

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

July 2019



Affordable Housing Delegation to Singapore and Hong Kong

Recently, Senator Stanley Chang led a delegation to **Singapore and Hong Kong** to study their housing policies. In Singapore, **82 percent of residents** live in attractive, well-maintained public housing that sells for **under US\$200,000** per unit. Hong Kong probably has the world's worst housing shortage, but it has set an ambitious target of building **450,000 new homes** over the next ten years.

Over the course of four days in Singapore, the delegation met with the Housing and Development Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Land Transport Authority, Central Provident Fund, RSP Architects, and Changi Airport Group. In Hong Kong, the delegation met with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Planning Department, Sino Group, Society for Community Organization, Hong Kong Housing Authority, the LOHAS Park development, and MTR Corporation.

The Singaporean government gives its citizens the right to housing. It develops enough supply to meet demand—tens of thousands of units per year. Singapore

continued, page 3



The Pinnacle@Duxton, with seven 50-story towers linked by sky bridges, is the world's tallest public housing development.

► **CALL US**
808-586-8420

► **EMAIL US**
Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9 (D)
senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

Adrian Tam
Office Manager
a.tam@capitol.hawaii.gov

Jessica Sato
Newsletter Editor
jessato.com

► **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

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

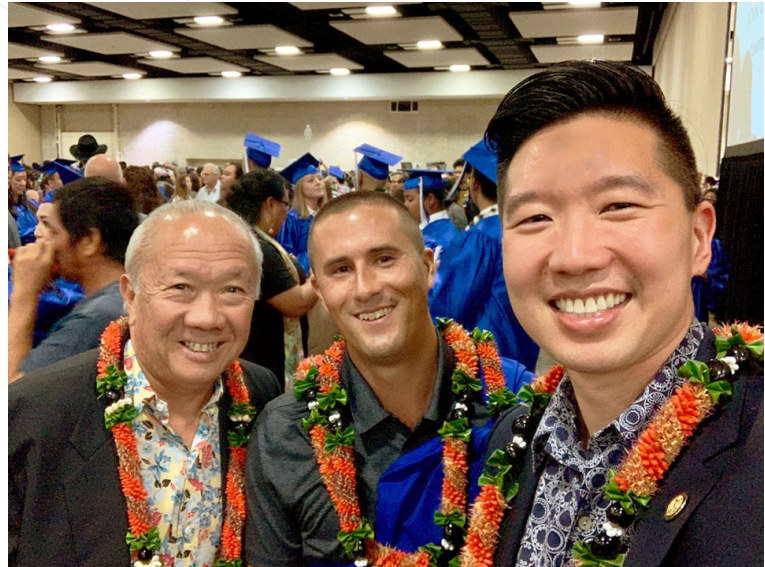
Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

IN THE COMMUNITY



AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELEGATION

May 8, 2019 ▲ Prior to the affordable housing delegation to Singapore and Hong Kong, Senator Chang hosted a briefing to go over the history and background of their housing policies.



KAPI'OLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

May 10, 2019 ▲ Senator Chang with Speaker Emeritus Calvin Say and botany lecturer Mike Ross, who won the Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching at this year's Kapi'olani Community College graduation ceremony.



EASTSIDE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

May 11, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang greeted exhibitors at the Eastside Community Preparedness Fair at Kāhala Mall.

WAIKIKI ELEMENTARY

May 17, 2019 ► Senator Chang paid a visit to Ms. Lory Peroff's class at Waikiki Elementary to talk to students about getting involved with the community and government.



SINGAPORE & HONG KONG



The delegation was briefed by the Housing and Development Board, the authority that develops Singapore's public housing.

also makes its public housing available to everyone, regardless of income. Married couples making under US\$8,800 per month can buy a subsidized unit for just US\$180,000, regardless of future pay increases. All Singaporean citizens, regardless of income, may buy public housing units in the unregulated secondary market, where prices can reach over \$1 million. The

government has built over 1 million housing units over the past fifty years and is the default housing option for most Singaporeans.

The scale—and walkability—of housing development in Hong Kong is unmatched in the world. In Hong Kong, the delegation toured the On Tat Housing Estate, with 23,000 residents in 9,300 apartments on only 16 acres of land, about the size of Oahu County Correctional Center in Kalihi. Its density meant it could cover the cost of sewer upgrades and all necessary infrastructure. Within a five-minute walk of one's home were all the necessary services: public transportation, a mall with 39 shops, two kindergartens, badminton courts, and so on. The entire project had only 385 parking stalls, because no one needed a car.

Is it possible to cut and paste these success stories in Hawai'i? Of course not. The Singaporean government forces its citizens to save 23 percent of their incomes for housing, and it has acquired most of the land area of the country over the years through below-market

continued, last page



Members of the delegation touring the Singapore City Gallery, which showcases the urban planning policies of the country.

YOUR CONCERNS



The On Tat Public Housing Estate's 11 towers spread over 16 acres achieve a density of 581 housing units per acre.

condemnation. The Hong Kong government intends to reclaim 4,200 acre, \$64 billion manmade islands to house 1.1 million people. Obviously, these are not realistic policies for Hawai'i. But the backbone of the Singaporean housing policy, large scale housing on state land sold for below market prices regardless of buyer income, married to the Hong Kong urban planning policy of providing every necessary service within a short walk, should be adopted to end Hawai'i's housing shortage.

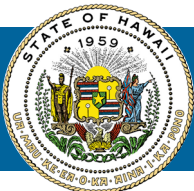


An estimated 200,000 Hong Kongers live in substandard housing, including illegally subdivided homes, cage homes, rooftop homes, and coffin homes.

The delegation returned to Hawai'i with new ideas and new motivation on housing, urban planning, and transportation. We will host a conference later this year to discuss these cities' housing policies and what we can learn from them.



Many in the community have expressed concern about the re-stripping of crosswalks at **Kalani'anaole Highway** and **Wai'eli Street**. Because the temporary paint marks had lower visibility, the safety of Kalani students crossing the street daily was compromised. We worked with the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation to re-stripe them as soon as possible. As of mid-May, the crosswalks have been re-stripped. Please continue to contact us with any community questions and concerns.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 223
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813