

Neighbor to Neighbor

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

NOVEMBER 2021

MAKIKI/PUNCHBOWL, PAPAOLEA, DOWNTOWN, CHINATOWN, KAKA'AKO, NU'UANU, LILIHA, ALEWA, KAMEHAMEHA HEIGHTS, KALIHI VALLEY, AIEA, AND MOANALUA



Dear Neighbors,

I would like to extend a warm mahalo to you for taking the time to read this month's Neighborhood Board report, highlighting some of the unique challenges, tough concerns, and positive accomplishments that my staff and I undertake on a daily basis. I am heartened that with continued outreach and communication, we can work towards positive change in this unique, diverse community. Please contact me if you have an area of concern you'd like to address, or a person or organization that you'd like to acknowledge. I look forward to continuing to assist you in building a better community for all of us!

Mahalo nui loa,

Carol Fukunaga
City Councilmember, District 6

Update on City's Illegal Vacation Rental Legislation

Bill 41 (2021), *Relating to Transient Accommodations*, was introduced on October 19, 2021, and will be considered on First Reading at the November 10, 2021 Council meeting. **Bill 41 (2021)** amends **Ordinance 19-18**, whose adoption was to halt illegal vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods; however, multiple enforcement issues soon surfaced:

"The purpose of this Ordinance is to better protect the City's residential neighborhoods and housing stock from the negative impacts of short-term rentals by providing a more comprehensive approach to the regulation of transient accommodations within the City and creating additional sources of funding for the administration and enforcement of the City's short-term rental and transient accommodations laws."

City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has also filed a proposed CD1 amendment (*see attached press release*), which provides greater enforcement powers to the department. It would:

- Create a STR Enforcement Fund.
- Reinstate the enforcement of Hosting Platforms.
- Allow existing owners of a hotel unit who occupy the unit as "a principal place of residence" to continue.
- Add Makaha Valley and the Waikiki Resort Mixed Use Precinct as areas that permit bed and breakfast homes and transient vacation units.
- Add a new definition for "transient occupant" that would allow for non-tourist related rentals of less than 180 days.

I hope NB #20 members consider sharing their experiences on this measure when bill is scheduled for a Zoning and Planning Committee hearing (which may be in December or in January 2022); and for NB #20 to consider supporting more stringent City enforcement against illegal vacation rentals in Aiea-Halawa Heights

Please contact Senior Advisor Kimberley Ribellia at kribellia@honolulu.gov if you have additional questions.



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City/State Efforts Needed to Address Feral Chickens and Pigeons

My staff and I have previously submitted multiple complaints to the Mayor's office regarding feral roosters and chickens that roost/crow at excessively during early morning hours, which adversely impacts residents because they cannot sleep peacefully without their sleep being disturbed.

More recently, a growing number of feral chickens and pigeons located in Downtown-Chinatown, in city parks, and throughout Honolulu prompted an invitation from NB #13 to State Dept. of Health Administrator Grace Simmons to discuss what the state's Vector Control Division may be able to undertake with state legislative/county legislative and city agency assistance. We look forward to working with City and State agencies to develop stronger policies for animal nuisance control and regulation! Please contact Legislative Aide Adam Doo at adam.doo@honolulu.gov if you have additional questions.

Council Reapportionment Combines Aiea/Halawa Heights with New District 7

As one of the outcomes of the 2020 Census, **Resolution 21-53** established the 2021 Reapportionment Commission; its nine members met since July 2021 to analyze census/population data and developed four preliminary plans for consideration.

The Commission held two public hearings on the four preliminary plans and proposed two additional reapportionment proposals for consideration. On October 26, 2021, the Commission adopted Kaena/Makapuu Plan Member Draft 1 (Commission Vice-Chair Chase Shigemasa (*see photo 1*)).

The adopted plan changes current Council District 6 boundaries as follows (*see photo 2*):

- Aiea Heights, Halawa Valley, Moanalua and Fort Shafter will become part of a new Council District 7 represented by current Councilmember Radiant Cordero
- Kalihi Valley, Liliha/Alewa Heights, Nuuanu/Punchbowl will remain in the new Council District 6, which will also gain portions of Iwilei, thereby combining Downtown-Chinatown and Iwilei areas that comprise the Downtown TOD Neighborhood Plan.
- Makiki/Tantalus will shift into a new Council District 5 represented by current Councilmember Calvin Say.

