



Councilmember
**RADIANT
CORDERO**

Serving
**HONOLULU CITY
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7**



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UPDATES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Kaonohi Street and Moanalua Road Traffic Signals

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) conducted a field check following a report that the left turn signal from Kaonohi Street onto Moanalua Road was not working properly and found that all left turn red signals are working as programmed. DTS explained that left turn signals are “programmable visibility,” meaning that motorists can only see them from the left turn lanes.

Installation of Shoulder/Parking Lanes on Ka’amilo Street

Shoulder/parking lanes on both sides of Ka’amilo Street from Ulune to Kulawai Streets will be installed to narrow the travel lanes from 20 feet to 10 feet in each direction to help encourage speed compliance. Street parking will be retained.

Ulune Street and ‘Aiea Heights Drive Pedestrian Crossing Button

On October 24, Councilmember Cordero’s office conducted a site inspection and confirmed that all pedestrian walk buttons at the intersection of Ulune Street and ‘Aiea Heights Drive are now working properly.

Traffic Signal Timing at Ulune Street/Kaimakani Street and Ulune Street/Ali’ipoe Drive Intersections

DTS confirmed that the traffic signal timing at the intersections of Ulune Street and Kaimakani Street as well as Ulune Street and Ali’ipoe Drive are working properly. It was previously reported that a Navy contractor installed temporary sensor loops at Ulune Street and Kaimakani Street on September 6.

In regards to Ulune Street and Ali’ipoe Drive, DTS installed a microwave vehicle detector as the sensor loops for Ali’ipoe Drive had been damaged. During field checks last month on September 10 and September 26, DTS confirmed that the microwave vehicle detector is working properly. Crews described observing that the majority of vehicles coming out of Ali’ipoe Drive were making right turns onto Ulune Street. The microwave vehicle detector reportedly detected these vehicles appropriately, and thus, the traffic signals would change even when the right-turning vehicle made the right turn.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/19/24

- 9:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee
- 1:00 p.m. - Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee
- 2:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee

11/20/24

- 9:00 a.m. - Zoning Committee
- 1:00 p.m. - Parks, Enterprise Services & Culture & the Arts Committee
- 2:30 p.m. - Housing, Sustainability & Health Committee

11/21/24

- 9:00 a.m. - Planning & the Economy Committee
- 1:00 p.m. - Special Budget Committee
- 2:30 p.m. - Public Infrastructure & Technology Committee

11/30/24

- 6:00 p.m. - Kapolei City Lights Opening Night & Parade

12/7/24

- 6:15 p.m. - Honolulu City Lights Opening Night & Public Workers’ Electric Light Parade

12/11/24

- 10:00 a.m. - City Council Meeting

To view the 2024 City Council Calendar, please visit honolulucitycouncil.org.



HELPFUL LINKS

Watch Council Meetings Live on ‘Ōlelo 54 or on honolulucitycouncil.org

View Bills/Resolutions at hnl doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl doc

Submit Your Testimony Online at hnl doc.ehawaii.gov/hnl doc/testimony

UPDATES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS (CONTINUED)

'Iwa'iwa Street and Place

The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 3 patrol officers conducted enforcement from October 4 to 20, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., in the area of 'Iwa'iwa Street and Place and did not observe any speeding. While their presence may have helped to deter violations, officers did issue five citations for other moving and miscellaneous violations. HPD will continue to monitor the area and take any appropriate enforcement action, as necessary.

Increased HPD Presence in 'Aiea

In response to a general request for increased police presence in the 'Aiea area, HPD District 3 patrol officers conducted enforcement from October 23 to 31, 2024, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., around the 'Aiea area, including 'Aiea Heights Drive, and did not observe any speeding, criminal activity, or excessive noise coming from car stereos. However, two citations were issued for violations of park closure hours at 'Aiea District Park on October 23, 2024. While HPD's presence may have helped to deter violations during this period, officers will continue to monitor the area and take the appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed.

