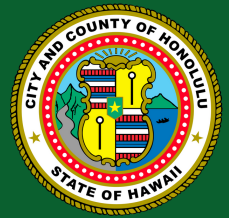


JUNE 2023



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



# Mayor's Highlights

## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rail Opening - Phase One
- Community Engagement
- City Projects Updates
- Vision Zero Survey

## RAIL OPENING - PHASE ONE

Mayor Rick Blangiardi announced the first phase of the City and County of Honolulu's long-awaited rail transit system will officially begin interim passenger operations at 2 p.m. on June 30, 2023, with a grand opening celebration at the Hālawa rail station featuring dignitaries and entertainment slated for earlier in the day. The first phase of the City's rail project covers a roughly 11-mile stretch between the Kualaka'i Station in East Kapolei and the Hālawa Station near Aloha Stadium. Passenger services to additional stations further east along the rail line are scheduled to commence in phases over the coming years.

“ This is truly a momentous and historic day for the island of O'ahu. Today's announcement marks the culmination of decades of hard work, perseverance and overcoming difficult challenges of every kind. We are all excited for the public to experience first-hand the transformative effect the rail will have for our island home. With today's announcement, we are turning the page on the largest public works project in Hawaii's history.

- Mayor Rick Blangiardi when announcing the rail phase one opening date. ”

**All rides on the new rail system will be free for the entire opening weekend, from 2 p.m. on June 30, the day the system opens, until the last train runs on Tuesday, July 4, 2023.** Additionally, TheBus will also be waiving fares for all riders between July 1 and July 4. Between 2 and 6 p.m. on June 30, rail passengers will be welcome to tour any of the nine stations that will be open for service and hop on any train, in either direction, free of charge. Fare gates at all nine stations will be open to all riders until service ends at 6 p.m. that evening. Beginning on Saturday, July 1, the first full day of rail service, passengers must have a valid HOLO card in order to take advantage of the free fare service. Riders will be required to tap their HOLO cards at fare gates to enter individual stations, but fares will not be deducted from those cards. Learn more about rail opening phase 1 and the free weekend at [honolulu.gov/rail](https://honolulu.gov/rail).

## A CLOSER LOOK AT RAIL PHASE ONE

### RAIL & BUS CONNECTIONS

With rail service ending at Aloha Stadium during Phase One, additional bus routes are being added and existing routes are being improved to ensure a smooth and easy transfer to Kalihi, Down Town, and points east. Many of these bus routes will come every 10 minutes. Learn more about bus-rail connections at [honolulu.gov/rail](https://honolulu.gov/rail).

### HOW TO HOLO

Using a HOLO card is easy and convenient. Simply purchase a card at any rail station kiosk or participating retail outlet, load it up, and tap to ride bus or rail. With your HOLO card account, you can manage your family's cards, reload funds, or transfer funds from lost cards. Learn more at [holocard.net](https://holocard.net).

# City Leadership in the Community

MEETINGS BRING CITY OFFICIALS INTO THE COMMUNITY

## Chinatown Community Meeting

Safety and economic conditions in Chinatown have been a long-standing issue for many in and outside of government. Last month, Mayor Blangiardi and key City leaders joined Chinatown community members for a meeting to discuss progress that has been made and areas that still need improvement.



A mix of concerned residents, community and business leaders joined the conversation about how to best work with the City to improve Chinatown for residents, businesses, and visitors. One topic that was highlighted was the need for continued collaborative approaches to problem-solving in Chinatown. From joint beautification efforts like Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park to safety programs like the Chinatown Law Enforcement Task Force, it is clear that everyone benefits when the City and community work together.

## Town Hall Meetings Wrap Up

Over 10 weeks from March 21 to May 25, 2023, Mayor Blangiardi and his cabinet members traveled to communities around O'ahu to host a series of 11 town hall meetings. From Kalani High School to Wai'anae District Park, Lā'ie Elementary School to 'Ewa Makai Middle School, and many points in between, meeting residents in their own neighborhoods was critical to ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to participate. Nearly 2,000 residents joined these meetings to make their voices heard on a wide variety of issues.

Nearly 16% of all questions asked at these meetings were for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). In Lā'ie, the City team talked about the North Shore's lack of public pools and committed to beginning the process to construct a pool in Kahuku with the aid of \$5 million in matching funds from AES. Many communities across O'ahu asked DPR about improving or creating skating rinks for roller skaters, hockey teams, and others to use. Following the meeting in Mililani, the City was able to repair the Mililani skating rink.

Residents also had many safety concerns. One concern in particular was brought to the City's attention and we have already been working to address it - ensuring that drivers are aware that the "move over" law includes responders like tow trucks. Please be sure to move over if you see any of these hardworking responders on the roadside!

