

DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

MAY 2023

honoluluycitycouncil.org

COUNCILMEMBER TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

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Aloha Neighbors!

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and represent District 6 at the Honolulu City Council. Together, we will make our community safer and more equitable. I am excited to get started. Make sure you follow me on social media for regular updates! If you'd like to let us know about an issue that we can help to resolve, please feel free to contact my office. We're here to serve you!

-Tyler

Kanoa St Encampment Town Hall

Last month, CM Dos Santos-Tam organized a town hall with other City and State officials to discuss the issues that businesses and residents face with the large, persistent homeless encampment on Kanoa Street in Pālama. The ongoing vandalism, littering, property destruction, fights, fires, crimes, and hygiene issues originating from the encampment. In response to these concerns, I introduced and successfully passed Bill 3, which expands the City's "sit-lie ban" zone to cover parts of Kanoa Street, North King Street, and Pua Lane, in and around the central Pālama area business-zoned district and within a block of Ka'iulani Elementary School. The open discussion was productive and we were able to hear the many ideas the community has in helping to resolve this issue.



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam was joined by State House Representative Daniel Holt, HPD Corporal Leland Cadoy, Office of Housing Ailina Laborte, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Brady.

Prospect-'Iolani-Alapa'i Intesection Community Meeting



On April 5, CM Dos Santos-Tam brought together members of the Punchbowl community, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), and the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) together at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School to discuss possible solutions to the highly dangerous five way intersection at the corner of Prospect, 'Iolani, and Alapa'i Streets. Community members such as Makiki Neighborhood Board Chair Ian Ross were in attendance, as well as Sgt Brandon Shiraishi from HPD, Deputy Director of Transportation Services Jon Nouchi and Complete Streets Administrator Renee Espiau.

CM Dos Santos-Tam and staff worked with HPD and DTS to be able to provide resident answers to questions concerning the community and how to ensure safety and prevent any more tragedies from occurring in the area.

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BILLS & LEGISLATION

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FY2024 Budget Deliberations Continue

In the last several weeks my office has been carefully considering projects in my district that will impact the community and residents. The Chair of the Budget Committee, Councilmember Radiant Cordero and the Vice Chair is Councilmember Matt Weyer, will continue to hold committee hearings and consider the budget amendments each Councilmember is asking for on behalf of the community they're representing. The allocation of funds to different City departments, programs or projects will help to ensure our priorities will be closer to being actualized, such as increasing affordable housing, reducing homelessness, and helping to resolve the permit backlog that has persisted at the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam in the Council Chambers listening to testimony of the public and members of the community.

Bill 28: Cutting Down on Drug Overdoses

With the opioid crisis spreading nationally, including here in Hawai'i, CM Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 28 which would require bars and nightclubs to have doses of the anti-opioid spray naloxone, also called "Narcan" on premises. Because alcohol can interact with opioids in someone's system, these venues are places where there is a higher risk of a deadly overdose. "Narcan" was recently approved by the FDA for over-the-counter sales, and Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam is now working with the State Department of Health, the City's Liquor Commission, and private groups like HHHRC to make the required prevention doses available for free to bar and nightclub owners. This is a measure to protect public health and also to get "ahead of the curve," especially considering the 500% increase in opioid overdoses in Hawai'i between 2018-2020 and the 274 opioid overdose deaths in the islands in 2020 alone.



Scan to view the news story where various organizations and the City's Emergency Services Dept express support for Bill 28.

Bill 20: Restricted Parking Zones ("RPZ") and Upcoming Town Hall

On Tuesday, May 9th at Ka'ewai Elementary School, CM Dos Santos-Tam and Representative Mizuno are hosting a town hall meeting to discuss the City Council, Bill 20, which would allow the RPZ program to become permanent and create a framework for other neighborhoods to create an RPZ in their area.

How would Bill 20 affect the current RPZ zones?

Currently, all RPZs are temporary. Bill 20 would make the zones permanent. Currently, the only way to expand an RPZ is to pass a bill, which can take years. Bill 20 would allow the Department of Transportation to expand or change an RPZ at any time. Currently, households can purchase a maximum as four permits. Bill 20 would allow residents to apply for an exemption where they could purchase additional permits.

How would Bill 20 help areas without a current RPZ zone?

