



Councilmember Todd K. Apo

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City & County of Honolulu • City Council District 1
Ewa • Kapolei • Waianae Coast



JUNE 2008

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD UPDATE

Honolulu Hale: 530 S. King Street, Room 202 • Kapolei Hale: 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 201 • Tel: 547-7001 Fax: 523-4220

Aloha! I want to start by congratulating all of the new graduates and their families. This is an exciting time and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Fiscal Year 2009 City Budget passed in June

On June 4, the Honolulu City Council passed budget legislation approving the City’s Executive Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget for 2009, totalling approximately \$2.7 billion.

Major projects included in the 2009 Executive Budget are sewer improvements, the new boiler purchase for H-Power, shipment of waste, the fixed-guideway mass transit system, and Community Block Development Grants.

This year the Council took a step in a new direction by allocating the \$3 million in budget cuts toward planned capital improvements. Instead of taking out municipal bonds, we’re able to pay cash for a portion and incur less debt for the City. This will mean long term savings to our residents, as we will not have to pay interest for these projects.

The Council also adopted legislation maintaining the real property tax rate for FY 2009 at the same levels for all tax categories. Legislation also provided for a homeowner tax credit. Real property tax rates will stay at \$3.29 per \$1,000 valuation on residential properties and \$12.40 per \$1,000 valuation for non-residential properties. Eligible homeowners can receive a \$100 tax credit.

The Council worked hard to ensure the City’s budget is balanced and maintains city services at the lowest cost possible. By charter, the City Council is required to approve the budget and set tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year no later than June 15. For further information on real property tax, you may visit the city website at: www.honolulupropertytax.com.

Traffic Control Legislation

Also at the June 4 Full Council Meeting, I introduced Bill 45 (2008). This bill would allow the Council discretion in determining the placement, selection, maintenance, and timing of traffic control devices. Bill 45 (2008) was approved in First Reading and sent to the Committee on Transportation and Public Works for further deliberation. Council’s Transportation and Public Works Committee is expected to convene on Thursday, June 26, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to revisit this measure.

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 4

9 am
FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 24

9 am
Zoning Committee
1 pm
Planning & Sustainability

Wednesday, June 25

9 am
Budget Committee
1 pm
Executive Matters

Thursday, June 26

9 am
Transportation & Public Works
11:30 am
Intergovernmental Affairs
1 pm
Public Health Safety & Welfare
2:30 pm
Affordable Housing & Economic Development

If you would like to provide testimony on Bill 45 (2008) please register by visiting:
<http://www.honolulu.gov/council/atnspktpw.htm>.

Board of Water Supply Construction

As the Board of Water Supply continues to their on-going waterline work along Farrington Highway and Geiger Road, your patience and awareness of road workers is appreciated. BWS is continually working with the community to make sure the projects are completed on time and to alleviate commuting impact as much as possible. If you have any questions or concerns for the Board of Water Supply, please contact the Construction Section at 748-5730.

Wildland Fire Season

The coming months will undoubtedly provide us with the warm and ideal weather that makes our island home so wonderful, but with this trend comes the impending danger of wildland fires. Our district is particularly vulnerable to this menace. Hawaii is most susceptible to wildland fires between the months of June and September.

The Honolulu Fire Department advises residents to take preventative measures by clearing brush and other potential fuels away from homes. HFD suggests that a perimeter of at least thirty (30) feet be maintained during the heightened fire season. HFD further recommends that flammable materials be cleared from carports, garages, and from under decks.

The practice of brush abatement and fire prevention are only the first parts of preparation for the fire season. Keep in mind that evacuation and escape plans are a critical part of ensuring the safety of you and your loved ones. Consider detailing escape routes, prepacking medication, and rendezvous points in the event of a fire. Be vigilant and aware of any suspicious people or smoke, and call 911 at the first sign of doubt or trouble.

Be Safe: Don't Drink and Drive

Graduation season is a time of celebration, but please remember to be safe and mindful of yourself, friends and family. If you are going to drive, don't drink. If you are going to drink, get a designated driver. It's not worth the risk, and we have experienced too many fatal incidents. Be proactive in protecting friends who have been drinking. Honolulu Police will be setting up road blocks throughout the summer months to monitor for DUIs. Be smart, safe, and plan ahead for transportation home.

As always, you can email me at tapo@honolulu.gov. I regularly send out electronic newsletter updates, so please visit the District 1 website at www.toddapo.org and join our mailing list. If you have any other questions, please call me at 547-7001. Mahalo!

Aloha,



TODD APO, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT I