

Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto

MARCH 2024 - ISSUE 19
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 8 | PORTIONS OF 'AIEA, MILILANI, PEARL CITY, AND PORTIONS OF WAIPAHU



Aloha mai kākou,

As we step into the month of March, I am delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you. March not only signals the onset of spring but also brings with it a tapestry of celebrations and cultural observances that enrich the fabric of our community.

One of the standout highlights this month is the commemoration of Prince

Kūhiō Day, a significant and cherished occasion in our community. Named in honor of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, a prominent figure in Hawaiian history, this day serves as a reminder of his contributions to our islands and the enduring legacy he left behind.

March unfolds with an array of events, initiatives, and community gatherings that showcase the resilience and unity of our constituents. From local festivities to civic engagements, we aim to keep you informed and engaged in the various activities that make our community vibrant and dynamic. I look forward to sharing the joys and achievements of March with each of you.

As we commemorate this special time of the year celebrating new beginnings and life, manifesting sunnier days, and the colorful array of blossoming flowers, I wish to extend a heartfelt Happy Easter to you and your loved ones!

Mahalo,

Contact My Office!

My team and I are focused on serving the community and prioritizing constituent needs and concerns. If you have any questions or would like to report an issue within our district, please contact my office.



(808) 768-5008



valokimoto@honolulu.gov

THE BENEFITS OF READING

IT'S AN EXERCISE FOR YOUR BRAIN

Reading is a workout for your brain that improves memory function.

READING IMPROVES LITERACY

Our vocabulary grows, along with our ability to effectively communicate.

READING TEACHES EMPATHY

We can relate to others by putting ourselves in the shoes of the characters.

READING HELPS REDUCE STRESS

Reading can help decrease stress, lower heart rate and reduce blood pressure.





Honolulu County Updates

MARCH TRAINING ADVISORY



In March 2024, local Army units at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, will be conducting routine training activities. Residents in surrounding communities may hear training-related noises during both daytime and nighttime hours. It's important to reassure residents that if they hear any noise, there is no immediate danger. To report concerns or inquire about training activities, individuals can contact the NEW U.S. Army Hawai'i's Community Concern Line at (808) 787-1528 or email usag.hawaii.comrel@army.mil. The link below shows detailed training dates and times for March.

www.army.mil/article/274184/

O'AHU FLOOD RISK SURVEY



Residents in District 8 in High Flood-Risk Areas received a mailer with a QR code on the back to participate in a flood risk survey. The City and County of Honolulu wants to ensure residents don't lose everything in the event of floods or storms, which are projected to intensify with climate change. It can help make your community safer and more resilient by taking a short survey. The City values your input on flood risk and appreciate your assistance in helping O'ahu become better prepared.

www.resilientoahu.org/floodsurvey

CITY'S FY25 BUDGET



From March to June, the Council carefully deliberates the City's proposed budget package, which includes the Executive Operating and Capital Budgets, the Legislative Budget, and the HART Operating and Capital Budgets. This three-month process is an opportunity for the public to suggest alternatives to the Mayor's proposals by voicing their opinions directly to Councilmembers. The Budget documents are now available to the public to serve as a resource for residents to easily access the budget process.

honolulucitycouncil.org/budget



Community Events

Looking ahead in District 8, exciting events are on the horizon! From community fairs to lively performances, we're fostering unity and connection. Plus, Easter celebrations are just around the corner, offering a fantastic chance to come together and share in the joy. Stay tuned for details and join us in creating memorable moments in our vibrant community!

Discover hidden treasures at the Mililani Hongwanji Bazaar Rummage Sale for a shopping adventure filled with unique finds, great deals, and community spirit. Don't miss out – mark your calendar for a day of thrifting fun!

Hop into Easter joy at the Momilani Community Center on March 23rd for a free Easter Egg Hunt open to children aged 0-11. Pre-register now at www.pearlcityfoundation.org to secure your spot in this egg-citing event.

You can also celebrate Easter at Mililani Shopping Center on March 30th! Come join a day of festive fun featuring Easter crafts, photo opportunities, and a chance to win exciting prizes. Bring the family and immerse yourself in the joyous spirit of the season – a perfect way to create lasting memories!

We remain dedicated to capturing the vibrant essence of life in District 8. Each page unfolds a tapestry of events, offering a glimpse into the heartbeat of our neighborhoods. From cultural celebrations to family-friendly festivities, our updates are your window into the thriving hub of activity that is District 8.

Your active participation is crucial in shaping the narrative of our community newsletter. We highly value your contributions, as they play a vital role in creating a publication that authentically mirrors the dynamic spirit of our district. If you have upcoming events in District 8 that deserve the spotlight, please share them with us. Together, let's continue to showcase the richness of our community life and make each newsletter a true reflection of our vibrant district.

As always feel free to reach out to me via Instagram direct message at @councilmembervalokimoto or through email at valokimoto@honolulu.gov.

