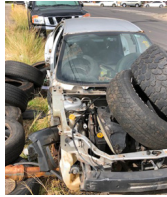


Helpful Honolulu Resources



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 Hawaii'. 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 Hawaii' 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.citysourced.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)

Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto

SEPTEMBER 2023 - ISSUE 14
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NEWSLETTER

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



Aloha mai kākou,

As we embrace the gentle transition into fall here in Hawaii', the arrival of autumn in our beautiful islands is truly a unique experience. While the rest of the world may be preparing for colder days, we get to relish in the beauty of nature as the leaves turn vibrant shades of red and gold, and our tropical paradise takes on a different kind of charm.

This new month brings with it a sense of renewal and change, much like the leaves falling gracefully from the trees. It's a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future, both in our personal lives and within our community.

Speaking of community, let's not forget the numerous fall events happening right here in our neighborhoods. From fall activities happening in our various botanical gardens to cultural celebrations, there are plenty of opportunities to come together, enjoy good company, and create lasting memories.

For our students, I want to offer words of encouragement as you continue to settle into the new school year. Remember, each day is a chance to learn and grow. Stay curious, work hard, and don't hesitate to seek support when needed. You have a community that believes in your potential and is here to uplift you.

Mahalo, *Val*

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](tel:(808)768-5008)

valokimoto@honolulu.gov

FALL PARK ACTIVITIES LIST *out now!*

The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation introduced a rich lineup of 320+ classes and programs across City parks and gardens in O'ahu until the end of the year.

To view the full event catalog, visit:

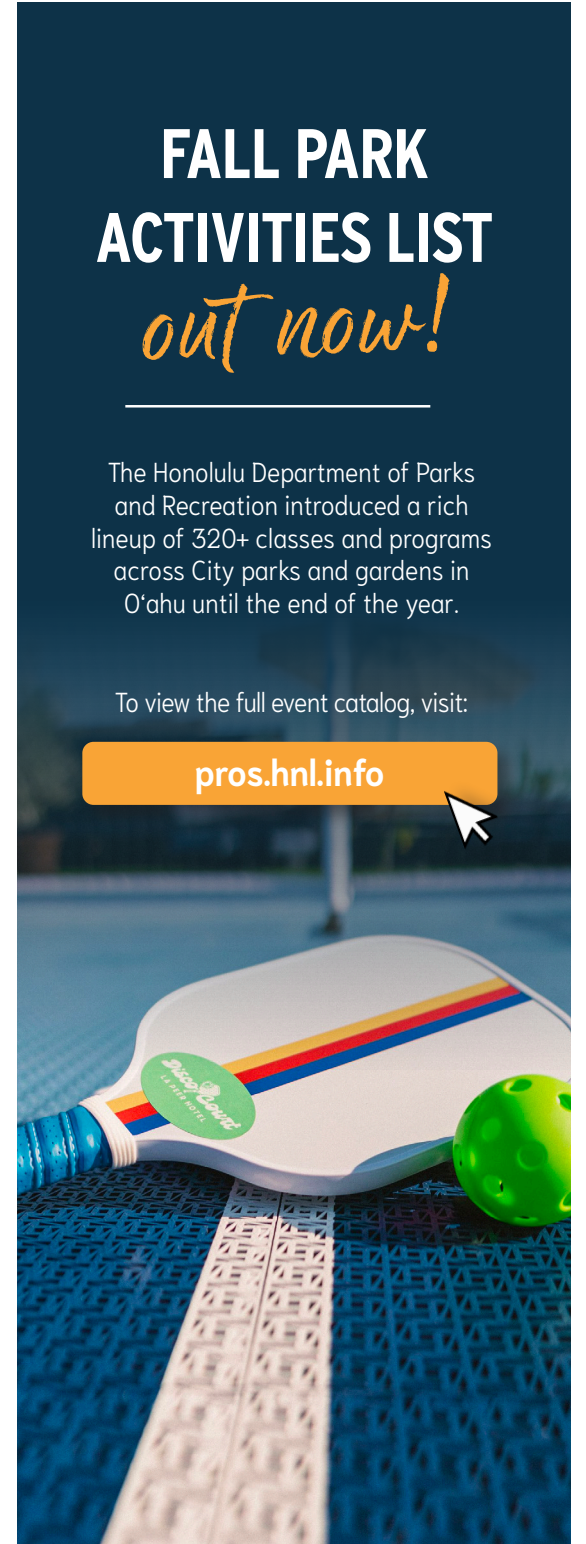
pros.hnl.info



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.

