

MAYOR'S Highlights



MAY 2024

Rick Blangiaroli



This Month's Highlights

- An update on major improvements at the Department of Planning and Permitting
- Details on the City's Annual Sustainability Report, which was published on Earth Day
- The project to remove the Ha'ikū Stairs officially gets underway
- How to protect your families from fires during Wildfire Awareness Month
- As the Summer Fun program nears, how you can land a job and help O'ahu's keiki

Permitting Progress

In communities across O'ahu, residents and business owners working on thousands of construction projects — from large commercial buildings to small home improvements, and everything in between — will soon begin to notice exciting, meaningful improvements within the City's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).

Earlier this year, DPP announced three major technology initiatives designed to streamline the permitting process and provide greater transparency. The department is months into the implementation of the City's first new permitting software system in more than 25 years — a system called Clariti, which centralizes all aspects of the permitting process onto one easy-to-use platform.

By the end of this summer, the existing ePlans system, called ProjectDox, will be upgraded with greater functionality and faster processing, showing users the status of their permit applications. Additionally, ProjectDox, will enable the department to store all permit applications in the cloud and will allow applicants to add team members to certain projects, enabling them to view the status of a permit or add comments to an application. No longer will you need to call DPP for an answer to the simple question: "Where is my permit?"

Finally, the implementation of a software named CivCheck will allow the department to use artificial intelligence to help guide applicants through the code review process, similar to how products like TurboTax guide users through their tax returns. The software will help eliminate the common errors found in permit applications, which often slow down the permitting process

Paramount and key to the implementation of these technologies — and the overall transformation of DPP — is the department's hard-working and dedicated staff. The technology upgrades are much needed, but the heaviest lift is on the backs of DPP engineers, building plans examiners, inspectors, planners, technology administrators and others involved in the process.

The dedication of DPP staff to perform their day-to-day jobs while driving these technology projects — and the transformation of the department — is monumental. We will continue to share more on the department's journey with the building industry and the public, and we look forward to unveiling new improvements in the months to come!





O'ahu's Sustainability Progress

On Earth Day, the City released its 2024 Annual Sustainability Report, which measures our island's performance in meeting sustainability, energy, and resilience targets and objectives. Highlights from this year's report include a 12% decrease in municipal water usage, a 6% decline in municipal electricity usage, a 32% increase in food hub sales, and at least 3,679 trees planted City-wide in 2023. The report is displayed in a virtual dashboard, and includes new metrics on commercial building benchmarking, food security, and transportation affordability.

"These goals and targets — and our commitment to transparency and reporting to both track progress and take the necessary next steps — are about real impacts and improvements in people's lives," said Mayor Blangiardi.



The City announced the report's release during a Skyline tour that featured sustainability projects along the route. Check out the tour on the Mayor's YouTube page, and view the report by clicking the QR code here!

Wildfire Awareness Month

The month of May is Wildfire Awareness Month. Did you know that 99% of wildfires in Hawai'i are started by people — mostly by accident? As we move into the drier summer months, it is crucial that we all do our part to help prevent wildfires and protect our loved ones by creating defensible spaces or buffer zones around our homes.

By taking a few simple steps today, you can help save lives. Remember to safely store fuels and flammable items, contain your cooking fires and grills, and always use caution when operating machinery, tools or vehicles near vegetation, especially dry brush.

To help spread the word, the Department of Emergency Management, the Honolulu Fire Department and the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization are partnering to provide residents with tips and information throughout the month of May about how to prevent fires, protect your home, and be prepared in the event of an evacuation. Follow along on social media and by clicking the QR code!



Welcome To The Team!

Mayor Blangiardi is thrilled to introduce two new members of the City and County of Honolulu team, both of whom play an important role in critical operations that improve the lives of our residents. Meet Kira and Jordana!

Kira Chuchom
Chief Data Officer



The City and County of Honolulu's first-ever Chief Data Officer, Kira Chuchom, joined the City last month to oversee data management, protection and dissemination efforts.

She will work with City departments to find new ways to leverage technology, streamline data efforts and tackle difficult problems.

Chuchom has extensive experience at companies like Microsoft and Cisco Systems and previously served as a management information systems manager for the City and County of San Francisco.



Jordana Ferreira
Early Childhood
Resource Coordinator

Jordana Ferreira is the City and County of Honolulu's new Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, focusing on

increasing access to quality learning environments for O'ahu's youngest keiki. Previously, she assisted with expanding early learning opportunities, including work on Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke's Ready Keiki initiative.

Growing up on the Wai'anae Coast, Ferreira is familiar with the sacrifices families have to make, and she is committed to building more nurturing communities across the City and County of Honolulu — especially for our keiki.



