

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

August 2022

Hawai'i Adopts 988 Crisis Line

By Terra Bae

Warning: this article discusses issues such as suicide and substance abuse.

On July 16, Hawai'i officially adopted the mental health crisis hotline. By dialing or texting **988** from any phone, callers can receive support for distress concerning mental health and substance use.

In 2005, the number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline was designated as **1-800-273-TALK**. The number remained the same for 15 years, receiving over 20 million calls. In 2020 Congress established 988 as the new easy-to-remember lifeline number. It is estimated that the number of calls and texts will increase, therefore providing assistance to even more individuals in need.

Local representatives provide callers with confidential support and further connection to helpful resources in an individual's area. Those with an 808 area code who call 988 will be connected



to Hawai'i CARES, a free mental health and substance use call center where help is available 24/7. Callers on the line will speak with counselors who will use screenings to get to know them and understand their situation. Once a counselor obtains information about a caller's situation, they can recommend the appropriate resources to the caller. Additionally, Hawai'i CARES counselors continue to keep in contact with callers while they are receiving treatment. "Hawai'i CARES is a partnership between the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) and community-based mental health and substance abuse service providers statewide." Since 2002, the

Hawai'i CARES access line has provided crisis counseling to the community. Hawai'i CARES has continually evolved and now can serve more residents seeking aid for mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse issues.

Issues concerning mental health and substance abuse in the United States continue to grow in urgency. Additionally, the pandemic severely impacted the nation's mental health. The CDC reports that suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in the United States. In 2020, 45,979 Americans died by suicide, with an estimated 1.2 million suicide attempts. In addition, according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics' 2020 figures, 37.3 million Americans (ages 12 and older) use illegal drugs.

In Hawai'i, the pandemic had a profound impact on the mental health of countless residents. Mental Health America reported that in 2020, 41% of people in Hawai'i who took a depression screening reported frequent occurrences of suicidal thoughts. The percentage was the highest compared to any other state.

Hawai'i CARES is working in the community to provide support to everyone in the community struggling with these issues. Nevertheless, Hawai'i CARES emphasizes its purpose as a connecting resource, not an end point. They are committed to administering information on the resources that can sufficiently care for those in Hawai'i. Implementing **988** and the services of Hawai'i CARES are ways to begin destigmatizing mental health crises. If you or a loved one are struggling or think that you need advice concerning mental health or substance abuse, do not be afraid to ask for help. Call or text **988** to speak with a counselor today.



► CALL US

808-586-8420

► EMAIL US

Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9 (D)
senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

Lynn Robinson-Onderko
Office Manager
l.robinson-onderko@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chelsea Lockridge
Committee Clerk
c.lockridge@capitol.hawaii.gov

► 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

988
SUICIDE PREVENTION
HOTLINE

IN THE COMMUNITY

Preserve the Dignity of Mokoli‘i : Leave the Racist Nickname Behind

Mokoli‘i island is an islet in Kane‘ohe Bay, Hawai‘i and part of Kualoa Regional Park. It is one of the most picturesque spots on O‘ahu. Let’s work together to ensure businesses, news outlets and governmental agencies use the proper Hawaiian name and eliminate references to the racist nickname, “Chinaman’s Hat,” that is offensive to so many of us.



For many of Hawai‘i’s 200,000+ residents of Chinese heritage, the use of the slur “Chinaman” is analogous to the use of the N-word to refer to African Americans. The use of the C-word is unacceptable, and as the colloquial name for Mokoli‘i Island runs counter to Hawai‘i’s respect for ethnic diversity and spirit of aloha.

Currently, racially and ethnically offensive names of public places and institutions are being changed across the United States, with action at the federal, state and local levels. The federal government is in the midst of renaming 660 mountains, rivers, lakes and remote islands. The NFL football team previously known as the “Washington Redskins” is now the Washington Commanders. The MLB baseball team formerly called the “Cleveland Indians” has been renamed the Cleveland Guardians. California’s “Squaw Valley Ski Resort” is now called Palisades Tahoe.

Since March 2022, nearly 20 organizations have eliminated the racist nickname from their websites and publications, including Hawaiian Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, TripAdvisor, Viator, and Wikipedia, but more work is still needed.

Your support is essential to successfully eliminate the racist nickname from our local vocabulary and the consciousness of Hawai‘i’s millions of visitors—once and for all. By updating your website and publication, you will be part of the solution to eliminate the racist nickname and preserve the dignity of Mokoli‘i.

If you have any questions or are aware of additional websites and/or publications that need updating, please contact us at aaca.mokolii@gmail.com.

Mahalo for your kokua,
Asian Americans for Community Action

sacrifices and proper actions to check off all the boxes the neighborhood groups wanted.”—Eun Ho Kim

“The Urban Planning Competition has teams from different schools compete against one another to come up with the best proposal for redevelopment of an area of a fictional neighborhood called Elmwood chosen by a city council consisting of professionals in the field. On the day of the State Competition, students are given a twist that they will have to incorporate into their plan. They are given four hours to change and do research to better incorporate the twist. At the end, the students give a presentation to the city council where they have to sell their proposal and answer any questions the council asks. After all teams finish, the council decides on the winning team and announces it to the students. This year the twist was to incorporate the concept of an ecodistrict where we would include carbon credits and carbon offset into our plan. The other twist was to showcase a part of Elmwood’s history,

join the winning team as they lost two original members.” —Eun Ho Kim

“The Urban Plan curriculum was embedded in the classroom lesson, so we didn’t choose to be on the team. However, we wanted to strive to compete in the state competition, since it would be great experience even if it wasn’t going toward anything relating to our majors.” —Dawn Nakamaru

What is the Urban Planning Competition and what was your task was for the competition this year?