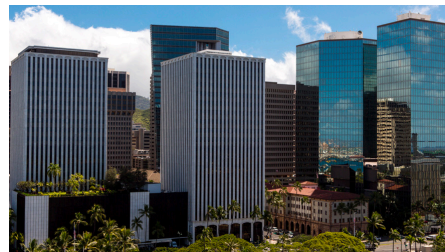
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/councilmembervalokimoto) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/councilmembervalokimoto) @councilmembervalokimoto





Honolulu County Updates

INTERNS WANTED: HONOLULU RESILIENCE OFFICE



The Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency department is looking to hire two college students to join their team as Energy Efficiency Interns! These part-time, paid student internship positions will work remotely with the Energy Team to further implement and provide support and resources to the Better Buildings Benchmarking Program. The internship will begin Fall 2023 for approximately 9 months.

Learn more and apply now at:

resilientoahu.org/opportunities

BOTANICAL GARDENS TO HOST FALL ACTIVITIES



Get ready for botanical garden activities just in time for the Fall season!! There will be a variety of classes available which include bracelet weaving, composting, gardening, and wreath making will be available at various Honolulu Botanical Gardens! Sign up will be online. For those without computer or internet access, please call the botanical garden staff at (808) 768-7135.

For more information or to register, please visit:

pros.hnl.info

SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES AND DECALS



Did you know that you can get a specialty license plates and/or car decals for your that support various organizations? Specialty license plates help support The Polynesian Voyaging Society, Haleakala National Park and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The Decal Program assists qualified not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for community public health, education or general welfare programs.

For more information, please visit:

honolulu.gov/csd


Community Events

One of the most delightful aspects of attending these community events is the chance to bring people together and is a beautiful opportunity to forge connections. As you stroll through these events, your senses will be tantalized by the aroma of diverse cuisines from around the world. It's a culinary adventure that transcends borders and allows you to savor flavors you may never have tried before.

Moreover, attending these local events is an incredible way to show support for our vibrant local businesses we have here on the islands. Locations like Pearlridge and Mililani Shopping Centers have recurring monthly events that bring together businesses from all over the islands. Your support directly contributes to their business' success, enabling them to flourish and continue serving our neighborhoods.

But beyond the immediate pleasures of food and festivities, community events hold a deeper significance. They reinforce the bonds that unite us as a community, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our shared heritage. They also provide a platform for local artists, musicians, and performers to showcase their talents, enriching our local culture.

So, whether you're a longtime resident or a newcomer to the area, we encourage you to join us in celebrating the spirit of Mililani, Pearl City, 'Aiea, and Waipahu. Come, be part of the magic that unfolds at our community events. Your presence is not just encouraged; it's eagerly awaited. We can't wait to see you there, ready to embrace the warmth, diversity, and vibrancy of our

INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE?

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Medical examiner's certificate (from MCSA-5876)
- Birth certificate
- Hawai'i driver's license
- Two proofs of residence

bit.ly/CDLOffice



(808) 768-5008



valokimoto@honolulu.gov



530 S King Street, Honolulu, HI 96813



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

District 8 Community Report

WRESTLING CHAMP HONORED AT CITY COUNCIL

I had the pleasure of honoring 8 year old Raeghan Rivera, recipient of the 2023 World of Wrestling Trinity Award. She is the first keiki wrestler from Hawaii to win this prestigious award. With 1st place victories in three National tournaments and an undefeated 11-0 record, Raeghan's dedication shines brightly!

A special mahalo to her amazing 'ohana, her dad (and coach), mom, and siblings for nurturing this champion's journey. The future holds endless possibilities for this wrestling sensation!



CITY COUNCIL MAUI WILDFIRE DROPOFF

In the face of the devastating Maui wildfires, our communities have united both near and far. It was truly a fulfilling experience for my team and I to not only assist the Honolulu City Council in sorting the dropoff items, but also extend our own contributions of many essential goods to the Maui community. Our hope is that this gesture will provide much-needed aid to those affected during this trying period. It's a long journey ahead, but together we are all #MauiStrong!



DUNKING BOOTH FOR MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF

I had such an enjoyable time at the K9 & Keiki Carnival dunking booth on August 13!

A big mahalo to the Fur-Angel Foundation for putting up this wonderful community event and for including me. Every splash contributed to aiding the recovery from the devastating Maui Wildfires – turning a fun-filled afternoon into a meaningful mission.



NORTH SHORE OCEAN SAFETY TOUR

During the tour, viewed the seven towers within the area, saw the North Shore sub-station, and got a brief of the intensive safety measures taken during high surf. I also got to take a quick jet ski orientation to view the areas that our lifeguards patrol. With millions of residents and tourists that visit our beaches every year, we can rest assured that we are in the best hands. Mahalo to John Titchen, Chief of Ocean Safety, and the rest of the ocean safety crew for the informative tour and for all that you do to keep visitors and kama'aina safe on our shorelines.