Akaka Clinic Blessing (Kapolei)

April 5, 2024

Joining the heartfelt unveiling of the Daniel Kahikina Akaka Veterans Affairs Clinic in Kapolei, Mayor Blangiardi stood alongside the Akaka family to celebrate the opening of this vital facility. The clinic is a testament to our commitment to providing our veterans with the care they deserve.



Mayor's Poster Contest Winners (Kapolei)

April 5, 2024

Bravo to the remarkable keiki who showcased their creativity in our Mayor's Memorial Day poster contest! With a staggering 217 entries, we commend the 25 students who received recognition from the Mayor during a ceremony in Kapolei for their outstanding artwork across different grade levels.



Zoofari 2024 (Waikiki)

April 6, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi provided remarks at the Honolulu Zoo Society's 2024 Zoofari Gala. The annual fundraiser was another success, thanks to the generous sponsors and guests who came together to support our Honolulu Zoo and celebrate the Year of the Dragon!



WorkHawaii Job Fair (Iwilei)

April 16, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi attended the recent job fair hosted by WorkHawaii, an event tailored to connect recent college graduates with promising career paths. Employers from federal, state, and county offices participated, offering diverse job opportunities across various fields.

Happy Birthday, Alexander Cartwright! (Makiki)

April 18, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi joined the festivities at Cartwright Field to pay tribute to Alexander Joy Cartwright, the revered father of modern baseball — and Honolulu's inaugural fire chief. Commemorating his 204th birthday, attendees gathered at the historic site of the world's oldest permanent baseball diamond.



Mayor on Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.)

April 29, 2024

Mayor Blangiardi traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with officials from the Biden Administration and members of Congress to advocate for more funding for housing programs and federal assistance with homelessness across the City and County of Honolulu. He was part of a 50-member task force of mayors across the country who have made housing and homelessness a top priority.

Removal of Ha'ikū Stairs Begins

Work on the project to remove the Ha'ikū Stairs is now underway. The Honolulu Police Department reminds the public that it is illegal and unsafe to access the stairs, and trespassers found to be violating posted "No Trespassing" signs may be cited or arrested.

A ho'omaikai'i (blessing) ceremony was performed April 10 to bless the workers responsible for removing the stairs, and to mark the project's official start.

The Ha'ikū Stairs were built by the U.S. military during World War II, but have been officially closed to the public since 1987. The decision to remove the stairs came after collaborative deliberation and discussion with the community and the Honolulu City Council. The removal project prioritizes public safety, seeks to stop trespassing on the stairs and private properties, addresses significant liability for the City, and preserves the natural beauty of the area.

The City's Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is overseeing the project. DDC Director Haku Milles discusses the challenging task of removing 600 stair modules in the April 25th edition of "The One O'ahu Podcast with Mayor Rick Blangiardi."



Now Hiring: Summer Fun Program

Do you know a young adult or motivated teen looking for a great way to make a positive difference in their community this summer? The City is getting ready for our incredibly popular Summer Fun program, and we need their help!

60 Summer Fun sites across O'ahu are looking for more than 500 enthusiastic and responsible adults to help enrich the lives of some 10,000 keiki around the island. We are also looking for teens to take part

in our volunteer Junior Leader Program, giving them volunteer hours that look great on a résumé!

What do Summer Fun staff members do? Put the "fun" in Summer Fun, of course! Their responsibilities include planning and enjoying recreational opportunities with the keiki such as games, music, dance, arts & crafts, Hawaiian cultural activities, special events, and so much more. These experiences don't just enhance our keiki's experience in the program; they also provide the chance to develop essential job skills, including teamwork, leadership, conflict resolution and problem-solving, all while connecting you to your community. This rewarding experience will truly be unforgettable — filled with many fond memories and cherished relationships that will last a lifetime!

We have a wide variety of positions offering competitive pay rates, ranging from \$16 to over \$19 an hour. If you know someone who is interested, please tell them to scan the QR code here:



The employment period is from May 22 through August 3, so apply soon! The more staff we get, the more keiki we can serve, so don't hesitate to spread the word about joining the Summer Fun 'ohana today!



Lei Needed For Memorial Day

For over seven decades, the City and County of Honolulu has honored a solemn promise to adorn every grave at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Pūowaina with a fresh lei for the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony. This uniquely Hawaiian display of gratitude is our way of saying "mahalo" to veterans for their service. Now we need your help to commemorate their sacrifice by helping us make and gather 38,000 lei for every servicemember laid to rest at the cemetery.

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://honoluluhi.citysourced.com>



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