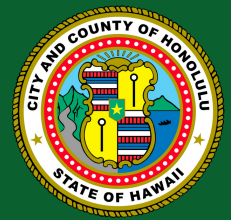


April 2023



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

# Mayor's Highlights

## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- State of the City Address
- Fair Housing Month
- Town Hall Meetings Update
- Spotlight on: Climate Change

## STATE OF THE CITY

On March 14, 2023, Mayor Blangiardi gave his State of the City address in front of a full house at Mission Memorial Auditorium. The speech was focused on the City's progress in tackling our island home's most complex issues, or "wicked problems". A "wicked problem" is one that is inherently difficult to address and requires the expertise and experience of talented individuals from a variety of sectors as well as an environment where there is a willingness to embrace change and innovation.

This recognition of the so called "wicked problems" that have plagued our city for decades allows us to bring the talent, resources, and time together to address issues in a new way. Our City team has identified a number of issues to highlight for this increased attention:

- affordable housing and homelessness
- improving City systems and organizing the City government to better serve the people's priorities
- protecting our residents and our island home

Mayor Blangiardi made clear in his State of the City address that just because a problem is a wicked one, it does not mean we should be discouraged or see the problem as unsolvable, but instead that this is a call to increase and change our approach to better meet the challenges posed by these problems. Mayor Blangiardi emphasized that the Administration has been, and will continue to, put unprecedented resources toward solving these key issues.

Watch or read the full State of the City address at [oneoahu.org/newsletter/#april2023](https://oneoahu.org/newsletter/#april2023).

## MAYOR BLANGIARDI ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

“ We don't need to conduct a survey of the people to know that affordable housing is a burning priority. Far too many of our neighbors are voting with their feet, leaving Hawai'i because they cannot afford to raise their families here. This is not a whimper, or a cry for help — this is a primal scream! We cannot wait for improvements to simply fall into place. Instead, we must constantly seek innovative ideas to improve our service to the public *now*. ”

# Fair Housing Month

JOIN THE CITY IN OBSERVING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

April is Fair Housing Month. O'ahu residents deserve fair and affordable housing. This is a key priority and one of our city's "wicked problems" that we are working to address. Stable housing is not just a roof over one's head and a place to call home. We know that individuals and families who are in stable housing environments have the ability to focus their energies on other critical aspects of life from education or career advancement to giving back to their communities.

This year, we commemorate the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil rights law signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on April 11, 1968, that made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful. This year's theme is "Fair Housing: Choices for All Voices: Building an Equitable Future..."

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities. Additional protections apply to federally-assisted housing. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), Familial Status, and Disability.

This is important Fair Housing Training for Private Landlords, Realtors, Resident Managers, Property Managers, AOA Board Members, and even the General Public to brush up on their rights as tenants.

## Mōhala Mai

Mōhala Mai, O'ahu's first permanent, supportive housing project for formerly incarcerated women, was blessed in March. The project is a collaboration between the City and County of Honolulu, former Governor Linda Lingle, the Women's Prison Project, and Housing Solutions, Inc. The four-story building has been refurbished to provide affordable housing for 24 justice-involved women and their children as the women reintegrate into our communities. Residents of Mōhala Mai are women who have exited prison after serving their sentences, women on parole or probation, women who have completed a transitional housing program after leaving prison, or women diverted from prison by the recently established Women's Court.



Mōhala Mai



**Fair Housing Conference 2023**

JOIN US FOR A FREE WEBINAR SERIES ON THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

Each Thursday in April from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

REGISTER NOW  
Scan the QR code with your phone

APRIL 06: Fair Housing 101: overview and introduction to key topics for the month of April

APRIL 13: Ask the Experts

APRIL 20: Disability, Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications, and Assistance Animals

APRIL 27: Fair Housing: Case Studies (Question and Answer, and Conference Wrap up Session)

PRESENTED BY



During the month of April, the City along with our partners will be hosting a free Fair Housing virtual conference webinar series that is open to the public where landlords, tenants, and advocates can learn about fair housing practices and laws. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/yc8wjN3DrifQA1TA>.


