

Councilmember  
**RADIANT  
CORDERO**

Serving  
**HONOLULU CITY  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7**



*Paid for (or paid in part) by the taxpayers of the City and County of Honolulu.*

**9/11/24 'AIEA-PEARL CITY TOWN HALL MEETING**



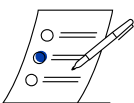
The 'Aiea and Pearl City Legislators would like to thank everyone who attended the Town Hall meeting on September 11, 2024. To view the 'Aiea-Pearl City Town Hall presentations from the State's Department of Transportation and City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS), please visit [tinyurl.com/09-11-24-APC-Town-Hall](https://tinyurl.com/09-11-24-APC-Town-Hall).

**PEARL HARBOR BIKE PATH CLEANUP**



October is "Make A Difference Month," and on October 19, Councilmember Cordero's office participated in the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) Storm Water Quality Division's biannual cleanup of the Pearl Harbor Bike Path. Mahalo to DFM and all the volunteers who cleared trash and helped beautify the Bike Path. To view other cleanup projects in your area, visit [picktime.com/swq](https://picktime.com/swq).

**2024 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT QUESTIONS**



For more information on the four City Charter Amendment Questions that will be on this year's ballot, please visit [www8.honolulu.gov/elections/city-charter-info](https://www8.honolulu.gov/elections/city-charter-info).

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 10/22/24**  
9:00 a.m. - Planning & the Economy Committee  
1:00 p.m. - Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee  
2:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
- 10/23/24**  
9:00 a.m. - Zoning Committee  
1:00 p.m. - Housing, Sustainability & Health Committee
- 10/24/24**  
9:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee  
1:00 p.m. - Public Infrastructure & Technology Committee

**11/07/24**  
10:00 a.m. - City Council Meeting

To view the 2024 City Council Calendar, please visit [honolulu.citycouncil.org](https://honolulu.citycouncil.org).

**HELPFUL LINKS**



Watch Council Meetings Live on 'Ōlelo 54 or on [honolulu.citycouncil.org](https://honolulu.citycouncil.org)



View Bills/Resolutions at [hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl.doc](https://hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl.doc)



Submit Your Testimony Online at [hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl.doc/testimony](https://hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl.doc/testimony)

## UPDATES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### **Moanalua Road Street Sweeping**

DFM's Division of Road Maintenance has initiated Service Request No. 58421 for street sweeping of Moanalua Road between Kaonohi Street to 'Aiea Heights Drive on both sides of the roadway. For status updates on this Service Request, please feel free to email [dfmroads@honolulu.gov](mailto:dfmroads@honolulu.gov).

### **Kaonohi Street Pothole/Sinkhole Patched**

DFM shared on September 18, 2024, that crews patched the pothole/sinkhole area along Kaonohi Street on May 3, 2024. The continuous discharge of irrigation water from the Westridge Shopping Center's sprinkler system appeared to have been corrected, and DFM has referred the ponding in the gutter area to DTS, Facilities & Equipment Branch of the Transportation Mobility Division for reconstruction of the gutter area.

### **Trash Reported Near Puakala Street and Laka Place**

Mahalo to the Department of Environmental Services Refuse Division for following up on a constituent's concern and reporting a growing pile of trash/bulky items at the cul-de-sac at the end of Laka Place and Puakala Street.

### **Feeding of Feral Animals on Koauka Street and Koauka Loop**

In response to a constituent's request for signage prohibiting the feeding of feral animals on Koauka Street and Loop, the City's Department of Customer Services recommended on October 10, that residents consider reaching out to the Pearl One Condo management to discuss options/possibilities available, as there is no City property in the area and the City is unable to post signs in areas not within its jurisdiction. To avoid confrontations, residents are encouraged to call 911 when observing individuals feeding feral animals so that the responding officer can help educate the person.

### **Kaonohi Street Bus Stop**

Due to reports of a homeless individual living at the bus stop on Kaonohi Street fronting the former Bed Bath & Beyond location, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 3 ('Aiea/Pearl City/Waipahu) Community Policing Team officers made checks on September 27, 30, and October 4, and did not observe any homeless individuals who may have been staying at the bus stop. During their first check, officers observed a beach chair and cart, but these items were subsequently removed and the bus stop was found to be clean and clear.

As a general reminder, if you observe any illegal activity, have immediate safety concerns, witness a health emergency, or notice that individuals are blocking the sidewalk, please call 911 for an immediate response. For urgent, non-violent homeless-related concerns, please call the Honolulu Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement's (CORE) hotline at 808-768-2673 or email [HonoluluCORE@honolulu.gov](mailto:HonoluluCORE@honolulu.gov). For more information on CORE, please visit [emergencyservices.honolulu.gov/core](https://emergencyservices.honolulu.gov/core).