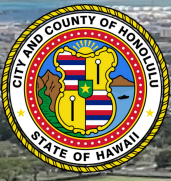
The current RPZ program can only be created after 1) residents sign and submit a petition, 2) the County becomes a study, and 3) the City Council passes a bill. Bill 20 makes it so an RPZ can be created at any time as long as there is a need and community support. At the moment the cost of an RPZ permit vary. Bill 20 would make permit costs the same for all RPZs.

Bill 21: Helping Affordable Housing in the Urban Core

With housing being a critical need in the community, and with the recent announcement that the downtown Walmart will be closing, the need to have policies to facilitate conversion of office or retail space into residential housing is more important than ever. Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam introduced Bill 21 to help align the Housing Code and the Building Code to streamline production of downtown apartments.



Scan to listen to CM Dos Santos-Tam's interview with Hawai'i Public Radio on Bill 21 and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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Honuakaha Elderly Housing Town Hall with Legislators

On April 12, CM Dos Santos-Tam, Speaker Scott Saiki, and Senator Sharon Moriawaki held a town hall for the residents of the Honuakaha Housing project in Kaka'ako. With the residents, the legislators heard the troubles that our kūpuna have been experiencing at the state-managed apartments. Issues raised included lack of building maintenance, unhygienic living conditions with black mold, and unsafe housing situations with faulty equipment and appliances. Adding to the difficulties faced by residents was a series of letters threatening eviction over tiny amounts of missed payments - in one case, as low as 50 cents. The area legislators are committed to working to improve conditions at this housing complex.



Left: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Sen. Moriawaki and Speaker Saiki talking with constituents about the issues they face residing in the apartment complex.

Touring the Sand Island Treatment Center

CM Dos Santos-Tam toured the Kline-Welsh Behavioral Health Foundation, previously known as the Sand Island Treatment Center, which recently relocated to Iwilei. The program prioritizes various social services, workforce experience, and financial literacy to high-risk populations that require extensive care. The program seeks to prepare people to live a sober, productive life, and is a key part of creating solutions to our island's homelessness problem.



Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam toured the Sand Island Treatment Center, guided by several staff members that went through the program themselves.

Kawananakoa Middle School KMS Festival

CM Dos Santos-Tam stopped by Kawananakoa Middle School's annual KMS Fest, which raises money for their Parent, Teacher, and Student Association. These funds go to support various on-campus and off-campus activities and clubs, all with the goal of enriching students' academic experience.



CM Dos Santos-Tam with Kawananakoa Middle School students excited to be at the event.

Recognizing Exceptional Kupuna Shizue Ishihara on her 102nd Birthday



I had the honor of celebrating Ms. Shizue Ishihara's 102nd birthday with her and her family. Born in April 12, 1921, the married mother of five found her passion in singing and dancing, which she would perform at the Fukushima Bon Dance yagura every summer. Shizue still has a lot of energy always laughing and enjoying her karaoke lessons with Sensei Dennis Oshiro, singing at Toma's with her friends, entering karaoke contests here in Hawai'i and Japan, occasionally bringing home plaques and trophies. She will continue to inspire others to keep a song in their heart.

CM Dos Santos-Tam with the Ishihara Family, celebrating the 102th birthday of their matriarch, Ms. Shizue Ishihara. Ms. Ishihara is a beloved member of the Furukawa Living Treasure Senior Activity Day Care Center in Kapālama.



CONSTITUENT UPDATES

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Honorary Certificate Recognizing the American Lung Association in Hawai'i



At the Council meeting on April 19th, CM Dos Santos-Tam recognized the American Lung Association in Hawai'i, which was established in 1934. We celebrated the Turquoise Ambassadors- turquoise is the signature color to increase, educate, and provide hope for those living with lung disease. The Ambassadors across Hawai'i are actively raising funds and awareness about the impact of lung disease on our state, our economy, and our residents. We recognized Paula Arenca, Kenny Cabanting, Valerie Davison, Cassie-Favreau-Chung, Cathy Foy, Consuelo Garcia, Cynthia J. Goto, Melody Higa, Krystal Hirayama, Adrienne Huang, Angela Keen, Remy Kobatake, Jordan Lee, Amanda Martinez, Nicole Nakamatsu, Kristy Nishida, Mami Ogiwara, Lukas Petersons, Patti Ponimoi, Troy Siruno, Bryan Talisayan, Bree Teixeira, Rachel Wagenman, Tina Wildberger, Jennifer Wong, Melanie Yamaguchi, Sterling Yee, and Kerry Yoshida. These individuals do great work in providing robust education campaigns to encourage all of Hawai'i residents to support early detection through lung cancer screening and advancements in research.

