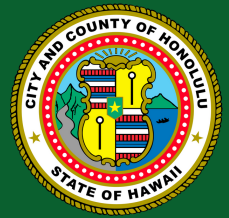


March 2023



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



# Mayor's Highlights

## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- O'ahu Good Food Pledge and Ag Grants
- Get to Know Your City Officials
  - Mayor Blangiardi's Town Hall Series
  - One O'ahu Podcast
- City Affordable Housing Database Project

## O'AHU GOOD FOOD PLEDGE

O'ahu's reliance on imported food is a long-running and well known problem. Mayor Blangiardi and the City team are committed to tackling this challenge head on. By encouraging increases in both the demand and supply side of institutional food purchasing, we aim for a continually growing and balanced agricultural sector of our island economy.

In February, more than 20 hotels and restaurants across the community joined Mayor Blangiardi in signing the O'ahu Good Food Pledge and committing to buy more from local farmers. This is a critical next step when it comes to growing more fruits, vegetables, and proteins in Hawai'i, allowing us to reduce the amount of imported food in our supply chain. The Good Food Pledge, spearheaded by the City's Office of Economic Revitalization, brings larger purchasers of food together to align local supply with local demand. This alignment serves to help to grow our agriculture industry, support producers that provide good jobs, and promote health and wellbeing across our island home.

Currently 85% of all food consumed in Hawai'i is imported. To improve food security and a healthy local economy that is less dependent on food imports, the O'ahu Good Food Purchasing Pledge was created to engage with partners from government and private entities in purchasing of locally, sustainably, and equitably-produced food. At the O'ahu Good Food Show, local farmers and entrepreneurs connected with hotels to create new opportunities for local food in the hospitality industry.

The City is also working to increase the capacity of our local small farms through the O'ahu Agriculture Grants program. These grants of up to \$50,000 per recipient will support the resilience of farms ranging from indigenous crops to high tech climate smart agriculture, pig farmers to beekeeping. Over 125 farmers applied for these grants using applications that were available in English and 11 other languages. Awardees can use these grant funds for a variety of purposes including buying fencing, planter beds, and other equipment, deferred maintenance; payroll or increasing use of technology on their farm.

## Mayor's Message

A FEW WORDS FROM MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI

"For every dollar spent on local food in Hawai'i, there is return of \$1.60 to the local economy.

That's an investment worth making. I am most appreciative that the hospitality industry is stepping up to the local food plate to help improve O'ahu's economy."

# Civic Engagment

The City wants to hear from you!

## Town Hall Meetings

Starting on March 21, 2023, Mayor Blangiardi will be taking the City team on the road to visit communities around O'ahu.

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.

Mayor Blangiardi and representatives from more than 25 departments and City agencies will attend all 11 meetings. The town halls will 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.

Additional information about the town hall meetings will be posted at [oneoahu.org/townhall](https://oneoahu.org/townhall) as the first of the scheduled meeting dates approaches.



If you need an auxiliary aid/service, other accommodations due to a disability, or an interpreter for a language other than English in reference to this announcement, please contact the Mayor's office at (808) 768-4141 on weekdays from 7:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. or email [mayor@honolulu.gov](mailto:mayor@honolulu.gov).

There are many ways to have your voice be heard. In addition to the Town Hall meetings, residents can ask questions or get even more involved. Learn how below:

## One O'ahu Podcast



Mayor Rick Blangiardi recently started a weekly podcast series, titled *The One O'ahu Podcast with Mayor Rick Blangiardi*, to give residents an opportunity to hear updates on City happenings directly from the source - City department directors and the Mayor himself. Episodes are released on Thursdays and feature the Mayor or his department directors having in-depth conversations with podcast host Brandi Higa.

The content is a mixture of topics selected by the Mayor or that week's guest interspersed with questions from listeners. Residents are encouraged to submit their questions to the Mayor at [oneoahu.org/podcast](https://oneoahu.org/podcast).

## Neighborhood Board Elections

Want to get more involved in your community? You can help elect the members of your local neighborhood board. There are 33 neighborhood boards across O'ahu that meet monthly to get updates from City, State, and Federal officials and take input from the residents of their community.

Elections for the 2023-2025 Neighborhood Board term begin April 28th and run until May 19th. You can find candidate profiles, information about Board district boundaries, and minutes from previous minutes at [honolulu.gov/nco/nbelections](https://honolulu.gov/nco/nbelections).



# Spotlight on: Affordable Housing

## CITY PARTNERS WITH UHERO TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DATABASE

As the saying goes, you can only manage what you can measure. In an effort to gain better insight into the O’ahu’s affordable housing inventory, the City commissioned the University of Hawai’i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to create a database that will list all of the island’s subsidized and price-restricted housing units, including units that are still under development.

“As we develop momentum in our housing efforts, we recognize completely that the availability and affordability of housing is one of the most important issues facing O’ahu residents, but understanding a problem is a critical prerequisite when it comes to offering a set of solutions. By partnering with UHERO to create this housing database, we will be able to use concrete data to better develop our affordable housing strategies that we know will impact generations of residents across our island.”

- Mayor Rick Blangiardi

Users will have access to a variety of different data points, including, but not limited to; the total number of subsidized or price-restricted housing units on O’ahu; the location of those housing units, including property name and address; whether housing units were targeted for specific populations (senior housing, workforce housing, etc.); and the construction funding source or subsidy program that applies to each unit or housing development.

The database will serve as a tool to help government agencies better understand Honolulu’s current housing supply and shortfall, analyze future housing costs, and develop strategies to deploy new financing mechanisms to build and preserve housing. The completed database is expected to be open for public viewing in early 2025 with the potential that UHERO may explore a beta test prior to that date.

### 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!

## Get in touch

### 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