

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

March 2025

\$1.8 MILLION SECURED FOR KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & WAI'ALAE ELEMENTARY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL



Image Credit: Rotary Club of Kāhala Sunrise

Senator Chang is thankful to announce that over \$1.86 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released to Kāhala Elementary School (KES) and Wai'ālae Elementary Public Charter School.

Wai'ālae Elementary will receive \$1 million and KES will receive \$861,538. The CIP money will fund the expansion of pre-kindergarten opportunities at both schools. Currently, Kāhala Elementary School has two classrooms dedicated for preschool. The CIP funding will allow the school to construct two more classrooms. Wai'ālae Elementary currently has two classrooms for preschool and the CIP funding will allow them to construct three more classrooms.

Sarene Oda, Principal of Kāhala Elementary School, stated, "Being able to provide early childhood programs at Kāhala Elementary School allows our youngest learners to be in a school setting where they are able to develop and build essential cognitive, social, and

emotional skills as a foundation for future academic success. Additionally, these programs bring families from diverse backgrounds together and foster a sense of belonging, which in turn creates a stronger support network for our keiki." Senator Chang said, "Expanding pre-kindergarten programs in Senate District 9 will increase access to childcare and lay a solid educational foundation for our young students to succeed in elementary school and beyond."

Wai'ālae Elementary Public Charter School is a tuition-free Preschool to Grade 5 school located in the Kaimukī neighborhood of East Honolulu. In 1995, the school became Hawai'i's first student-centered school and evolved into a public charter school. Kāhala Elementary School is a small public elementary school for grades Pre-K through Grade 5. KES provides educational opportunities to students in the Kaimukī, Kahala, and Wai'ālae neighborhoods, and KES is one of the five elementary schools in the Kalani Complex.



► CALL US

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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

REGISTER TODAY FOR 2025 COURT INTERPRETER ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

Exciting freelance opportunities are available with the Hawai'i State Judiciary! If you speak English and another language, and you want to put your skills to good use, register today for one of the Court Interpreter Orientation Workshops. Completion is mandatory to become a court interpreter.

The two-day workshops are offered from 8:30AM to 4:30PM on the following days and locations:

- **O'ahu #1:** March 28–29, Ali'iōlani Hale (Supreme Court building)
- **O'ahu #2:** April 4–5, Ali'iōlani Hale (Supreme Court building)

The registration fee is \$25 thanks to the support from the State Office of Language Access. Individuals seeking to become court interpreters must also pass a written English proficiency exam, court interpreter ethics exam, and criminal background check.

Court interpreters are independent contractors and not Judiciary employees. Interpreters assist the courts

with providing access to justice for court customers with limited English proficiency. Depending on their performance on written and oral exams, court interpreters are paid \$35 to \$100 per hour, with a two-hour minimum.

For more information, email the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts at OEAC@courts.hawaii.gov or call (808) 539-4860. You can register for the orientation workshops at courts.state.hi.us/services/court_interpreting/bow.



Image Credit: Ali'iōlani Hale (National Park Service)

LEARN, READ, AND WATCH 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I

Do you want to learn a new language? The Hawai'i State Public Library System has partnered with Mango Languages, a tool that provides instruction in more than 70 languages, including Ōlelo Hawai'i.



Mango Languages delivers lessons built around conversational situations and through online learning resources, CD sets, and books.

To get started:

1. Go to the Mango Languages website at [learn](https://www.learn.mangolanguages.com).

[mangolanguages.com](https://www.mangolanguages.com) and select **Sign Up**.

2. Enter your email address, create a password, and click **Sign Up**.
3. A data consent form will appear to respect your privacy. Click **I Agree** to accept and continue.
4. If prompted to subscribe, select **Search** under **Access Near You**. Next, enter your ZIP code and select **Hawai'i State Public Library System**.
5. Enter your library card number.
6. You will see some languages to learn. If you don't see the language you want to learn, enter a language in the **Find a Language** search bar, or click **See All** to see all languages.

You will then be able to start! You can also download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play (for Android). Simply log in with your email address and password. For more information, please visit the Hawai'i State Public Library System at librarieshawaii.org/learn/mango-languages.

IN THE COMMUNITY

PATCH CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL OPTIONS

Searching for quality childcare can be confusing! There are many options available for our keiki and the task of finding a provider can seem daunting. Luckily, PATCH has created an easy to use database of care providers in Hawai'i.

Whether you are looking for an infant or toddler program, in-home center, preschool, pre-K, or after-school program,

PATCH has the information you are looking for. To access the database of providers, visit PATCH's site and create an account, or login as a guest.

PATCH (People Attentive to Children) is a community service organization dedicated to supporting Hawai'i's child care needs. PATCH provides access to registered and licensed child care, offers child care

subsidies to eligible families, provides child development training and ECE scholarship opportunities, and assists those interested in starting a family child care business. PATCH is a free resource hub for families, child care professionals, and communities of Hawai'i.

For more information, please visit patchhawaii.org or call (808) 839-1988.



YOUR CONCERNS

OVER \$660,000 SECURED FOR LĒ'AHĪ HOSPITAL

Senator Chang is pleased to announce that \$669,787 in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released to Lē'ahi Hospital located in Senate District 9.

The Capital Improvement Project will include the design and construction for the replacement of sewer lines and the replacement of ten exhaust fans in the hospital's Young Building. Senator Chang said, "These projects are critical components to improve the infrastructure at Lē'ahi Hospital which will benefit the patients and staff at this medical facility."

Lē'ahi Hospital has been providing care since 1901 and is one of two facilities in the O'ahu Region within the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. The hospital is Medicare and Medicaid certified and dually certified as a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). Treatment and general care are provided by physicians and an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals.

The hospital's services include traditional long-term care, short-term rehabilitation, in addition to adult day care. The hospital's wide range of services enables residents and patients to receive the quality medical care they need, the restorative therapy they require, and the support they and their families deserve.



Image Credit: Mally Solomon

FREE MEDICARE COUNSELING

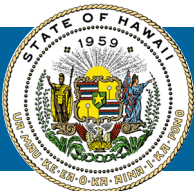
Do you need help navigating Medicare? The Hawai'i State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has the tools you need to make it easier. Hawai'i's SHIP program, administered by the Hawai'i Department of Health (Executive Office on Aging), is a vital resource in healthcare, offering essential Medicare support focusing on education and community welfare.

By providing free, local, one-on-one Medicare counseling, SHIP seeks to empower, educate, and assist Medicare-eligible individuals with their healthcare needs. This service includes assisting with the Medicare enrollment process. Medicare helps eligible individuals stay well by offering free annual wellness visits with doctors, cancer screenings, checks for diabetes twice a year, shots and vaccinations.

Hawai'i's SHIP program is supported in part by grants from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. If you have questions about Medicare, call Hawai'i SHIP at (808) 586-7299.



Image Credit: Hawai'i State Health Insurance Assistance Program



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