

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

May 2025



Image Credit: Hawaii State Senate Majority Office

The 2025 legislation session concluded with several important bills reaching the governor's desk. Many of these bills will have an immediate impact on our neighborhoods. Below are some notable bills awaiting the governor's signature:

Homeless Triage & Treatment: HB 943 establishes a Homeless Triage and Treatment Center Program within its Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. It will serve homeless individuals and individuals at-risk of homelessness with substance abuse issues or mental illness.

Condominium Loan Program: SB 1044 establishes the Condominium Loan Program and the Condominium Loan Revolving Fund. These programs seek to provide financing to condominium associations for essential repairs and deferred maintenance.

Fireworks: SB 222 extends the sunset date for the Illegal Fireworks Task Force from 2025 to 2030. The Task Force has been effective in removing over 200,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from our streets. Extending the sunset date is crucial to maintain this momentum and ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Task Force's mission. HB 806 appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct fireworks

sting operations and establish an explosives firearms laboratory for forensic and evidence testing. HB 1483 increases criminal penalties for illegal fireworks use and if another person suffers substantial or serious bodily injury.

Mopeds: SB 30 prohibits people under the age of sixteen from driving a moped and requires all people driving a moped to wear a helmet. SB 1216 requires safety check inspections to ensure that a vehicle or moped is not equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system. The bill also increases the maximum fines for violating the noisy muffler law, among other provisions.

Free School Meals: SB 1300 expands free school meal coverage to students who currently qualify for reduced-price lunch. This ensures that all school children in families dealing with food insecurity have access to free meals.

Electric Vehicle Batteries: HB 242 establishes a working group to examine how to maximize the recycling and reuse of electric vehicle batteries. The working group would also recommend best practices to manage hazardous waste from these batteries as the use of electric batteries increases in the future.

► **CALL US**

808-586-8420

► **EMAIL US**

Stanley Chang
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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

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Surfing: HB 133 appropriates money to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as a statewide interscholastic sport. Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing and is popular with residents and tourists. This bill expands athletic opportunities and recognizes the cultural traditions of Hawai'i.

Homeless Youth: HB 613 authorizes the Office of Youth Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth or young adults. Support services like this can help young people break the cycle of homelessness by improving well-being and helping young people become productive and self-sufficient members of the community.

For more information about these bills or others, please contact the Office of State Senator Stanley Chang at (808) 586-8420.

REAL ID REQUIRED ON MAY 7, 2025

Beginning on May 7, 2025, only federal compliant REAL ID driver's licenses and state ID cards will be accepted to get on domestic airlines flights and to enter certain federal buildings and military bases. A United States Passport or military ID can be used as an alternate identification.

When acquiring or renewing a driver's license or state ID card, residents must indicate on the application whether the card will be federal compliant REAL ID. There is no additional fee for the star marking.

To obtain a REAL ID, you can make an appointment at alohaq.honolulu.gov or go to the nearest Driver Licensing Center anytime between **7:45am to 4pm**:

- Kapalama Hale
925 Dillingham Blvd
- Kapolei Hale
1000 Uluohia St
- Koolau
47-388 Hui Iwa St
- Wahiawa
330 North Cane St
- Waianae
85-670 Farrington Hwy
Tuesday & Thursday ONLY
7:45 am – 4 pm
Closed 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Image Credit: Island News



NEW GREEN BIN RULES

There are new green bin rules in Honolulu! Effective April 25th, residents can place the following items into the green bins:

- Food waste (all food scraps including meat and dairy)
- Compostable items (such as certain takeout containers, coffee pods, and paper bags)

What stays the same? All of the following items can continue to be placed in green bins:

- Yard Trimmings
- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Natural Christmas Trees

What can't go in?

- Plastic Bags
- Metal
- Glass
- Styrofoam
- Non-compostable Packaging

For more information, contact the City and County of Honolulu at (808) 768-3200.

A promotional graphic for REAL ID. It features the text "Be REAL ID Ready" in large, bold letters. Below it, it says "By May 7, 2025, Your driver's license must have a 'star' in a gold circle in the upper right-hand corner to board domestic flights and access certain federal buildings". There is an image of a Hawaii driver's license with a gold star in the upper right corner. A silhouette of an airplane is flying towards the right. The background is teal with a pattern of palm leaves. At the bottom, it says "Visit www.honolulu.gov/csd".