Above: CM Dos Santos-Tam was on a Sister Cities trip in the Philippines. However other Councilmembers were able to meet the honorary recipients of the American Lung Association in Hawai'i.



Visiting Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center

As part of a tour of various social service organizations assisting the homeless in the district, CM Dos Santos-Tam visited the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Iwilei. The program offers support for those who struggle with substance abuse. The center provides holistic work therapy, group and individual counseling sessions, spiritual direction and life-skills development, program participants learn to abandon substance reliance. The residential programs for men and women are offered to participants at no cost and funded by donated goods which are resold in their thrift stores.

CM Dos Santos-Tam toured the rehabilitation center with Major Ronalee Fenrich.

To view visit the Salvation Army website, [click here!](#)



Commemorating "Araw ng Kagitingan" (Day of Valor) in Honor of Filipino Veterans



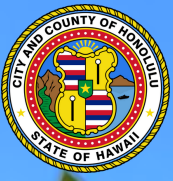
CM Dos Santos-Tam joined with local leaders and the Consul General of the Philippines in Hawai'i to commemorate Day of Valor, officially known as Araw ng Kagitingan, which is a national observance in the Philippines. The ceremony included the presence of Filipino WWII Veteran Oscar Bangui, as well as the participation of representatives of many of our allied countries. CM Dos Santos-Tam's great-grandfather was interned by Imperial forces at Santo Tomas University in Manila during WWII, which was liberated by American troops in February 1945.



Left: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Mayor Rick Blangiardi, fellow Councilmember Val Okimoto, and Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet.
Right: With 97 year old WWII Veteran, Oscar Bangui, his wife, and local teacher Elizabeth Obod Frilles.

Community Outcry After Sex Assault in Abandoned Bus in Iwilei

Following the heinous incident at an abandoned bus at a boarded up gas station in Iwilei, CM Dos Santos-Tam asked the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to investigate the ownership of the abandoned bus and whether it being abandoned on a private lot is in violation of City ordinances regarding permanent structures. DPP has responded that they have issued a Notice of Violation, and CM Dos Santos-Tam will continue to push for the abandoned bus to be removed. Residents should feel safe in their community, and so our office will continue to advocate for the removal of negative elements from our neighborhoods.



DISTRICT PROJECTS

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Chinatown Senior Housing Project Hits Milestone



The Halewaiolu Senior Residences ("HSR") project, which is going up at the corner of Vineyard Blvd and River St in Chinatown near Zippy's hit a major milestone in April, as the building was "topped off," meaning that construction had reached the top floor. HSR, which had been the topic of years of community discussion, is set for completion later this year and will feature 155 one- and two-bedroom apartments. The rents will range from \$735 to \$2,300. The complex will serve as a gathering place for kūpuna and will feature a courtyard, retail space, recreation deck, laundry room, community garden, and dog park. Other amenities will include a social activities center, social services offices, property management offices, storage, a computer room, and a mailroom. The complex is also located close to public transportation and has vehicle and bicycle parking stalls. Construction on Halewai'olu Senior Residences is expected to be completed in the late summer, with residents expected to move in by September.

CM Dos Santos-Tam speaking to construction crew members and community leaders gathered for the "topping off" ceremony for the Halewaiolu Senior Residences project. The \$93M development will help to revitalize the Chinatown area by adding new residents and amenities to an area which has long been underutilized.

City Launches O'ahu Compost Project in Chinatown

Three months into implementation, the O'ahu Compost Project continues to successfully divert food waste and excess food from O'ahu's waste stream. Edible, quality excess foods are redistributed to feed people, and food scraps are composted in an in-vessel composting unit that produces valuable soil amendment products. The O'ahu Compost Project was made possible by a grant awarded to the City and County of Honolulu to the Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency Office. Through this collaborative project, which brings local organizations together with the City government, it is hoped that we can reduce the amount of food waste produced, which comprises about 20% of the overall solid waste stream.

