



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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR 'OHANA



Councilmember Cordero (center) and her team wishes you a Happy New Year!

As we ring in the new year, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued trust and support. I look forward to another term serving as your Councilmember as we continue to build upon the partnerships we've made for the betterment of our community.

I hope you received the Council District 7 2024 yearly recap newsletter in the mail last month. In it, we highlight a few of the community events we participated in throughout the past year and the funding our district received for Capital Improvement and Operating Projects. If you did not receive a copy, you may download one at tinyurl.com/2024-EOY-D7.

As always, if you need assistance on any City-related matters, please feel free to contact my office at (808) 768-5007 or email me at rcordero@honolulu.gov.

I wish you and your 'ohana a year filled with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Mahalo,
Radiant Cordero
Councilmember, District 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 01/14/25**
9:00 a.m. - Budget Committee
1:00 p.m. - Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health Committee
2:30 p.m. - Parks Committee
- 01/15/25**
2:30 p.m. - Housing, Sustainability & Health Committee
- 01/16/25**
9:00 a.m. - Zoning Committee
1:00 p.m. - Public Safety & Customer Services Committee
2:30 p.m. - Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation Committee
- 01/29/25**
10:00 a.m. - City Council Meeting



HELPFUL LINKS

View Councilmember Cordero's District Page at honolulu.citycouncil.org/district-7-cordero

Watch Council Meetings Live on 'Ōlelo 54 or on honolulu.citycouncil.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

Ulune Street “Monster Home”

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) Building Inspection Section (BIS) has reportedly investigated a property on Ulune Street with two detached two-story dwelling structures numerous times in response to repeated complaints from residents. On September 3 and October 7, 2024, among other dates, the DPP BIS conducted investigations and found that the two structures does not occupy the entire lot. Rather, the footprints of the two buildings covered 38 percent of the building area, with the rest being open yard.

A building permit had been issued for a new two-story, single-family dwelling structure at the rear of the property. The approved plan specified a void space beneath the ground floor level, enclosed by concrete walls on all sides. However, the site inspection revealed that the walls had openings, making the space accessible. As a result, a habitable area of approximately 855 square feet was created. Since this addition was not part of the approved plans, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to the property owners on September 16, 2024, for failing to follow the approved plans associated with their building permit. The DPP BIS will continue to monitor the property until compliance and completion are achieved, ensuring that the building code and Land Use Ordinance are met.

Hālawa District Park

The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 3 ('Aiea/Pearl City/Waipahu) Community Policing Team conducted checks of Hālawa District Park throughout November. While they did not observe any unleashed dogs during these checks, officers encountered one homeless individual in the park while it was open to the public. The individual was reportedly offered outreach services, which he declined. He was reminded of the park rules related to park closure, shopping carts, and tents. The officers forwarded the individual's information to Kealahou West O'ahu for further outreach assistance.

Officers also conducted nightly checks after park closure hours but did not report observing any loud noise or music coming from the park during their checks. Officers will continue their enforcement efforts and nightly checks, as HPD is aware of occasional incidents involving loudspeakers, music, illegal drinking, and fireworks in the park. HPD greatly appreciates the public's assistance in calling 911 when feeling unsafe or to report any illegal activity, so officers can respond promptly and conduct proper enforcement.

Pavement Markings on Moanalua Road

The Department of Facility Maintenance's Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) initiated Service Request No. 60312 for repainting the faded pavement markings on Moanalua Road near Alvah Scott Elementary School. The work is scheduled for the week of March 17-21, 2025, when school is not in session and weather permitting.

Mahipua Street and Ka'amilo Street Properties

As neighbors expressed public health and safety concerns about the condition of two properties on Mahipua Street and Ka'amilo Street, DPP investigated any ongoing violations at each of these properties. An investigation on October 30, 2024, revealed that the Mahipua Street property is being occupied. A NOV had been previously issued to the property owner on October 8, 2024, for property overgrowth. Since this is a recurring violation, it was also submitted to the Code Compliance Branch for civil fines. Additionally, another NOV was issued to the property owner for sidewalk overgrowth. At the property owner's request, a Work Order was filed with the DRM to cut and remove the sidewalk overgrowth.

DPP's investigation on October 30, 2024, revealed that the Ka'amilo Street property was overgrown with grass and weeds. Two NOVs were issued to the property owner for property overgrowth and sidewalk overgrowth.

UPDATES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS (CONTINUED)

Feral Chickens in Pearlridge Center Area

In response to concerns about the increasing feral chicken population in the East Pearlridge Center area, the Department of Customer Services (CSD) staff conducted a review of nearby properties to determine the feasibility of placing traps on City-owned land, as the City can only place traps on City property (as opposed to private property). Unfortunately, the only City-owned property in the vicinity is located on the south side of the Pearlridge property, which is too far from the affected areas to effectively address the issue.

