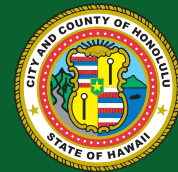


MAYOR'S Highlights



OCTOBER 2023

Rick Blangiardi



Safer Streets, One Block at a Time



As the saying goes, “it takes a village” — and not just to raise a child, but to keep one safe. That’s precisely the approach that community groups across the island, but especially in some West O’ahu communities, have taken to heart.

On September 8, elected officials from across the state — including Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, and City Councilmember Andria Tupola — joined law enforcement officials and community leaders for a neighborhood security walk in Mā’ili.

Roughly 75 people took part in the walk to help spread a simple message: “If communities can be more involved and more connected, we can help stop violence and end crime from the inside.”

“When we come down the block, the neighbors think it’s a parade,” says Mana Olayan, who helped organize the walk. “And when they find out what it is, they want to get involved. We can take responsibility, take back a community one block at a time, but it takes the people actually living on that street to help.”

When it comes to crime and public safety, the Honolulu Police Department will always be the tip of the spear during situations that endanger our communities. To that end, on September 26, Managing Director Michael Formby approved the release of \$300,000 for HPD to expedite planning and design of the second floor of the Wai’anae Police Substation.



These funds, along with the pending installation of a new fingerprinting machine for the Wai’anae Substation, will help HPD continue to build capacity along the Leeward Coast. And initiatives like neighborhood security walks — which have already happened in ‘Ewa Beach and are planned for Mililani and Windward O’ahu next — can help prevent crime in our neighborhoods before it even happens.

“We are building stronger communities and it takes everyone to play their part,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

This Month’s Highlights

- Neighborhood Security Walks Across West O’ahu
- Mayor’s Stance on Enforcing Public Welfare Laws
- Safe and Sound Waikīkī Marks First Year
- A Trio of Affordable Housing Updates
- Safety Tips For Fire Prevention Week
- O’ahu’s Parking Meters Get Upgraded



Barber's Point Lighthouse, O'ahu

A Year Later, A Safer Waikīkī



On September 5, Mayor Blangiardi joined Prosecutor Attorney Steve Alm, City Council Chair Tommy Waters and various other community and law enforcement leaders to celebrate the anniversary of the start of the Safe and Sound Waikīkī initiative.

Since its inception, the City has worked hand-in-hand with the Waikīkī Business Improvement District Association and other partners to reduce crime as part of the Safe and Sound program — and the results have been significant. Year-to-year, reports of burglaries are down 32%, reports of criminal property damage are down 28%, reports of unauthorized entries into motorized vehicles are down 32% and reports of theft are down 6%, according to the Honolulu Police Department.

“I am encouraged by our improvement in our first year,” Mayor Rick Blangiardi said during a press conference in Waikīkī. “Even though statistics are down, there are still statistics there that are not acceptable to us. So in that regard, better days ahead.”

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney has charged more than 1,000 cases, including 71 felonies, as part of the Safe and Sound program. And of the individuals sentenced to probation, 200 have been given geographic restrictions prohibiting them from returning to Waikīkī while on probation. These geographic restrictions are designed to prevent crime by keeping repeat offenders away from the places and people that create opportunities for their criminal behavior.

“It’s (Safe and Sound) got a good start, but we are going to keep at it and we are going to keep pushing and we are going to make it better and better here in Waikīkī,” Prosecutor Alm said.

Message from the Mayor: Safeguarding our Communities

As our team celebrates individuals working to make their communities safer and commemorates the anniversary of our Safe and Sound Waikīkī initiative, I want to address another public safety concern: the lawsuit filed by the ACLU condemning the City’s enforcement of its public welfare laws as cruel and unusual punishment of the homeless.

Homelessness is a complex and pressing issue that affects us all, so I want to assure everyone that we are committed to addressing this issue with compassion and empathy as we focus on finding long-term solutions.

The ACLU lawsuit seeks to prohibit the City from enforcing public welfare laws, including camping and park closure laws, sidewalk obstruction laws, our stored property ordinance and our prohibition against sitting or lying on public sidewalks in the City’s busiest areas between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. In other words, the ACLU wants to take away the City’s ability to enforce laws that protect and safeguard the public.

That is why the City disagrees with the ACLU’s lawsuit. We disagree with the ACLU’s contentions, factual bases, and legal arguments, and we know many of you do too — a recent Star-Advertiser online poll showed nearly 90% of you support the City and believe that homeless individuals cannot be allowed to occupy our public spaces at the expense of the general public.

We understand that homelessness is not a crime — that we must treat those experiencing homelessness with respect as we try to help them get the services and benefits they need. We also know that we must to do anything and everything we can to create housing units and expand homeless support services.

But we cannot trivialize the tremendous burden being borne by communities who are dealing with the impact of homeless individuals who refuse the help the City and our community partners offer. Thus, we will vigorously oppose the lawsuit and defend our ability to enforce all laws that ensure fair access and use of City property — for all residents of O’ahu.

– Mayor Rick Blangiardi



Affordable Housing Updates

September was a busy month when it comes to the City’s plan to help facilitate the creation of new affordable housing units! Here’s a look at some of the projects we’ve been working on:



Parkway Village, Kapolei

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held at Parkway Village at Kapolei. The \$199 million project on City-owned land will create 405 affordable rental units and two on-site preschools, expanding opportunities for early education in West O’ahu. The project is being developed by Kobayashi Group and Āhē Group and will consist of studio to four-bedroom rental units for tenants earning 30-60% of the area median income.



