

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

April 2026



Attention Hawai'i Mailers!

Important mailing notice for Hawai'i taxpayers! New US Postal Service (USPS) postmark procedures—effective since the end of last year—could affect tax filing deadlines and other mailing needs.

What Changed?

USPS now postmarks mail with the date it is processed at a postal facility, not the date you drop it in a mailbox. This may be 1–3 days later, or more, for inter-island and mainland mail.

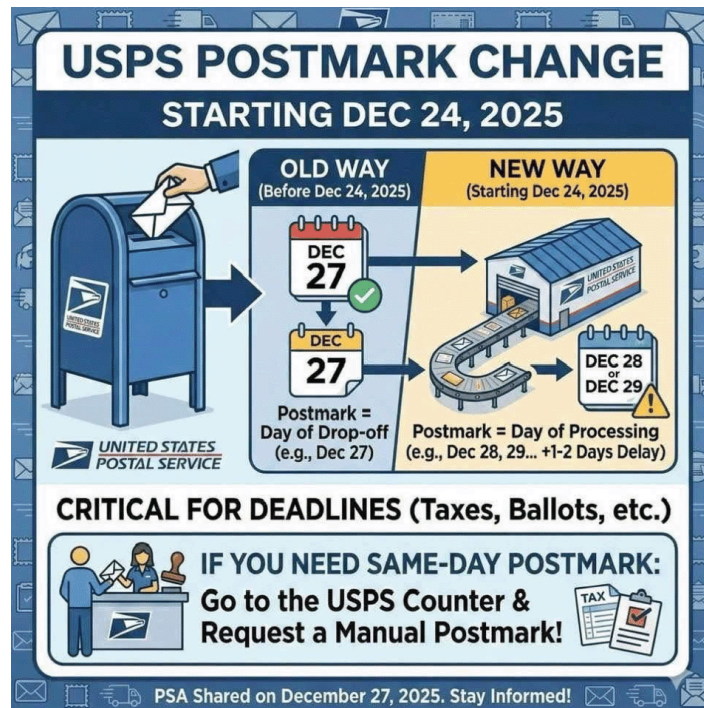
How to Avoid Missed Deadlines

- Send mail early, at least 5–7 days before the deadline.
- Use the USPS retail counter and request a manual postmark.
- Send Certified Mail or Priority Mail.
- File or pay electronically whenever possible.
- Avoid mailbox drop-offs close to deadlines.

Why This Matters

Under Hawai'i law, when a document or payment is mailed to the Hawai'i Department of Taxation (DOTAX), the postmark date is treated as the date the document or payment is filed and received.

If you drop off your tax return and payment in a USPS mailbox on the date that they are due, but your mail is not postmarked until a later date, your tax return and payment will be late, and you may be subject to penalties and interest. For more information, please visit [USPS](https://usps.com).



CALL US

808-586-8420

EMAIL US

Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9 (D)
senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

EOEL Public Pre-K Applications are Open!

Give your keiki a great foundation to grow! The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is accepting applications for the public, Pre-Kindergarten program. EOEL's Public Pre-K classrooms are tuition-free and located at public schools across Hawai'i.

The program helps keiki build the social, emotional, and academic skills they need for kindergarten and future grades. The applications are open to eligible 3 and 4 year-old students. Children must be age 3 or 4 on or before July 31 of the school year to which they are applying. For a list of participating schools, visit the [EOEL Public PreKindergarten Program website](#). For school year 2026–2027, children born



Image Credit: Hawai'i Executive Office on Early Learning

on or between August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2023 are eligible.

There are also key priority categories for enrollment which provide priority enrollment for certain groups of children considered "at-risk" or underserved. The key priority categories include:

- Children whose family income is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Families receiving SNAP or TANF assistance.
- Children eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Children who are learning English as a second language.
- Foster youth.
- Children experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

Applications are open year-round. For the upcoming school year, students in the priority categories within the geographic region are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis from March 2, 2026 to June 30, 2026. From July 1, 2026 to the end of the school year, if space is available, students are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with preference given to priority category applicants. School begins mid-to-late August, depending on the school.

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is a state agency established in 2012 which is dedicated to building a strong foundation for children from birth to age 5 through high-quality early childhood education. EOEL leads the development and implementation of the state's early learning system, ensuring that Hawai'i's keiki have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive in school and beyond. For more information or to apply, visit the [EOEL website](#).

Traffic Signal Modernization at H-1 Koko Head Avenue Offramp, Exit 26A

Modernization of traffic signals is coming soon at Koko Head Avenue, specifically at the H-1 Exit 26A and Pāhoa Avenue intersections.

Key upgrades include dedicated left and right turn lanes, better signal synchronization, and improved, more visible barriers in the median. The modernization project has several projected benefits such as improvements to traffic flow and safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

The modernization improvements include:

1. **Improved Right-turn Flow at the H-1 Offramp:**
The project will create a dedicated right-turn lane. Eastbound right-turning vehicles are no longer blocked

by left-turning vehicles who are waiting for a protected signal phase. This reduces right-turn delay and shortens traffic queue lengths that currently extend back past the gore and onto the freeway.

