

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

April 2019



Pi‘ikoi Onramp H-1 East Bound Closure to Continue

The Hawai‘i Department of Transportation (HDOT) has decided to continue to close the Pi‘ikoi onramp to the H-1 eastbound **weekdays** during the afternoon peak hours of **3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** The news comes following a six-month pilot closure.

Evaluation of the pilot closure (hidot.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-03-01-H-1-EB-Piikoi-OnRamp-PM-Peak-Closure-Evaluation.pdf), confirms the findings of the original April 2017 demonstration. The April 2017 demonstration studied the full closure of the onramp over the course of two weeks and resulted in a 682-page study (hidot.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Piikoi-Ramp-Study.pdf).

“We can say with confidence that the closure of the Pi‘ikoi onramp will improve the flow of traffic on the H-1 eastbound in the afternoons,” said Hawai‘i Department of Transportation Deputy Director for Highways Ed Sniffen. “The fact that the time savings in the main corridor continued to be evident in the follow up pilot closure confirmed that we made the best call for operational efficiency and safety in closing the Pi‘ikoi onramp during the afternoon peak.”

Analysis of the recent pilot closure found that closure of the Pi‘ikoi onramp resulted in time savings of **4.7 minutes** for the average 20,000-plus drivers that use the H-1 eastbound between the Middle Street overpass and the Punahou offramp during peak afternoon travel hours (3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.). A minimal increase in travel times was observed for approximately 2,200 drivers rerouting to other eastbound freeway onramps in the area, such as the Ward Avenue onramp.

The data collected through HDOT’s permanent traffic stations as well as randomized observational drives through the area, validated the results from the April 2017 demonstration. As such, **HDOT will continue to close the Pi‘ikoi onramp to the H-1 eastbound Monday through Friday between 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. indefinitely.**

HDOT expects the closure of the Pi‘ikoi onramp during the weekday afternoon peak to continue to help the flow of traffic on the H-1 eastbound in this heavily used corridor and to increase safety by reducing frequency of lane merges and weaving between the South Vineyard Boulevard, Ward Avenue and Pi‘ikoi Street onramps and the Punahou Street offramp.



Source: Reddit

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► **HANDY CONTACTS**

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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

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

IN THE COMMUNITY



MIKE BUCK RADIO SHOW

February 14, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang went on the Mike Buck Radio Show to discuss our ALOHA Homes program and homelessness solutions.



MANUFACTURING DAY

February 19, 2019 ◀ The State Capitol celebrated Manufacturing Day and invited local business can showcase their products. It included Aina Haina's own Alan Sabate, founder and owner of Butigroove and Maui Bay Shirt Co. for over 30 years.



AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

March 6, 2019 ▲ Senator Chang presented his ALOHA Homes proposal to the American Planning Association, Hawai'i Chapter.



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

March 14, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang and the Hawai'i State Senate welcomed and honored the 2018 Little League Baseball World Series Champions, Honolulu Little League, at the Hawai'i State Capitol. Honolulu Little League's home field is Kīlauea District Park in Kaimukī.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Interest-Free Home Down Payment Loans Now Available

The City & County of Honolulu Department of Community Services (DCS) Director Pamela Witty-Oakland is reminding the public that qualified low-income and moderate-income families may be eligible to receive interest-free down payment loans for their first-time home purchases.

DCS has approximately \$400,000 available annually in Federal HOME funds for the loan program, and is accepting applications from applicants' mortgage lenders for **loans up to \$40,000**. Loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified households. Additional funds will be available in the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

"Home ownership is one of the ways families accumulate wealth, and this federal funding can help save thousands of dollars in interest payments over the life of a mortgage," said Witty-Oakland. "I urge qualified first-time homebuyers to take advantage of this proven gateway to financial security."

Interested families are required to apply for a city loan through a mortgage lender after being approved for a first mortgage. There is no cost to apply. To qualify, applicants must provide five-percent of the purchase price as a down payment and complete an approved homeownership course. A home inspection is also required.

As of July 1, 2018, DCS has made 21 down payment loans.

For more information, please call DCS's Loan Branch at **808-768-7076**



Mālama Maunalua is teaming up with **Project Lemon Tree** to get the word out about their free tree planting program and STEM curriculum.

Trees help prevent runoff into Maunalua Bay and help fight climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. This spring, the organization is giving away **FREE** trees to homeowners and landowners

in the Maunalua region, from Diamond Head to Koko Head. "Maunalua" in Hawaiian means two mountains. For more information please email: **info@malamamaunalua.org**.

Mālama Maunalua is a nonprofit stewardship organization dedicated to restoring and conserving Maunalua Bay.

WHAT'S NEW?

Koko Head Funding

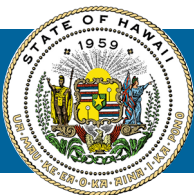
One-million dollars is proposed for the beginning of long-overdue and much needed repairs to the Koko Head Crater hiking trail. Koko Head Regional Park and the popular hike are under the City and County of Honolulu's jurisdiction. The hike has been maintained by residents and those who kokua the trail, but the hike's infrastructure has increasingly become only just part of the issues at the trail. The trail is being prioritized in the City and County of Honolulu's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget.

The Honolulu City Council's Committee on Budget will be taking up the proposed allocation of money on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The money is geared towards the reparation of the stairs with plan and design funds that will ensure that the trail will be cared for in the long-term. With thousands of visitors and residents alike drawn to the trail daily, erosion and the tracks from the broken wood and nails pose dangers to the health and safety of those who visit the trail.

Public testimony and input are highly encouraged during the City's budget process, and residents are urged to provide input until the budget is adopted in the first week of June 2019. For agendas and past hearings, visit honolulu.citycouncil.com, and for further information about the funding for Koko Head Crater stairs, you can contact the office of Committee on Budget Chair Councilmember Joey Manahan at (808) 768-5007.



Source: Google Maps



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