

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

January 2023



Image Credit: Rotary Club of Kāhala Sunrise

Interview with Principal Oda from Kāhala Elementary

This past October, Kāhala Elementary received the 2022 National Blue Ribbon School Recognition award. Senator Chang's office followed up with Kāhala Elementary's Principal Sara Oda to discuss how the school received this award and its future plans.

Kāhala Elementary was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School because of its continuous academic growth and efforts toward closing the achievement gap between students. Teachers actively meet the needs of the highest achieving students and also students who require more guidance and structure. Each grade level has standards for reading and math proficiency skills that are directly targeted by teachers. To master these skills, teachers have found that small group instruction is important and effective. In order to move on to the next skill, students must master the prior skill first. The teachers are proactive in assisting and instructing students in their efforts.

Principal Oda cites the pandemic as a difficult time for teachers and students to adapt to a new way of learning. Online teaching presented challenges with technology and a lack of in-person interactions, but something good that arose was the discovered value of working in small groups to meet the needs of students. Post-lockdown, the students were very excited to come back to school and see their friends.

In-person learning is beneficial to students' learning and their social, emotional, and mental health.

In recent years, Kāhala Elementary's classrooms have received modern upgrades such as flat-screen TVs, the AirPlay feature for teachers to connect their screens to the TV, and iPads for teachers to walk around and help students see explanations closer up.

In addition to supporting students' learning, Kāhala

Elementary has two sets of character-building goals for their students outlined by the General Learner Outcomes (GLOs) and the Nā Hopena A'o Statements. The GLOs are for students to become self-directed learners, complex thinkers, quality producers, effective communicators, and effective users of technology. The Nā Hopena A'o Statements are to build a strengthened sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total well-being, and Hawai'i.

"Kāhala Elementary does not prepare students for one kind of future career, we provide the foundations for students to be successful," says Principal Oda. Kāhala Elementary uses an exploratory approach for students to discover their passions through traditional core subjects in the classroom, as well as courses such as Music, Art, PE, Garden, Kūpuna, and Library. These special classes offer students more opportunities to work in groups, develop their communication skills, and develop a sense of belonging and pride in their community.

Principal Oda says that if she could add one course to Kāhala Elementary's curriculum, it would be an Exploratory Technology Space. This course would present students with the opportunity to use technology to problem solve with no wrong answers.

In the coming months, Kāhala Elementary looks forward to a potential Blue Ribbon Celebration for students and families to highlight their work, as well as having families back on campus.

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808-768-3200

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IN THE COMMUNITY

NEW TRACK & FIELD AT KALANI HIGH SCHOOL



Image Credit: Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Construction of the brand-new Kalani High School track and field will commence next month.

In November 2022, former Governor Ige released \$2.96 million to go toward the improvement of Kalani High School's track and field,

supplementing the \$3.4 million that was approved in the summer of 2022. This much-needed project was in the making for a while; over \$6 million was allocated for the project, but it was broken up into two allotments due to funding lapses. Representative Mark Hashem and Senator Stanley Chang worked to secure funding for the track and field renovation.

Senator Chang adds that "Representative Mark Hashem and I have been fighting for a new track for Kalani High School for years, and I'm grateful that former Governor Ige has released the funds for it. The track has been a resource for the students as well as the entire community, and I

hope everyone will take advantage of the new track in the future to stay healthy."

Mitchell Otani, principal of Kalani High School, reports the project has gone out to bid and estimates construction to begin in February 2023. The grass field will be replaced with artificial turf, and the dirt field will be rubberized.

Many utilize the field, from sports teams to the marching band, and even physical education classes. Principal Otani says this project will greatly benefit Kalani students and the broader community. "This will be a welcome addition to the school and those who pass by on the Kalaniana'ole Highway."

KCC'S NEXT CHANCELLOR: MISAKI TAKABAYASHI

Misaki Takabayashi has been recommended to be Kapiolani Community College's (KCC) next chancellor. Her recommendations come from Vice President of KCC, Erika Lacro, and University of Hawai'i President David Lassner. Takabayashi will be appointed on March 1, 2023.

Takabayashi has an impressive résumé and set of life experiences in Australia, Hilo, and most recently in Okinawa. With over 20 years of higher-education background, her knowledge and global experiences will allow her to bring a new and multicultural perspective to KCC.

She currently is the Associate Vice President / Vice Dean of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology in Japan. Before going to Okinawa, Takabayashi served as interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for College of Arts and Sciences, and Department Chair for Marine Science at UH Hilo.

Prior to her administrative duties, Takabayashi worked as a marine science researcher at UH Hilo. She specializes in coral reef molecular biology and led Hawai'i Island-based research with both

undergraduate and graduate students. Takabayashi did extensive studying herself earning a Doctorate of Philosophy in Marine Science from the University of Queensland, Master and Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Sydney, and an associate degree in Applied Science in Hawaiian Studies from Hawai'i Community College

In a recent interview, Takabayashi says that she looks forward to helping students realize their potential and ability to make an impact on the world.

