

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

May 2026



MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS IMPACTED BY KONA LOW STORMS

Governor Josh Green issued an emergency proclamation in response to March's two Kona Low storms, following widespread flooding and damage.

The Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) advises that certain federal mortgage relief provisions are now triggered, which may include foreclosure moratoriums, forbearance options, and the waiver of late fees. Homeowners impacted by the Kona Low storms are encouraged to contact their financial institution or mortgage servicer as soon as possible to determine which relief options are available to them.

RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS

The following federal agencies and state resources are available to assist Hawai'i homeowners:

The Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) has [resources and guidance to assist homeowners](#) impacted

by national disasters. You can search if your mortgage loan is under [FNMA here](#).

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) has [resources and guidance to assist homeowners](#) impacted by national disasters. You can search if your mortgage loan is under [FHLMC here](#).

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) offers housing counseling to any homeowner regardless of where they received their mortgage loan. Homeowners can contact the FHA housing counseling services at 1-800-569-4287 and the FHA Resource Center at 1-800-304-9320. [Additional information can be found here](#).

The DCCA Division of Financial Institutions recommends that homeowners impacted by the disaster contact their financial institution or mortgage servicer that handles their mortgage loan, for resources and guidance. Homeowners can search to determine who services their mortgage loan at the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems [website located here](#).

For questions or assistance, contact the Division of Financial Institutions at (844) 808-3222 or at dfi@dcca.hawaii.gov.

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



Image Credit: KHON 2

SB 3022 ESTABLISHING THE HAWAI'I LEADERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM SENT TO GOVERNOR GREEN

The Hawai'i State Legislature has passed Senate Bill 3022 (HD1) to the Governor for his approval. Senator Chang is a co-introducer of the bill. This legislation would establish



Image Credit: Hawai'i Public Radio

the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program to formally recognize individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the State of Hawai'i. If passed, recognition would be given to individuals across a wide range of fields, including the arts, business, entertainment, food, literature, music, and more.

Currently, Hawai'i recognizes exceptional individuals through the Aloha Order of Merit. However, this recognition is reserved for those with national and international acclaim. SB 3022 seeks fill in the gap by establishing a state-level awards program.

According to the bill, awards would be administered by the State Archives. The awards would be presented annually to individuals who have "made considerable and outstanding contributions to the State." Supporters of the bill argue that the program would help elevate and preserve Hawai'i's cultural identity by formally recognizing the people who shape it. In addition, the state could strengthen public awareness of the incredible efforts by local leaders.

The bill passed the Hawai'i State Legislature on April 22, 2026 and was sent to the Governor's office for his approval. To learn more about this bill, please visit the [Hawai'i State Legislature website](#) or contact the Legislative Reference Bureau Library at (808) 587-0690.

Image Credit: University of Hawai'i

Share your Voice, Shape Hawai'i's Future Take the 2026 Hawai'i Quality of Life Survey today!

2026 HAWAI'I QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

In partnership with the [Hawai'i Office of Wellness and Resilience](#), the University of Hawai'i Social Science Research Institute has launched the [2026 Hawai'i Quality of Life Survey](#).

This project is grounded in a critical mission: to collect data that helps make Hawai'i a better place for everyone to live. We do this by inviting residents across the state to share their voices and lived experiences, and then making that data publicly accessible so it can guide decision-making at all levels, including state policy.

With the 2026 survey, UH aims to change that. From the viewpoint of UH's SSRI, the goal is for this dataset—and the resulting 2026 dashboard—to be a resource for *every legislator*, offering meaningful insight into the strengths, needs, concerns, and perspectives of people in their districts.

Achieving that goal depends on strong participation from constituents.

The survey is anonymous, takes approximately **10–20 minutes**, and is open to all Hawai'i residents age **18 and older**. It covers key areas such as health and wellbeing, disasters, cost of living, housing, education, and community conditions. The survey will be open until **May 31st, 2026**.

By supporting this effort, you are helping build a dataset to:

- Inform policy decisions grounded in the live experiences of residents
- Identify district-specific strengths and challenges
- Strengthen grant applications and resource allocation
- Support efforts to improve wellbeing across Hawai'i

You can learn more and take the survey here: health-study.com.