SUNSET MEMORIAL CEMETERY SITE VISIT

I attended a site visit at Sunset Memorial Cemetery with my fellow Pearl City legislators, DCCA, and other community members to understand the pressing concerns affecting the cemetery – from unkept plots to homelessness, excessive trash, health hazards, and more. Grateful to Pearl City Neighborhood Board Chair Larry Veray for guiding us through the area and providing us with helpful information. I look forward to working with my state legislative counterparts as we tackle this issue and restore the cemetery out of respect for the individuals and families buried here.



RICE BOX CAFE, MILILANI'S NEW FOOD SPOT

I had so much fun exploring Mililani Mauka's culinary scene with the expert foodie, Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam! We went to Rice Box Cafe, a new restaurant that opened up in the area about a month ago and the food was amazing! 10/10 recommend! Mahalo for the invite Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam! Mahalo Chef Jensen for your 'ono cuisine! Rice Box Cafe is located at **95-1840 Meheula Pkwy, Suite E4 Mililani, HI 96789**. Their hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday from 10am-2pm, and Wednesday to Sunday from 10am - 8pm.





Fire Department Hangar Tour

Visiting the Honolulu Fire Department helicopter hangar was an eye-opening experience. Our comprehensive tour of the facility not only revealed the history of the hangar but also shed light on the transformation it underwent during the pandemic to provide living quarters for our dedicated rescue pilots. While the living quarters had been revamped, the rest of the hangar still remains in poor condition, limiting the efficiency and safety of the crew and aircraft.

Our discussions with the HFD team highlighted the critical need for renovating and equipping the hangar adequately, as well as the necessity for a temporary hangar during the renovation process. Battalion Chief Robert Thurston, Senior Aviation Pilot Dustin Harris, and their devoted team emphasized the significance of spreading awareness about HFD's unique aviation program, the only one of its kind in our state. Their impressive ability to refuel independently stood out, which enables them to stay on the scene without having to return for fuel. This also allows for an increased chance of survival in rescue missions and faster fire containment. We also learned of the arrival of a twin-engine rescue and firefighting helicopter, a game-changer for the program which will nearly triple the water capacity and enhance rescue capabilities.

The flight on Air 1 Helicopter was very enlightening and educational. It provided a firsthand understanding of the immense responsibilities these firefighters shoulder daily,

demonstrating remarkable commitment and expertise. They undertake the challenging mission of rescuing individuals from hiking disasters, wildfires, and ocean emergencies.

As we reflect on our visit, the memory of the Maui wildfires serves as a reminder of the paramount importance of fire safety. Our team will continue to advocate for the resources and support necessary to ensure the safety of our communities. The HFD Hangar visit left us with a profound appreciation for the firefighters' dedication and the pressing need to keep HFD's aviation program at the forefront of emergency response in Hawaii.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

BUDGET (BUD)
Radiant Cordero, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE MATTERS & LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

ZONING (ZON)
Calvin Say, Chair
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES & CULTURE AND THE ARTS (PESCA)
Augie Tulba, Chair
Val Okimoto, Vice Chair

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH (HSH)
Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMY (P&E)
Esther Kia'aina, Chair
Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)
Val Okimoto, Chair
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY (PIT)
Andria Tupola, Chair
Calvin Say, Vice Chair

Legislative Review

Over the past few weeks, the City Council of Honolulu has been diligently convening to discuss and deliberate on several crucial bills that have significant implications for the residents of the City and County of Honolulu. These legislative proposals reflect the Council's commitment to addressing various aspects of governance and community well-being.

One of the prominent bills under consideration is Bill 46, which has been proposed to define and prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products within the jurisdiction of Honolulu. This measure aims to safeguard public health, particularly the youth, by curbing the accessibility and appeal of such products.

Additionally, Bill 20 is another pivotal piece of legislation that has been on the Council's agenda. This bill is designed to address parking concerns within Kalihi Valley, encompassing the City's restricted parking zone program. Effective parking management is essential for ensuring smooth traffic flow and convenience for residents and visitors alike.

Furthermore, Bill 48 is a noteworthy initiative that seeks to establish an assessment cap for homeowners aged 65 or older in Honolulu. This proposed cap ensures that the assessed value of eligible properties does not increase by more than 2% annually or the rate of inflation, providing financial relief and stability for senior citizens.

Lastly, Bill 52 is an important proposal that aims to enhance penalties for the development of monster homes. This bill's provisions include imposing substantial fines, with initial violations incurring penalties of up to \$25,000 and subsequent daily penalties of \$10,000 per violation. This approach is intended to deter the construction of oversized homes that may disrupt neighborhood harmony.

As the City Council continues its deliberations, these bills exemplify its commitment to addressing critical issues and improving the quality of life for Honolulu residents. For those seeking comprehensive information on these bills or any other legislative matters, please visit the Honolulu City Council website, honolulucitycouncil.org.