The Reapportionment Commission is currently drafting its Final Report to the City Council (due January 2, 2022). The reapportionment maps will take effect on January 2, 2023, when four members of the Honolulu City Council are sworn in as member of the City Council: <https://www.honolulu.gov/elections/reapportionment.html>

(Continued on next page)



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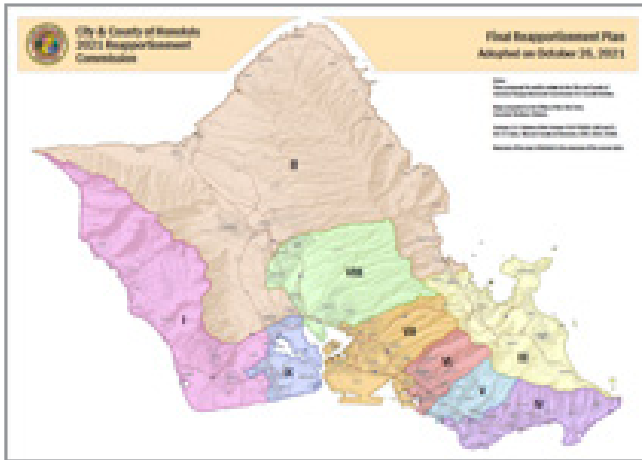


Photo 1

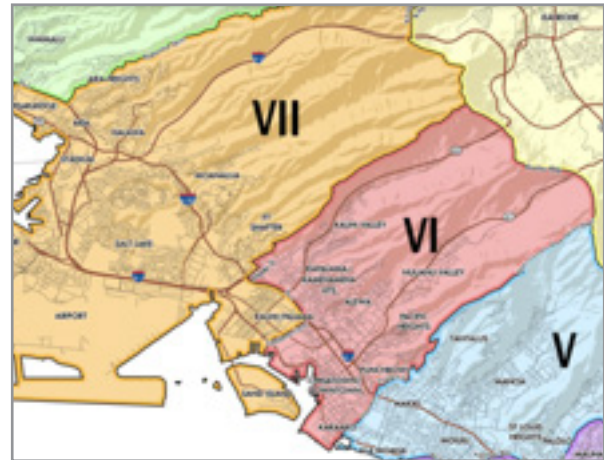


Photo 2

Extended Hours for Select Driver Licensing Centers and Satellite City Halls

With Governor Ige's most recent emergency proclamation, residents of O'ahu with expired driver's license, state ID cards or instruction permits (since March 2020), have another extension to renew.

Driver's licenses, state ID cards and instruction permits in Hawai'i have been extended until November 30, 2021.

To meet the demand for driver's licenses, state ID and instruction permit renewals, the City's two largest Driver Licensing Centers will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the remainder of the year. Additionally, select Satellite City Halls are also open on Saturdays, and offer extended hours during the weekdays.

Driver Licensing Center Hours		
Location	Monday - Friday	Saturday*
Kapālama Driver Licensing Center	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Kapolei Driver Licensing Center	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Ko'olau Driver Licensing Center	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	
Wai'anae Driver Licensing Center	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	

Satellite City Hall Hours		
Location	Monday - Friday	Saturday*
Downtown Satellite City Hall	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Hawai'i Kai Satellite City Hall	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Closed
Pearlridge Satellite City Hall	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Windward City Satellite City Hall	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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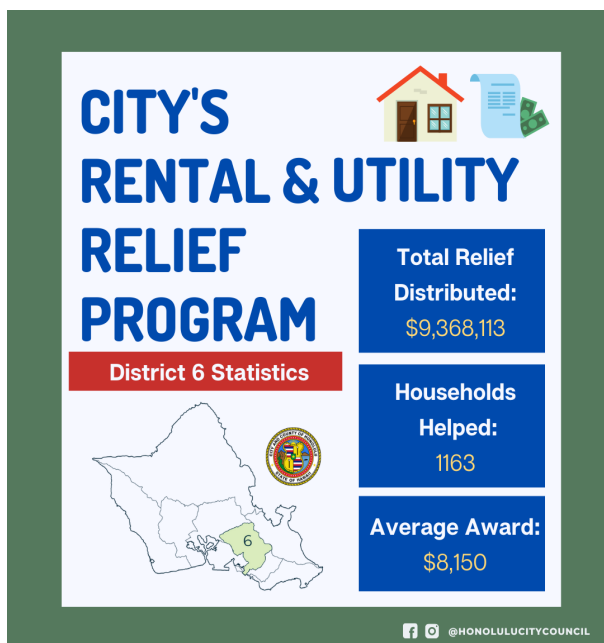


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Appointments are highly recommended using the City's AlohaQ reservation system at <https://aloha.honolulu.gov/?lp>; stand-by services will be available to offset customer cancellations and a no-show rate of about 30%, but are not guaranteed. For additional information, visit the website: <https://www.honolulu.gov/csd>.

City's Rental and Utility Relief Program (RURP) Reopens



The City Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) announced the reopening the RURP; it is now accepting new applications from O'ahu residents who are financially suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to pay rent.

The program makes direct payments to landlords for up to 12 months of unpaid or future rent with the help of Catholic Charities Hawai'i and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA). As of now, the RURP has financially assisted nearly 10,000 households and made payments of nearly \$80 million using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to landlords and utility companies since April of 2021.

