

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

January 2026



Join Us for 2026 Housing Preview as Legislative Session Starts On January 21

The 2026 legislative session is quickly approaching!

The Hawai'i state legislature opens the 2026 legislative session on Wednesday, January 21 at 10AM. Senator Chang's legislative priorities for the upcoming session are to reform state housing finance and to expand existing state homeownership programs.

You can learn more about Senator Chang's housing priorities on Friday, January 16, 2026. Senate Housing Chair Stanley Chang and House Housing Chair Luke Euslin are hosting a briefing to share their legislative priorities for the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session.

The preview is open to the public and will take place from 1PM-2:30PM. Q&A will follow the presentations. Members of the public can attend in-person at the

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, or online via Zoom. If you plan to attend, please RSVP here: senate-capitol-hawaii.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c3toIw-mRsWja4DVBbUhKw.



Image Credit: Office of Senator Stanley Chang

▶ CALL US

808-586-8420

▶ EMAIL US

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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

FREE

2026 WORLD WETLANDS DAY AT KEAWĀWA WETLAND

Educational & Interactive Booths
Wetland Bird Tours
Speaker Series
Mālama 'āina Activities
Local Craft Vendors

SATURDAY 07 FEB 2026 **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
Fun for the Family

Wetlands and traditional knowledge:
Celebrating cultural heritage

Hāwea Heiāu Complex & Keawāwa Wetland
6888 Hawaii Kai Drive, 96825

More Info at:
<https://www.lhkh.org/events/wwd-2026>

Logan's Boats, Oahu Club, Livable Haunaula Hui, World Wetlands Day, Pacific Birds, Hawaii Wildlife Fund

World Wetlands Day 2026 aims to celebrate the vital role of wetlands and native birds, fostering respect for natural and cultural resources. This event will feature informative booths from local wetland organizations, a speaker series will blend Western science with traditional Hawaiian practices to deepen understanding of Hawai'i's heritage, while guided tours and hands-on activities at Keawāwa Wetland will empower active participation in conservation efforts, ensuring the preservation of Hawai'i's wetlands and native species.

This event is free and open to the public.

World Wetlands Day is recognized globally through the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. While the official 2026 theme is Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage, we will also be highlighting how wetlands support our native waterbirds. For more information, please visit Livable Hawaii Kai Hui.

Image Credit: Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

WILSON ELEMENTARY IN EAST HONOLULU RECOGNIZED AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

The Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) recognized Mayor John H. Wilson Elementary School as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This recognition highlights the high academic achievement at the school as a result of the incredible work of teachers, staff, administrators, and students. Wilson Elementary was one of three schools on O'ahu that received the Blue Ribbon recognition.

"Blue Ribbon Schools have historically represented the very best in teaching and learning across the country," said Superintendent Keith Hayashi. "We are extremely proud to honor Mānana Elementary, Wilson Elementary and Mililani Mauka Elementary as models of innovation, excellence and student success, where students are empowered to be globally competitive and locally committed. This achievement reflects the dedication of students, teachers, staff and families working together."

All three schools are first-time recipients and are formally recognized under the former federal program's "Exemplary High-Performing Schools" category, for high performance on state assessments. Wilson Elementary exceeded statewide averages by 21 percentage points in English language arts, 33 points in math, and 24

points in science.

Wilson Elementary's robust curriculum includes STEM, library studies, physical education, music, world language, Hawaiian studies and computer science. After-school programs such as band, sports, performing arts, and language clubs help develop the whole child. The school emphasizes visible learning, encouraging students to set goals, track their progress and reflect on their growth. Instruction is differentiated through small-group learning and rich student dialogue designed to deepen understanding. Teachers use data to inform academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports tailored to individual needs.

For more information, please contact Krislyn Yano with the Hawai'i Department of Education at **(808) 784-6200**.



Image Credit: Hawai'i Department of Education

SENATE JUDICIARY HOSTS BRIEFING ON FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES IN HAWAI'I

On December 8, 2025, the Hawai'i Senate Judiciary Committee hosted an informational briefing on the effects of federal immigration policies on Hawai'i. This briefing was part of the Judiciary Committee's legislative series examining the "Rule of Law" to ensure constitutional protections are upheld for all Hawai'i residents against federal overreach. Local immigration organizations, including The Legal Clinic, UH Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic, Maui Immigration Law, and the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, provided testimony of what they are experiencing in the field.

Here are some notable observations from legal experts regarding federal immigration policies:

- **Sudden Surge in Detentions:** The UH Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic reported a sharp increase in calls from the Honolulu Federal Detention Center in 2025, after receiving zero calls in the previous two years.
- **Establishment of Hotline:** In response to this surge, the clinic launched a new Immigration Detention Hotline (808-204-5951)
- **Lack of Transparency:** The Legal Clinic and the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights reported that federal authorities are denying access to counsel and withholding information about who is being detained.

