

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

October 2025

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AT SENATOR CHANG'S VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Join our upcoming virtual office hours! The Office of State Senator Stanley Chang welcomes constituents to join via Zoom to discuss local and state issues, bill ideas, or any general concerns. Senator Chang's office will help address any issues raised by constituents.

What: Virtual Office Hours with the Office of State Senator Stanley Chang

When: Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 10AM–12PM

Where: Zoom (register here)

Every year, Senator Chang's office helps constituents resolve issues, navigate state agencies, and answer any questions they may have. Virtual office hours is a new way for constituents to be in direct contact with their state senator. If you can't make it, constituents are also welcome to share their thoughts by calling Senator Chang's office at (808) 586-8420 or sending a [message](#).

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

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Image Credit: Office of State Senator Stanley Chang

Image Credit: University of Hawai'i



COLLEGE STUDENTS THREE MONTHS FROM GRADUATING CAN APPLY FOR STATE JOBS

The State of Hawai'i has introduced a new policy for expected college graduates: students three months from receiving their bachelor's degree in any field of study can apply for state jobs.

The Hawai'i Department of Human Resources Department (DHRD) is now accepting applications from students for entry-level positions. Director Brenna Hashimoto said, "This is one part of our overall effort to address civil service vacancies. This will allow students to get into real jobs sooner and hopefully ease the shortage of workers needed to properly serve the public."

DHRD requires that graduates provide their diplomas for verification before starting work. For listings, please visit [Civil Service Jobs | State of Hawai'i](#).



▶ CALL US

808-586-8420

▶ EMAIL 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

Image Credit: Office of State Senator Stanley Chang



SENATOR CHANG'S OFFICE HELPS RESOLVE CONSTITUENT ISSUES

Every year, constituents in Senate District 9 reach out to the Office of State Senator Stanley Chang for help on a variety of issues. Many constituents request help with navigating state agencies, report that public property needs to be maintained, or request help on housing issues like the permitting process or housing development rules. Overall, whatever the issue is, constituents get the help they need.

We are proud to highlight some of the issues that we helped resolve in 2025:

- Unfreezing disability payments for qualified beneficiaries
- Expediting the application and interview process for SNAP applicants due to prolonged wait times
- Expediting the investigation process for unlawful air pollution
- Assisting homeowners with the building permit process
- Advocating for the protection of private covenants for homeowners
- Connecting constituents to local agencies responsible for maintenance of public property

Many of these issues were ongoing, some pending over 5 years. Constituents have been very grateful for the help that they rightfully deserve.

As your elected public servant, Senator Chang is dedicated to ensuring that constituent concerns are heard and addressed in a timely manner. If you have any concerns or issues that you need assistance with, please contact the Office of State Senator Stanley Chang at **(808) 586-8420** or attend the upcoming Virtual Office Hours on October 22 via Zoom.

Image Credit: Hawai'i School Facilities Authority



THREE NEW PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS AT WAI'ALAE ELEMENTARY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

The Hawai'i School Facilities Authority (SFA) has announced that three additional preschool classrooms have been made available at Wai'ālae Elementary Public Charter School in Kaimukī. These renovations were the first preschool renovation projects at a charter school. This project has helped double the number of the preschool seats, which reduced Wai'ālae's waitlist down from 90 to 38.

The SFA is focused on efficiency, collaboration with partners, and speed when bringing these classrooms for families. A prime example is the renovations were completed in just seven weeks.

SFA's executive director said, "The legislature has commissioned the SFA to build schools faster, more efficiently, and at less cost for taxpayers. The SFA team takes this responsibility seriously and is rising to that challenge. We've been entrusted to do major renovations targeting \$1 million per classroom, and we have been able to deliver results under budget."

These renovations also bring our families a step closer toward realizing the objectives of the state's "Ready Keiki" initiative. This initiative seeks to make universal pre-K accessible to all families by 2032. For more information, please contact the [Hawai'i School Facilities Authority](#).

New Maunalua Bay Rules Now in Effect

The Board of Land and Natural Resources have implemented a variety of new conservation measures at Maunalua Bay in East Honolulu. The board has outlawed nighttime spear fishing, implemented new catch limits, and extended the conservation management area, which now extends from the Diamond Head buoy near the lighthouse to Spitting Cave. These efforts support a 20-year conservation effort in East Honolulu.

DLNR Chair Dawn Chang said, "This is a powerful example of how diverse voices can overcome challenges to find a mutually beneficial path for the greater good of protecting the resources, not only for today but the future. Hawai'i is showing the rest of the country how government and communities can work collaboratively to address the impacts of climate change and overfishing through 'āina based stewardship."

Malama Maunalua, a non-profit organization, led the effort to better manage and preserve the bay by bringing together fishers, conservationists, cultural practitioners, and various parasailing, personal watercraft, and

commercial dive boat companies. Community leaders hope that the new conservation efforts will replenish damaged reefs, improve the bay's water quality, and reverse the effects of coral bleaching and land-based erosion and runoff.

For more information, please contact the Department of Land and Natural Resources at (808) 587-0400.



Image Credit: Hawai'i Star-Advertiser

SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER OF HAWAII AWARDED \$200,000 FOR RENOVATIONS

Senator Chang is happy to announce that the Special Education Center of Hawai'i (SECOH) has received \$200,000 in general obligation bond funds. These funds will go toward significant renovations of their facility, which is located in Senate District 9 near Diamond Head on Palekaua Street.

The renovations include the construction of new rooms, ADA bathrooms, a kitchen store, café, outdoor patio, and pool house renovations. Senator Chang said, "These renovations will give SECOH the opportunity to maximize their ability to serve the needs of people with disabilities."

SECOH was founded in 1965 as one of the first private, non-profit schools for children with special needs on O'ahu. As public schools increased their capacity to educate children with special needs, SECOH transitioned its services to include people with disabilities of all ages.

Today, SECOH provides a variety of personalized services to people with disabilities. SECOH works collaboratively with families and other professionals to design and implement service and support plans that meet the needs and desires of the special needs community. For more information, visit secoh.org.



Image Credit: Office of State Senator Stanley Chang



Electric Vehicles Must Now Have Required Riders to Use HOV Lane

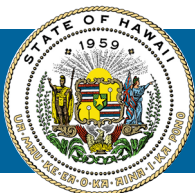
Effective on September 30, 2025, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) has notified electric vehicle drivers that single-occupancy vehicles will no longer be allowed to use the HOV lanes during restricted hours.

The federal code that allowed states to determine if single-occupancy EV drivers can use HOV lanes has expired but has the possibility of being extended

or renewed in the future. As a result, HDOT will retain the language for possible re-implementation.

To improve traffic flow, the Federal Highway Administration requires every state to construct a report, identifying possible HOV lane traffic congestion. With the expiration of the EV HOV rule, less vehicles will be in the HOV lane which is projected to relieve traffic congestion, therefore, improving travel time.

For more information, please contact HDOT Public Affairs Office at (808) 587-2160.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
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