2. **Cleaner Breakout for Eastbound Left-turn Vehicles**
which separate turning movements and gives left-turn



Image Credit: Google Maps

next page ↻

continued from previous page

drivers a much clearer path to merge onto Koko Head Avenue. This also reduces weaving and conflicting maneuvers.

3. **Balanced and More Efficient Northbound Movements** at Harding Ave by restriping the northbound shared lane into exclusive left-turn and through lanes. This would eliminate left-turn vehicles blocking through vehicles; increases lane-use uniformity; and reduces hesitation and weaving caused by parked vehicles north of the intersection.
4. **Less Weaving and Smoother Traffic Flow on Koko Head Avenue** with clearer lane assignments at both intersections. Eastbound left-turners from the off-ramp

can enter their desired lane more smoothly. The northbound vehicles can also proceed in a dedicated lane. These combined changes reduce unnecessary merging and weaving.

Overall, the traffic modernization effort will reduce queue spillback onto the freeway, improve lane utilization, and simplify driver decision-making at both intersections. This initiative is part of a broader, ongoing effort by the city and state to modernize traffic management and improve safety on this major corridor.

For more information, please visit the [Hawai'i Department of Transportation](#).

MAUNALUA BAY BOAT RAMP NOW OPEN

Community members and organizations celebrate the completion of the Maunalua Bay Improvement Project.

Construction began in July 2025 and was originally expected to be completed in April 2026. However, the dredging contractor, American Marine Corp., completed the work two months early and within the original contract price.

The State and the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) supported the full project. "The Hawai'i State Legislature provided \$5 million in capital improvement funds and DOBOR added another \$2.6 million, because we understood the importance of the full project to boaters and paddlers," said DOBOR Administrator Meghan Statts. "They've waited a long time, and we wanted to be sure this community got what it needed. With these improvements, our local 'ohana will be able to enjoy both the facility and the newly restored sandy beach."

The project accomplished several key objectives such as:

- Restoring safe boat access through dredging of the entrance channel and boat ramp.
- Reusing dredged material to replenish the severely eroded shoreline on both sides of the ramp.
- Expanding public parking and canoe storage.
- Replenishing the beach on the Koko Head side of the ramp.

- Completing needed sea wall repairs.
- Installing structures to contain dredged material and prevent future erosion.

DOBOR research indicates this is the first dredging of the Maunalua Bay channel since the late 1950s to early 1960s, when Henry J. Kaiser completed the original dredging. "This project has been a remarkable success and is a model for community and state collaboration," said DOBOR Lead Engineer Finn McCall. "These improvements will benefit canoe paddlers, fishermen, recreational boaters, and beachgoers for many years to come."

For more information, please visit [DLNR's website](#).



Image Credit: Department of Land and Natural Resources

Hawai'i Public Libraries Continue to Connect People with Information

Libraries are more than buildings filled with books. Libraries are community spaces run by dedicated staff and volunteers, and supported by residents who believe in the value of free access to information. Across Hawai'i, public libraries continue to connect people with information, culture, and one another. This month, we are highlighting why digital books sometimes have long waitlists, and we recognize the role libraries play in supporting families and early learning.

Why E-Books and Audiobooks Sometimes Have Long Waitlists

Many library patrons wonder why popular digital titles sometimes have long hold lists. The answer lies in the way libraries acquire digital materials. Unlike print books, which libraries purchase and own permanently, most e-books and digital audiobooks are licensed from publishers. These licenses often come with limits on the number of checkouts or a fixed time period, commonly two years. Once that limit is reached, the library must purchase the license again to continue offering the title.

Digital formats are also significantly more expensive for libraries than they are for individual consumers.

For example, the novel *Never Flinch* by Stephen King illustrates this difference:

Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
Print Book	\$32.00	\$32.00
eBook	\$16.99	\$67.99
eAudiobook	\$19.99	\$84.99

These library prices reflect a single-use license with a two-year limit.

How Patrons Can Help

Library users can help reduce wait times by returning digital titles early once they have finished them. In the Libby app, readers can go to Manage Loan and choose Return Early, allowing the next person on the waiting list to access the book sooner.

Continuing to borrow digital materials is also important. High usage numbers help libraries advocate for funding to expand digital collections.

Where Learning Begins for Hawai'i's Families

For many children in Hawai'i, the library is their first place of learning long before they enter a classroom. Storytime programs introduce young readers to books, language, and imagination. These programs also provide opportunities for families to gather, share stories, and build early literacy skills together.

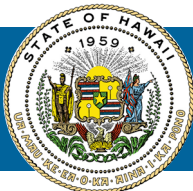
Libraries provide welcoming spaces where families can read, learn, and connect with their community. For many local families, the library is not just a place to borrow books, it is where curiosity grows and lifelong learning begins. To learn more, please visit the [Hawai'i public library website](#).



**Hawai'i State
Public Library System**

'Oihana Hale Waihona Puke Aupuni o ka Moku'āina o Hawai'i

Read. Learn. Connect.



FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813