

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

July 2022



Kaimukī Neighborhood Chair Sharon Schneider Passes Away

It is with a heavy heart that we regret to inform you that Sharon Schneider, chair of the Kaimukī Neighborhood Board, passed away on Monday morning, June 20, 2022. We're thankful to Sharon for her many years of tireless dedication to the Kaimukī community and for the way she touched so many lives.

Sharon's public funeral service information:

**Hosoi Garden Mortuary
in downtown Honolulu**

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Visitation at 4:00 pm

Ceremony at 5:00 pm

Remembrance with food at 6:00 pm



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808-586-8420

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► HANDY CONTACTS

State Pothole Hotline
808-586-7852

City Pothole Hotline
808-768-7777

State Homelessness
gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
808-586-0193

City Homelessness
complaints@honolulu.gov
808-768-4381

Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permits
808-768-8000

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

BEAT THE HEAT! ENERGY SAVING AC HABITS TO GET YOU THROUGH THE SUMMER

It's not surprising, but summer is the time of year where electricity bills typically go up due to all the extra energy we're using to stay cool. As we continue to feel economic impacts on many household expenses, here are some tips and resources to help you beat the heat and stay on budget.

Keep It Chill

While keeping AC usage to a minimum is one of the most powerful energy-saving actions you can take, sometimes you just need it. However, since it can account for roughly 13–16% of your electricity bill, knowing how to get the most out of it can

make a huge difference! Here's our advice for gold-star AC usage:

- 1. Choose ENERGY STAR®.** If it's time for an upgrade, make sure to look for the ENERGY STAR logo. You'll reduce your AC energy usage by 10–15%!
- 2. No forget da filter!** Keeping up with annual maintenance is key to keeping your AC going for years, avoiding costly replacements, and squeezing the most savings out of it. Need help? Call one of our Clean Energy Allies at hawaiienergy-partner.force.com/VendorDirectory/s or even better, get a rebate for a tune-up service.
- 3. Zip it up.** An often-overlooked way to keep bills down is to keep your space cool to begin with. Closing blinds helps keep the sun's heat out, and shutting doors and windows keeps the cool air inside, so nothing goes to waste.
- 4. If can, use a fan (and check the switch).** Check that direction on your ceiling fan—spin it counterclockwise for max cooling, instead of clockwise, which pulls air up and distributes warm air around.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Remembering Patsy Mink on Title IX's 50th Anniversary

by Jack Chilson

This year, the U.S. celebrated 50 years of Title IX and the countless opportunities that the law has created. Title IX was passed into law on June 23, 1972. The legislation withholds federal funding from United States schools and universities that practice gender discrimination in admissions, athletics, recruitment, financial aid, and housing. For the state of Hawai'i, these celebrations were especially meaningful, because Title IX's author was Hawai'i Representative Patsy Mink.



Patsy Mink was known for both her deep roots in Hawai'i and her ability to break barriers. Mink was born and raised in Maui, where she graduated valedictorian from Maui High School in 1944. Following high school, Mink attended various colleges but spent most of her time at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she earned a bachelor's degree. Mink then applied to many medical schools but was rejected by all on the basis of sex. Pushed away from medicine by

gender discrimination, Mink applied to law school and attended the University of Chicago Law School as one of two women in her class.

Shaped by her upbringing and education, Mink eventually ran for public office in Hawai'i and won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1965. Her election marked history on many fronts, including as the first Hawai'i woman elected to Congress, the first woman of color elected to the House,

and the first Japanese-American woman in Congress. However, these were just the first of many barriers that Mink broke throughout her career.

While in Congress, Mink positioned herself as the most vocal and influential advocate of gender equity in education, culminating in her involvement in Title IX. As one of the main authors, Mink helped to craft these important words: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial

assistance." Emphasizing and honoring Mink's commitment to the legislation, Congress renamed Title IX the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act after her death in 2002.

On June 23, 2022, Hawai'i took the opportunity to celebrate both 50 years of Title IX and the Hawaiian who made the law possible. A lei ceremony was held at the Patsy Takemoto Mink monument, located outside the Hawai'i State Library. According to the University of Hawai'i News, the monument was presented with maile, kukui nut, cigar, and plumeria leis. Each lei had significance to either Mink or Title IX and was donated by State Rep. Della Au Bellati and the Women's Legislative Caucus.



Other sponsoring agencies included the UH system, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, and the Zonta Club. The ceremony served as a commemoration of Mink's legacy in Hawai'i and the United States, as well as a celebration of the past and future of gender equity.

YOUR CONCERNS

Elections Are Right Around the Corner Here's What You Need to Know to Make Sure Your Vote Gets Counted

Act 136, SLH 2019 implements all elections in Hawai'i be conducted by mail. The law removes using polling places where voters cast their ballots on election day, and instead a ballot is automatically mailed to registered voters. However, it is still possible to vote in person at voter service centers for 10 days up until Election Day, and same day voter registration is also available there.

Registering to Vote in Hawai'i:

To be eligible to register to vote in Hawai'i you must be:

- A United States Citizen
- A Resident of Hawai'i
- At least 18 years old on Election Day

To register to vote, check your

2022 Primary Election

Important Dates

JULY 26
CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR THE BALLOT

AUGUST 1
VOTER CENTERS OPEN + SAME-DAY REGISTRATION

AUGUST 3
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PAPER REGISTRATION

AUGUST 13
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

2022 General Election

Important Dates

OCTOBER 21
CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR THE BALLOT

OCTOBER 25
VOTER CENTERS OPEN + SAME-DAY REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 31
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PAPER REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 8
GENERAL ELECTION DAY

registration status, or update your voter registration, go to elections.hawaii.gov and click on "Online Voter Registration."

