

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

District 31 • Moanalua, Foster Village, Aiea, Lower Pearlridge, Fort Shafter, Red Hill, Aliamanu •

Aloha Neighbors,

It's back to school and an increase in traffic especially around schools. Be aware of the our keiki and keep them safe. Should you have any questions, concerns, or require assistance on an issue, please don't hesitate to contact me at my office by phone at 586-9470, or email repjohanson@capitol.hawaii.gov. Please take care!

Mahalo,



U.S. PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

The Ala Moana Satellite City Hall is now accepting applications for new U.S. Passports on an appointment only basis. Normally, the wait time for passport application appointments on Oahu have ranged from a week to a few months at authorized U.S. Department of State's Passport Acceptance Programs. This pilot program at the Ala Moana Satellite City Hall is expected to clear the logjam of people waiting to for their appointment get their passports.

The Ala Moana Satellite City Hawaii will take up to 32 appointments each day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You must have all of the required documents for the passport, including proof of citizenship, government ID and a check or money order for the passport fee; cash and credit cards will not be accepted. You may schedule an appointment at : <https://alohaq.honolulu.gov/?lp>.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our keiki started school on August 1, 2022; please be aware of increased foot traffic near and around our schools and keep our keiki safe.

The Department of Education states that masks are optional for students and staff indoors and outdoors. However, indoor masking is necessary for days 6 to 10 if a student was diagnosed with or tested positive with COVID-19 and is returning to the classroom after completing home isolation.

The University of Hawaii system students will begin instruction on August 22, 2022, with a masking policy in place.

Masking continues to be required indoors in:

- Classrooms
- Shared laboratory spaces
- Tightly confined educational spaces such as advising offices.

Masking in highly recommended in all other indoor settings on campuses. Individual campuses may require masking in other indoor and outdoor venues, such as situations with a large number of people in close proximity or it is anticipated that a large number of higher-risk people will be attending the event.

These guidelines for the university are in effect until **September 19th**. Any changes will be announced prior to that date.

LIFESMARTS COMPETITION

LifeSmarts is the ultimate consumer challenge, and is a free consumer education competition which is open to teens in grades 6 to 12. This competition tests students on their knowledge of:

- Personal Finance
- Health and Safety
- Environment
- Technology
- Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

Students are encouraged to band together and form a team with an adult sponsor or coach. Registration for high school and middle school competition opens on August 1, 2022 with online competition beginning on October 17, 2022. The competition closes on December 9, 2022, with the Hawaii State Competition between the top 4 schools, to be held on February 10, 2023. The winner goes to the nation competition in Washington, D.C., from April 27-30, 2022.

Last year's state winner was the Waipahu 3 team from Waipahu High School. For more information contact LifeSmarts State Assistant Coordinator, Gloryana Akapo at (808) 586-2737.

IN OUR PARKS

The City and County Department of Parks and Recreation has announced a toilet paper shortage in its parks and park users should bring their own toilet paper. Rather than carrying a whole roll of toilet paper, a reader sent in a tip to the Honolulu Star Advertiser's Kokua Line:

"Save rolls of toilet paper when there's about an inch of paper left around the roll, press down on the roll, pull out the cardboard, and put the flattened roll(s) into a sandwich bag. You then have flat, inconspicuous rolls of toilet paper that you can discreetly slip into a pocket or purse."

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Governor David Ige signed SB2279, into Act 88. This measure regulates the purchase of catalytic converters by used motor vehicle parts dealers, scrap dealers, and recyclers. It also establishes the theft of catalytic converters as a felony offense. This law is effective January 1, 2023.