CSD's contractor reviewed the area and identified potential options for a trapping plan. To explore these options further, CSD relayed that the contractor is in communication with Pearlridge management to discuss feasible trapping solutions on or near the properties in question. However, because these are private properties, the owners must ultimately work directly with the contractor to humanely remove the feral chickens.

Pearlridge Center has informed Councilmember Cordero's office that their feral chicken contractor has made good progress on most of Pearlridge's property but has been instructed to focus on the Tropics Mini Golf area. They hope to see progress and improvement in that portion of the property as well. Pearlridge noted that while the eradication process may take several visits and there is no guarantee that every chicken will be removed, these efforts should significantly reduce the number of chickens currently in the mini-golf area.

Pearlridge Center's Driveway Exit onto Moanalua Road

Based on the Department of Transportation Services' (DTS) investigation, it does not recommend restricting left turns out of Pearlridge Center's driveway (between Bank of Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank) onto Moanalua Road at this time. DTS' investigation included a site inspection and a review of the area's traffic collision history, which did not reveal any trends to support the left-turn restriction. However, DTS would further consider this request if it receives a letter of correspondence from Pearlridge Center's management in support of the left-turn restriction. The concerned resident was encouraged to work with the shopping center's management to further pursue this request if desired.

Speed Hump Reevaluation on 'Aiea Heights Drive

Based on DTS' most recent investigation regarding a speed hump reevaluation request on 'Aiea Heights Drive near Keaīwa Heiau State Recreation Park/'Aiea Loop Trail, it still does not recommend speed hump installation at this time. DTS' investigation included a site inspection and an updated review of the area's traffic collision history, which did not reveal any incidents related to speeding. However, the concerned residents were informed that DTS would consider installing speed humps on 'Aiea Heights Drive between Pūliki Place and Ululā'au Place if a petition of support from a strong majority (approximately 90 percent) of residents in this section of 'Aiea Heights Drive is submitted to DTS via the 'Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20. While the support from the residents and Neighborhood Board does not guarantee that the changes will be implemented, DTS finds it to be the best forum for residents to express their interests.

In addition, HPD has been asked to continue monitoring and enforcing speed limits along 'Aiea Heights Drive in both directions between Pūliki Place and Ululā'au Place, leading to the entrance of Keaīwa Heiau State Recreation Park/'Aiea Loop Trail. HPD District 3 reported that they have recently cited motorists for speeding and miscellaneous violations in the area. Residents are always welcome to call 911 to report ongoing traffic offenses and request HPD's prompt follow-up and enforcement.

UPDATES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS (CONTINUED)

Old Kam Drive-In Property

DPP relayed that it issued NOV No. 2024/NOV-06-055 to CP Kam Properties LLC and its property management company, Avalon Commercial LLC (Avalon), on September 6, 2024, for property overgrowth, litter, and failure to secure two abandoned buildings and four abandoned ticket booths at the Old Kam Drive-In property at 98-230 Kaonohi Street. A re-inspection on October 31, 2024, revealed that the overgrowth had been cut and removed. In their communications with DPP, Avalon shared that they are in the process of boarding up the structures and securing the property to address any homeless individuals trespassing.

DPP continues to monitor this property for compliance. Avalon is expected to clear the property of any litter and secure the buildings and property in a timely manner. However, if they fail to do so, DPP may issue a Notice of Order to CP Kam Properties LLC, which would result in the imposition of civil fines.

Councilmember Cordero's office has also been in direct communication with Avalon property manager Kody Peacock, who has been responsive in addressing ongoing community concerns. On October 28, 2024, Mr. Peacock shared that Avalon had repaired damaged fencing, boarded up all access points, painted over graffiti, and was working with a gate repair vendor to complete the front entrance gate.

Speed Enforcement on Moanalua Road

In response to community concerns about speeding, HPD District 3 ('Aiea/Pearl City/Waipahu) officers monitored the area around Alvah Scott Elementary School on Moanalua Road from November 25 to December 6, 2024, on various days between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. They did not observe any violations during their checks. HPD noted that traffic seemed too heavy for speeding in the area. However, officers issued seven miscellaneous citations for other vehicle infractions during this period. HPD will continue to monitor this area and take appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed. Additionally, an inquiry about whether Alvah Scott Elementary School is on the list for a JPO/school crossing guard was forwarded to HPD's Traffic Division for appropriate action.