- State Resistance Strategy: Recommendations were made to legally resist federal overreach, specifically by ensuring state and county resources do not assist in enforcement actions that violate local norms.
- Community Fear: Advocates emphasized the widespread confusion and fear within immigrant communities, driven by the unpredictability and aggression of the new enforcement measures.

For more information, please contact the Senate Judiciary Committee at **(808) 586-6131**.



Image Credit: Hawai'i State Senate

Application for 2026 Sustainability Fellowship Program for High School Students due January 10

Applications are now open for the 2026 Sustainability Fellowship Program. The program enables high school students to engage with sustainability challenges facing our local and global community due to climate change.

Specifically, the Sustainability Fellowship offers students a transformative educational experience focused on sustainability, leadership and innovation. The program is intended for approximately 20 students from across the

summer before a student's tenth or eleventh grade and runs through the following summer. The schedule for the fellowship includes the following:

Summer Session #1, June 8 – July 17, 2026

Students spend six weeks in the program with an expected commitment of six hours per day. They focus on sharpening critical-thinking skills by exploring essential questions around sustainability, engaging in experiential learning activities, and building relationships with community partners.

Intervening School Year (2026 – 27)

Fellows will meet monthly during the academic school year to receive mentoring. During the academic year, students will also pursue a research-based Sustainability Challenge Project, which will help them to define an essential topic that they will explore during the program's second summer session.

Summer Session #2, TBD

Fellows will reunite at the beginning of the summer for a unique educational trip to Hawai'i Island. There, they will engage in hands-on activities and place-based learning with partners on the island. Following this trip, Fellows will intern or volunteer for at least four weeks with a community partner/mentor who will support them to advance their Sustainability Challenge Project. They will also participate in regular seminar classes with their fellow cohort members. The program culminates with a public presentation of their challenge project.

Key Program Dates

Summer 1: June 8 – July 17, 2026

School Year 2026 – 2027 (monthly)

Summer 2: TBD

(Total Program Length: Approximately 15 Months)

Punahou School is the sponsor of the fellowship. To apply or for more information, please visit [Sustainability Fellowship at Punahou School](#).



APPLICATIONS DUE
January 10, 2026

JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP

The Sustainability Fellowship Program at Punahou School is a 15-month journey into the heart of sustainability and leadership. Fellows come from schools all around the island.



@punahousfp

Image Credit: Punahou School

State of Hawai'i, during the summer before beginning their tenth and eleventh grades. The program is free, and eligible students from all Hawai'i public, independent and charter schools are encouraged to apply.

The Fellowship is a 15-month program that begins the

PETITION: HAHAIONE ADVOCATES FOR RESPECTFUL DEVELOPMENT URGES PROTECTION OF PROPERTY ON EXPIRING LEASES

Hahaione Advocates for Respectful Development are circulating a petition to preserve and protect property in Hahaione from large-scale development. Several leases on Kamehameha Schools property are expiring and there are talks about redeveloping the area.

PETITION TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE JAIMS BUILDING AND TREES AT 6660 HAWAII KAI DRIVE AND ADJOINING PROPERTIES MAUKA OF HAWAII KAI DRIVE BETWEEN PEPEEKEO AND HAHAIONE STREETS

The petitioners thank Fujitsu Ltd. for creating in 1972 the Japan-America Institute of Management Science (JAIMS) as a nonprofit educational institute for cross-cultural business communications, and for developing and maintaining the serene and beautiful two-story building nestled under the magnificent trees at 6660 Hawaii Kai Drive for over 50 years. While fostering international relations in Asia-Pacific, JAIMS locally has also been a valued neighbor. JAIMS's beautifully maintained trees and landscaping have created a green canopy that enhances our quiet residential community's overall appearance and property values, reduces traffic noise and pollution,

provides physiological and emotional benefits for people, and helps to cool our urban area and sequester carbon in the global fight against ever rising temperatures.

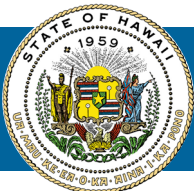
As the leases for the land underlying JAIMS and adjoining properties are set to expire in 2028, however, the petitioners are concerned about potential increased development of the properties located mauka of Hawaii Kai Drive between Pepeekeo and Hahaione Streets and the potential adverse impacts, including the loss of ocean view planes and environmental quality; increased traffic, noise, and air pollution; and more crime and security risks. Therefore, we hereby request:

1. The landowner Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate (KSBE) preserve and maintain the JAIMS building and trees at 6660 Hawaii Kai Drive; and
2. Any governmental entities not approve plans or permits to allow for an increase in the current buildings' height or the removal or destruction of healthy trees over 25 feet tall on the properties located mauka of Hawaii Kai Drive between Pepeekeo and Hahaione Streets.

To learn more, visit the Hahaione Advocates website at HahaioneAdvocates.com. Click [here](#) to view the petition and sign on! After reviewing available options, and comparing premiums, deductibles, networks, and prescription coverage, users can enroll immediately!



Image Credit: Hahaione Advocates for Respectful Development



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

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