

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

February 2025

\$1.05 MILLION SECURED FOR KAIMUKĪ MIDDLE SCHOOL



Image Credit: Kaimukī Middle School

Senator Stanley Chang is pleased to announce that **\$1.05 million** in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released to Kaimukī Middle School.

The Capital Improvement Projects include **\$1 million** for the **design and construction of STEM Lab Improvements** and **\$50,000** for the financing of **new wrestling equipment**.

Kaimukī Middle School's STEM & Innovation Center, referred to as the **Voyager Center**, is a "learning hub where students explore areas of 3D printing, laser cutting, robotics, drones, creative arts, and culinary arts," according to the school's Principal Frank Fernandes. The school is intending to use the CIP funds to create additional space for students to utilize various equipment, such as in their robotics room. The funds will also go toward upgrading the STEM lab kitchen area, adding walls for small

and medium-sized workstations, and to procure state-of-the-art AI equipment.

Senator Chang said, "CIP projects like these help ensure that our students have access to quality facilities so that they can excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These projects also help our youth stay active in athletics, promoting a happier and healthier student community." Jenna Valbuena, Kaimukī Middle School's Vice Principal, said, "We are so grateful to receive the funding."

Kaimukī Middle School is located in Senate District 9. It was established in 1939 and serves 6th through 8th grades, focusing on interdisciplinary instruction, technology integration, and personalized guidance to prepare its Voyagers for high school. Kaimukī Middle School has been recognized as a notable school throughout Hawai'i and the United States. The school has been awarded the **State Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**, **National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**, **Top 100 School Ranking** by the **National Association for Secondary Schools**, the **Hawai'i Distinguished School Award**, and **"Best of the Best" Middle School** by *The Honolulu Advertiser*.



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► 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

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS ARE MEETING IN EAST HONOLULU!

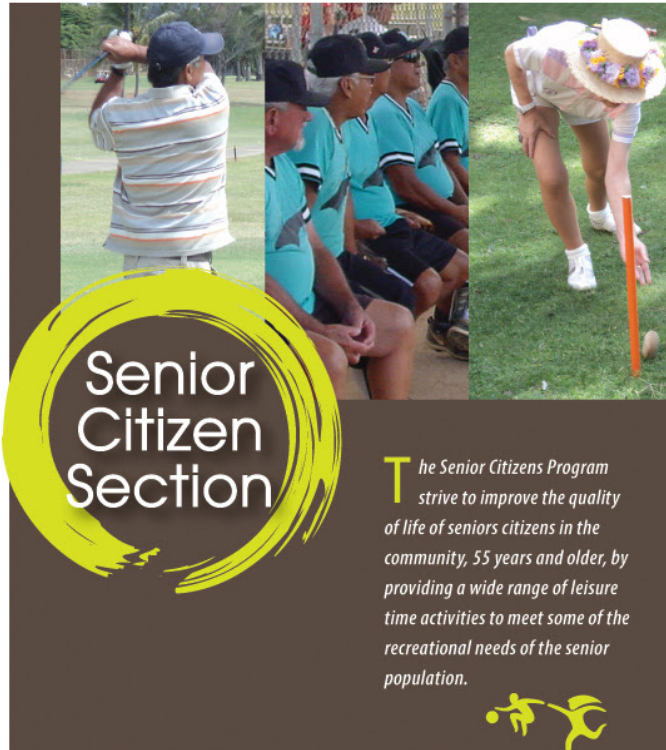
The City & County of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation has organized **over 30 senior clubs** island-wide, representing **hundreds of kūpuna** (elders). They participate in weekly activities that include: business meetings, speakers, community service, excursions, luncheons, among other activities.

The following clubs will be meeting in East Honolulu:

1. **Hui Lōkahi O 'Āina Haina**, every Friday, 9AM, at 'Āina Haina Community Park (827 W. Hind Drive). Please call (808) 768-6716 for more information.
2. **Hui O Kīlauea**, every Tuesday, 9:30AM, at Kīlauea District Park (4109 Kīlauea Avenue). Please call (808) 768-6713 for more information.
3. **Koko Head Seniors**, every Wednesday, 10AM, at Koko Head District Park (423 Kaumakani Street). Please call (808) 768-6718 for more information.

The senior clubs elect their own officers and organize all planned activities. The Senior Citizens Program strives to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in the community, **55 years and older**. The program provides a wide range of leisure time activities to meet some of

the recreational needs of the senior population. For more information, please visit honolulu.gov/parks/program/senior-citizen-program.html.



Senior Citizen Section

The Senior Citizens Program strive to improve the quality of life of seniors citizens in the community, 55 years and older, by providing a wide range of leisure time activities to meet some of the recreational needs of the senior population.

Image Credit: City & County Of Honolulu Department Of Parks And Recreation

2025 PROCLAIMED YEAR OF OUR COMMUNITY FORESTS

Governor Josh Green has proclaimed 2025 as the "Year of Our Community Forests." This proclamation recognizes trees and forests in the *wai kanaka*: where we live, learn, and play.

The recognition was developed by the **Department of Land and Natural Resources** (DLNR) within its **Division of Forestry and Wildlife** (DOFAW) and the **Kaulunani Urban and Community Forest Program**, along with a multitude of partners. Governor Green said, "Community forests are the trees in our neighborhoods, yards, parks, schools, and along our streets. These forests can include native species, but also non-invasive beneficial trees like 'ulu, niu, mango, and others."

