

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

January 2025



\$2.1 MILLION SECURED FOR KALAUHA'IIHA'I FISHPOND

Senator Stanley Chang is pleased to announce that **\$2.1 million** in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released for the restoration of the Kalauha'iiha'i Fishpond in East Honolulu.

The Capital Improvement Project will include the restoration of fresh artesian water at Kalauha'iiha'i. This restoration initiative seeks to sustain the biological health and revitalize the cultural, educational, and socio-economic value of the Kalauha'iiha'i Fishpond for the benefit of our community. Projects like these help preserve and enhance the unique ecology of this site, which will contribute to a healthier home for the residents and wildlife of Hawai'i.

Other restoration efforts have already been completed at the Kalauha'iiha'i Fishpond such as the removal of two dilapidated residences and the removal of non-native, invasive vegetation. This work has allowed "native plants

to regenerate," according to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center's environmental assessment report published by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Kalauha'iiha'i Fishpond is located on the Niu shoreline, at the base of Kalapa o Maua ride, with Maunalua Bay to the south, Kalaniana'ole Highway to the north, and private residences to the east and west. Governor Josh Green highlights that restoration projects like the one at Kalauha'iiha'i are "critical components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better home for our kūpuna, keiki, and all residents of Hawai'i."



Image Credit: State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

► CALL US

808-586-8420

► EMAIL US

Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9 (D)
senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

► HANDY CONTACTS

State Pothole Hotline
808-586-7852

City Pothole Hotline
808-768-7777

State Homelessness
gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
808-586-0193

City Homelessness
complaints@honolulu.gov
808-768-4381

Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permits
808-768-8000

Poison Control
800-222-1222

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

Domestic Abuse
Hotline
800-799-7233

Public Assistance
Information Line
855-643-1643

MOVING FORWARD

CITY TO BEGIN ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECTS IN WAIALAE-KĀHALA AND 'ĀINA HAINA

The City & County of Honolulu has announced upcoming road rehabilitation projects in Waialae-Kāhala and 'Āina Haina. Construction began on December 9, 2024, and will continue for one year.

The following streets are undergoing rehabilitation: 13th and 14th Avenues in the Waialae-Kāhala area and Ahuwale Place and Ahuwale Street in 'Āina Haina. Construction is taking place Monday through Friday, between 8:30am and 3:30pm, not including holidays.

Some of the rehabilitation will include:

1. Demolition, resurfacing, and reconstruction of asphalt and concrete pavement.
2. Adjustments to utility manholes.
3. Installation of an underdrain.
4. Reconstruction of existing concrete sidewalks, curbs, and gutters.
5. Installation of pavement marking and traffic signs.

Portions of the streets undergoing rehabilitation will remain temporarily closed. However, the contractor will carry out construction in small phases to minimize impacts on the public and keep traffic flowing. On-street parking will be prohibited during construction hours and "No Parking" signs will be placed along the sides of the roadways 24 hours before work begins to notify the public of upcoming construction. The public should also anticipate detours.

Every effort will be made to complete this essential infrastructure work as quickly as possible and with little inconvenience to the community. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the City & County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction at 808-768-8400.



Image Credit: City & County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction

HDOA ISSUES ALERT ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) has identified the presence of H5 avian influenza (bird flu) in a wastewater sample collected on December 2, 2024, at the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant on Hawai'i Island. This marks the first detection of bird flu in the State, on a neighbor island.

While the specific subtype of the virus detected in Hilo could not be confirmed through wastewater testing, the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 subtype was recently detected in a backyard flock in Central O'ahu. That strain is a different genotype from the bird flu virus that has affected birds and dairy cows on the U.S. mainland.

Although the risk to the public is low, HPAI poses a serious threat to certain bird populations, particularly poultry, and has the potential to infect dairy cows. Residents with backyard flocks and commercial poultry producers are urged to strengthen biosecurity

measures to protect their animals. *It's important to note that pasteurized milk is safe for consumption, but raw milk should be avoided.*

Reporting Concerns

- To report unusual illnesses in poultry, livestock, or wildlife, contact the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Animal Industry Division at **808-483-7102** during business hours or **808-837-8092** after hours.
- If you believe you've been exposed to sick birds or other wildlife, contact the Disease Reporting Line at **808-586-4586** for guidance.

