

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

September 2019



Roadwork Improvements on Laukahi Street

A city contractor is scheduled to begin road work along Laukahi Street in Wai'alaie Iki on **August 28th**. Barring any weather-related delays, it's estimated the work will be completed in **October**.

The allowable work hours for the project will be from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays**, except for holidays, and **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends**, if necessary. Motorists are advised to observe and obey all traffic controls, posted signs and special duty officers and proceed with caution through the construction area. Drivers should anticipate delays due to detours, lane and/or road closures, and allow extra travel time while driving through the work areas.

Roadwork on Laukahi Street will extend from Kamole Street to Alaweo Street. The project includes, but is not limited to, reconstruction, milling and resurfacing of asphalt concrete

pavements, reconstruction of identified curbs and/or gutters, reconstruction of catch basin top slabs, tree mitigation by a qualified arborist that may include pruning, trimming and removal, adjustment of utility frames and covers to finish grade within the roadway, and installation of permanent pavement markings.

The Contractor is responsible to coordinate local traffic to include residents, deliveries, trash collection and emergency services. On-street parking will be prohibited during working hours. Please observe the dates and times on the posted roadway signs as illegally parked vehicles may be towed, if necessary, at the owner's expense. Motorists are advised to proceed with caution through the construction area.

For any questions or concerns about the project, please contact Maui Kupono Builders LLC at **(808) 369-1800**.

at the Diamond Head 180 Reservoir to address safety and security at their facility. Construction began in September 2019, and completion is anticipated for June 2020, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Board Of Water Supply To Install Security Fencing At Diamond Head 180 Reservoir

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has scheduled a security fencing project

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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



LEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOSH GREEN

July 11, 2019 ▲ Senator Chang met with Lieutenant Governor Josh Green to discuss homelessness and ending the housing shortage.



THE LEGAL CLINIC HAWAII'I

July 12, 2019 ▲ Senator Chang greeted members of The Legal Clinic Hawaii'i, which provides low-cost or free legal services to immigrants seeking assistance.



ENTREPRENEUR'S SANDBOX

July 19, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang attended a Demo Day at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Kaka'ako, a tech & startup accelerator.



RALLY AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

August 19, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang joined Moms Demand Action and Everytown Against Gun Violence at a rally at the Capitol against gun violence.

GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

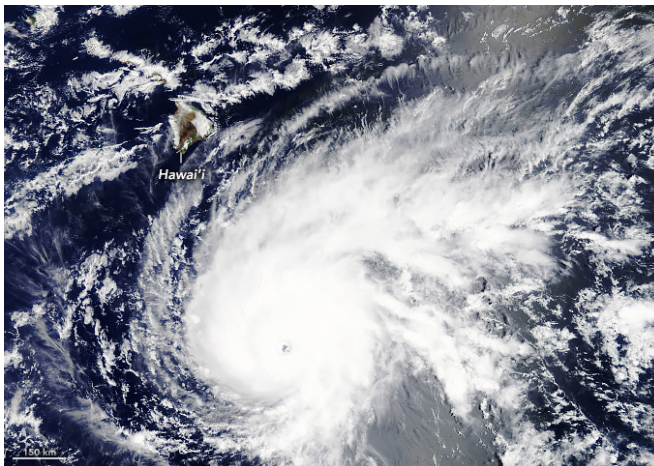
Senator Chang reminds residents to prepare an “emergency kit” of a **minimum of 14 days** of food, water, and other supplies.

“We advocate for a 14-day recommendation because of Hawai‘i’s location in the Pacific during a disaster,” said **Thomas Travis**, Administrator of **HI-EMA**, the Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency. “Everyone who plans ahead and prepares an emergency kit helps not only themselves, but they also help their entire community deal with a disaster.”

For homeowners, now is also the time to think about insuring one’s property.

“Know what to do pre- and post-event to protect yourself and your family, and minimize significant financial impacts,” advises **Insurance Commissioner Colin Hayashida**. “With the potential of a more active hurricane season, residents can be more prepared ahead of time by reading their insurance policies and taking an inventory of their home and valuables.”

Hurricane season runs from **June 1 to November 30**. Last year’s season brought on the storm named Lane, which, had it maintained its course towards the islands, would have resulted in devastating potential damage to residents and their property. It most likely would also have resulted in catastrophic destruction to our economy due to the isolated location of Hawai‘i.



Source: NASA

With the shutdown of ports, goods and services would have been weeks or even months away.

HI-EMA suggests keeping your family’s supplies fresh for the entire season by **rotating, consuming, and replenishing** them over time.

