

# MAYOR'S Highlights



FEBRUARY 2024

*Rick Blangiardi*



## Making Our Shorelines Safer

On a bright, sunny morning along the Kaiwi Coast last month, dozens of people were gathered at Sandy Beach Park to celebrate the installation of 20 new bright yellow rescue tubes at beaches across O'ahu when several Ocean Safety lifeguards received an emergency call and sprang into action.

After grabbing their gear and running to their trucks, the lifeguards raced down Kalaniana'ole Highway to nearby China Walls and discovered a swimmer who was in distress — a swimmer who happened to be hanging on to a life-saving floatation device, similar to the ones being unveiled at Sandy's, that had already been installed at the popular surf spot.

The devices are being deliberately put in places that might not always have constant lifeguard coverage, and they are installed in such a way that any good Samaritan can grab one and use it to help a swimmer in need. The bright yellow rescue tubes are already credited with having saved lives, and members of both the Lions Club and Rotary Club deserve our gratitude for their help in deploying the devices!

The rescue tubes are just one of the ways that lifeguards are improving their life-saving capabilities. Last fall, two dozen lifeguards became certified Emergency Medical Technicians after completing the EMT course at Kapi'olani Community College, furthering their ability to care for patients after surfing accidents or medical episodes in the water.

More lifeguards are currently enrolled in EMT courses, and the City will continue to search for new ways to invest in our first responders — keeping our shorelines safe for beachgoers island-wide!

## This Month's Highlights

- How bright yellow rescue tubes are making our beaches safer
- First responders jump into action during an emergency at January's City Council hearing
- Kahuku community meets to discuss a new swimming pool, recreation center
- An authentic hula show prepares to debut at the Waikiki Shell
- A new sculpture is unveiled at Honolulu's In-Ha Park

## Message from the Mayor: A Stroke Of Luck

When I heard the January meeting of the full Honolulu City Council had been abruptly sent into recess, I was as concerned as anyone. Those who were watching the broadcast feed of the proceedings knew something had happened, but they weren't exactly sure what.

As it turned out, a man had gone into an apparent cardiac arrest while waiting to testify — something that would have been distressing to witness for almost anybody nearby. But in an incredible stroke of luck, the room was filled with people who knew exactly what to do in that situation.

Deputy Chief Rade Vanic, of the Honolulu Police Department, and Dr. Jim Ireland, the director of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, immediately came to the man's aid, while Sommerset Yamamoto, Chief of Staff for Council Support services, called for an ambulance and signaled Chair Tommy Waters to stop the hearing.

Within moments, an automated external defibrillator (AED) had been deployed and Honolulu Fire Chief Sheldon Hao was doing chest compressions. Even though it only took a few minutes for an ambulance to show up, the man had been resuscitated by the time paramedics arrived — his life had been saved, without a doubt, because so many people in the room acted heroically, knowing exactly what to do and when to do it.

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I later learned the man who had been in distress was Brian Lee, of the Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Fund. I have since visited Brian in the hospital, and I am more than pleased to report that he is expected to make a full recovery.

If more people in our communities take the time to learn CPR, we will save more lives without needing to rely on luck or a room full of first responders. Check out the resources below to learn more!

– Mayor Rick Blangiardi

### REGISTER FOR CPR TRAINING TODAY

To learn more about CPR, including information about how to request a CPR training session from the Honolulu Fire Department, scan this QR code today!



## Kahuku Pool Planning Begins!

When Mayor Blangiardi visited Lā'ie Elementary School last April during his three-month tour of town hall meetings, residents across many Ko'olauloa communities made an impassioned plea for a new swimming pool and recreation center in Kahuku. It was much-needed, they said, because there is currently no public swimming pool on the North Shore between Kāne'ohe and Waiialua.

Mayor Blangiardi agreed, and last November he released \$1.5 million to begin planning and development for the facility — a process that began formally last month, with a community meeting at Kahuku Elementary School on January 16.

More than 100 area residents participated in the meeting, providing feedback to Mayor Blangiardi, Managing Director Michael Formby and Parks Director Laura Thielen about their priorities for the new facility. City officials were asked dozens of questions, including questions about where specifically in Kahuku District Park the pool would be located — we aren't sure yet, but that is one of the questions that will be answered during the planning and development phase!

The City, and especially the Department of Parks and Recreation, will continue to keep the residents of our Windward communities involved in the process as we work toward bringing this exciting new addition to Kahuku District Park!



## Free Hula Returns to the Waikīkī Shell

Welcome back! The City and County of Honolulu is partnering with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement to create a new hula show that will debut at the Tom Moffat Waikīkī Shell Amphitheater later this month. The Kilohana Hula Show will be a modern twist on the iconic Kodak Hula Show, which was a Waikīkī staple for six decades before ending in 2002.

The one-hour show will be held at 9:30 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, beginning Feb. 15 and will be free for visitors and kama'āina alike.

“We are witnessing the revival of the inspiration that sparked the signature Kodak Hula Show,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. This is an extraordinary chance to bring new life into the Tom Moffat Waikīkī Shell, a treasure of a landmark that has been under-utilized. I know Tom Moffat is looking down on what we are doing with tremendous pride.”



## Getting O'ahu Online

High-speed internet is a must-have for modern life, but as many as 90,000 people in our communities can't get online.

The City's Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) and the O'ahu Digital Equity Coalition are leading a grassroots survey in several areas of O'ahu to find out why residents in neighborhoods like Wai'anae, Waipahū, Waiialua and Kapalamā Valley have a more difficult time accessing the internet.