### **Concerns at Hālawa District Park**

Councilmember Cordero and her team has conducted multiple site visits to the area, most recently on October 16. Our office has requested the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to maintain the park facilities, including but not limited to the clearing of trash and debris in the field and restrooms, repairing and improving the baseball dugouts and field conditions, updating and replacing the play apparatus and its flooring, and repairing any broken sprinklers, water fountains, and picnic tables. Additionally, assistance from HPD and the Hawaiian Humane Society has been requested relating to homeless individuals and their unleashed dogs at the park. Social service providers have also been asked to assist the homeless individuals, who reportedly live under the pavilion near the restrooms. Lastly, Councilmember Cordero has asked DPR to allow interested groups who use the fields to volunteer to help maintain the fields in good playing condition, which will have the added benefit of creating a sense of pride, community, and ownership in the park.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### **Bill 46 (2024) – Empty Homes Tax**

This Bill imposes an empty homes tax on properties that have been vacant for more than six months out of the year. If approved, the tax would be three percent of the property's assessed value, but would be phased in at one percent in the first year and two percent in the second year. The goal of the tax is to encourage homeowners to rent out their empty properties to help address the City's housing shortage. On September 25, the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health amended this Bill to a CD1 version.

The following exemptions help determine whether a dwelling unit is classified as an empty home for taxation purposes:

1. **Owner Occupancy:** The unit is the principal residence of an owner for at least six months in the tax year.
2. **Renter Occupancy:** The unit is the principal residence of a renter or permitted occupant for at least six months, with multiple periods counted together.
3. **Pending Litigation:** The property is involved in probate or court proceedings during the tax year.
4. **Death of Owner:** The principal resident owner died, leading to a transfer of ownership, valid for the year of death and five subsequent years.
5. **Medical Care:** The owner or occupant is away for over six months due to medical care or caregiving.
6. **Military Deployment:** The legal occupant is deployed outside the City on active military duty.
7. **Substandard Building:** The unit is classified as substandard with an open building permit for major construction.
8. **Construction Permit:** The unit has an open permit requiring the occupant to reside elsewhere during renovation.
9. **Active Sale or Rent Efforts:** The property is actively being marketed for sale or rent, or ownership was fully transferred in the tax year.
10. **State-Licensed Facilities:** The unit is part of a licensed residential home for seniors or those with disabilities.
11. **Nonprofit Housing:** The unit is owned by a nonprofit and used for temporary housing as part of its mission.
12. **Nonprofit Operations:** The unit is owned by a nonprofit and used for its operational purposes during the year.
13. **Government Property:** The property is owned or controlled by federal, state, or local government.
14. **Legal Prohibition:** The City cannot impose the empty home tax due to federal or state law.
15. **Bed and Breakfast:** The unit operates as a bed and breakfast or transient vacation unit for at least six months.

Bill 46 passed Second Reading at the October 9, Council Meeting and has been referred to the Budget Committee. Due to the complexity of this issue, Budget Chair Cordero intends to hold a Special Budget Meeting to further discuss this Bill.

### “THE PEDESTRIAN CRISIS IN AMERICA” WITH ANGIE SCHMITT



Pedestrian safety is a major concern, impacting the quality of life for people of all ages, across all communities, and across the nation. On September 25, Councilmember Cordero joined community members, State and City agencies, and community groups dedicated to safe streets for all and Honolulu's Vision Zero goals of ending traffic violence on O'ahu. United in their vision, they gathered to hear from Angie Schmitt, author of “Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Crisis of Pedestrian Deaths in America.”

Angie Schmitt presented on “The Pedestrian Crisis in America: Why It's Happening,” and led a fruitful, open forum discussion on the pedestrian safety crisis in our country, social trends that are putting people at risk, and why, fundamentally, it is a problem of systematic, structural inequality.

Mahalo to DTS and Ulupono Initiative for hosting this event.



## FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



*Photos Courtesy of Council Support Services, Honolulu City Council*

At the October 9, Council meeting in Kapolei, the Councilmembers wore their Barongs and Filipinanas (Traditional Philippine formal wear) to celebrate Filipino American (Fil-Am) History Month. Fil-Am History Month commemorates the first recorded presences of Filipinos in the United States. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Thursday, November 7, at Honolulu Hale.

There was a special flag-raising ceremony in celebration of Fil-Am History Month on October 18, on the grounds of Honolulu Hale. The Philippine flag was raised on the flagpole between Honolulu Hale and the Mission Memorial Auditorium. The Royal Hawaiian Band performed the Philippine national anthem during the ceremony, and Honolulu Hale was illuminated in the colors of the Philippine flag – red, blue, and yellow – from sunset on October 18, to sunrise today, October 21, 2024.

## PRIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AND PRIDE TREE PROCLAMATION



*Photos Courtesy of Council Support Services, Honolulu City Council*

On October 1, in a special ceremony marking the start of Honolulu Pride Month, the City, along with our queer communities and allies, raised the Pride flag above the Frank F. Fasi Civic Center Grounds and proclaimed the Rainbow Shower Tree (*Cassia x nealiae*, 'Wilhelmina Tenney') as the "Official Pride Tree of Honolulu." Additionally, Honolulu Hale was illuminated in the colors of the rainbow from sunset on October 1 to sunrise on October 5.

