efforts are necessary to support local businesses as they continue to navigate these unique times. If successful, I hope to make this program permanent.

'Kailua Lofts' Affordable Housing Project Awarded \$4.8 million



Photo credit: zillow.com

In 2006, the people of the City and County of Honolulu approved the establishment of the Affordable Housing Fund. Each year one-half of one percent of the City's estimated real property tax revenues is appropriated to the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The City is continuing to use these funds to address Honolulu's high demand for affordable rental housing, and after publishing a solicitation for proposals, the City recently announced that they will be providing six eligible projects with a combined \$28.17 million. These projects, located in Waialua, Aiea, Honolulu, and Kailua, are expected to create 972 affordable housing units within the next five years.

Out of the \$28.17 million, the City awarded \$4.8 million to the Affordable Housing and the Economic Development Foundation to construct a 4-story affordable housing apartment building located in Kailua. The project will be called Kailua Lofts, and will provide 42 affordable housing units with 55 parking spaces for eligible residents who earn 30% to 60% of the area median income and below. Funding will be used for site acquisition. This will be the first affordable housing project in Kailua since Lani Huli Elderly Apartments in 1993. Total project cost is approximately \$33.1 million.

40th Anniversary of Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

On July 30, 2022, as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kāne'ohe, we also honored the late Paul R. Weissich, the former Director of Honolulu Botanical Gardens. Paul's vision, expertise, and leadership is what led to the development and transformation of this Kāne'ohe flood zone into Honolulu's fifth and largest botanical garden. Representative Scot Matayoshi and I are pictured with two of his sons. We dedicated the Paul R. Weissich Education Center at the event to honor his legacy and contributions with over 20 of his descendants in attendance.

Infrastructure Projects Scheduled for Kailua Beach, Lanikai Areas

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Photo credit: City DDC

On August 11, 2022, I held a community meeting with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Transportation Services (DTS) at Ka'ōhāo Public Charter School. The meeting provided an opportunity for community members to discuss City infrastructure projects in the vicinity of Kailua Beach Park, which will impact segments of Kawaihoa Road, Alāla Road, and Mokulua Drive.

Kawaihoa Road Bridge Exploratory Drilling Project

The first project is an exploratory drilling project at the Kawaihoa Road Bridge. Drilling and sampling work will be performed from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, between August 22, 2022 to September 2, 2022.

Single-lane closures over the two-lane bridge will be necessary at certain times so that crews can conduct soil sampling work. During the single-lane closures, the roadway will remain open, as will the driveway adjacent to the bridge. Traffic flaggers and/or uniformed Honolulu Police Department (HPD) officers will be on-site directing traffic at both ends of the closure. Parking in the Lanikai area will be restricted from August 22, 2022 through September 2, 2022, similar to the restrictions that are in effect during three-day holiday weekends.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

to plan for extra travel time near the Kawaiiloa Road Bridge.

Additional in-water work under the bridge is scheduled to begin sometime between late September and early October. No lane closures will be necessary. Work is expected to take three to five weeks and is expected to be performed from 7 a.m. to 3:30 pm.

Kawaiiloa Road Drainage Improvements

The second project being undertaken by DDC is a drainage improvement project to address runoff issues at Kailua Beach Park along Kawaiiloa Road and Alāla Road. The construction hours will be from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from August 15, 2022 to July 17, 2023. Any construction activities that affect traffic will be posted at least 14-days prior. Flaggers will be posted at each end to assist with traffic control and the entrance to the Kailua Boat Ramp will remain open.

Single lane closures are anticipated to begin on October 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will last for approximately 3 months. The entrance to the boat ramp will remain open during single lane closures. Parking in the Lanikai area will also be restricted during this time, similar to the restrictions that are in effect during three-day holiday weekends.

Although both projects are scheduled to run concurrently, lane closures for each project will not occur at the same time. Our office will keep an open communication and work with DDC, DTS, and HPD to mitigate traffic concerns. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Public Comment Period for MCBH
Draft Environmental Assessment
Deadline Approaching**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Photo Credit: Civil Beat

The Marine Corps is proposing to station a Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron and an Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH). The squadrons would bring more than 676 military personnel plus their dependents to the Kāneʻohe base, which would happen at the same time that deactivation of other squadrons would reduce personnel by approximately 841 plus their dependents. MCBH has published a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes potential impacts of the stationing of these squadrons on the environmental and cultural resources located on the base. Fill and sites with burials and pre-contact deposits as well as documented archaeological sites were previously identified in the area of potential effect. The [draft EA](#) for the project is available for a 30 day public review, and comments can be submitted until September 7, 2022 via email or mail. Instructions for submission can be found [here](#).

**City Grants-in-Aid Funds to Support
Windward Non-Profits & Community**



photo credit: Friends of Waimānalo

This year, 61 non-profit organizations received over \$9 million in grant funding from the City and County's Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program. The GIA fund is administered by the Department of Community Services (DCS) and funds are used to help economically or socially disadvantaged groups or for the public benefit of arts, culture, economic development, or the environment.

I am pleased to see that several Windward non-profit organizations received funding from the GIA program, including:

- Adventist Health Castle - \$200,000
- Friends of Waimānalo - \$200,000
- Kanehunamoku Voyaging Academy - \$199,995
- Kualoa - He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project - \$200,000
- Waimānalo Health Center - \$200,000
- Residential Youth Services & Empowerment - \$125,000
- Hui Mālama o Ke Kai - \$199,994

Applications for the FY24 GIA funding cycle will be announced in October 2022. Potential applicants can go to the [Department of Community Services \(DCS\) GIA webpage](#) which has grant proposal videos explaining mandatory requirements to receive grant funding.