MILILANI HONGWANJI BAZAAR
Saturday: March 23, 2024
 9:00am-1:00pm
 95-257 Kaloapau St. (Next to Rec Ctr 3)

- Rummage Sale
- Treasured Finds
- Amazing Value
- Unique Items
- Country Store
- Ono Homemade Foods
- Baked Goods
- Sekihan Rice
- Takuan
- So Much More!

RUMMAGE
COUNTRY STORE

We hope to see you there!

Mililani Hongwanji
 95-257 Kaloapau St.
 Mililani, HI 96789
 Phone: 625-0925
<http://www.mililanihongwanji.org>

Participating Organizations:
 Buddhist Women's Association
 Shanna School
 Ki Aikido Club

NO PETS

EASTER EGG HUNT
 Free & open to the public – children ages 0-11 years of age
 Pre-register at www.pearlcityfoundation.org
 40 openings per timeslot. 10 timeslots available
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
 8:00A - 11:00A
MOMILANI COMMUNITY CENTER
 715 HO'OMOANA ST | PEARL CITY, HI 96782

PCF Hawaiian Electric PEARL CITY

Let's Have a Hoppin' Good Time for Easter!
Saturday, March 30th • 10 AM to 12 Noon

Here Comes Peter Cottontail!
 Egg-stra Special Easter Petting Zoo!

FREE Egg-Citing Easter Crafts!
 Capture an Ear-Resistable Easter Photo at our Easter Photography Backdrop!

Win a "Hawaii Staycation For 2" as our Grand Prize!

MILILANI SHOPPING CENTER



District 8 Community Report

HONORARY CERTIFICATES

I had the honor of recognizing student entrepreneurs, Pakela Aio and Kenzie Aczon with an honorary certificate for their accomplishments in winning this year's 6th annual American Savings Bank's Bank for Education KeikiCo Business Plan Competition. This year's competition had over 100 entries for a chance at first place to win up to \$25,000 for their school. With the mentorship of their teacher and my close friend, Mrs. Amy Kim, the team came up with the business idea, Two Times Recycling Company that secured the first place position awarding \$25,000 towards Mililani Middle School!



KUPUNA VALENTINE'S DANCE

I attended the 53rd annual Kupuna Valentine's Dance hosted by the City's DPR! The event was filled with moments of joy, laughter and heartwarming dances that brought our community together. I even did my best to join in and learn some new line dances! Mahalo to DPR for putting on such an amazing event. The Kupuna Valentine's Dance has undoubtedly become a beloved tradition, and I eagerly look forward to returning to this heartwarming celebration of love and unity.



MILILANI CHARACTER COUNTS FAIR

I attended the Mililani Complex Schools Character Counts Fair! This time around I was able to enjoy entertainment by some of the schools' performance groups, explore the event, participate in the games, tour the HFD Fire Truck, partake in HPD's keiki ID station, support local vendors and spend quality time with friends and family. Mahalo to all the schools and participants who put time and effort into making this event possible!



HPD PROGRAMS AND INTERNSHIPS

HPD shared valuable insights at the Committee on Public Safety hearing about the Police Services Officer (PSO) and Explorer programs. Reviving these programs is an excellent way to shape individuals and foster a strong team for HPD's future success. Additionally, the Pathways Internship Program prepares soon-to-graduate college students for careers with HPD. Interns gain hands-on experience and undergo the application process to become entry-level police recruits. You can find more information at www.joinhonolulu.org and www.honolulu.org/pathways/.



READING ACROSS AMERICA

For National Read Across America Day I visited Mililani 'Ike Elementary School! We started the morning off with a classic green eggs and ham breakfast to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, followed by the opportunity to read to my favorite 5th grader's class!

As a former teacher, I am grateful for these opportunities to be back in the classroom and share my love of literacy and books!



MHS QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Grateful to once again be able to attend the Mililani High School's Quarterly Luncheon, where the members from the community and fellow schools gather to report on past events, discuss upcoming events, programs and give important updates. It was great to see MHS staff, HPD officers and all the community members! The bonus to every quarterly meeting is being able to see the culinary students at MHS share their talents. Each dish they prepared was so delicious. What a treat!





Sakura Tree Planting

What a delightful experience it was to take part in the Sakura Tree Planting Ceremony at 'Iliahi Neighborhood Park, paying homage to Wahiawā's cherished Cherry Blossom Trees and the special ties we share with Japan and Okinawa. The enchanting beauty of the sakura blossom has always held a special place in my heart, and witnessing it bloom right here in our local haven is truly a joy!

I had the privilege of contributing to the ceremonial planting of a new sakura tree, an act that fills me with pride and a sense of responsibility. I eagerly anticipate returning to the park regularly to nurture this sapling and witness the magic of its blossoming in the days to come.