To qualify for the RURP, a household must demonstrate it is enduring financial hardship due to the COVID-19

pandemic, be at 80% annual median income (AMI) or lower (up to \$96,650 a year for a household of four).

For more information, visit the website: <https://oneoahu.org/renthelp> or call the City's COVID-19 Response call center at (808) 768-CITY (2489) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day, except on holidays.

Additional Resources on Hawaiian Electric's Website

On May 31, 2021, the moratorium on disconnections set by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ended; however, Hawaiian Electric noted that customers would not be disconnected automatically. Instead, customers would be encouraged to enroll in payment plans or other options.

In addition to the City's RURP (*identified above*), CNHA is partnering with the State Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to offer rental assistance funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligible expenses include rent and utilities, with back payment from March 13, 2020 to the present. To apply online, visit the website: <https://www.hawaiiancouncil.org/dhhl>.

From: [Sakahara, Tim](#)
Subject: City introduces amended short-term rental bill in response to community feedback
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:54:16 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

NEWS RELEASE
MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021
Communications Office: (808) 768-5768

City introduces amended short-term rental bill in response to community feedback

HONOLULU – The Blangiardi administration today submitted to the Honolulu City Council a proposed amendment to Bill 41 that would amend Ordinance 19-18 relating to short-term rentals. The committee draft (CD1) would provide the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) with greater enforcement powers and incorporate many comments and issues raised by the community at recent public hearings.

The administration is asking the Council to consider the amendments when the Council discusses Bill 41 Relating to Transient Accommodations, which was transmitted to the Council by the Honolulu Planning Commission last month and is scheduled for First Reading at its full Council meeting on Nov. 10, 2021.

The intent of the bill is clear, which is to crack down on all illegal vacation rentals, particularly in residential areas. Based on hours of testimony before the Commission, the DPP revised the bill for further clarification to ensure this objective will be met.

“Illegal vacation rentals have been disruptive to our residential neighborhoods and have gone unchecked for far too long,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “Affordable housing is one of the top priorities of our administration. Bill 41 will help return much needed rental housing, while restoring the integrity of our neighborhoods for our local residents.”

The stricter regulations have gained widespread support from the visitor industry, neighborhood boards, community associations, and individual residents. Among them:

Jerry Gibson, president, Hawai‘i Hotel Alliance

“The Visitor industry is extremely pleased with the Mayor’s and DPP’s new legislation on illegal short term rentals. This new enforcement will not only help give the residents back their neighborhoods on O‘ahu, but also help to provide long-term rentals for those in need. We will also notice a great reduction in the amount of cars at beaches, parks and residential areas. Thank you for this excellent piece of legislation.”

Larry Bartley, executive director, Save O‘ahu’s Neighborhoods

"Save O‘ahu’s Neighborhoods welcomes this administration's grasp of the problem of short-

term rentals in residential-zoned houses and condominiums. Even after passage of Ordinance 19-18, savvy STR operators successfully skirt the intent of that law. We thank the administration and DPP for introducing Bill 41. It is quite encompassing and has many features that will aid the city in enforcing against the illegal activity. We have some concerns about the methods of allowing the expansion of short-term rentals in apartment zoning, but believe those can be worked out in Council hearings.”

Jeanne Ohta, president, ‘Āina Haina Community Association

“As the Department of Planning and Permitting has acknowledged, the character of our neighborhoods has been negatively affected by the use of residentially zoned properties for mini hotels. Our neighbors have complained about increased parking and traffic congestion and the noise of visitors arriving late at night and rolling their luggage from their cars.... Tourists are on vacation while residents need to work the next day. These schedules are just not compatible.”

John De Fries, president and CEO, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority

"We have heard loud and clear from the community that illegal vacation rentals must be managed. They greatly impact quality of life in our neighborhoods, and circumvent our collective efforts to manage the number of visitors to our islands – a major action item in O‘ahu’s Destination Management Action Plan. We appreciate and value the hard work of the Planning Commission, the City Council, and Mayor Blangiardi’s administration to tackle and resolve this issue.”

The proposed CD1 would:

- Create a STR Enforcement Fund.
- Reinstate the enforcement of Hosting Platforms.
- Allow existing owners of a hotel unit who occupy the unit as “a principal place of residence” to continue.
- Add Makaha Valley and the Waikiki Resort Mixed Use Precinct as areas that permit bed and breakfast homes and transient vacation units.
- Add a new definition for “transient occupant” that would allow for non-tourist related rentals of less than 180 days.

To submit testimony on Bill 41 for the Honolulu City Council Meeting on November 10, please visit: <https://www.honolulu.gov/ccl-testimony-form.html>

To view the proposed CD1 for Bill 41 please visit:
<https://hnl.doc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/document-download?id=12380>

—PAU—

Stay connected with Mayor Rick Blangiardi on social media:

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