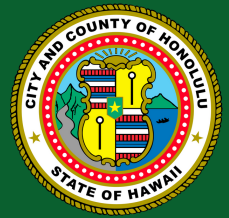


July 2023



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



Mayor's Highlights

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rail passenger service begins on O'ahu
- Tax relief for homeowners in the FY24 budget
- Two Central O'ahu pools reopen after repairs
- An update on the Iwilei Resource Center
- \$25M more for Rental and Utility Relief program

ALL ABOARD SKYLINE!

A new era has begun for transit riders across the island of O'ahu! Passenger service on Skyline, the City's new rail transit system, officially began on June 30, with riders able to traverse the first 10.75 miles of the railway — from East Kapolei to Hālawā — from any of the nine stations that are now open to the public.

City leaders marked the occasion with a grand opening ceremony at the Hālawā station featuring live music and remarks by Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Governor Josh Green, Senator Brian Schatz and a number of other dignitaries. The celebration culminated in an inaugural rail ride attended by attendees and supporters, including Joyce Fasi, wife of the late Mayor Frank F. Fasi — one of the most prominent supporters of an O'ahu rail transit system.

"Here we are today, with a new venture, and all that it means for our future. Welcome to this truly historic occasion," said Mayor Rick Blangiardi.



Mayor Rick Blangiardi at the Skyline opening. Photo: Kay Salera

To take a ride on Skyline, passengers will need a HOLO Card — your key to public transportation on O'ahu. Fares for Skyline will follow the same fare structure as TheBus, and each ride also comes with a free transfer. To learn more about where you can get a HOLO Card, or to find everything you need to know about about rail service on O'ahu, visit www.honolulu.gov/skyline today!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RAIL? LISTEN NOW!

The opening of Skyline is an exciting milestone for the City and County of Honolulu, but there is still much work to be done! On the One O'ahu Podcast, listen to Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation CEO Lori Kahikina and COO Rick Keene talk about what comes next for the rail project, including when riders can expect service to the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and Kalihi Transit Center to begin.



FY2024 BUDGET PASSES

In June, Mayor Blangiardi signed the City Council's adopted \$3.41 billion Operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year, along with the \$1.34 billion Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

Among the City's top priorities for the FY24 budgets was historic property tax relief for nearly 152,000 qualifying homeowners on O'ahu, in the form of a one-time \$350 tax credit – amounting to roughly \$53 million – which will be applied directly to property tax bills before they are distributed later this summer.

Other budget highlights include:

- \$170 million for affordable housing, including acquisition and construction costs
- \$15.4 million for homelessness initiatives
- \$591 million in combined funding for public safety agencies, including HPD and HFD
- \$411 million for inter-modal mass transit (TheBus, TheHandi-Van and Skyline)
- \$11.9 million for maintenance and upgrades to park facilities across O'ahu

Learn more about the entire FY24 budget at <https://www.honolulu.gov/budget/>.

“I'm really proud that the City Council pushed us. I thought when we proposed the \$300 tax credit we were pushing the envelope, because that amounted to some \$45.5 million dollars. Finding another \$8 million allows us to take even better care of those most in need. And while \$350 may sound like a small number, it actually equates to another \$100,000 in home exemptions to each of those 152,000 home owners.”

- Mayor Rick Blangiardi



TWO O'AHU POOLS RE-OPEN



Just in time for our popular keiki Summer Fun Program, two Central O'ahu pools are back open for business! The pool at Bill Balfour Jr. Waipahū District Park reopened April 28, after a nearly six-year closure, and the Pearl City District Park Pool reopened last month after a nearly five-year closure.

Both pools had been closed for an extended duration because of complications from repair projects. In addition to both pools being back open, the City is pleased to have the schedules for each of our park pools, as well as public play hours at our gymnasiums, posted online at <http://pros.hnl.info>.

We want these facilities to be as open to the public as possible, so please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation if you are interested in a job as a part-time lifeguard keeping pool users safe!

CLEANING UP CHINATOWN PARKS

On June 10, 2023, Mayor Blangiardi, City leaders and partners from the Honolulu Chinatown Lions Club took part in a clean-up of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park and Smith Beretania Park.



O'AHU'S NEWEST MEDICAL RESPITE CENTER OPENS IN IWILEI

The Iwilei Resource Center is set to accommodate as many as 19 patients at a time, with a goal to provide permanent housing for patients within one month.

Patients will be provided a multitude of services, including assistance with hygiene, clothing, medical care, establishing a primary care provider and assistance with achieving documentation and medical insurance. Services will be provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Homelessness is complex — effective solutions require a team effort and multiple strategies for success, and this new medical respite center is a necessary component,” said Honolulu Emergency Services Director Dr. Jim Ireland.



Photo taken inside of the Iwilei Resource Center.

The City's Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program, commonly known as CORE, will be the primary team to identify new patients.

“We shouldn't forget that they're our brothers and our sisters,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “The street is not a home. It's not a home for anyone, under any circumstances and this is proof positive as to what we want to do about that.”

MORE HELP FOR O'AHU RENTERS THIS SUMMER

The City's Rental and Utility Relief Program is temporarily reopened this summer, thanks to \$25 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the Honolulu City Council.

The City and our partners at Catholic Charities Hawai'i and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement are organizing in-person application events for new applicants.

Visit revitalizeoahu.org/renthelp to find the schedule of events and eligibility requirements.

These events are for new applicants only, who can qualify for up to six months of help with rent or utility bills. Renters should bring a driver's license, state ID, or other government-issued ID, their signed rental agreement, unpaid rent or utility bills, and tax documents and pay stubs that show financial harm since March 13, 2020. Examples include the loss of a job or reduced wages, increased living expenses, and other factors.



Funds are limited. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. No application is guaranteed funding.

Since launching in April 2021, the Rental and Utility Relief Program has helped more than 16,000 O'ahu families who were struggling with housing expenses, distributing roughly \$216 million in federal funds in cooperation with Catholic Charities Hawai'i and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.



Be Prepared!

CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE SEASON RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER 30.

The NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center announced last month that the Central Pacific is likely to experience a near-to-above-normal hurricane season for 2023 due to El Niño conditions.

Hurricane preparedness shouldn't start only when a storm is coming. Building a 14-day disaster supply kit is essential for hurricane preparedness. Include non-perishable food, water, medications, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Be ready for hurricanes and any emergency, and ensure the well-being of your family.

KŪHIŌ BEACH PARK CLOSURE HOURS

In an effort to increase safety in the heart of Waikīkī, the Department of Parks and Recreation announced last month that it will close Kūhiō Beach Park for an extra two hours each night — from 12 a.m. until 5 a.m. each day, rather than from 2 a.m. until 5 a.m.

The change creates a closure schedule more consistent with the adjacent Kapi'olani Park, which was already closed nightly from 12 a.m. until 5 a.m.

Kūhiō Beach Park, like all other City and County of Honolulu beach parks, can still be traversed 24 hours a day to access the water.



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 the app store or honoluluhi.citysourced.com to learn more today!

Get Emergency Notifications and City Services Updates

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!

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