Louise Pagotto, the current KCC Chancellor, retired on December 30, 2022 after nearly 33 years at KCC and 51 years in the education field. Maria Bautista will serve as interim Chancellor on January 3 until Takabayashi becomes chancellor in March.



Image Credit: UH News

MOVING FORWARD



Image Credit: SHRM

New Year, New Health Insurance?

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Insurance Division is encouraging Hawai'i residents to log in or visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to take advantage of federal subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress in August.

The Insurance Division recently approved a rate increase

proposed by HMSA and Kaiser. The average 2% increase is expected to affect 34,000 individuals currently purchasing Affordable Care Act individual plans. By law, rate increases cannot be excessive, inadequate, or discriminatory.

Colin M. Hayashida, an insurance commissioner, advises "Don't assume the plan you signed up for is the right plan for you in the coming year. We encourage everyone to review the plan options to make sure you have the right coverage for your needs."

The open enrollment period allows qualified individuals and families to get comprehensive health insurance coverage. For coverage that begins on January 1, 2023, the enrollment period ends on December 15, 2022. For coverage that begins on February 1, 2023, the enrollment period ends on January 15, 2023.

Residents currently enrolled in plans should be rolled over into the same or similar plan if they don't make any changes to their coverage. Individuals previously not qualified or enrolled in an Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan should also visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) as their circumstances might have changed.

Be REAL ID Ready

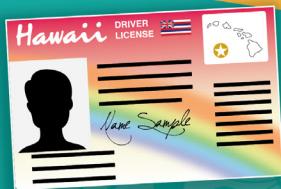


Image Credit: City and County of Honolulu

By May 7, 2025,

Your driver's license must have a "star" in a gold circle in the upper right-hand corner to board domestic flights and access certain federal buildings



The Department of Homeland Security has again pushed back its enforcement deadline of the REAL ID from May 3, 2023, to **May 7, 2025**. It features a star in a gold circle in the upper right-hand corner of a driver's license or state ID and will be required to fly within the state and country beginning May 7, 2025. In addition, some federal buildings in the state will require a valid REAL ID to enter.

Kim Hashiro, director of the city's Department of Customer Services, says they "are extremely

encouraged that a significant number of O'ahu residents have driver's licenses that already meet the security standards established by the REAL ID Act."

There is no fee to obtain the REAL ID. Residents who have yet to get theirs need to make an appointment for an in-person visit to a driver licensing center with a completed application and the required documents here: honolulu.gov/cms-csd-menu/site-csd-sitearticles/30333-gold-star-real-id.html. Schedule your appointment at alohaq.honolulu.gov.

AROUND HONOLULU



Image Credit: Hawai'i Theatre

HAWAI'I SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S BEETHOVEN RENDITIONS

Fans of classical music can look forward to renditions by Hawai'i's youth! The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is performing Ludwig Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 for three nights, conducted by Scott Yoo. Yoo is a renowned conductor, violinist, and host of Now Hear This, a PBS miniseries exploring revered composers, their works, and their connection to contemporary music, art, and culture. Symphony No. 7 is one of Beethoven's most famous, with the second movement (Allegretto) often making its way into popular culture.

The first performance, Beyond the Music: Dance Revolution (Beethoven 7), takes place at Moanalua High School's new Performing Arts Center on January 12th. Tickets are sold through the HSO Box Office at **(808) 380-7720**. Students can take advantage of \$5 tickets with a valid student ID or current class schedule.

Performances on the second and third night of Beethoven Symphony No. 7 will be held at the Hawai'i Theatre. Tickets for the January 14th and 15th concerts can be purchased online at hawaiiitheatre.com/upcoming-events2.

At the venues, Will Call tickets are available starting one hour before showtime.



Image Credit: Hawai'i Magazine

KCC FARMERS MARKET

If eating healthier is part of your New Year's resolution, swing down to the KCC Farmers Market on the side of Diamond Head.

Over 80 local vendors sell fresh produce, Hawai'i-made products, and ready-to-eat snacks and plates. The farmers market, located on the Kapi'olani Community College campus in Parking Lot B, across the street from the Diamond Head tunnel entrance, opens at 7:30 am and ends at 11 am every Saturday in January.

If you plan on taking the bus to the market, use routes #3, 22, or 58. Those traveling by car can park for free in Lots A, C, and E. More information about the market layout and a vendor map can be found on the Hawai'i Farm Bureau website: hfbf.org/farmers-markets/kcc.

WHAT THE TRUCK?!
Enjoy Local Food & Local Music

2nd Friday of the month at Kaka'ako Makai
Corner of Ward Ave & Ala Moana Blvd.
1011 Ala Moana Boulevard

LIVE MUSIC
at Kaka'ako Makai 6-8pm

Artist to be Announced

More Info: www.By-My-Standards.com

Friday JAN 13 2023
5 - 9 pm



FROM THE OFFICE OF
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