Tree on Akaaka Street

On October 14, a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Division of Urban Forestry (DUF) arborist investigated a City shower tree fronting 98-1305 Akaaka Street. The DUF Arborist determined that although no branches appear to pose an immediate public safety concern, maintenance is warranted. Work to perform selective pruning of the tree is anticipated to be completed by the end of December 2024.

Nāpuanani Neighborhood Park Play Apparatus

DPR's investigation on October 18 confirmed Councilmember Cordero's report that the equipment on the play apparatus has not yet been repaired/replaced. Work Request number 2023-1127 was submitted on March 3, 2023, to remove and board off the slide due to damages from vandalism. Work Request number 2023-5039 was submitted on September 20, 2023, to repair the apparatus. DPR reports it is currently working on creating a new Master Agreement for play apparatus repairs island-wide. Once it is completed, a request will be submitted to replace the slide.

Noise and Vehicle Concerns on Kohomua and Kalaloe Streets and at Makalapa Neighborhood Park

DPR investigated concerns relating to noise, fireworks, and speeding e-bikes and mopeds in the Makalapa Neighborhood Park and parking lot on October 11, 2024. DPR confirmed that the chain gate and padlock securing access from the Honolulu Community Action Program parking lot to Makalapa Neighborhood Park are functional and locked outside of park hours.

Despite attempts to secure the park, bikes, including e-bikes, can sometimes circumvent gates due to being light enough to be lifted over them, and narrow enough to slip through small areas. Additionally, determined people will even cut through chain link fencing to gain access. As such, DPR asks that constituents please call 911 when witnessing e-bikes and mopeds in the park or speeding on Kohomua and Kalaloe Streets.

When HPD District 3 patrol officers from both watches conducted enforcement in the vicinity of Kohomua and Kalaloe Streets from October 17 to 26, 2024, between the hours of 2 a.m. to 7 p.m., they did not observe any speeding or fireworks. While their presence may have helped to deter violations, officers will continue to monitor the area and take appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**Resolution 24-213 – Requesting the City Administration to Provide Recycling Receptacles in City Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Resolution 24-213 was introduced in recognition of the Honolulu Youth Commission's (HCY) adoption of HCY Resolution 24-007 asking for the City Administration to provide recycling receptacles in public parks, playgrounds, and beaches to combat the production of greenhouse gasses. This Resolution was adopted on October 9, 2024, and transmitted to the City Administration for consideration.

Bill 40 (2024), CD1 – Relating to Professional Self-certification

Bill 40 amends Ordinance 23-29 by adding solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification. Ordinance 23-29, approved in November 2023, seeks to simplify and speed up permit approvals for certain eligible projects by providing a temporary pathway for professional self-certification. This Bill passed Third Reading on October 9, 2024, and has been signed into law as Ordinance 24-30.

Bill 41 (2024), CD1 – Relating to Public Spay and Neuter Clinics for Dogs and Cats

Bill 41 repeals portions of the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats program and authorizes the Department of Customer Services to adopt administrative rules to implement, administer, and enforce the program, including establishing the fee structure. This Bill passed Third Reading on October 9, 2024, and has been signed into law as Ordinance 24-31, which takes effect on July 1, 2025.

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 held a Special Budget Meeting on November 8 to further discuss this Bill. This Bill is scheduled for hearing at the November 21 Special Budget Committee Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)**Bill 22 (2024) – Relating to the Fire Code for Fireworks**

Currently, the public use of fireworks on O‘ahu are banned, except firecrackers that are allowed on certain occasions, with a permit. Originally passed by the Council on October 9, Bill 22 sought to amend the Fire Code to allow for the use of “consumer fireworks” such as ground-level fountains and sparklers. However, the Bill was vetoed by Mayor Blangiardi, and the action to override the veto to allow the Bill to pass and become an ordinance was on the Council agenda for consideration at its meeting on November 7.