A heartfelt mahalo goes out to Kelvin Sewake, the dedicated Director of Hawai'i's Sakura Foundation, Ka'ili Trask O'Connell, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts, Laura Thielen, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the entire team for orchestrating this meaningful ceremony. Their efforts play a crucial role in preserving the beauty of our Cherry Blossom Trees and fostering a deeper connection with our community.

Following the successful tree plantings was a delightful reception hosted by the Hawai'i Sakura Foundation. It was great to come together where we celebrated the collective achievement of planting not one but two cherry blossom trees.

As we shared stories, the collective pride in contributing to the beautification of our community through these plantings was palpable. A special mahalo to the Hawai'i Sakura Foundation for orchestrating the reception and creating a space for meaningful connections to flourish. It's moments like these that reinforce the importance of community.

Looking ahead, I am inspired by the success of the cherry blossom tree plantings and the positive energy that filled the air during the reception. Together, we have not only planted seeds but also cultivated a stronger sense of community



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

BUDGET (BUD)

Radiant Cordero, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Tommy Waters, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MATTERS & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)

Tyler Dos Santos–Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH (HSH)

Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES & CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)

Augie Tulba, Chair
Val Aquino Okimoto, Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMY (P&E)

Esther Kia'āina, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY (PIT)

Andria Tupola, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Val Aquino Okimoto, Chair
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)

Tyler Dos Santos–Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

ZONING (ZON)

Calvin Say, Chair
Tyler Dos Santos–Tam, Vice Chair

Legislative Review

This month's legislative update features the Mayor's 2025 fiscal year budget proposal, projecting operating resources at \$3.96 billion. With higher revenues and COVID-19 recovery, real property taxes contribute \$1.73 billion (43.34%), and the O'ahu Transient Accommodations Tax contribute \$93.9 million.

The FY25 Operating Program and Budget is \$3.63 billion. Notable appropriations include \$844.7 million (23.27%) for miscellaneous costs like retirement and healthcare, and debt service at \$677.6 million (18.65%). Public safety programs account for \$626.6 million (17.25%), and Mass Transit, mainly TheBus, rail, and Handi-Van, are budgeted \$427.7 million (11.77%).

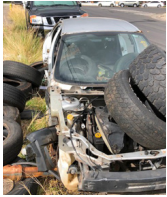
The Mayor has established specific goals for all City agencies to aggressively recruit and hire the talent and skilled leadership necessary to drive economic recovery, provide exemplary core services and improve the lives of O'ahu residents.

The FY25 Capital Program and Budget (CIP) proposes \$919 million, focusing on core services and includes improvements to the City's wastewater systems.

The City Council will be questioning the Administration and Department Directors on their budgets during Committee on Budget hearings in early March. Following discussions, members will propose amendments addressing park repairs, road repairs, infrastructure, and community-specific needs, such as fire stations.



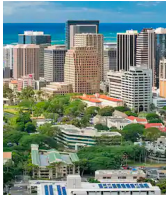
Helpful Honolulu Resources



ABANDONED VEHICLES HOTLINE

The City's Customer Service Department (CSD) manages the Abandoned Vehicle Program. If you see suspected abandoned vehicles, you can report it through the hotline below.

[\(808\) 768-2530](tel:(808)768-2530)



BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits are required to construct, alter or demolish any structure, do electrical work over \$500, or do plumbing work over \$1,000 within a 12-month period.

www.honolulu.gov/dpp/permitting/building-permits.html

[\(808\) 768-8000](tel:(808)768-8000)



BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII

Become a donor! Just 1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives. Contact the Blood Bank of Hawaii or go to their website to find the nearest blood donation center near you.

www.bbh.org/about/location/

[\(808\) 848-4770](tel:(808)848-4770)



CRIMESTOPPERS HOTLINE

If you see something, say something! Call Crimestoppers to ensure the safety of our community. The hotline is available 24/7 and callers can remain anonymous.

[\(808\) 955-8300](tel:(808)955-8300)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTIONS

Travelers must complete and return the agricultural form upon arrival to Hawai'i. For departures, please report all agricultural items in your possession to the agricultural inspectors.

[\(808\) 836-6411](tel:(808)836-6411)



HOMELESSNESS HOTLINE

The State of Hawai'i is continually working to reduce homelessness and support the homeless. Use the hotline below to request services or to report an encampment.

[\(808\) 586-0193](tel:(808)586-0193)



HONOLULU POTHOLE HOTLINE

If you see a pothole in any of O'ahu's city streets, contact the hotline below or file a report online.

honoluluhi.citysources.com/default.aspx

[\(808\) 768-7777](tel:(808)768-7777)



STREET LIGHT REPAIR

If there are street light issues within the community, call the Traffic Signals Division hotline.

[\(808\) 768-8387](tel:(808)768-8387)



Let's Stay Connected!

To get weekly updates from me and to see what's going on in our District 8 community, please follow me on social media.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/councilmembervalokimoto) [i](https://www.instagram.com/councilmembervalokimoto) @councilmembervalokimoto

