

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

April 2025

\$1 MILLION SECURED FOR THE HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR DEAF & BLIND

Senator Chang is happy to announce that \$1 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released to the Hawai'i School for Deaf and Blind (HSDB). The funds will be used for the design and construction of a pickleball and basketball court, which will include a screened wall. Senator Chang said, "the new court will provide students with sporting opportunities that promote physical activity, social interaction, and personal growth. Sports also increase confidence which will enable these students to participate in a wide range of other activities." Dr. Angel Ramos, Principal of HSDB, stated, "a pickleball and basketball court would greatly increase the social and emotional well-being of our students."

HSDB is a bilingual school where students learn to be competent in both American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Students and staff communicate directly with each other, without the need for an interpreter. The school helps students group up to be independent, proud, self-assured, and comfortable with both Deaf culture and hearing culture.



Image Credit: HSDB

HSDB also provides parents with the opportunity to learn ASL on campus, online, or on neighboring islands.

Education is free to students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. HSDB has four distinct schools on campus—Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, and High School. HSDB also offers a free residential program on campus for students from neighbor islands. The majority of students are either Hawaiian or from the Pacific islands. HSDB is located on Lē'ahi Avenue near Waikīkī.

To learn more about HSDB, please call **(808) 307-6900**.

Image Credit: Board of Water Supply (BWS)

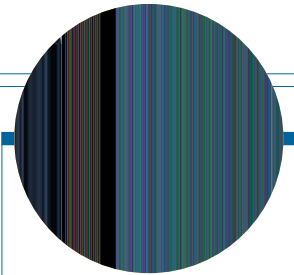


REDUCED MAIN BREAKS WITH PAIKO DRIVE UPGRADE

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has announced that they are finalizing a plan for Paiko Drive in East Honolulu. BWS will install 1,200 linear feet of new 8-inch water main along Paiko from Kalaniana'ole Highway to the end of Paiko within the city road. The estimated cost is \$2.2 million.

BWS has stated that there will be minimal impact on traffic on Kalaniana'ole Highway. Benefits include minimizing main breaks, upgrading to meet current BWS standards, and increasing fire protection. BWS is also consulting practitioners to ensure how to best protect cultural artifacts.

Construction is anticipated to start during the 2027 fiscal year and is estimated to last nine months. To inquire more about this project, contact BWS at **(808) 748-5000**.



▶ CALL US

808-586-8420

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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

\$2,000 INSTANT REBATE FOR SOLAR WATER HEATING INSTALLATION

If your electric bill is high, upgrading to solar water heating may save you thousands of dollars! Hawai'i residents now qualify for a new \$2,000 instant rebate for solar and water heating installation.

Step 1. Call a participating contractor.

You can get a consultation and assessment for your home from one of our participating Clean Energy Ally contractors.

Step 2. Schedule with a Clean Energy Ally.

Once you know what you need, book an appointment for an installation, qualifying retrofit, or maintenance. Your instant rebate will be reflected in your invoice.

Step 3. Claim tax credits and enjoy your savings!

The Inflation Reduction Act makes it possible to get tax benefits on many energy-efficient improvements in your home. For solar water heating, you can get 30% for federal and 35% for state.

For more information, please visit Hawai'i Energy or call (877) 231-8222.