# Mayor's Town Hall Meeting Series

CITY OFFICIALS GO ON THE ROAD TO HEAR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

The first of eleven Town Hall meetings with Mayor Blangiardi and his leadership team kicked off in March with events at 'Ewa Makai Middle School and Wai'anae District Park. The town hall meetings, which will be held over a ten-week period running through the end of May, are an opportunity for the mayor and other senior administration leaders to listen to concerns directly from the public, answer questions about the City's top priorities and brief residents about upcoming projects in individual neighborhoods.

So far, residents have brought a variety of questions to the City's attention at the Town Hall meetings. From transportation and the opening of rail service to parks and public safety, City leadership is ready to provide information and answers. If the answer can't be given during the meeting, the appropriate department will follow up on each question in a timely manner.

The town halls include an open question and answer session with Mayor Blangiardi and other city department directors and deputy directors. The public is encouraged to participate and make suggestions on how the administration can better serve the people of O'ahu. Learn more about the Mayor's Town Hall meetings, view video recordings of the past meetings, and see the full schedule at [oneoahu.org/townhall](http://oneoahu.org/townhall).



**April Town Hall Meetings**

- April 6: Mililani High School - 7 p.m.
- April 13: Kalani High School - 6:30 p.m.
- April 20: Lā'ie Elementary School - 7 p.m.
- April 27: Benjamin Parker Elementary School - 6:30 p.m.

**May Town Hall Meetings**

- May 4: Waialua Elementary School - 7 p.m.
- May 11: Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse - 6 p.m.
- May 18: King David Kalākaua Middle School - 6 p.m.
- May 25: Pearl Harbor Elementary School - 6 p.m.

## One O'ahu with Mayor Rick Blangiardi Podcast

Another great way to ask the Mayor and City leadership a question is to submit a question to the One O'ahu with Mayor Rick Blangiardi podcast! Every week, Mayor Blangiardi and members of City leadership provide updates on various City functions and answer questions from the public. Host Brandi Higa leads the conversation that can range to anything from property tax assessments and permitting questions to the Honolulu Zoo and renovations to the Neil S. Blaisdell Center. Subscribe to the One O'ahu podcast wherever you listen to podcasts to get new episodes in your feed every Thursday. Submit your questions and learn more at [oneoahu.org/podcast](http://oneoahu.org/podcast)!





# Spotlight on: Climate Change

## OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Climate change is another “wicked problem” facing our island home. This multi-faceted problem requires a multi-layered approach. The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (known to many as the Resilience Office), established by Honolulu voters in 2016, coordinates across City departments to drive climate change adaptation and action.

In the last year, the office secured more than \$3 million in federal grants to address climate hazards including sea level rise and coastal and inland flooding, and for urban and community forestry to tackle the impacts of increasing temperatures and heat events. This summer, the office, through collaboration with City agencies and community, will release the City’s first-ever climate change adaptation strategy called, “Climate Ready O’ahu.”

The Resilience Office also implements policies, programs and projects to eliminate carbon pollution, improve island affordability and safeguard our island home from the most detrimental impacts of climate change. From updating building energy conservations codes, helping to reduce water and energy waste and cost among O’ahu’s largest buildings, to improved shoreline management efforts in the form of Bills 41 and 42 (now Ordinances 23-3 and 23-4, respectively), the office takes a science-based, and community-centered approach to the City’s commitments to climate action and adaptation.

Stay tuned for release of the City’s Annual Sustainability Report in time for Earth Day this April, and learn more about the City’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency at [resilientoahu.org](http://resilientoahu.org).

### Report an Issue in Your Community

You can report anything from a pothole to graffiti to a parking violation using the City’s 311 app or website. Visit your phone’s app store or [honoluluhi.citysourced.com](http://honoluluhi.citysourced.com) to learn more!

### Get Emergency Notifications and City Services Updates

[HNL.info](http://HNL.info) is a one stop site for City services from emergency alerts to registering for City activities. Visit the website or download the app today!

### THE CITY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

<b>MAYOR'S OFFICE</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/MAYOR	(808)768-4141
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/ENV	(808)768-3486
<b>PARKS DEPARTMENT</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/PARKS	(808)768-3003
<b>COVID-19 INFORMATION</b>	ONEOAHU.ORG	(808)768-2489
<b>SATELLITE CITY HALLS</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/CSD	(808)768-4325
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/NCO	(808)768-3710
<b>GOLF COURSE &amp; ZOO INFORMATION</b>	HONOLULU.GOV/DES	(808)768-5400