After much discussion and deliberation, and with the requirement that six votes are needed, the motion to override the veto failed, with a Council vote of four in support (Chair Waters, Councilmembers Okimoto, Say, Tupola) and four opposed (Councilmembers Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Kia‘āina, Weyer), with Councilmember Tulba absent. During the meeting, Councilmembers voting against the override noted that their respective constituencies, citing health and safety concerns, reached out to them in strong opposition to allowing the Bill to pass.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS HONORS COUNCILMEMBER RADIANT CORDERO WITH THE WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

On November 12, 2024, Councilmember Radiant Cordero was honored with the prestigious Women of Excellence Award by the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) in Atlanta, Georgia. This Award, established in 2013, as part of NFWL’s 75th Anniversary celebration, recognizes outstanding women leaders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to public service, championed important causes, and paved the way for more women to serve in elected offices across the nation.

Councilmember Cordero’s receipt of the Women of Excellence Award highlights her tireless work as a public servant, her advocacy for policies that make a meaningful difference in the lives of her constituents, and her commitment to empowering other women to take on leadership roles. Through her efforts, Councilmember Cordero has not only worked to create positive change in her community, but has also inspired others to follow her path and continue fighting for the issues that matter most.

The NFWL’s recognition of Councilmember Cordero comes as a testament to her remarkable impact as a leader and advocate, and the Award serves as a reminder of the importance of empowering women to serve in positions of influence where they can drive meaningful change. Councilmember Cordero’s work stands as an example of the profound difference women can make in shaping the future of our communities, and ultimately, the future of our nation.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES HONORS COUNCILMEMBER RADIANT CORDERO WITH THE CENTENNIAL UNDER 40 IMPACT AWARD

On November 13, 2024, Councilmember Radiant Cordero was honored with the prestigious Centennial Under 40 Impact Award by the National League of Cities (NLC) at a ceremony held in Tampa, Florida. This Award, part of NLC’s centennial year initiatives, recognizes the exceptional achievements of elected officials under the age of 40 who are making a significant impact in their communities.

The Centennial Under 40 Impact Award celebrates young, diverse leaders who demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, effective governance, and community development. The Award honors those who are shaping the future of cities across the nation through innovation, dedication, and impactful leadership. Councilmember Cordero was selected for this recognition due to her transformative work in public office, where she has been a tireless advocate for policies that promote equity, inclusion, and the betterment of her community.

Councilmember Cordero’s receipt of the Centennial Under 40 Impact Award underscores her outstanding contributions to public service and community development. Her leadership continues to inspire other young leaders across the country, demonstrating the power of youth in shaping a more just and equitable future for our cities.

LIGHT TUNNEL AND BRAND-NEW DISPLAYS TO COMMEMORATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS



Photo Courtesy of City's Press Release: The 2023 holiday tree illuminated on opening night

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Honolulu Hale and last week, a 55-foot Cook Pine tree was installed to serve as the centerpiece for the 40th anniversary of Honolulu City Lights. The City and [Friends of Honolulu City Lights](#) are reminding local residents that the opening night festivities – including the tree lighting ceremony, Public Workers' Electric Light Parade, and City Lights block party – are scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024.

The month-long celebration of the Honolulu City Lights kicks-off with a block party at 4 p.m. on Punchbowl Street and across the Frank F. Fasi Civic Grounds. The Public Workers' Electric Light Parade begins at 6:15 p.m. from 'A'ala Park. Then, as the Electric Light Parade passes Honolulu Hale, Mayor Rick Blangiardi will illuminate Honolulu Hale's holiday tree and the lights and displays decorating the grounds.

New this year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of O'ahu's iconic holiday celebration, are 250 feet of lighted tunnels, 50 illuminated trees throughout the grounds, a train for keiki rides, and festive motifs lining Alapa'i and Beretania Streets. The new displays were donated by Mike Gangloff of Show Aloha Land and his sponsors, and are designed to bring holiday cheer to local families free of charge.