OER encourages our neighbors in these areas to take the survey, whether they have internet access or not. Scan the QR code or visit [hnl.revitalizeoahu.org/phase2](http://hnl.revitalizeoahu.org/phase2) to take the survey. Residents can also call program lead Constancio Paranal at **(808) 768-4932** to get a paper copy of the survey.



More than 400 of our neighbors have taken the survey so far. This important work is happening in partnership with the University of Hawai'i, the state Office of Broadband and Digital Equity, the Hawai'i State Library System, and the state Department of Hawaiian Homelands.



## Affordable Housing Bill Signing (Honolulu) January 3, 2024

With the stroke of a pen, Bills 50 & 51 were signed by Mayor Blangiardi, two measures meant to expand about 230 acres around the Aloha Stadium for future transit-oriented development including affordable housing and mixed-use retail.

## Filipino Chamber's Legislative Breakfast (Waipahu) January 6, 2024

A heartfelt mahalo to the Filipino Community of Commerce for organizing the 2024 Legislative Breakfast! Sharing a meal with City Council members, state legislators and Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, the breakfast was a wonderful opportunity to reinforce the connections that support our commitment to the growth of our city.



## Castle Trauma Center Unveiling (Kāne'ohe) January 11, 2024

Adventist Health Castle has received verification as a Level III Trauma Center, a significant emergency healthcare enhancement for the residents of Windward O'ahu. The prestigious recognition was celebrated by Mayor Blangiardi, Honolulu Emergency Services Department Director Jim Ireland, MD, and Gov. Josh Green, MD.

## HESD Office Blessing (Liliha) January 23, 2024

A blessing for the new facility for the Health Services Branch of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department was held January 23 at the St. Francis Medical Center in Liliha, elevating services for local patients.

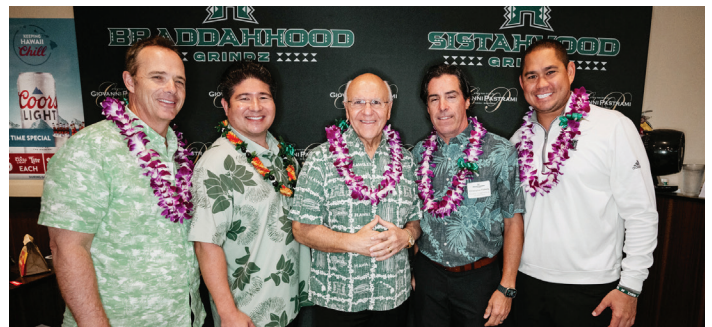


## School St. Senior Housing Blessing (Liliha) January 12, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new School Street Affordable Housing Project. This initiative, in partnership with the state, is geared towards creating 800 much-needed affordable housing units specifically for our kūpuna.

## Braddahood Grindz Kickoff (Waikīkī) January 17, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi took part in the 3rd annual Braddahood Grindz kickoff event for the University of Hawai'i Rainbow Warrior football team. The Mayor, alongside dozens of community leaders, dedicated time to mentor student athletes at Giovanni Pastrami in Waikīkī.



# City Golf at the Sony Open!

During Sony Open week in January, the City's Golf Division collaborated with HSJGA/ First Tee Hawaii to promote our 6 municipal golf courses at Wai'ālae Country Club. In line with our mission to modernize and rebrand, we showcased the new municipal golf logo, created a photo booth and offered prize giveaways such as pens, stickers, and wooden ball markers. Spectators could participate in a spinning wheel prize draw by following City golf courses on social media, and our booth attracted large crowds eager to win prizes and take group photos.

Many attendees also had fun with HSJGA and First Tee Hawaii, using the chipping target boards and putting greens that were part of the booth.

To learn more or book a tee time, scan the QR code today!



COMING SOON!

## The State of Our City

Mark your calendars! Mayor Blangiardi will deliver his **2024 State of the City** address at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, March 14, 2024**, live from the Mission Memorial Auditorium in Honolulu.

## Celebrating Our “In-Ha” Relationship

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the cities of Honolulu and Incheon, Mayor Rick Blangiardi and Incheon Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok unveiled a 10-foot sculpture entitled “Face to Face” at Pāwa’a In-Ha Park. The stainless-steel sculpture, generously gifted by Mayor Yoo Jeong-Bok, also commemorates the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States.

Created in 2023 by renowned Korean artist Kwang-Hyun Wang, “Face to Face” serves as a visual representation of the profound connection between Honolulu and Incheon. The mirrored surface reflects the expansive sky and sea connecting the cities, while the window shape represents the dawn of a new era.

Honolulu and Incheon signed their Sister City agreement on July 23, 2003. Pāwa’a In-Ha Park’s name includes “In,” for Incheon, and “Ha,” for Hawai’i.



### 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](http://honolulu.gov/mayor)  
(808) 768-4141

**Satellite City Halls**  
[honolulu.gov/csd](http://honolulu.gov/csd)  
(808) 768-4325

**Trash Pick-Up Service**  
[honolulu.gov/env](http://honolulu.gov/env)  
(808) 768-3486

**Golf Course & Zoo Information**  
[honolulu.gov/des](http://honolulu.gov/des)  
(808) 768-5400

**Parks and Recreation**  
[honolulu.gov/parks](http://honolulu.gov/parks)  
(808) 768-3003

**Neighborhood Boards**  
[honolulu.gov/nco](http://honolulu.gov/nco)  
(808) 768-3710