For more information on the project, click here!



At Right: Henry Gabriel of the City's Department of Environmental Services in Chinatown showing off the new containers for restaurant food waste to be repurposed into rich, plant-healthy compost.

AFL-CIO Labor of Love Project Gives Back to the Kalihi Community

CM Dos Santos-Tam joined with community members at Sanford B. Dole Middle School for an event brought together by numerous unions that donate their time and supplies to beautify the school. The event was attended by at least two hundred people willing to help out and support the school. After the painting and building repair work was done youth, students, friends, and family went into the cafeteria to participate in a career fair that helps those who are interested in unions or joining a union to get more information.



Above CM Dos Santos-Tam and community and union members to help improve and beautify the outside of the school with paint and with making school benches.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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DPP Revokes Permit for Hanai Lp Monster Home; Cites Liliha Project

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has revoked the building permit for a large dwelling at 1532 Hanai Loop in Kamehameha heights, which was in violation of the city's "monster homes" ordinance. CM Dos Santos-Tam and Representative John Mizuno inquired into the project, and soon thereafter, DPP re-reviewed the plans and determined that incorrect information was provided to DPP, including the floor area ratio (FAR) that exceeded a threshold under the city's monster homes ordinance. The FAR is significant in determining the applicable restrictions under the ordinance. The project also exceeds the number of permitted bathrooms, and does not provide sufficient side yards and parking. Since last summer, the DPP has implemented systems to catch potential "monster homes" during the code review process, but its rollout has been uneven. For the property at 2037 Liliha Street, DPP cited the property on two separate occasions, one on January 18th, due to the first floor not being in accordance with the approved jobsite plans, in turn, an Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued. The second time DPP visited the property and found the violation was not corrected, this caused the department to issue an Notice of Order (NOO) on February 28th. On the third site visit the inspector found no new building code violations beyond the two which were previously cited.



To view the HPR story click here!



Volunteer Chinatown Clean Up Efforts Continue

Thanks to the efforts of nearly 200 volunteers, 'A'ala Park, College Walk, Sun Yat-Sen Mall and Kila Kalikimaka Mall in Chinatown got a much-needed facelift on April 29. Volunteers from over 20 organizations participated in this event, which is the 12th cleanup organized by American Savings Bank in the area since 2015. Provided with gloves, t-shirts, trash bags and other supplies, volunteers helped to clean, paint, remove trash, weed and rake leaves, and more.

Top: CM Dos Santos-Tam with Ann Teranishi of American Savings Bank and Mike Young, incoming President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Bottom: Mike Young, incoming President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, CM Dos Santos-Tam, and Neighborhood Board #14 Chair and longtime Chinatown booster Wes Fong.



Mark your calendars for future park clean ups organized by CM Dos Santos-Tam's office:

Dole Community Park: July 8

Kauluwela Park: September 16

Kamali'i Mini Park: August 27

Peter Buck Park: November 5

Summer Fun Registration Begins on May 9th in our District

The City's Dept of Parks and Recreation has announced that the popular Summer Fun Program will be offered on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Tues, June 13 through Fri, July 28 (not including holiday on July 4). Summer Plus activities, before and/or after the regular program times, and separate seasonal classes and activities, commonly referred to as "enrichment classes" will be offered at various sites.

Children must be six years old before August 1, 2023 and not older than 13 years old by July 28, 2023 to take part in the program. Summer Fun welcomes Junior Leaders, who must be 13 years old before August 1, 2023 and no older than 17 years old by July 28, 2023 to qualify.

This year's Summer Fun registration fee is \$25.00 per keiki, with an additional activity fee of no more than \$100 for participating sites that offer extra-curricular activities. All combined fees will not exceed \$125 per keiki. Eligible families may qualify for waivers of the registration fee thanks to assistance from the U.S. Department of Human Services (DHS).

DPR will also be offering meals to keiki through the Summer Food Service Program, which is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, with assistance from Federal ARPA funds.

Summer Fun Sites in our District include: Beretania Park, Booth Park, Fern Park, Kalihi Valley District Park, Kauluwela Park, Lanakila Park, and Pu'unui Park

Registration for the Parks in our District starts on May 9 at 4 p.m.

More information, including how to register for Summer Fun, is available at www.honolulu.gov/parks or by scanning this QR code:

