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## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER KIA`ĀINA

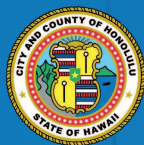
Aloha Mai Kākou,

Affordable housing, homelessness, and public safety and health continue to be priorities for me and the City Council as reflected in our FY2024 budget. While providing tax relief to homeowners impacted by rising property values, the budget also balances the need to support collective bargaining and salary increases for public workers, as well as appropriates funding to meet the growing community need for City services. I am also pleased to report significant appropriations to Kailua, Kāne`ohe, and Waimānalo from upgrades to wastewater treatment plants to improvements at our parks, beaches, botanical gardens, and streams. Please continue to share your priorities as we work on the budget for next year.

Mahalo,  
  
Esther Kia`āina  
Honolulu City Council Vice Chair

Let's get connected!

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# HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

## FY 24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Funding priorities include *affordable housing, homelessness, and public safety*

On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, **the Honolulu City Council unanimously passed a \$4.7 billion** budget that was signed into law on June 23, 2023 and took effect on July 1, 2023. This year, we aimed to better utilize City resources and funding to address our community's most pressing needs. We worked diligently to ensure the continuation of critical services across each of the City's departments and placed a significant emphasis on affordable housing, addressing homelessness, and public safety. We also worked to deliver a balanced budget and restore funding to address the existing resource gaps in our departments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, while still leaving space for targeted tax relief for the upcoming year.

**Most notably, the City Council's approved budget appropriated the following:**

- **Over \$233 million for Affordable and Workforce Housing**, including funds for land acquisition, construction, and other miscellaneous costs for the development of affordable housing, with prioritization for **households experiencing homelessness, teachers and first responders**, and transit-oriented development areas, as well as an additional **\$20 million for infrastructure** to support housing in areas identified by the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands;
- **\$53 million** to fund the acquisition, lease, development, and/or renovation of facilities for urban rest stops, navigation centers, workforce/affordable housing, homeless service facilities, and other community-focused projects, as well as **over \$15 million for other homeless initiatives**; and
- **\$354 million for the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) operating budget**, a \$42 million increase over last year, with \$201 million going directly to Patrol.

**In concert with this year's budget, the Council also passed the following measures to provide tax relief:**

- Through Bill 14, **the Council increased the one-time real property tax credit to owner-occupant homeowners to \$350.**
- To **combat rising residential rental housing costs**, the Council **lowered the Real Property Tax Rate for Residential A properties valued at \$1 million or below** through Resolution 23-33, **reducing taxes by up to \$500** (for qualified homeowners).
- Through Bills 37 (2022) and 40 (2022), the Council is **increasing the income threshold for the income-based real property tax credit from \$60,000 to \$80,000**, and **increasing the homeowners and kūpuna exemptions by \$20,000 each.**

Apply for tax credit and home exemptions on or before Oct. 2!



Scan Me!



## BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

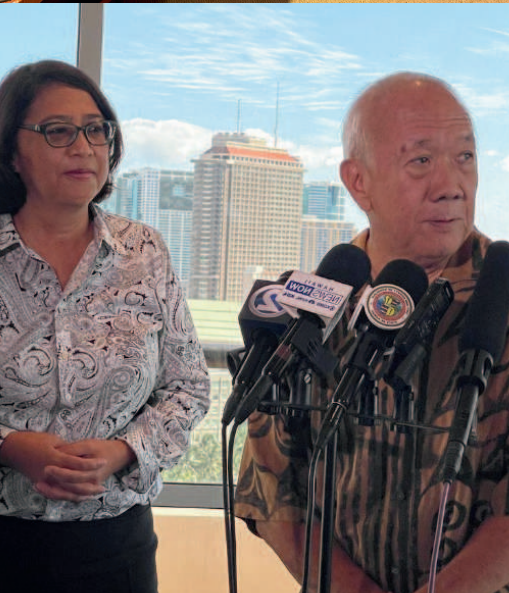
The City took a comprehensive approach to address the City's affordable housing challenges in this year's budget.

Specifically, the Council appropriated funds for **Workforce Housing for teachers and first responders, low and moderate-income housing development**, and infrastructure to ensure we are building not just housing but also strong communities. In total, **over \$253 million has been allocated** for these initiatives that seek to increase the availability of affordable housing units and help us turn the corner on our housing crisis.

## ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS ON O'AHU

The Council has appropriated **over \$70 million to serve the needs of vulnerable communities**, families, and individuals experiencing economic hardship while also assisting organizations that deliver services directly to houseless persons.