Community Profile - Maia Mahina Payne



On August 10, 2022, the Honolulu City Council recognized Maia Mahina Payne, of Kailua, with an honorary certificate for her service to the community and earning the rank of Eagle Scout. She is a junior at Kalaheo High School, where she maintains a greater than 4.0 grade point average, serves as the president of her debate club, participates in the National Honor Society, and participates year round in athletics as a member of the cross country, tennis, and track and field teams. Maia is the second female from the Windward side to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, and one of only 15 females to achieve the rank in Hawai'i and the Pacific Region. Maia's Eagle Project expanded upon her volunteer work with the Hawaii Audubon Society, which involved constructing shelters and nesting areas for native shearwater birds. Congratulations, Maia!

Legislative Updates

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Preservation Commission (OHPC). The OHPC was created by the Honolulu City Council in 1993, however the Commission was never stood up by any City Administration. Under Bill 44 and the existing ordinance, the OHPC would have powers and duties similar to historic preservation commissions in all other counties, and could assist the City with reviewing projects that may warrant further review, proactive identification of historic properties, and planning and design activities for City projects. I anticipate Bill 44 will be heard by the Housing and the Economy committee, which I chair, on September 20, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. Please take a look at related articles in [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) and the [Honolulu Star Advertiser](#) on Bill 44.

- [Resolution 22-207](#) – introduced by myself and Chair Waters, seeks to provide checks and balances to the Honolulu Liquor Commission. The resolution requests safeguards be put into place to prevent abuse of the public trust, to ensure that the Commission has policies and procedures in place to regulate business establishments in a fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory manner. The Liquor Commission plays an important role in the City's economic recovery, and a stronger Commission will benefit all of the people of the City and County of Honolulu. See related articles by [Civil Beat](#) and [KHON2](#).
- [Resolution 22-125](#) – introduced by myself this summer, requests the Director of Transportation Services to develop a Lanikai Transportation Management Plan, and was adopted by the Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Health on July 6, 2022. I anticipate that DTS' plan, which will look at recommendations to improve roadway safety, ease access to Lanikai Beach, and provide reasonable and appropriate parking controls, will be completed in October.
- [Bill 10, CD1 \(2022\)](#), which updates the City's Land Use Ordinance, was introduced by Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Brandon Elefante at the request of the Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP), and was reported out of the Committee on August 25, 2022. Bill 10 is the second phase of four proposed phases to update the Land Use Ordinance and is focused on use regulations, including the Master Use Table, use development standards, and use definitions. I will be paying particularly close attention to the following provisions as Bill 10 moves throughout the legislative process:
 - Proposed expansions to allow multi-dwelling units in business, industrial zoning districts, and residential districts,

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

- requirements, and animal raising,
- Large Utility setback requirements,
- Changes and updates to group living facility definitions and standards, and
- Updates related to short term rentals as a result of the passage of Bill 41
- The full City Council is expected to consider Bill 10, CD1, for second reading on Wednesday, September 7, at 10 a.m.

The full City Council is expected to consider Bill 10, CD1, for second reading on Wednesday, September 7, at 10 a.m.

- [Bill 41, CD1 \(2022\)](#) & [Bill 42, CD1 \(2022\)](#), related to Shoreline Setbacks and the Special Management Area, were also initiated by the DPP in order to incorporate amendments as required by the State via [Act 16 \(2020\)](#) and to implement an erosion-rate-based shoreline setback formula. Bill 41 increases the current minimum shoreline setback requirement from 40 to 60 ft. Where historic erosion data suggests the need, an increased erosion-based setback may be applicable to a property. Exceptions to the minimum 60 ft. setback may be applicable for smaller properties. Bill 42 provides additional protections against impacts of coastal hazards including sea level rise and coastal erosion, and as a result of these mandatory changes, all residential dwellings on the shoreline lots and lots impacted by waves, surges, high tide, or erosion will require SMA permits. Both bills were reported out of the Zoning and Planning Committee on August 25, 2022, and will also be considered for second reading passage by the full City Council on Wednesday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m.

**Homeowner Tax Exemption Deadline:
September 30, 2022**

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Home Owner Tax Exemption

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

Home Owner Exemption:

- Owner Occupied as principal home on or before September 30th

Other Tax Relief Programs:

- Totally Disabled Veterans
- Hansen's Disease
- Blind, Deaf, or Totally Disabled

**DEADLINE TO APPLY IS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

realpropertyhonolulu.com/exemptions



Call For More Information
(808) 768-3799



Increasing real property tax values impact everyone, especially our kūpuna on fixed incomes. If you have not filed for a home exemption, please visit the [City and County's Real Property Tax website](#) to find out if you are eligible and file the necessary paperwork to receive a home exemption. Homeowners that live in their principal home are eligible to receive a home exemption from the City, which currently provides a \$100,000 exemption on the homeowner's real property taxes. The deadline to file for a home exemption is on September 30th.

Community Outreach

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

Councilmember Kia'aina meeting with community members at Ka'ōhāo Charter School, during a presentation about the City's Kawailoa Drainage and Bridge Projects on August 11, 2022.

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 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).

Copyright © 2022 Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, District 3, All rights reserved.

Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, District 3

City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 768-5003
E-mail: ekiaaina@honolulu.gov

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