You may register to vote online at anytime; however if you wait until longer than 3 weeks from Election Day, it is possible you will not receive your ballot in time to vote by mail and would need to vote at a voter service center.

After you register, you will be mailed a ballot packet by:

- Primary: July 26, 2022
- General: October 21, 2022

Your packet consists of a ballot, ballot secrecy sleeve, and a prepaid postage return ballot envelope. Voters with special needs may request an electronic ballot through the Voter Registration Application or by contacting their County Elections Division. To return your ballot, simply mail it back in the pre-paid postage envelope included in your packet or return it in person at a designated place of deposit within your county. Voted ballots must be received by your County Elections Division by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

You can also register by submitting a paper voter application to your County Elections Division. Those applications can be found at olvr.hawaii.gov/Default.aspx?redir=1. Paper applications must be submitted to the County Elections Division by August 3 for the Primary and October 31 for the General.

A list of voter service centers and ballot drop boxes can be found here: elections.hawaii.gov/voter-service-centers-and-places-of-deposit.

DROUGHT MEANS MORE WILDFIRE

--BE ALERT AND PREPARED--

- **Dry conditions** significantly increase wildfire risk in Hawaii.
- Wildfires are a **frequent, year-round hazard** across Hawaii.
- Nearly all wildfires **are started by people**.
- Drought during past El Niños led to some of Hawaii's largest wildfires on **both windward and leeward** sides.

The rainforest can burn when there is no rain.

HELP DO YOUR PART BY PREVENTING WILDFIRE



Clear vegetation 10 feet around campfires and BBQs, keep a shovel and water nearby, and put them out COLD before walking away.



Be sure machinery (chainsaws, weed trimmers) and recreational vehicles have operating spark arrestors and are maintained regularly.



Heat from vehicle exhaust systems can ignite dry grass - park cars on areas that are paved or where vegetation is trimmed and cleared.



Fireworks are a common cause of brushfires in dry, grassy areas - attend and enjoy public fireworks displays to maximize safety and fire protection.

Avoid these activities when it's windy or grass and brush are dry!

This message brought to you by:

- Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization
- University of Hawaii CTIHR Cooperative Extension
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
- DNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA National Weather Service
- Hawaii Community College
- U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

- Honolulu Fire Department
- Hawaii Fire Department
- Maui Fire Department
- Federal Fire Department
- National Park Service
- Pacific Fire Exchange
- USDA Forest Service



Created by Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization on behalf of Oahu Wildfire Information Exchange and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group.

MOVING FORWARD

State of Hawai'i's Digital Currency Innovation Lab Extended to June 30, 2024



On June 2, 2022, the Division of Financial Institutions, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DFI), and Hawai'i Technology and Development Corporation (HTDC) announced a two-year extension of the Digital Currency Innovation Lab (DCIL), allowing the pilot program to operate until June 30, 2024. The DCIL was created by DFI and HTDC in 2020 through a partnership to gather data for the purpose of establishing a regulatory scheme and exploring the potential economic opportunities brought about by digital currencies. With successful admission into the DCIL, digital currency companies are permitted to conduct business in Hawai'i without obtaining a state money transmitter license.

The extension comes at a critical point in time with the demise of the bill that called for the licensure of digital currency companies, during the recent 2022 Hawai'i state legislative session. Without a licensing scheme in place, the DCIL was scheduled to close on June 30, 2022. As of December 31, 2021, there were approximately 134,000 Hawai'i consumers who transacted over \$800 million in digital currencies through participating companies in the DCIL. In an effort to mitigate consumer harm and enable the continuation of digital currency activity in the state, the DFI and HTDC have managed to pull resources together to extend the pilot program.

"We are relieved for the opportunity to extend the DCIL for participating companies and consumers," said Iris Ikeda, Commissioner of Financial Institutions. "A number of puzzle pieces had to fit together in order to make the new DCIL happen, but I am glad we are able to pull it off," said Commissioner Ikeda.

"The DCIL has proven itself to be an economic driver, and we recognize the potential it brings for the future of Hawai'i," said Len Higashi, Acting Executive Director, HTDC. "The continuation of the DCIL will provide us opportunities to build on the progress we have achieved over the past two years," continued Higashi.

Existing participating companies have the option to continue in the extended DCIL, subject to the acceptance of a new agreement and additional fees. Companies who choose to withdraw from the program will have to abide by the terms of the DCIL and commence its wind-down procedures starting on July 1, 2022 and concluding on December 31, 2022.

In due course, the DCIL will also start accepting applications from new digital currency companies who seek to be considered for pilot program admission.

For more information about the DCIL, visit the website at htdc.org/digital-currency-innovation-lab.

REMINDER:

Feral pigs can destroy property and invasive plant species and pose serious health risks.

Please don't feed feral pigs.

Aloha Neighbors, recently we've been receiving reports of people in the Hawai'i Kai area feeding feral pigs. This draws the pigs into residential areas and poses major threats to the health and safety of our community as well as property and wildlife. Please kokua and refrain from feeding the pigs!



FROM THE OFFICE OF
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