FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

December 2025

A REFLECTION OF A SUCCESSFUL 2025

As I reflect on 2025, I am grateful for a successful and impactful year. We secured millions of dollars for capital improvement projects throughout Senate District 9. Many of my bills became law, and my office helped address numerous constituents concerns. I am proud to share some of the highlights of 2025.

In Senate District 9, we helped secure the following funding for capital improvement projects, among others:

- Over $1.8 million to build more preschool classrooms at Kāhala and Waiʻalae Elementary Schools.
- $1 million for upgrades to Kaimukī Middle School's STEM lab.
- $1 million to build a pickleball and basketball court with a screened wall at the Hawaiʻi School for Deaf & Blind.

I am also happy that my office helped address and resolve the following constituent issues:

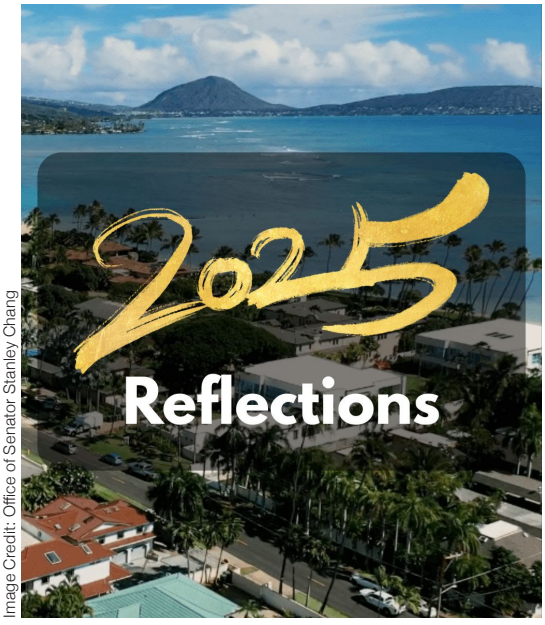


Image Credit: Office of Senator Stanley Chang

- Unfreezing disability payments for qualified beneficiaries.
- Expediting the application process for SNAP applicants, improving prolonged wait times.
- Assisting homeowners with the building permit process.
- Connecting constituents to local agencies responsible for maintenance of public property.
- and many others!

Finally, many of our bills became law. Some of the notable legislation that is now law includes:

- **SB 30, Act 222**: requires helmets for moped drivers and passengers.
- **SB 332, Act 105**: prohibits sellers of mortgaged properties from bundling properties at a public foreclosure sale.
- **HB 1409, Act 159**: promotes more investment in higher density residential development near transit.
- **SB 79, Act 311**: requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine the effect of any proposed state or county housing projects that may affect historical properties.

2025 was a successful year. We made an impact in the legislature and throughout Senate District 9. We look forward to another year of hard work and service to the public. To learn more about our success in 2025, please email or call my office at **(808) 586-8420**.



CALL US

808-586-8420

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HANDY CONTACTS

State Pothole Hotline
808-586-7852

City Pothole Hotline
808-768-7777

State Homelessness
gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
808-586-0193

City Homelessness
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

TWO BILL IDEAS SELECTED IN 1ST ANNUAL 'THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW' CONTEST

Two submissions were selected in Senator Chang's 1st annual "There Ought to be a Law!" contest. The bills seek to increase instructional hours at public schools and expand lung cancer screening in the State of Hawai‘i.

The first bill proposes raising the minimum annual instructional hours beyond Hawai‘i’s current requirement of 1080 hours. The contestant winner stated that Hawai‘i’s fewer instructional hours can be linked to poor academic achievement. Other U.S. states with higher school performance have mandated over 1200 instructional hours per year. Studies indicate that even modest increases in instructional days or hours can produce measurable gains in student achievement, reinforcing the link between time and learning outcomes.

The other contestant winner proposes to promote increased lung cancer screening. Currently, lung cancer is the leading cause of death from cancer in Hawai‘i. Early detection is critical for successful treatment. In Hawai‘i, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians experience disproportionately higher lung cancer diagnosis rates. The bill proposes lung cancer screening information be included at the point-of-sale for cigarettes and inserted in cigarette cartons. This idea is consistent with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines, which seeks to identify lung cancer early, treat the disease and reduce mortality rates. Overall, the bill highlights the importance of targeted screening efforts.

Both bill ideas seek to address critical issues in health care and education in the State of Hawai‘i. For more information about this legislation, or if you have ideas for how to improve our community, please call us at (808) 586-8420.



Image Credit: Image by Hawai‘i State Senate

2025 HONOLULU MARATHON: A RUN IN PARADISE

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 14, 2025, as the Honolulu Marathon is set to return to the heart of Honolulu, Hawai‘i. This race invites all runners, requiring no time limit and no qualifying standard. The 26.2 mile course displays Honolulu’s beauty to marathoners, starting from Ala Moana Boulevard at 5am, then advancing through famous landmarks and Waikīkī Beach. The course includes the epic 1-mile Kalākaua Merrie Mile race in Waikīkī. The path continues around Diamond Head and finishes at Kapi‘olani Park in Senate District 9.

The organizers will provide 16 different aid stations, energy gels, medical support, and portable restrooms to get you through the race. Parking for the Honolulu Marathon is very limited. Runners and spectators are strongly encouraged to use ride-share, shuttles, or public transportation.