Traffic Concerns at/near 'Aiea Shopping Center

The "Not an Exit" sign is on private property and is not enforceable by HPD, whereas the sign prohibiting a left turn into the shopping center driveway, which is placed on the Moanalua Road sidewalk, is enforceable by HPD because it is a City sign located on City property. HPD District 3 ('Aiea/Pearl City/Waipahu) officers made periodic checks of the area from November 28 to December 5, 2024, and did not observe any violations. HPD noted that the officers' vehicles were visible during their checks, likely deterring any violations. Officers will continue to monitor the area and take appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR 2025 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD ELECTIONS

Important Dates:

- Friday, February 21, 2025 – Candidate Filing and Voter Registration Deadline
- Friday, April 25, 2025 – Voting Begins
- Friday, May 16, 2025 – Voting Ends

For more information, visit <https://web5.hnl.info/nbe> or <https://www8.honolulu.gov/nco/>. You may also contact the Neighborhood Commission Office at (808) 768-3710 or email NCO@honolulu.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED TO UPDATE 40-YEAR-OLD COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

As the demand for community garden space around O‘ahu continues to rise, with more and more gardeners eager to experience the joys of nurturing plant life, DPR is finalizing its effort to update the 40-year-old rules governing the Honolulu Recreational Community Gardening Program. Culminating years of community meetings and outreach, DPR has scheduled a public hearing to receive input regarding revisions to the existing rules first established in 1975 and last revised in 1984.

An in-person and virtual public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Foster Botanical Garden’s Conservatory Classroom located within the historic 14-acre garden at 180 N. Vineyard Blvd. in Downtown Honolulu. The virtual meeting will be held via Zoom, and can be accessed using the following link: bit.ly/gardenhearing.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, or wish to present additional comments, written testimony will be accepted no later than one week after the public hearing on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Please mail that testimony to: Department of Parks and Recreation, Executive Services Division, 1000 Ulu‘ōhi‘a Street, Suite 309, Kapolei, Hawai‘i 96707.

A hard copy of the proposed rules and existing rules can also be accessed at the above address during regular business hours, with copies available for purchase. However, we encourage everyone to view the current rules and proposed rules free of charge on the HRCGP’s website: bit.ly/hrcgp-rule-revision.

To view the full press release, go to <https://www8.honolulu.gov/dpr/city-news/public-hearing-scheduled-to-update-40-year-old-community-garden-rules/>.

DPR’S SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Registration for the DPR’s 2025 Spring Program is now open. A wide range of activities are available, including arts & crafts, archery, swimming, and sewing, all of which are offered at your local parks and gardens.

How to Register:

- Browse the full catalog of programs in the “Activities” section of the Parks and Recreation Online System (PROS): pros.hnl.info.
- Registration for both free and paid activities is available through the same website.
- For assistance or more information, you can contact the specific District Office.

Honolulu Botanical Gardens
(808) 768-7139

District 1 Parks (Ka Iwi to Waikīkī)
(808) 768-8944

District 2 Parks (Makiki to ‘Aiea)
(808) 768-9292

District 3 Parks (Waipahū to Mākaha)
(808) 768-6889

District 4 Parks (Mokulē‘ia to Makapu‘u)
(808) 768-8980

District 5 Parks (Pearl City to Whitmore)
(808) 768-6940

Find Your Local Park District: Use the interactive map to identify your park’s location and district, as well as contact details: bit.ly/OahuParkMap.

To view the full press release, go to <https://www8.honolulu.gov/dpr/city-news/public-hearing-scheduled-to-update-40-year-old-community-garden-rules/>.

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHES NEW COMMITTEES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Council Chair: Tommy Waters **Council Vice Chair:** Matt Weyer **Council Floor Leader:** Radiant Cordero

All Councilmembers serve as members of every committee. The following Councilmembers are designated as voting members for each respective committee:

Committee on Planning, Infrastructure, & Transportation (PI&T)

Chair: Radiant Cordero

Vice-Chair: Val Okimoto

Members: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer

Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health (HSEH)

Chair: Matt Weyer

Vice-Chair: Radiant Cordero

Members: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Augie Tulba, Andria Tupola

Committee on Budget (BUD)

Chair: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

Vice-Chair: Scott Nishimoto

Committee Members: Radiant Cordero, Esther Kia'āina, Matt Weyer

Committee on Zoning (ZON)

Chair: Esther Kia'āina

Committee Vice-Chair: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

Committee Members: Radiant Cordero, Val Okimoto, Matt Weyer

Committee on Parks (PKS)

Chair: Andria Tupola

Vice-Chair: Augie Tulba

Members: Radiant Cordero, Scott Nishimoto

Committee on International & Legal Affairs (ILA)