The Rainbow Shower Tree (*Cassia x nealiae* 'Wilhelmina Tenney'), which is prominent throughout O'ahu and was declared the official tree of Honolulu in 1965, is named for Wilhelmina Tenney, a lifelong Honolulu resident, prominent businesswoman, and philanthropist who lived in a visible lesbian relationship in the early and middle 20th century, when such relationships were much less common than they are today. Tenney donated a cutting from a Rainbow Shower Tree that was in her yard to the Foster Botanical Garden, where it remains to this day.

The scientific Latin name of the tree (*Cassia x nealiae*) pays tribute to Marie C. Neal, a highly-regarded Bishop Museum botanist who also lived in a long-term lesbian relationship, despite pressures from the societal norms of that era. An informational plaque was unveiled at the base of a Rainbow Shower Tree outside the Frank F. Fasi Municipal Building, thanks to the Lei Pua 'Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i project. Please visit <https://www8.honolulu.gov/news> to view the press release.

## CITY NOW ACCEPTING GRANTS IN AID APPLICATIONS

**PRESS RELEASE:** Qualified nonprofit organizations can now apply for grants available through the City's Grants in Aid (GIA) program. GIA proposals must submit their sealed proposals to the Division of Purchasing by **2:00 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time on Friday, November 22, 2024**, as evidenced by a date and time stamp from the Division of Purchasing. The Division of Purchasing is located at Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, Room 115, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

Last year, more than \$9.6 million in GIA were awarded to 78 nonprofits across O'ahu. Interested agencies, please download the Request for Grant Proposals from the State of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Awards & Notices Data System website at <https://hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities>. Further information is available at <https://www8.honolulu.gov/dcs/giainfo/> about the grant application process.

For further assistance, agencies may contact the Division of Purchasing Help Desk at 808-768-5535.

### Additional Background

The city is mandated by a Charter Amendment to set aside one-half of one percent of general funds for Grants in Aid for the following two categories:

### Public Services

Funds in this category must be used to support qualified public services and programs for the target populations deemed by the city to be most vulnerable, including but not limited to: seniors, persons with disabilities, children, victims of domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, and those suffering from the effects of substance abuse or poor mental health.

### Arts, Culture, and Community / Economic Development and the Environment

Funds in this category must be used to support the sustainable improvement in the well-being and quality of life of local communities, especially low- to moderate income areas. Projects could include but are not limited to: the creation, development and empowerment of community based organizations, providing planning, organizational support, and technical assistance to organizations, supporting financial literacy programs and services, supporting micro-enterprise and business training, and supporting programs that promote cultural or environmental enhancement, protection or awareness.

## THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS' MĀLAMA LOAN PROGRAM



**Let Us Help You Realize Your Dreams!**

For nearly 35 years, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has provided Native Hawaiians with low-interest loans for education, home improvements, and debt consolidation. *It's your turn to fulfill your dream!*

**Interest rates 5% TO 6%\* APR for all loans**

Mālama Education	Mālama Home Improvement	Mālama Debt Consolidation
OHA can help you and your 'ohana with tuition and other fees for preschool, K-12, trade school, and undergraduate and post-graduate college.	Whether it's to expand your home to accommodate your growing 'ohana, make home repairs, add a driveway, fence, retaining wall, or sidewalk, or to buy new appliances, OHA can help you.	OHA lifts your financial burdens by showing you how to consolidate and pay off existing debts so that you can improve your credit rating.
<b>Loan amounts: \$2,500 - \$20,000</b>	<b>Loan amounts: \$2,500 - \$100,000</b> <small>Loan amounts over \$50,000 require non-real estate collateral.</small>	<b>Loan amounts: \$2,500 - \$20,000</b> <small>Loan amounts over \$20,000 require non-real estate collateral.</small>

**Eligibility Requirements for Principals:**

- U.S. citizen
- State of Hawai'i resident
- Native Hawaiian ancestry
- 18 years old and above

To apply for an OHA Hawaiian Registry Card, please visit: [www.oha.org/registry](http://www.oha.org/registry)

Contact the OHA Mālama Loans program today. [loans.oha.org](http://loans.oha.org) | 808.594.1888

\*Interest rates may be subject to change.



**Shift Your Business Into High Gear!**

For nearly 35 years, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has provided Native Hawaiians with low-interest loans to start or expand their businesses. *Get started today!*

**Interest rates 4%\* APR for all loans**

Mālama Business	Hua Kanu Business
OHA helps you get your business off the ground or take your business to a new, exciting level. Includes working capital to operate your business. Loan amounts over \$50,000 require non-real estate collateral.	Whether it's to purchase equipment or inventory, or you need a loan for working capital, OHA is there for you.
<b>Loan amounts: \$2,500 - \$149,999</b>	<b>Loan amounts: \$150,000 - \$1,000,000</b>

**Eligibility Requirements for Principals:**

- U.S. citizen and a State of Hawai'i resident
- Native Hawaiian ancestry
- 18 years old and above
- Businesses must be registered with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and be in good standing

To apply for an OHA Hawaiian Registry Card, please visit: [www.oha.org/registry](http://www.oha.org/registry)

Contact the OHA Mālama Loans program today. [loans.oha.org](http://loans.oha.org) | 808.594.1888

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