COMMUNITY MEETING: POTENTIAL MOBILITY HUB ON KAPAHULU AVENUE

SSFM International, the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the City and County of Honolulu are partnering on a feasibility study for a potential Mobility Hub on Kapahulu Avenue. The feasibility study seeks to identify the potential positive impacts of developing a mobility hub in urban Honolulu.

The project also seeks to improve transit and multimodal transportation options for Kapahulu, Waikīkī, and the surrounding community. The multimodal hub is expected to accomplish several objectives:

1. Serve as a transit terminus and layover area

2. Promote the transition to electric buses
3. Provide amenities for residents and visitors such as dedicated bicycle parking, bathrooms, a community gathering place, etc.

This project is funded in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration. The first Community Meeting will be held on **May 19**, from **6–8pm** at **Kaimukī High School**.

For more information, please contact Janet Meinke-Lau, Planner for SSFM International, at **(808) 531-1308**.



Community Meeting

May 19, 2026 from 6pm - 8pm

Location: Kaimukī High School,
2705 Kaimukī Avenue

Image Credit: SSFM International

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICAL SHARPS

[MyOldMeds.com](https://www.myoldmeds.com) is urging Hawai'i residents to safely dispose of medical sharps. This effort is in conjunction with the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. If you or a loved one uses needles, syringes, lancets, or any other sharps at home, whether for diabetes management, injectable medications, or other health conditions, proper disposal is essential. Improperly discarded sharps are a serious safety hazard for garbage collectors, landfill workers, children, and pets. Here's what residents of Hawai'i need to know.

WHAT COUNTS AS A "SHARP"?

Home health care sharps include needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharp objects used when administering care at home. Even small or retracting sharps need to be handled with care.

SO, HOW DO YOU SAFELY DISPOSE OF THEM?

Step 1: Use the Right Container

The FDA recommends that used needles and other sharps be immediately placed in FDA-cleared sharps disposal containers, which are generally available through pharmacies, medical supply companies, health care providers, and online. If an FDA-cleared container is not available, some organizations and community

Safe Sharps Disposal in Hawai'i is Easy

Learn How to Securely Dispose of
Sharps at Home

LEARN HOW



Image Credit: MYOLDMEDS.com

guidelines recommend using a heavy-duty plastic household container as an alternative such as a plastic laundry detergent container. These containers must be leak-resistant, and placed upright during use. The container must also have a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid, such as a plastic laundry detergent container.

Step 2: Disinfect Before Sealing

This is a step that's easy to overlook. According to Hawai'i Department of Health guidelines, sharps should be sterilized or chemically disinfected prior to disposal. Once the container is full, fill it with a solution of one part bleach and ten parts water, allow it to soak for twenty minutes, then pour the solution into the sink and seal the cap with heavy-duty tape before placing the container in the garbage.

Step 3: Seal and Trash, Don't Recycle

When the container is about three-quarters full, put the lid on, seal it with duct tape, and label it: **DO NOT RECYCLE**. Then place the sealed plastic container in the household trash. Used needles and other contaminated sharps are NOT recyclable, keep the sharps container separate from any materials set aside for recycling.

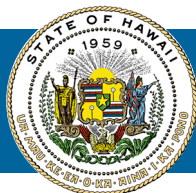
WHAT ABOUT SOILED BANDAGES AND GLOVES?

Soiled bandages, disposable sheets, and medical gloves should be placed separately in securely fastened plastic bags before being placed with other trash.

ONE IMPORTANT NOTE FOR RESIDENTS

At this time, there are no known community-sponsored sharps disposal programs in the state of Hawai'i. This makes safe at-home disposal all the more important. If you're looking for any local drop-off options, you can use the [MyOldMeds.com Locator tool](https://www.myoldmeds.com/locator) to check for sites in your area. Also, be sure to keep all containers with discarded sharps out of reach of children and pets. And remember, loose sharps should never be thrown directly into the trash or flushed down the toilet.

For more information, please contact the Hawai'i Department of Health, Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch at **(808) 586-4226**, located at **2827 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782**.



FROM THE OFFICE OF

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