By staying informed and taking precautions, we can help protect Hawai'i's wildlife and agricultural resources from the spread of avian influenza.



Image Credit: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

IN THE COMMUNITY

GOOD JOBS HAWAII IS OFFERING SPECIALIZED CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TRAINING COURSES IN 2025

Good Jobs Hawai'i is offering two new specialized production courses for Spring 2025. These courses seek to equip students with high-demand creative industry skills:

1. Accounting in Media Production

This is an asynchronous online class. Last day to apply is January 10, 2025. Classes start on January 20, 2025, and end March 21, 2025. This is 5-part Master Certification Course covering skills required for a production accountant or in a production accounting office across film, TV, commercials, branded digital content, virtual reality content, and more. Students who successfully complete the program will receive an industry-recognized credential from Stage 32.

2. Fundamentals of Production Assistant

This is an asynchronous online class. Last day to apply is January 22, 2025. Classes start on February 10, 2025, and end April 4, 2025. This certification program serves as a direct pathway to becoming a Production Assistant or working in a media

production department.

The courses are offered through the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges "Good Jobs Hawai'i" initiative, a collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). They intend to provide individuals with the skills to attain entry-level positions in productions. Georja Skinner, chief officer of the Creative Industries Division (CID) at DBEDT said, "This is a unique area of expertise that's in demand at every set and production office."

Eligible applicants receive tuition assistance for courses and other training costs. Good Jobs Hawai'i also offers free skills training in Healthcare, Technology, Clean Energy, Skilled Trades, and Creative Industries sectors, helping Hawai'i residents pursue pathways toward better paying jobs and accelerated careers. For more information about course offerings, please visit Good Jobs Hawai'i at uhcc.hawaii.edu/goodjobshawaii/training.php.



Image Credit: Good Jobs Hawai'i

OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE IS JANUARY 15

The 2025 Open Enrollment Period for individual health insurance coverage ends on January 15. You can enroll at [HealthCare.Gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

Subsidies to reduce premiums are available for eligible enrollees. January 15 is the last day to enroll or change Marketplace health plans for the year. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Health coverage starts on February 1, 2025, for individuals

who enrolled or changed plans on December 16 through January 15 and paid their first premium.

Consumers are encouraged to review and understand the plans offered during the open enrollment period. To learn more, visit the Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs: cca.hawaii.gov/ins/consumers/health. Individuals

Image Credit: healthcare.gov

Enroll for 2025 coverage today!



can also enroll via phone at **800-318-2596** or in-person through the Find Local Help service at [healthcare.gov/find-local-help](https://www.healthcare.gov/find-local-help).

YOUR CONCERNS

How To Recycle Your Christmas Tree

If you've got a green cart:

- Remove the ornaments and decorations from your tree.
- Cut it to fit inside your green cart.
- Be sure the lid can closed
- Trees with flocking (fake snow) or tinsel should be cut, bagged and thrown away in the gray cart.

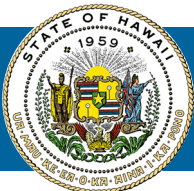
If you don't have a green cart, you can cut up your tree, bag it and place it curbside on your normal trash day.

You can also drop off your whole Christmas tree for disposal at your nearest Refuse Convenience Center: **Waimanalo** at **41-241 Hihimanu Street** or **Waipahu** at **94-071 Waipahu Depot Street**. Trees without flocking can also be dropped off at the composting facility in **Wahiawa** at **Hawaiian Earth Recycling, 65-1101 Wilikina Drive**.

For details, go to the City & County of Honolulu's Refuse Division site at honolulu.gov/env/ref/opala-home.



Image Credit: trashfreehawaii.com



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813