

FROM THE OFFICE OF

# SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

## East Honolulu Community Newsletter

June 2024



### REFLECTING ON KALANI HIGH SCHOOL'S TRAVEL ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Kalani High School continues to provide a first class education, with opportunities for growth beyond the physical classroom. Kalani has a number of sister school partnerships, allowing students to learn in a completely different country and culture. Senator Chang's office followed up with Mia Garvin who reflected on her international exchange experience at Hokkaido Obihiro Hakuyou High School, located in Hokkaido, Japan.



Entrance of Hokkaido Obihiro Hakuyou High School. (Image by Wikiwand)

*Some of my favorite parts of the exchange were how welcoming and inclusive everybody was along with how much fun I personally had the entire time. From the welcome sign and students that came to greet us when we came to the school to the students and teachers who always waved at us and greeted us during the school day, everything was so enjoyable. I also just simply liked how kind all of our exchange students were. It was so easy to hangout with them everyday because of how much I was looking forward to being with them. Honoka, my exchange*

*student, had such a kind and thoughtful family that it seemed like my entire day, from going to school and going out to coming back home, was so amazing.*

*I think I was able to greatly benefit from this experience both academically and non-academically. Academically, I was able to go through the school day these students experience. I got to learn more about the studying style of students in Japan and the types of courses different and/or similar to those offered here in Hawai'i. Non-academically, I simply benefited by being introduced to Japan's incredible culture. I had been able to visit both historical and recreational places all across Hokkaido and was also introduced to cultural practices such as a tea ceremony, a traditional dinner, and viewing archery lessons!*

*I believe that I brought part of Hawai'i's culture to my sister school by sharing what I had. From sharing food and snacks to sharing games and photos. I brought over snacks and gifts for Honoka and the other exchange students such as macadamia nuts or local coffee and was able to introduce part of our culture to others in Japan. I also made sure to always include others through taking photos of fun moments and sharing them*



Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

#### ▶ CALL US

808-586-8420

#### ▶ EMAIL US

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Senator, District 9 (D)  
[senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov)

#### ▶ HANDY CONTACTS

State Pothole Hotline  
808-586-7852

City Pothole Hotline  
808-768-7777

State Homelessness  
[gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov](mailto:gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov)  
808-586-0193

City Homelessness  
[complaints@honolulu.gov](mailto: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

## LĒ'AHĪ HOSPITAL RECEIVES OVER \$600,000 IN FUNDING



Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Lē'ahi Hospital has been serving the community of Honolulu. The facilities have grown with the population and the hospital remains a critical part of our healthcare infrastructure. In addition to providing care for the

regions around Kaimukī and Diamond Head, Lē'ahi is part of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. As part of HHSC, Lē'ahi is part of the critical "safety net" for acute and long-term care across the state.

Senator Chang is pleased to announce that **\$641,397** has been secured to renovate Lē'ahi Hospital. The funding will be used to carry out various projects to ensure the hospital continues to provide vital care for the region. The office spoke with Sean Sanada, Chief Administrative Officer for the O'ahu Region of HHSC, to learn more about the impact of these funds.

Capital improvement funds will provide much needed support for the upkeep of Lē'ahi's facilities, says Sanada. He continues that "For Fiscal Year [20]25, CIP funds will be used to replace a worn out exhaust fan on the Young Building to meet building ventilation requirements; replace deteriorated valves on the wet/dry standpipes for all the buildings to ensure that water lines are accessible in the event of a fire; replace the heat pump in the Young Building which generates the hot water for the patient bathrooms; replace deteriorated windows throughout the Young Building; and repaint the exterior of the Young Building."

According to Sandra, given that the hospital is well over a century old, these upgrades and new safety projects will "bolster the facility's structural integrity and ensure that our operations remain compliant with all applicable safety regulations. The other projects will make the facility more aesthetically comfortable for our residents, visitors, and staff."

"Over the next several years, the number of residents in Hawai'i who will require long-term care services is expected to grow tremendously. Toward that end, the [hospital] truly appreciates the support and understanding the legislature has extended to us as a safety-net provider of long-term care. These projects

continued from previous page

*among my friends on the trip. Besides (some of the best) physical gifts I was given, what I was truly able to take back with me from this experience was joy.*

*Every single event and interaction I had been through on the trip was so amazing that I felt so blessed the entire time. I was also so thankful to leave the trip taking back a newfound experience after viewing a new culture that was so similar yet so different to what we have here in Hawai'i.*

Kalani offers numerous exchanges throughout the year to Japan, Korea, and China including:

- Koyo Gakuin High School  
Hiroshima, Japan
- Hokkaido Obihiro Hakuyou High School  
Hokkaido, Japan
- Iwakuni High School  
Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan
- Ritsumeikan Uji Junior and Senior High School  
Kyoto, Japan
- Osaka Gakuin University  
Osaka Prefecture, Japan
- Busan Computer Science High School  
Busan, South Korea
- U.S. Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge  
Chengdu, China



Seniors Kalina Hotema and Leyna Ko in Chengdu, China. (Images by Kalani Principal Mitchell Otani)

enable the long-term care and other important programs to continue providing services in a safe environment." Capital improvement funding is an important method of ensuring Lē'ahi Hospital can continue to provide exemplary service to the community and the state. District 9 will see clear benefits from these important renovations!

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## BILLS PASSED IN 2024



Image Credit: PhotoShelter

The 2024 legislative session has adjourned. 262 bills passed the Legislature and are on the Governor's desk for his consideration now. Please find noteworthy bills below, especially those affecting housing policy.