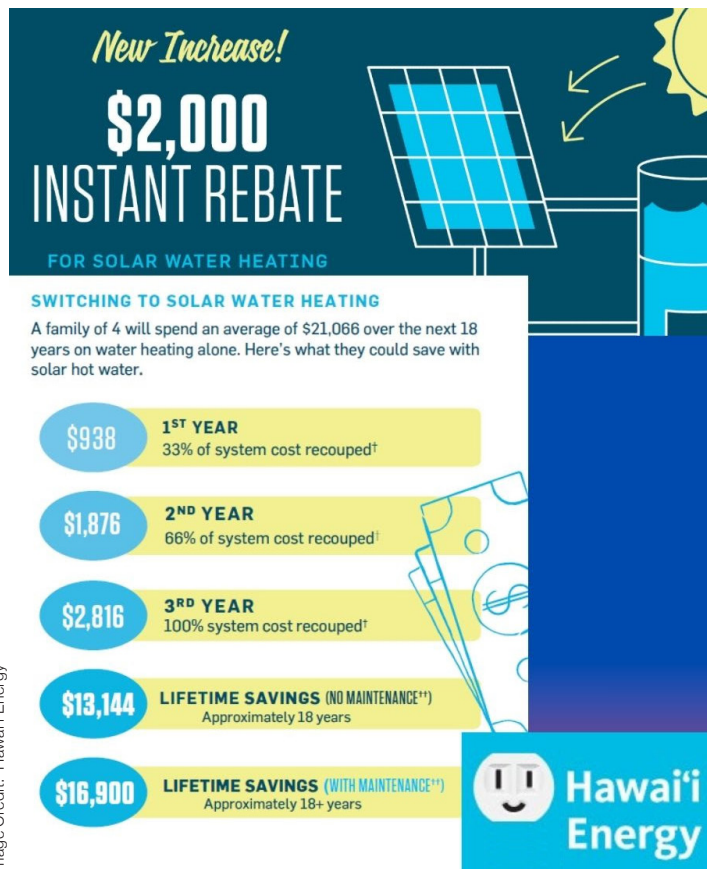


Image Credit: Hawai'i Energy

Image Credit: Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center



\$150,000 SECURED FOR THE MAUNALUA FISHPOND HERITAGE CENTER'S RE-ROOFING

Senator Chang is grateful to announce that \$150,000 in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding will be released to Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center's facility.

The funds will be used for reroofing at the heritage center's facility at the site of Kānewai Spring in East Honolulu. The Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center has purchased and protected the fishpond, one of Honolulu's last natural springs. Senator Chang said, "these funds are well deserved as the heritage center plays a leading role in preserving an ecological jewel of East Honolulu."

Governor Green said, "projects such as these are critical components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better home for our kūpuna, keiki, and all residents of Hawai'i."

In Kuli'ou'ou, the heritage center took advantage of a rare opportunity to permanently protect Kānewai, a fertile estuary. The estuary is home to rare freshwater limpets pipiwai and hapawai that cling to the Hawaiian drystack wall lining the spring. It is also home to 'ama'ama (mullet) and āholehole (young Hawaiian flagtail) that feed on the prized green limu 'ele'ele that blankets the spring floor in addition to native shrimp 'opae 'oeha'a and 'opae huna. Endangered 'ae'o (Hawaiian stilts) also feed in Kānewai Fishpond.

The Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center also protects the many surrounding cultural sites. This includes the mākāhā (fishpond sluice gate) and kū'ula (fishing stone shrine) with an upright Kū stone balanced by a low Hina stone where the fishermen have given offerings asking for a plentiful catch.

For more, visit maunaluafishpond.org.

IN THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING UNCLE CLAY'S HOUSE OF PURE ALOHA

On February 24, 2025, Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha (HOPA) closed its doors after nearly three decades of serving their iconic shave ice with love, gratitude, and the aloha spirit. Last month, Uncle Clay and Bronson Chang delivered a Moment of Contemplation to the Hawai'i State Senate. They challenged, inspired, and encouraged the legislators to carry on the mission of living our lives with pure aloha.

Uncle Clay's story begins in 1996. Uncle Clay opened his childhood dream, Doe Fang, a candy and snack shop at 'Āina Haina Shopping Center in the quiet, lush valley of 'Āina Haina, O'ahu. After 14 years, rising rents and shifting economic conditions drained Uncle Clay. But his spirit of Pure Aloha and his love for his customers and neighbors have never wavered.

In 2011, Uncle Clay's nephew, Bronson Chang, stepped in with the same love and spirit of his uncle

and helped rebrand the store as Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha. The beloved ice shop was known for its all-natural, homemade syrups. Uncle Clay created a business culture of sharing, laughing, crying, and weaving together the hearts of every soul that entered their house while serving the most delicious shave ice.

In 2018, HOPA opened its second House at the busiest shopping center in Hawai'i, the Ala Moana Center. The menu expanded to include locally-made ice cream and other treats. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HOPA Ala Moana was forced to close.

Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha had and will continue to have a positive impact on our locals and visitors, keiki, kūpuna, and people from every walk of life. To learn more about Uncle Clay's HOPA, please visit uncleclays.com.