**\$20 million of this was set aside specifically for affordable housing development** targeted to provide units to the existing houseless population and **\$35 million for homeless service facilities.**



## IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

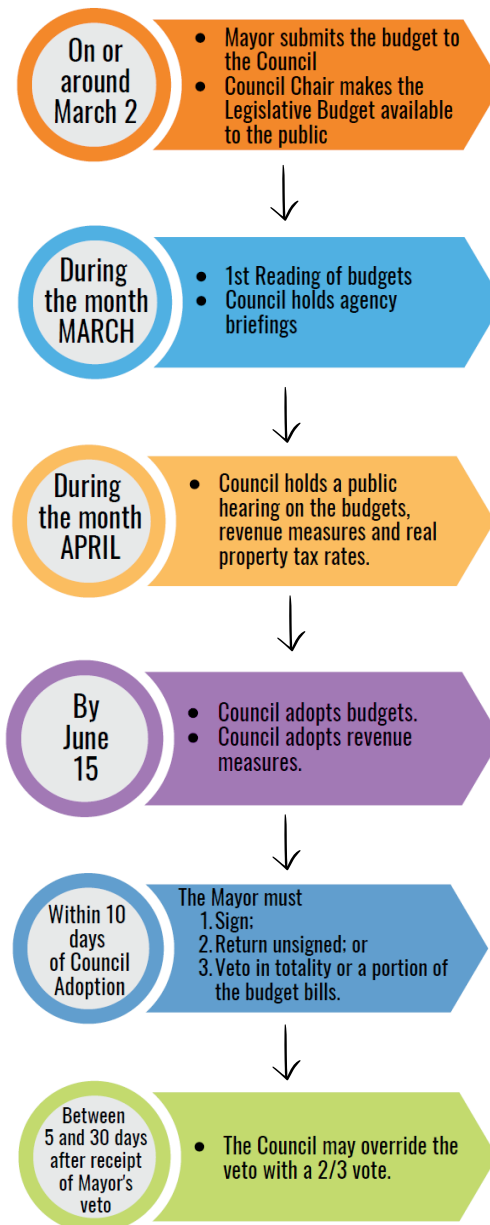
In an effort to address crime, the Council appropriated **\$354 million to HPD**: \$201 million to the Patrol Division, \$3.3 million for the headquarters improvements, \$6.2 million for police stations and facilities, and \$2.26 million toward equipment. Additionally, approximately **\$147 million was appropriated to the Honolulu Fire Department**: \$123.6 million toward fire operations and \$26.46 million for fire station improvements and equipment.

Lastly, \$66.8 million was appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services, with \$39 million for Emergency Medical Services and **\$23 million for the Ocean Safety Division** including \$2.2 million for lifeguard services salaries. This allows **lifeguards to finally provide service from dawn to dusk**. We also added 30 new positions to our lifeguard team over the last year.

This totals approximately **\$600 million in funding toward public safety** and health initiatives for our communities.



## BUDGET REVIEW TIMELINE



Read more on the City's Budget Process at:

[honolulucitycouncil.org/Budget](https://honolulucitycouncil.org/Budget)

## DISTRICT 3 UPDATES

'Āhuimanu, He'eia, Ha'ikū, Kāne'ohe, Maunawili, Kailua, Olomana, Enchanted Lake and Waimānalo

The FY24 budgets include millions of dollars for District 3 projects, including:

- Over \$45 million for improvements to Kailua and Waimānalo Treatment Plants
- \$3.9 million for improvements at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden (TAT)
- \$3.8 million for improvements at Kailua Municipal Parking Lot and the Pali Golf Course Parking Lot
- \$2 million for renovations and improvements at Waimānalo Convenience Center and Kapa'a Transfer Station
- \$2 million for storm drainage best management practices at Ka'elepulu Pond
- \$750,000 to design a new boat ramp for the Kailua Beach Park Boat Ramp (TAT)
- \$650,000 for improvements to parks in Council District 3

The FY24 budgets also include funding for improvements to the Waimānalo Fire Station, installation and staffing for a new lifeguard tower at Kalama Beach Park, and improvements for Kawa Stream.

Aloha Neighbor!

Mahalo nui to all of you who participated in this year's budget process. After months of hard work and careful consideration, the City Council approved the City's budget, one that is future-oriented and focuses on community needs, such as public safety, affordable housing, and homelessness.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Honolulu City Council Chair. I am committed to leadership with aloha, and ensuring that the City Council can be a trusted resource for you and your 'ohana.

We are committed to working hard for you. Together, we can continue to make our city and island home a place where our residents can live, work, and thrive.

*Me ka ha'aha'a,*

Tommy Waters, Honolulu City Council Chair