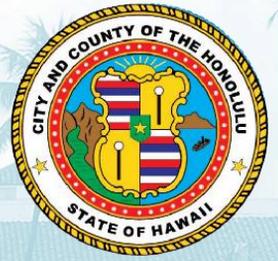


City News



JULY 2015



New approach to addressing homelessness to debut at Sand Island

A temporary transitional housing first site on Sand Island was proposed last year and faced opposition. The City listened to critics, worked with the community, service providers, and homeless advocates, and looked for models from around the nation.

The State Department of Health stepped-up to help and conducted soil testing at no cost to the City. This necessary delay confirmed that the site is safe and ended up being a valuable opportunity to make substantive improvements to the proposal that have earned the support of even the most vocal critics.

Hale Mauliola, a temporary modular housing and service center at Sand Island, will accommodate 75-100 homeless individuals this fall – and it will echo elements of some of the most progressive approaches to bringing immediate relief to people experiencing chronic homelessness.

San Francisco recently opened its “Navigation Center.” The Navigation Center sets itself apart from other shelters through breaking down barriers between people in need and the help they require. Partners, pets, and properties are all allowed, and there are no lockout times. Navigation Center residents are paired with case managers who have the goal of placing each client in the appropriate level of housing in under ten days.

Sand Island calls for all of the above, only our goal is to place residents into housing in sixty days or less. The site will have 24-hour security, and basic rules to ensure safety.

City negotiating to bring affordable senior housing to Chinatown

The City has entered negotiations with The Michaels Development Company on terms and for an affordable senior rental project ‘Halewai’olu Residences’ on River Street.

The \$49 million project would provide 151 units of rental housing for residents age 62 and over at 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), \$53,700 for a single person, and below, with the majority of units available to seniors with incomes up to 60% AMI (\$40,260). Current City affordable housing requirements for private sector developments mandate that only 30% of new units have to be available for sale to households making up to 140% AMI (\$93,940).

Michaels Development would build two mid-rise towers that share an elevator core, over three levels of parking, with a street-level community center and retail space, in a style that complements Chinatown’s unique character and sense of place.



Mayor Caldwell's Top Priorities

ROADS

118 miles of road repaved and 20,293 potholes filled so far in 2015. 820 lane-miles of roadway have been repaved since Mayor Caldwell took office.

RAIL

176 columns and 253 foundations constructed; 2,948 segments constructed and 130 spans cast.

PARKS

Completed comfort station refurbishments at Asing Community Park and Kawānanakoa Neighborhood Park, Kaneohe District Park, and playground refurbishments at Pāki Community Park, Salt Lake District Park, Hālawā District Park, Pearl Ridge Community Park, and Hale’iwa Beach Park.

Visit www.honolulu.gov/parks for more information.

HOMELESSNESS

92 people in 72 households have been placed in permanent, supportive housing (Housing First) through the city’s partnership with IHS.

SEWERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Work continues for the Kaneohe-Kailua gravity sewer tunnel. For updates, please visit www.kktunnel.org.



CITY, STATE, FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT BIKESHARE HAWAII

Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Hawaii State Department of Health Director Virginia Pressler, M.D. signed a contract providing matching funds for Bikeshare Hawai'i. Under the agreement, the City and State will each provide \$1 million in seed funding to assist the nonprofit Bikeshare Hawaii in building its large-scale bicycling infrastructure system, which is set to launch next year.

"We're proud to support this important transportation public-private partnership between the City, State, and Bikeshare Hawaii," said Mayor Caldwell. "This expansion of Honolulu's bicycling infrastructure will be a game-changer in giving residents and visitors options to avoid traffic, help the environment, and have fun."

"The Department of Health is thrilled to partner with the City and County on this important initiative that puts bikeshare within the reach of Hawaii's residents and visitors," said Director Pressler. "Having access to active transportation modes like bikeshare makes it easier for us to meet our daily physical activity needs, ultimately helping to reduce obesity and chronic disease to improve the health and well-being of our community."

Bikeshare Hawaii will be a low-cost, flexible public transportation system that provides on-demand access to a network of publically-rentable bicycles at strategic locations. Approximately 1,700 bikes will be available at stations throughout urban Honolulu during the initial rollout. Upon completion of Honolulu's rail project, bikeshare stations will provide first/last mile connectivity to rail and TheBus stations, facilitating the use of public transportation. Bikeshare will eventually expand the system statewide as demand increases.

Bikeshare systems have been proven to expand mobility options, create new bicyclists, and reduce automobile use. Bikeshare systems also promote healthier cities, active lifestyles, reduced vehicle emissions, and reliance on imported fossil fuel.

More than 300 people come together to shape Chinatown's future

Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Councilmember Carol Fukunaga, Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, and Rep. Karl Rhoads hosted a Chinatown Action Summit late last month to engage the Chinatown community in planning specific improvement concepts for the iconic downtown neighborhood.

More than 300 people, including representatives from the city, elected officials, and cultural, civic, arts, business, and community groups, participated in an interactive event that built on prior and ongoing planning efforts. Participants prioritize neighborhood improvements in: safety and cleanliness; art, culture and historic preservation; wayfinding and pedestrian access; and new economic opportunities.

The goal of this community-based effort was to identify and prioritize actions that can be implemented fairly quickly, while developing longer term projects that will have meaningful and lasting impact.

"Chinatown has such a rich history with all of its historic buildings and businesses, plus a lot of new entrepreneurial and creative energy," said Harrison Rue, Community Building and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) administrator. "We want to work with the community and come up with new uses, services and public space designs that improve on what we have, and position the neighborhood to best take advantage of rail transit in the future."

For more information, please visit www.honolulu.gov/TOD.



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