



**REPORT TO THE  
WAIPAHU NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD  
COUNCILMEMBER BRANDON ELEFANTE  
JUNE 2016**



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<http://www.honolulu.gov/councild8/default.html>

**Calendar Of  
Events & Activities**

**June 2016**

- 1 Honolulu City Council Meeting
- 10 King Kamehameha Day Holiday
- 14 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Public Health, Safety & Welfare
  - Parks, Community & Customer Services
- 15 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Budget
  - Public Works, Infrastructure & Sustainability
- 16 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Zoning & Planning
  - Transportation

**July 2016**

- 4 Independence Day Holiday
- 6 Honolulu City Council Meeting
- 19 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Public Health, Safety & Welfare
  - Parks, Community & Customer Services
  - Executive Matters & Legal Affairs
- 20 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Budget
  - Public Works, Infrastructure & Sustainability
- 21 Council Committee Meetings:
  - Zoning & Planning
  - Transportation
  - Business, Economic Development & Tourism

**READY 2 REACT  
SATURDAY, JULY 30  
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
PEARLRIDGE CENTER  
UPTOWN AND TOYS 'R' US  
PARKING LOT**

**August Ahrens Elementary Promotion Ceremony**



Councilmember Elefante joined Senator Nishihara, Representative Aquino, Principal Nguyen, Vice Principal Sheets, and Vice Principal Thompson at the August Ahrens Promotion Ceremony to congratulate the students for all their hard work.

**Join Us At The Ready 2 React Preparedness Event**

On Saturday, July 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pearlridge Center Uptown as well as the Toys 'R' Us parking lot, dozens of city, state, federal, and non-governmental agencies will converge for *Ready 2 React*, which draws the largest collection of emergency vehicles and equipment of any Oahu event.

Now in its fourth year, this event will bring preparedness experts together with the public to help prepare residents for emergencies or disasters that may affect Oahu. Meet the experts in emergency response and emergency preparedness so your family will be better prepared for the next disaster. First-responders and preparedness experts will include the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Emergency Services Department (Ocean Safety and Emergency Medical Services), American Red Cross, Hawaii National Guard 93rd Civil Support Team, FEMA, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

We hope to see you and your family and friends there!

## Healthy Tip of the Month: Blue Zones Project Hawaii

Blue Zones Project® Hawaii and HMSA are accepting applications from well-being champions -- either individuals or organizations -- interested in having their community join a well-being movement that is transforming the lives of citizens throughout the country. Blue Zones Project is a community-led, well-being improvement initiative that works with local organizations and individuals to make healthy choices easier. Previous communities that have joined this movement are Koolaupoko (Waimanalo to Kualoa) as well as North and East Hawaii on the Big Island. If your community is interested in becoming a well-being champion, please contact Heidi Kim at: [Heidi.Kim@healthways.com](mailto:Heidi.Kim@healthways.com) or Blue Zones Project executive director Scott Stensrud at: [Scott.Stensrud@healthways.com](mailto:Scott.Stensrud@healthways.com) to learn more about the application process, which includes setting up an informational meeting and submitting a Statement of Interest form, due July 29, 2016.

For additional details on this exciting initiative, visit [go.bluezonesproject.com/Hawaii/discoverbzip](http://go.bluezonesproject.com/Hawaii/discoverbzip).

An example of healthy tips from the Blue Zones Project is to **Move - For the Fun of It!** Make a list of activities that you enjoy. Instead of thinking of it as exercise, focus on making your lifestyle more active. Ride your bike instead of driving. Walk to the store. At work, take the stairs rather than the elevator, park at the far end of the parking lot, and go for walking breaks. Build activity into your lifestyle by doing what you enjoy.

For more information on Blue Zones Project, go to <https://hawaii.bluezonesproject.com/>. Adapted from *Blue Zones Project Hawaii* at <http://bluezonesproject.hawaii.gov/sites.com/hawaii/powerg/movenaturally>

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### Interest-free Down Payment Loans Still Available to Low-income and Moderate-income Families

Qualified low-income and moderate-income families can receive interest-free loans for home purchase down payments.

With mortgage rates still at historic lows, a zero-interest down payment loan can be the difference between renting and owning a home.

Interested households must apply for the program through a mortgage lender after receiving approval for a first mortgage. In order to qualify, applicants must provide five percent of the purchase price as a down payment and complete an approved homeownership course. A home inspection is also required. Loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to apply. \$380,000 in Federal HOME funds have been allocated for the program on Oahu.

For more information, please call the Department of Community Services, Rehabilitation Loan Branch at 768-7076.

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### Honolulu City Council Budget Updates

Councilmember Elefante requested two items in the City's Budgets that were approved by the City Council on June 1. In the Operating Budget, \$180,000 was approved to fund the crowing rooster and feral chicken contract on City properties as part of the Animal Care and Control contract. This will enable the City to continue its program to remove feral chickens and roosters on City properties, including Board of Water Supply parcels. In the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, \$748,000 was appropriated to purchase two front end loaders. These trucks will allow the City to continue to pick up trash from condominiums as ordered by the State Supreme Court.