Photo Courtesy of City's Press Release: Mike Gangloff of Show Aloha Land in one of his trains for keiki rides

On December 7, the Public Workers' Electric Light Parade will be held on South King Street and will proceed past Honolulu Hale to the end at Kawaiaha'o Street. Street closures, traffic detours, TheBus routes affected by the parade, a complete opening night schedule, and additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

To view the full press release, visit tinyurl.com/2024HonoluluCityLights.

PARTNERSHIPS BOOSTING KAPOLEI CITY LIGHTS TO NEW HEIGHTS

DPR is proud to announce the details of how you and the whole 'ohana can enjoy the dazzling delight of Kapolei City Lights 2024, with new partnerships taking the annual celebration to a whole new level! It all begins with the Opening Night Festivities, a jubilant block party, and parade, launching on Saturday, November 30. Councilmember Cordero hopes to see you there, as she will be proudly representing the Honolulu City Council and Council District 7 as a marcher in the parade!

Block Party

Showcasing a wide variety of local vendors, live music, and excellent eateries, the block party is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, November 30, around Kapolei Hale. There is so much planned for this party that several streets will be taken over for the event, including: Ulu'ōhi'a, Ala Kahawai, 'Alohikea, and Kama'aha Avenue.

Enjoy an amazing lineup of local entertainment and events on the stage near the mauka-end of Kapolei Hale. Emceed by Councilmember Augie Tulba, this venue will offer the following scheduled performances:

- 5:00 p.m. Jahli'i
- 6:00 p.m. Mr. Alooha
- 6:45 p.m. Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 7:00 p.m. Kala'e + Kalena
- 8:00 p.m. Taulia Lave

Holiday Parade

Along with the block party, opening night festivities will feature the vivacious Holiday Parade, with some 70 participating organizations showcasing decorated vehicles, floats, parade walkers, and loads of holiday spirit. The parade begins at 6 p.m. from Kapolei High School, proceeds up Fort Barrette Road, takes a left on Kapolei Parkway, and ends at Kealakapu Street.

Phased road closures for the block party and parade will begin throughout November 30, starting at 12 noon and increasing as the events draw near.

This year, the City is proud to announce a partnership with 'Ōlelo Community Media to livestream the parade as it makes its way down Kapolei Parkway. Emceed by Flash of Star 99.1 FM, the live coverage will air on 'Ōlelo 53, with reairing of the entire parade scheduled on the same channel:

- December 23 - 6:30 p.m.
- December 24 - 4:30 p.m.
- December 25 - 10:00 a.m.
- December 26 - 10:00 p.m.

Kapolei Hale Decorations

You may be wondering, how did the City decide on the Kapolei City Lights 2024 theme of "Show Aloha this Holiday Season"? That's simple! It's to bring the essence of the aloha spirit to life, and display the City's appreciation to a key partner in this year's celebration, Mike Gangloff of "Show Aloha Challenge." Mike and his crew have generously donated the use of their towering 50-foot LED Christmas tree to be displayed prominently fronting Kapolei Hale. This tree will join the other interior and exterior decorations around Kapolei Hale, including holiday trees decorated by a variety of City agencies, Neighborhood Boards, and community organizations within the Hale.

The decorations aim to inspire togetherness, reminding everyone of the joy that comes from kindness, compassion, and connection during the holiday season. All of these luminous Kapolei Hale decorations will be open to the public from the evening of Saturday, November 30, 2024, through Sunday, January 5, 2025, under the following schedule:

- Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday - Sunday & Holidays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Since the inaugural celebration in 2001, the Kapolei City Lights continues to spread seasons' greetings to the ever-growing Leeward O'ahu community as a complement to Honolulu City Lights.

To view the full press release, visit tinyurl.com/2024KapoleiCityLights.