### Housing Bills

**HB1763: Relating to Housing**  
Amends the permitted uses of and priority for which moneys in the Rental Housing Revolving Fund are to be used. Prohibits the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation from forgiving any loan made from the Rental Housing Revolving Fund. Repeals the authorization to use Rental Housing Revolving Fund to provide grants.

**SB2066: Relating to Housing**  
Establishes another means for a housing project to seek an exemption from laws and rules of the State that are developed under various programs of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

**SB2337: Relating to Housing**  
Expands the counties' authorization to exercise the same powers as the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation for purposes of developing, constructing, financing, refinancing, or providing mixed-use developments.

**HB1760: Relating to State Finances**  
Authorizes the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, subject to legislative approval, to secure a line of credit or other instrument of indebtedness for the bond volume cap recycling program.

**SB1170: Relating to Affordable Housing Credits**  
Requires the counties to issue affordable housing credits for affordable housing units that are constructed under the various programs of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

**SB3202: Relating to Urban Development**  
Requires the counties to adopt or amend an ordinance to allow at least two accessory dwelling units, subject to

certain restrictions, on all residentially zoned lots.

**SB2133: Relating to Housing**  
Authorizes the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to issue bonds for housing project infrastructure and finance the development of regional state infrastructure projects.

### Non-housing Bills

**SB1035: Relating to the General Excise Tax**  
Exempts from the general excise tax those medical and dental services provided by health care providers to patients who receive Medicaid, Medicare, or TRICARE benefits.

**HB2042: Relating to Mental Health**  
Appropriates funds for the Department of Health to contract for the provision of youth mental health and wellness services to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State.

**SB2079: Relating to the Importation of Plants & Animals**  
Allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

**SB2350: Relating to Noise Pollution**  
Establishes a separate prohibition on driving motor vehicles with noisy mufflers on public highways in high density population areas. Establishes separate fines for violations of motor scooter and vehicle muffler laws.

**SB2401: Relating to Feral Chickens**  
Requires the Department of Agriculture to work with each county to implement feral chicken control programs and feeding of feral animals education campaigns. Requires each county to match the funds expended by the Department of Agriculture for the implementation of the feral chicken control program and feeding of feral animals education campaign in that county.

**SB3011: Relating to Noise**  
Makes it unlawful for any person to operate a weed whacker in or within one hundred feet of a residential zone, subject to certain exceptions. Extends the time for the use of leaf blowers and weed whackers within or near residential zones. Provides exceptions for government entities and agents acting on behalf of government entities during emergencies.

**SB3242: Relating to Transportation**  
Requires the Department of Transportation or county transportation agency having jurisdiction over roads, highways, or similar infrastructure to evaluate high-risk or dangerous corridors or intersections and plan strategies for mitigation.

# YOUR CONCERNS

## BEWARE OF SCAM PHONE CALLS TARGETING LICENSED PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is advising the public to be aware of phone scammers impersonating state officials targeting licensed professionals and businesses with false threats of investigation. Reports indicate that individuals impersonating state officials have contacted at least two current or former licensees stating that the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) had filed a complaint against them. To add credibility to the fraudulent calls, the perpetrators utilized caller ID spoofing to make it seem that the calls were coming from the DCCA Professional and Licensing Division (PVL).

The reports involve licensees in the medical professionals, a physician and psychologist, purportedly contacted by the Hawai'i Medical Board. It is a concern that calls may be targeting medical professionals such as nurses, pharmacists, and others. A professional or vocational licensee that is under investigation by the department would first be notified in writing from RICO, which is not affiliated with any out-of-state agency or task force. Notices from RICO are sent on official letterhead and



### **BEWARE!** Phone Call Scams *Targeting Licensed Professionals*

Scammers are using caller ID spoofing to make calls appear to come from RICO or the Hawai'i Medical Board. Remember, RICO will notify you in writing first about any investigations and never asks for sensitive info over the phone.

Hang up on suspicious calls and verify legitimacy by calling a known, researched phone number yourself instead of relying on caller ID.

For further assistance or to report suspicious calls:

**808-586-3000**



Image Credit: Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

include contact information for all RICO offices. RICO never requests private or sensitive information over the phone, solicits wire transfers, or verbally suspends licenses. Only the board has the authority to suspend a license through formal written action. Additionally, PVL, through its 52 licensing programs, does not initiate contact with the public regarding formal investigations. The PVL programs may however contact applicants and licensees to check on the status of an application, request additional information, etc.

If you receive a suspicious call, hang up without sharing personal information. Verify the caller's legitimacy by contacting the agency using a known, verified phone number (found at [cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/contact](http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/contact)) instead of relying on caller ID. Impersonating a public servant is a criminal offense and will be investigated and prosecuted.

If you have received any calls similar to what has been described above or are seeking to verify contact from DCCA, please call your respective licensing program or PVL at 808-586-3000. A list of programs and contact information is available at [cca.hawaii.gov/pvl](http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl).

**SENATOR STANLEY CHANG** SENATE DISTRICT 9

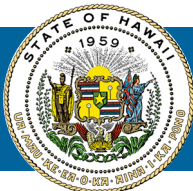
**We're Hiring for a Committee Clerk**

*The Committee Clerk does the following:*

- Bill Drafting - Review bills and committee reports
- Bill Tracking - Track all housing and non-housing bills introduced by Senator Chang
- Testimony Processing - Summarize and process testimony for posting on the Capitol website
- Committee Hearings - Schedule Senate Housing committee hearings and prepare hearing materials
- Research - Investigate research questions and draft memos
- Newsletter & Event Planning - Distribute weekly housing newsletter via MailChimp and help coordinate housing delegations and conferences
- Office Support - Support the office in constituent work as necessary

Send a cover letter and resume to [t.ng@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:t.ng@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Image Credit: Office of Senator Chang



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**SENATOR STANLEY CHANG**

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