Kihapai Place, Kailua

The City’s Department of Land Management (DLM) recently finalized the \$5 million acquisition of two vacant parcels on Kihapai Place in Kailua, paving the way for much-needed affordable housing on the windward side of O’ahu. The purchase price included construction drawings for the development of a four-story building containing 42 one and two-bedroom units designed to be rented at or below 80% of the area median income.



Halewai’olu

An affordable housing complex Chinatown leaders have called “a community dream finally realized” is now open and leasing for immediate move-in! Open house events were held earlier this month, and one- and two-bedroom units are available for seniors aged 62 and above. The brand-new building is situated in the heart of downtown Honolulu, close to Foster Botanical Garden and Chinatown.

OUT & ABOUT MAYOR'S COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Okinawan Festival (Hawai'i Convention Center) September 2, 2023

Mayor Blangiardi helped kick off one of the largest ethnic events in the state on Sept. 2, 2023. This year's festival, "Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha," drew thousands for the music, food, and cultural performances — including the largest indoor bon dance.

9/11 Remembrance Walk (Honolulu Hale) September 10, 2023

Alongside dedicated first responders, Mayor Blangiardi showed his unwavering support for our nation's resilience by participating in the annual 9/11 Remembrance Walk. Together, they honored the memory of those we lost on that fateful day and paid tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our first responders.



Out Of Darkness Walk (Downtown Honolulu) September 9, 2023

A powerful and moving community event dedicated to raising awareness about suicide prevention. This event shines a light on the importance of mental wellness and empowers our communities to make a difference in the fight against suicide.



End of WWII Commemoration (Pearl Harbor) September 2, 2023

Aboard the historic Battleship Missouri Memorial, Mayor Blangiardi joined military veterans and active duty service members to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the end of World War II and celebrate the shipyard workers who went above and beyond during the war to support U.S. forces.



Kailua Chamber of Commerce Meeting (Kailua) September 20, 2023

The annual Kailua Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Mid-Pacific Country Club provided the mayor with an opportunity to engage with local business leaders and community members, discuss critical issues and share insights into the administration's future plans.



AIA Talk Story (Fort Street Mall) September 21, 2023

The AIA Center for Architecture hosted a talk story with Mayor Blangiardi to discuss plans to revitalize Downtown Honolulu, fix DPP and utilize the newly-created O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission.



Parking Meters, Upgraded!

All across O‘ahu, the City’s credit card-friendly on-street parking meters have been upgraded to better serve the public. These 4G-connected parking meters were modernized to allow users to pay for parking safely, securely, and quickly, and by the end of the year, many of the coin-only meters will be upgraded to the new systems as well!

The new meters accept credit and debit card payments and come with Near-Field Communication (NFC) technology, enabling the use of Apple Pay and Google Pay. They also use the web-based payment app Park Smarter, which gives users real-time expiration alerts and allows them to pay or extend parking sessions remotely using the internet.

After a months-long pause in place so that older parking meters could be replaced, The City’s Department of Transportation Services and the Honolulu Police Department are enforcing any unpaid on-street parking meters, so be sure to use one of the new 4G-enabled meters before walking away!



A Mō‘ili‘ili Remodel

The Mō‘ili‘ili Neighborhood Park is undergoing some much-needed maintenance! The park will be closed for most of October 2023 while we make irrigation system repairs, aerate the playing fields, renovate comfort stations and trim trees across the park. The park is scheduled to reopen in November!



Let’s Be FireWise!



Fire Prevention Week is from October 8 to October 13, but wildland fire season is year-round in Hawai‘i and drought conditions have increased the threat of fires across our island home. Here are some ways you can help stay prepared:

- Create at least a 30-foot safety zone around your house by removing brush and other vegetation.
 - Store flammable materials safely away from the exterior of your home.
 - Be cautious of fire risks when cooking outdoors or operating tools and machinery.
- Make and practice a family evacuation plan.
 - Keep fire lanes and access points unobstructed, in case the fire department needs to respond.

Visit the Honolulu Fire Department’s Instagram and Facebook pages every day during Fire Prevention Week for more tips!



Aloha, VISTAs!

After more than five years, the City’s AmeriCorps VISTA Program is coming to a close. This national service program places volunteers in public agencies and nonprofit organizations to help alleviate poverty and positively impact local communities. What started in 2018 as four AmeriCorps VISTAs in the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency quickly turned into a City-wide program that welcomed a total of 60 VISTA members, supporting seven different City agencies. We appreciate their service!

Report An Issue

Have an issue in your community? Report anything, from potholes to graffiti, using the City’s 311 program — available now via mobile app or <http://www.honoluluhi.citysourced.com>



Sign Up For City Updates

HNL.info is your one-stop shop for updates from the City! Sign up today to receive emergency alerts, service notifications and information about registering for City activities.



Get In Touch Today!

Mayor’s Office
honolulu.gov/mayor
(808) 768-4141

Satellite City Halls
honolulu.gov/csd
(808) 768-4325

Trash Pick-Up Service
honolulu.gov/env
(808) 768-3486

Golf Course & Zoo Information
honolulu.gov/des
(808) 768-5400

Parks and Recreation
honolulu.gov/parks
(808) 768-3003

Neighborhood Boards
honolulu.gov/nco
(808) 768-3710