Be REAL ID Ready

By May 7, 2025,
Your driver's license must have a "star" in a gold circle in the upper right-hand corner to board domestic flights and access certain federal buildings

Visit www.honolulu.gov/csd

Image Credit: City and County of Honolulu Department of Customer Services

IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Cardholder to Citizenship Workshops Every Friday

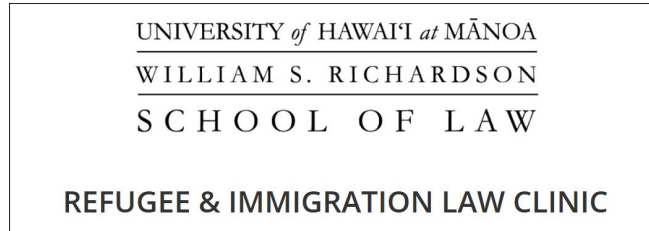


Image Credit: University of Hawai'i, Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic

The University of Hawai'i School of Law is now hosting "Cardholder to Citizenship (C2C)" workshops every Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Attorneys and law students are available to help qualified applicants complete their naturalization application forms for free. Qualified applicants may include green card holders and non-citizens who served in the U.S. military.

To sign up for the citizenship workshop, call (808) 956-0836 or complete the following form: tinyurl.com/c2capptrequest. The Hawai'i American Immigration Lawyers Association has also set up a Deportation Defense Hotline at (808) 204-5951. For more information, contact the Refugee and Immigration Clinic at (808) 956-4092.

Pilot Program: Submit Your Akamai Arrival Form Online



Image Credit: State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

The State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture has announced an innovative pilot program. Air travelers on select flights can now submit the Akamai Arrival Agriculture Declaration Form online!

As you may know, many plants and animals not from Hawai'i can be harmful to our unique environment, agriculture, and communities.

Please help protect our islands by not bringing harmful pests into our state.

Please see the flight listings that are participating in this pilot program at akamaiarrival.hawaii.gov/pilot. Travelers can submit their form online at Akamai Arrival. For more information, contact Akamai Arrival at akamaiarrival@hawaii.gov.

YOUR CONCERNS

FREE MAY EVENTS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

The Hawai'i State Public Library System offers free events every month. Come check out the following events at your local library:

Āina Haina

5246 Kalanianaʻole Highway

- **May 1 & 15:**
10:30am to 11:30am
Aunty Beth at Storytime!
Children ages 2-5 are welcome to read books, sing songs, and make crafts.
- **May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:**
11:30am to 3pm
Chinese mahjong. Tables open for players with 6+ months of experience.
- **May 21:**
10:30am to 12:00pm
Lessons in Chemistry. The Āina Haina book club will discuss Bonnie Garmus's novel lessons in Chemistry.
- **May 21:**
12pm to 1:30pm
A free 90-minute session on using Google Drive and other cloud computing platforms.
- **May 21:**
2pm to 3:30pm
A free 90-minute session on how

to use a smartphone and tablet.

Waikīkī-Kapahulu

400 Kapahulu Avenue

- **May 1 & 15:**
3pm to 4pm
Instructional star lei making and other craft making
- **May 1:**
5pm to 6:30pm
Hawaiian Steel Guitar Lessons with David Tremblay.
- **May 3:**
11am to 12pm
Life Skills 101. A weekly program for teens to learn things that were not taught in school.
- **May 3, 10, 17 & 31:**
2pm to 3pm
Kids Club story time, book talks, and craft activities with Ms. Pukahi.
- **May 6:**
LEGO Day! Build something to display around the library. LEGOS will be out all day long!

Kaimukī

1041 Koko Head Avenue

- **May 4:**
10:30am to 11:30am
Family Storytime with Uncle

Tim. Families can enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and bubbles!

- **May 6:**
1pm to 3pm
Play Hanafuda with fellow community members! Several packs will be available.
- **May 13:**
5pm to 7pm
Sing Like Nobody's Watching - Karaoke Night! Sing your favorite tunes with your friends.
- **May 18:**
1pm to 3pm
Sunday Afternoon at the Movies (*Deadpool & Wolverine*).
- **May 27:**
4pm to 5pm
Legislative 101: How We Can Help Our Community Thrive! Special guest includes the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action.

Hawai'i Kai

249 Lunalilo Home Road

- **May 7:**
9:15am to 9:45am,
10:30am to 11am
Children's Storytime. 30-minute storytime for children ages 2-5.

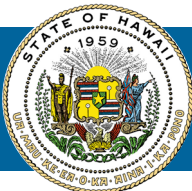


Hawaii State Public Library System

'Oihana Hale Waihana Puke Aupuni o ka Moku'āina o Hawai'i

Where you belong

Image Credit: Hawai'i State Public Library System



FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

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