To watch video recordings of all 11 town hall meetings, visit [oneoahu.org/townhall](https://oneoahu.org/townhall).



Mayor Blangiardi meets with constituents at a recent Town Hall meeting

### Town Halls - By the Numbers

- 2,000 attendees
- 304 questions asked
- 147 questions answered at meetings
- 157 follow-up conversations, emails, or meetings



Hear Mayor Blangiardi discuss his town hall tour, including his assessment of those eleven meetings and when we can expect the next round of meetings in the June 1, 2023 episode. Tune into the [One O'ahu podcast with Mayor Rick Blangiardi](#) each Thursday to hear updates on key happenings in the City and County of Honolulu. Have question? Submit it at [oneoahu.org/podcast](https://oneoahu.org/podcast) to hear an answer on a future episode.

Get the Mayor's Highlights newsletter in your inbox monthly. Sign up at [oneoahu.org/newsletter](https://oneoahu.org/newsletter).

## RED HILL UNIFIED VOICE

Mayor Blangiardi joined state and city leaders, including Governor Green and Ernie Lau of the Board of Water Supply, in May to sign a unified statement on Red Hill, calling for aquifer remediation and an integrated approach to resolving the water crisis. This comes as the Navy continues to make progress in their work to de-fuel and remediate the Red Hill site.

"It cannot be overstated that what is at stake regarding the quality and purity of our aquifer, is the health and well being of all of our people living on O'ahu now, and for future generations. There is no greater priority!" - Mayor Rick Blangiardi



## O'AHU BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANTS

The O'ahu Business Recovery Grants are part of Mayor Blangiardi's promise to help small businesses affected by the pandemic get back on their feet. The \$10 million program has awarded \$2.6 million in grants to 138 local companies to date, with more funds distributed every week. The average grant size has been about \$19,000, indicating that most of the help is going to "mom-and-pop" businesses.

OBR reopened for a second and final round of 375 applications in May. Eligibility was expanded in the second round so a broader range of small businesses could qualify.

The City and our partner the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii expect to distribute all \$10 million in the next few months. Learn more at [revitalizeoahu.org/oahubizgrant](https://revitalizeoahu.org/oahubizgrant).



## WAHIAWĀ FACILITY ADDED TO CITY'S PROPERTY INVENTORY

In May, the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Community Services completed a \$6 million acquisition of 360 California Avenue, the former location of Hope Treatment Services, in Wahiawā.



This is a 24-room service facility, each with separate bathroom and refrigerator. Eligible uses of this facility include low- to moderate-income rental units; shelters for persons and families experiencing homelessness; convalescent homes; and battered spouse shelters, to name a few. 51% of persons served must be at 80% of area median income or below.

This \$6 million facility adds another asset to the City's Special Needs Housing portfolio of 65 special needs properties, and is one of 6 properties serving the 96786 area. Learn more at [oneoahu.org/newsletter/#June2023](https://oneoahu.org/newsletter/#June2023).

## CITY RECEIVES 5TH NIGP ACCREDITATION AWARD

In May, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services Division of Purchasing was awarded a fifth consecutive accreditation as a Quality Public Procurement Department from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). This certification formally recognizes excellence in public procurement through the establishment of a body of standards that evidence sound procurement practice. It is a 3-year accreditation.

Honolulu is one of only 160 government agencies, and is the only purchasing department in the state of Hawaii, to receive this accreditation out of the more than 3,000 NIGP member agencies in the US and Canada.



## Vision Zero survey

In the decade from 2012 to 2021, on average one person a week died in a traffic crash on O'ahu. The City is committed to ending traffic deaths on O'ahu's streets and is developing a Vision Zero Action Plan to provide a roadmap to ZERO traffic fatalities.

The Vision Zero Action Plan will identify a host of actions to create a truly safe transportation system on O'ahu. To help us develop that Plan, please take a few minutes to fill out and share this new public survey on traffic safety.

For those who want to provide more personal feedback on their experience with traffic violence, please share your thoughts, experiences, and aspirations or to learn more about the City's Vision Zero Action Plan visit [surveymonkey.com/r/HonoluluVisionZero](https://surveymonkey.com/r/HonoluluVisionZero).

## Rhino Baby Born

The Honolulu Zoo welcomed a new baby Eastern black rhinoceros born on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, to parents Aria (mother) and Kendi (father). The male baby is the first offspring of the rhino couple who arrived at the Honolulu Zoo from San Diego last September and November. Learn more at [oahuoahu.org/newsletter/#June2023](https://oahuoahu.org/newsletter/#June2023).



### 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](https://honoluluhi.citysourced.com) to learn more!

### Get Emergency Notifications and City Services Updates

[HNL.info](https://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