If you plan on participating, make sure you prepare! The Honolulu Marathon has an official partnership with Runna, offering personalized training plans, including strength training. It is also recommended that marathoners have adequate nutrition and hydration. For more information, please visit JAL Honolulu Marathon | 26.2 miles in Paradise.



Image Credit: JAL Honolulu Marathon

Hawai‘i Energy Rebates Offer Savings as Households Upgrade Aging Appliances

Hawai‘i Energy is encouraging residents to consider replacing older and inefficient energy appliances with modern, energy-saving models. Their rebate programs offer families affordable upgrades and helps families cut annual electricity costs.

Many homes still rely on aging refrigerators, washers, and water heaters that require significantly more power than today’s ENERGY STAR® certified options. These older units can quietly add hundreds of dollars to yearly electricity bills. By transitioning to newer, more efficient appliances, residents can reduce long-term energy use while contributing to Hawai‘i’s broader clean-energy goals.

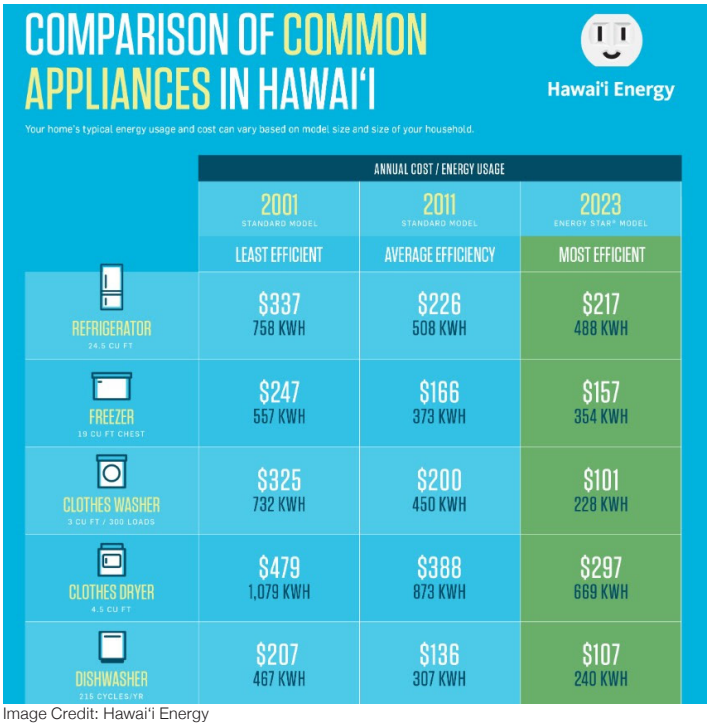


Image Credit: Hawai‘i Energy

Hawai‘i Energy’s rebates are designed to ease the financial burden of making these improvements. Incentives are available for a wide range of home appliances, including refrigerators, clothes washers, heat pumps, water heaters, air conditioners, and smart thermostats. Additional rebates are offered for recycling old refrigerators, which helps remove inefficient units from circulation altogether.

For many households, these incentives make a meaningful difference, turning what might otherwise feel like a costly purchase into a smart, long-term investment. Residents interested in exploring available rebates can find full details online here. Information also includes estimated cost savings and the benefits of upgrading.

If you’re unsure which upgrades will make the biggest difference for your home, Hawai‘i Energy also provides guidance and customer support for residents who want to better understand their options.



Image Credit: Office of Senator Stanley Chang

TAKE THE POLL, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Senator Stanley Chang wants to hear from you!

What do you believe were the most successful accomplishments of 2025? What issues should be the main priorities in 2026? As we reflect on a successful year, we are asking our constituents to weigh in by taking a quick poll!

Your input helps guide us in shaping our priorities. Your insight helps us ensure that our priorities truly reflect the needs of our constituents. Take a moment to share your thoughts and help shape the priorities for 2026. Together, we can ensure that our community gets the attention it needs.

For more information, please feel free to email us.

OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE ON DECEMBER 15

As the year draws to a close, so does the window for securing health care coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace. The annual open enrollment deadline is on December 15, giving individuals and families just a short time left to review options, update their information, and choose a plan that will take effect on January 1.

This deadline is especially important for residents who experienced changes in income, employment, or household composition during the past year. Even those who already have Marketplace coverage are encouraged to revisit their account, subsidies often shift year to year, and updated information can result in more affordable monthly premiums.

Open enrollment serves as the primary opportunity for most Americans to secure health insurance or adjust their existing plans. Outside this period, only those who qualify for a Special Enrollment Period, typically due to life events such as marriage, loss of coverage, or relocation, can apply. For everyone else, December 15 is the final date to ensure uninterrupted access to doctor visits, preventive care, prescriptions, and other essential health services throughout 2025.

To complete an application, individuals should have several pieces of information ready. This includes Social Security numbers for all household members applying for coverage, dates of birth, and, if applicable, immigration documents. Applicants will also need to provide income details such as recent pay stubs, W-2s, or 1099 forms. Those who currently have insurance should have their policy numbers available, as well as information about any employer-sponsored coverage offered to members of the household.

Many families may also qualify for premium tax credits or cost-sharing reductions that significantly reduce monthly and out-of-pocket costs. To apply or for more information, please visit HealthCare.gov. After reviewing available options, and comparing premiums, deductibles, networks, and prescription coverage, users can enroll immediately!



Image Credit: Healthcare.gov

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