HI-EMA also recommends that residents and visitors take the following actions in preparation for a possible hurricane or tropical cyclone:

- Talk with family members and develop a clear understanding of what you will do if a hurricane or tropical storm threatens. Prepare an action plan that includes details such as whether your family intends to shelter in place or evacuate.
- Know if your home is in an inundation zone, flood zone, or susceptible to high winds and other hazards. Know if your home is retrofitted with hurricane resistant clips or straps.
- Stay tuned to local media and their websites and/or apps regarding weather updates.
- Sign up for local notification systems (i.e., HNL.Info).
- Sign up for a community emergency response team.
- Get to know your neighbors and community so you can help each other.
- Walk your property and check for potential flood threats. Clear your gutters and other drainage systems. Remove and secure loose items. Keep your car’s gas tank filled.
- Prepare your pets by checking or purchasing a carrier and other preparedness items. A pet carrier is necessary for your pet’s safety if you plan to evacuate to a pet-friendly shelter. Don’t forget 14 days of food and water for your furry family members.
- Set aside an emergency supply of any needed medication and keep a copy of your prescriptions in case you run out of medication after a disaster.
- Secure your important documents in protective containers including copies of your insurance policies, a home inventory of valuables, and your agent’s or insurer’s contact information.
- Visitors should download the GoHawai‘i App and read the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority’s Travel Safety Brochure at travelsmarthawaii.com.

Build an emergency kit—now.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Fixing Hawai'i's Unfunded Liabilities: PENSIONS AND HEALTHCARE

According to a 2017 J.P. Morgan report, Hawai'i's unfunded liabilities as a percentage of state revenue are 21%. The report further shows that assuming an investment return of 6%, the State would be spending 3% of its revenue towards paying down unfunded liabilities. The **two largest contributors** to Hawai'i's current unfunded liabilities are Hawai'i's **public pension system** and **healthcare**.

Public Pensions

According to a 2019 report by the Employees' Retirement System of Hawai'i (ERS), Hawai'i's public pension fund is underfunded by **\$13.4 billion** as of June 2018. This liability may continue to grow if return of investments used to fund the ERS are lower than projected as was the case during the 2008 financial crisis. In fact, the Pew Charitable Trusts projects the return on investments to be around 6.5% for the coming 10 years. Covering the difference between the investment returns and pension responsibilities would further burden Hawai'i through increased taxes, reduction of pension benefits, or reallocating funds from services such as education, infrastructure, and welfare.

Health Care

The Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), which provides health and life insurance to state and county employees and retirees, holds an unfunded liability of **\$12.2 billion**. While the EUTF holds relatively little assets (\$2.3 billion compared to ERS's \$16.5 billion), EUTF's current liability is based on volatile and often rising health care costs. According to data from a 2018 EUTF presentation, total benefit cost increased 19.9% between FY 2013 to FY 2017. Depending on the retiree's hire date and years of service, the State would pay 50–100% of this increase.

To address our looming unfunded liabilities, the **Hawai'i Tax Review Commission** and **Hawai'i Budget Policy Center** make these recommendations:

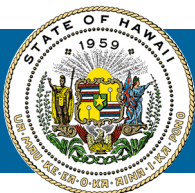
- Establish a commission on unfunded liabilities to address the effects of unfunded liabilities and provide recommendations to the legislature.
- Legislatures should maintain strict contribution schedules and enforce the moratorium on enriching benefits and raising cost-sharing caps.
- Combine ERS and EUTF investment management to ensure that resources are sufficient to support competent professional investment management.
- Amend the voting structure to a majority vote, create a board with an odd number of trustees, and add a minimum of one member who represents citizens.
- Apply state income taxes to employer-sponsored pension benefits to the same extent they apply to retirement incomes from 401K and 403B accounts.



On Saturday, September 21st, Faith Action for Community Equity will be hosting an **Affordable Housing Summit: How to Create 17,000 Affordable Units by 2026**.

Several experts will address the primary challenges and opportunities for developing affordable housing between 30%–80% of the Area Median Income. Senator Stanley Chang will be one of the invited guest speakers. This event is free and open to the public.

The event will be at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Art Auditorium (2535 McCarthy Mall) from 8am–2pm. Seating is limited, please RSVP to office@faithactionhawaii.org or call **808-989-9398** by Friday, September 13th. Free parking is available at Church of the Crossroads (1212 University Avenue). Enter lot on Bingham Street or park on street along University Avenue. Paid parking is available on-campus for \$7, cash only. From Dole Street, turn onto East-West Road, then turn left onto Correa Road for visitor lot.



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