Chair: Scott Nishimoto

Vice-Chair: Matt Weyer

Members: All Councilmembers

Committee on Executive Management (EM)

Chair: Tommy Waters

Vice-Chair: Scott Nishimoto

Members: Radiant Cordero, Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Matt Weyer

Committee on Public Safety & Customer Services (PS)

Chair: Val Okimoto

Vice-Chair: Esther Kia'āina

Members: Scott Nishimoto, Augie Tulba, Matt Weyer

Committee on Innovation, Technology & Entertainment (ITE)

Chair: Augie Tulba

Vice-Chair: Andria Tupola

Members: Esther Kia'āina, Scott Nishimoto, Val Okimoto

For more information about the City Council, including the 2025 Council Calendar, finding legislation, submitting testimony, and viewing meetings, please visit honoluluycitycouncil.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**Resolution 25-03 – Reaffirming the City Policy that Landfills Should Not be Located Above Drinking Water Sources**

Via Resolution 25-003, the Council is reaffirming its policy, initially established in Resolution 03-09, FD1, on April 16, 2003, that municipal solid waste landfills should not be located near the city's underground drinking water sources. This policy was originally adopted due to concerns that harmful substances from landfills could contaminate the aquifer, posing a public health risk. Despite advances in landfill technology, such as improved liners and leachate systems, the Council maintains its concerns, especially in light of the 2021 Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility leak, which highlighted the vulnerability of the island's water supply. The Resolution strongly opposes any landfill located near drinking water sources and reaffirms the Council's commitment to protecting Honolulu's vital water resources for future generations.

Co-introduced by Councilmembers Matt Weyer and Cordero, this Resolution was reported out for adoption as amended in CD1 form by the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy, and Health on Tuesday, January 14.

Bill 19 (2024), FD1, CD1 – Establishing a Resident Preference for City Affordable Housing Programs

This establishes a "Resident Preference" wherein Hawai'i residents are given preference for all City housing programs that are: (1) Funded by Honolulu taxpayer dollars; (2) Developed by the City; or (3) Purchased and managed by the City. To qualify, housing applicants must be a "full-time resident of the City" who: (1) is registered to vote in the State of Hawai'i; and (2) spends at least 200 days in the state.

Co-introduced by Councilmembers Tyler Dos Santos-Tam and Cordero this Bill was reported out for passage on third reading as amended in CD2 form by the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy, and Health on Tuesday, January 14.

Resolution 25-25 – Requesting the City Administration to Submit the Updated 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to the City Council

The Council is requesting the City Administration of Honolulu to submit the updated 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to the City Council, as required by federal law for eligibility to receive federal project grant funds. Federal regulations mandate that the City's hazard mitigation plan be reviewed and updated every five years, with the current update due by February 2025. Additionally, it requests the Administration to present the updated plan to each of the City's neighborhood boards.

Introduced by Councilmember Cordero, this Resolution was reported out for adoption by the Committee on Public Safety and Customer Services on Thursday, January 16.

Resolution 25-23 – Granting a Special Management Area ("SMA") Major Permit to Lipoa Development LLC

This grants an SMA Major Permit for the demolition of six existing two-story apartment buildings and construction of the Hale O Lipoa Affordable Rental Housing Project on approximately 42,000 square feet of land zoned BMX-3 Community Business Mixed Use District in the 'Aiea-Pearl City Transit-Oriented Development Special District located at 98-150 Lipoa Place.

Based on community concerns and testimony in opposition to this project, Councilmember Cordero voted no on this Resolution. Despite her no vote, the Committee on Zoning, with a vote of 4-1, amended this to a CD1 and reported it out for adoption.

Resolution 25-26 – Authorizing Exemptions for the Hale O Lipoa Affordable Rental Housing Development Project

This approves exemptions, pursuant to the State's 201H Law, from certain City application fees, infrastructure, or public works fees and charges, and development standards for the development of the Hale O Lipoa Affordable Rental Housing Development Project on approximately 42,000 square feet of land zoned BMX-3 Community Business Mixed Use District in the 'Aiea-Pearl City Transit-Oriented Development Special District located at 98-150 Lipoa Place.

Although this project seeks to build 152 much-needed affordable rental units, based on community concerns and testimony in opposition to this project, Councilmember Cordero voted no on this Resolution. The Committee on Zoning, with a vote of 3-1, with Councilmember Matt Weyer absent, amended this Resolution to a CD1 and reported it out for adoption.

To view all Bills and Resolutions, visit hnlldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlldoc. All Council meetings are recorded and can be watched at youtube.com/@HonoluluCityCouncil.