Image Credit: Hawai'i State Senate

YOUR CONCERNS

GET RAIN BARRELS, A RAIN GARDEN, OR A TREE INSTALLED FOR FREE

Rainwater Hawai'i has introduced a new incentive program. "Green Rainwater Capture Solution Incentive Program" allows O'ahu resident gets rain barrels, a rain garden, or help with installing a tree for FREE. This program intends to bring rainwater capture solutions to residents of O'ahu.

Led by the City and County of Honolulu and Mālama Maunaloa, the program covers the cost of supplies and installation of rain barrels, a rain garden, or a native tree. Rainwater capture projects are a cost-effective way for residents to:

- Protect O'ahu's precious groundwater
- Reduce flooding in our communities
- Mitigate storm water pollution in streams and the ocean
- Potentially soak up savings on water bills

Funds are limited so apply now at tinyurl.com/greenrainwateroahuapp.

If you need assistance, partner organizations are conducting FREE rainwater assessments for residences in the Windward and Ala Wai regions. If you live in one of these areas and would like assistance in identifying and submitting projects please visit the Windward region by Hui o Ko'olaupoko at huihawaii.org/stormwater-management.html and the Ala Wai Watershed region by Hawai'i Green Growth at hawaiigreengrowth.org/ftd.

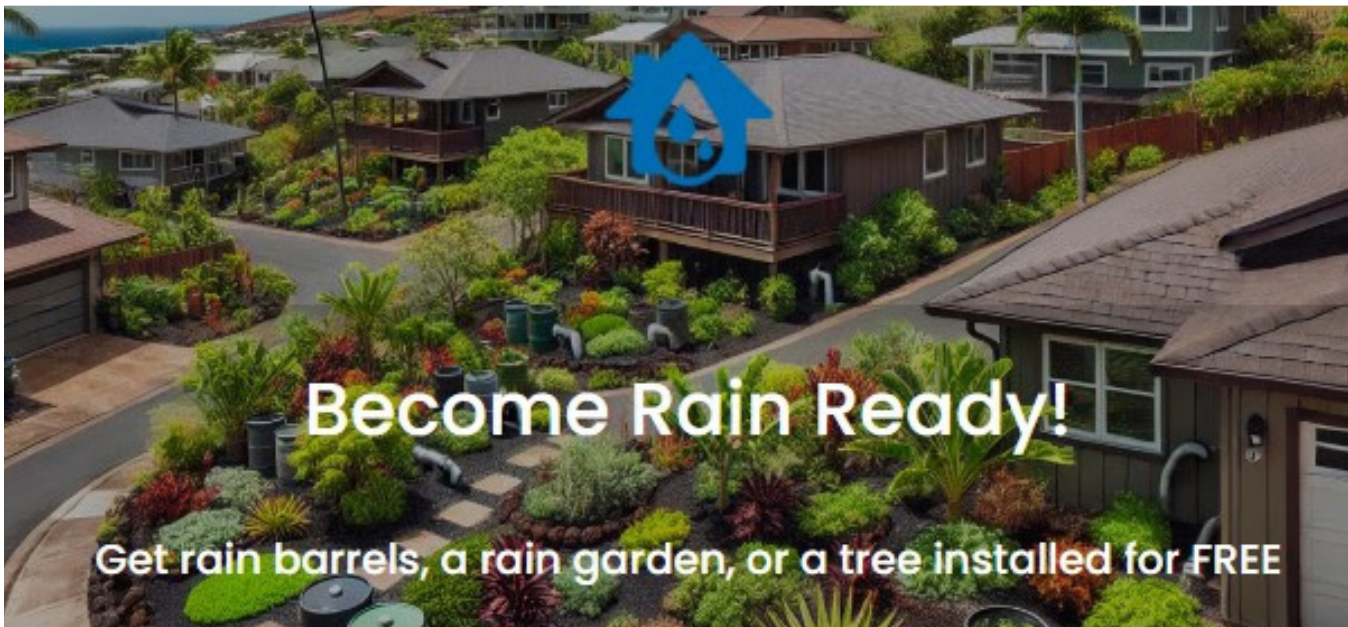
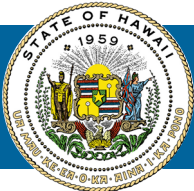


Image Credit: Rainwater Hawai'i



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