Ryan Kanaka'ole, DLNR First Deputy, added that "We all live in a community forest—they're not just mauka but all around us. Our trees are what make Hawai'i home. They're not only ornamental

landscaping, but also provide food, shade, oxygen, habitat, and many other benefits. Trees are also great for hanging holiday ornaments and lights."

Forests are often viewed for their conservation values but they also have great economic value. Urban forests support more than **500,000 jobs** throughout the United States and studies show that humans are generally more productive and less stressed when trees are nearby. Trees increase property values, too. Trees in Hawai'i store more than **25,000 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)** and remove a net **3340 tons of CO₂** every year. The trees also manage **35 million gallons of stormwater runoff** each year.

For more, please visit the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's new website at dlnr.hawaii.gov/trees.

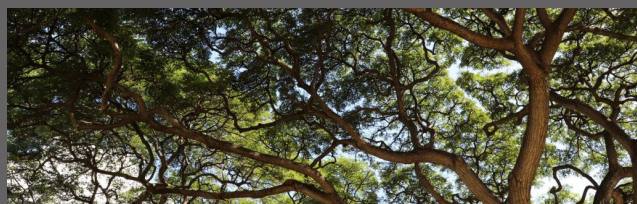


Image Credit: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

IN THE COMMUNITY

\$400,000 OFFERED FOR QUALIFYING HAWAII FILMMAKERS AND CONTENT CREATORS

Aspiring Hawai'i filmmakers and content creators have a chance to earn *thousands of dollars* to fund their projects.

The Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's Creative Industries Division has released a request for proposals to develop a diverse array of small, mid-sized, and microbudget film and creative media projects. They say that successful proposals will "define how the works will be developed,

budgeted and produced and the potential for festivals or other forms of distribution."

Total funds allocated for the Phase I solicitation are \$400,000. Multiple awards will be granted ranging from \$3000 to \$15,000 and totaling \$100,000. Longer format projects will be awarded funds ranging from \$16,000 to \$50,000 and totaling \$300,000.

Hawai'i's Creative Industries Division is the State's lead agency focused on strengthening, advocating, and accelerating the growth of our creatives. It supports initiatives, policy, and infrastructure to expand the capacity of Hawai'i's creative entrepreneurs.

The deadline to submit proposals is **March 21, 2025, at 4PM**. For more, contact the Division's Branch Chief, **Rick Manayan**, at ricky.c.manayan@hawaii.gov and visit hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities/opportunity-details/25147.

Image Credit: State of Hawai'i Film Office

ATTENTION HAWAII CONTENT CREATORS!

The Hawai'i Film and Creative Content Development Fund (HFCF)

NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Proposals due March 21 at 4 pm



APPLY NOW FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR STIPEND

Current and potential early childhood educators and caregivers can apply for a tuition stipend offered by the **Executive Office on Early Learning** and the **University of Hawai'i**.

Stipends are available to individuals enrolled in a certificate, degree, or license program in early childhood education, including those focused on the Hawaiian language, within the University of Hawai'i system. The stipend will cover **partial or full tuition** costs for these students.

The **Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program** was established by the State legislature through Act 210 in 2021 and was funded by a generous donation from the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. In 2023, the legislature approved \$600,000 in additional funding to support the stipend program, which now has become the first publicly funded tuition stipend

program available to current and future practitioners in the early childhood field.

For more information or to apply, visit the Early Childhood Stipend Program at secure.smore.com/n/b8z4v-bright-beginnings.



Image Credit: University of Hawai'i at Manoa

YOUR CONCERNS

UH MĀNOA RESEARCH DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Paulette Yamada, PhD and resident of District 9, and her counterpart Cheri Teranishi-Hashimoto will be presenting their breakthrough cancer rehabilitation research at the third annual UH Mānoa Research Day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 4.

Paulette and Cheri will present their story of how they launched Hawai'i's only exercise rehabilitation program for adults diagnosed with cancer. The title of their research is "iCare" (implementation of a Cancer Rehabilitation Program). This program is free for the community and sustained by collaborative efforts. The program will be provided at the **Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific** (REHAB, located in the Liliha area) and is available to *all residents*.



Image Credit: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

This project began as a collaborative effort between UH and REHAB in 2017, with its beginnings in 2012. It uniquely seeks to connect workforce development with community service, simultaneously engaging in scientific research through an ongoing collaboration between local and mainland groups.

The 2025 UH Mānoa Research Day will have informational tables, demonstrations, and interactive activities on the Capitol's 4th floor from 10AM. This year's theme: "Wellbeing of Current and Future Generations." For more call UH at **(808) 956-8111**.

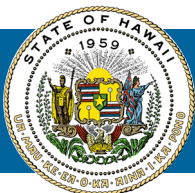


Image Credit: Board of Water Supply

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) has announced the winners of its 2024 Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contests: boardofwatersupply.com/2024winners. Poster contestants were Hawai'i students in grades K–6; poetry came from grades 7–12.

This year's theme is "Our Water, Our Home," celebrating the precious gift of water and the solace it provides to our island community. The entries showcase students' passion for water conservation, water safety, and building a healthier home in Hawai'i. One student wrote, "Each drop we save, each action we take, sustains our supply for future's sake. The simple things, the little actions matter."

For over 45 years, the Board of Water Supply has encouraged students to reflect and create art to convey simple ways all of us can save water. No effort is too small—everyone can do their part to use our resources wisely and contribute to our shared sustainable future.



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