“The Urban Planning Competition is where students gather and create a city proposal as developers for an imaginary town called “Elmwood”. We were judged by a city council in categories that were given in the “Request For Proposal (RFP)”. I participated as the Neighborhood Liaison during the States and Nationals Competition. My role was to manage all the neighborhood group letters and requests to satisfy most of the groups. I had to find necessary

continued on next page

YOUR CONCERNS

Here's What You Need to Know to Make Sure Your Vote Gets Counted

The primary election is on **Saturday, August 13, 2022**, and the general election is on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**. Voters are reminded of the following deadlines:

- Paper Voter Registration deadline for the primary election is on **Wednesday, August 3, 2022**, and the general election is on **Monday, October 31, 2022**.
- Voters who miss the paper registration deadline may register at any time using the Online Voter Registration system olvr.hawaii.gov.
- The ballot packet for the primary election was mailed on **July 20 and 21, 2022**, for O‘ahu voters.
- The ballot packet for the general election will be tentatively mailed on **October 17 and 18, 2022**, for O‘ahu.

Voter Service Centers are available to provide accessible voting options for those who need assistance with registering and voting. For the 2022 primary election, Voter Service Centers at **Honolulu Hale** (in the courtyard) and **Kapolei Hale** (in conference rooms A, B, and C) are open to voters from **August 1, 2022, through August 13, 2022, Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and on **August 13, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Closed on Sundays. Two additional Voter Service Centers with

which includes celebrities such as Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.” —Dawn Nakamaru

Who were you up against in the competition and how did your team end up doing overall?

“Our team, Magnolia, at states went up against two ‘Iolani teams, two Mid-Pac teams and one Le Jardin team. A total of six teams went up against each other, and we placed first along with one of Iolani’s teams, Quilt Co., as Co-State champions.” —Eun Ho Kim

“In the state competition we went against ‘Iolani, Mid-Pac, and Le Jardin

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

modified dates and hours of operation:

- **Kaneohe District Park** (Meeting Room) August 1, 2022 through August 5, 2022, Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **George Fred Wright Wahiawa District Park** (in the Ceramics Room) August 8 through August 12, 2022, Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

There are fifteen **Ballot Drop Box** locations across the island open daily in accordance with park/facility hours **through 7:00 p.m. on Election Day**.

- Ballot drop boxes are located in:
- Wai‘anae District Park
 - Asing Community Park
 - Bill Balfour, Jr. Waipahu District Park

which at first we were intimidated by since we’re the only public school competing. In the end we ended up tying first place with the ‘Iolani team.” —Dawn Nakamaru

What was the competition like for you? Was it difficult? easy? Were you nervous? Excited?

“The competition was time consuming; however it was a great experience to bond with students with similar interests from other schools and make connections with professionals in the field. When time came near to the competition date,

I was getting nervous about the outcome. Although, once it ended, I felt relieved that it was over.” —Eun Ho Kim

“The State Competition was extremely stressful and challenging to say the least but it was a fun experience getting to make new connections and building on real life skills as well as branching out into a new possible career path I may never be able to experience again.” —Dawn Nakamaru



MOVING FORWARD



Hawai'i and the Supreme Court's Overturning of *Roe v. Wade*

By Terra Bae

On June 24, the Supreme Court officially overturned *Roe v. Wade*. In a majority decision, the Court removed the constitutional right to abortion, allowing states to set their own restrictions. The decision reversed the 1973 decision that had been the law of the land for nearly half a century. The decision has additionally prompted fears concerning the safety of other rights in the constitution, including contraception access, same-sex marriage, and interracial marriage.

Pro-choice advocates across the nation took to the street to express their outrage and opposition to the Supreme Court verdict. Hawai'i experienced many protests as well. Rallies for reproductive freedom were held on the day of the overturn in Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Hilo, and Maui. Honolulu rallies on June 24 and 25 at the Prince Kūhio Federal building were well attended with large crowds. Liz Rees, a Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights organizer, expressed her contempt for the verdict and emphasized the need for more rallies, an increased presence of supporters at protests, and demand for legislative intervention. Rees stated that even though Hawai'i is a state that protects the right to abortion, residents should still be fighting for everyone in America to have bodily autonomy and urging Hawai'i politicians to take a stand. While the initial protests are now

over, Rise Up 4 Abortion and other organizations continue to organize rallies around Hawai'i and nationwide.

California has expanded state protections of abortion rights. The state will likely be among the first to explicitly protect abortion and contraception rights in a state constitutional amendment. Other liberal-leaning states are also expected to pass similar legislation to protect abortion rights.

The upcoming 2023 legislative session presents an opportunity to secure healthcare rights for individuals who could become pregnant. Senator Chang is committed to introducing a constitutional amendment explicitly protecting abortion access and reproductive healthcare. Ensuring the right to a legal abortion would save many lives taken from illegal procedures and fatal pregnancies. Legalizing safe abortions would additionally protect individuals who are victims of sexual assault. There are many reasons why an individual may choose to have an abortion. Hawai'i has the opportunity to take a stand for the freedom of choice and the fundamental rights of people with uteruses, and Senator Chang hopes Hawai'i will seize the opportunity to guarantee this critical right.

Sources:

Totenberg, Nina & McCammon, Sarah. Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, ending right to abortion upheld for decades. NPR. June 24, 2022. [npr.org/2022/06/24/1102305878/supreme-court-abortion-roe-v-wade-decision-overturn](https://www.npr.org/2022/06/24/1102305878/supreme-court-abortion-roe-v-wade-decision-overturn)

Thebault, Reis. California to vote on constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights. *The Washington Post*. June 27, 2022. [washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/06/27/california-constitutional-amendment-abortion-rights](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/06/27/california-constitutional-amendment-abortion-rights/)

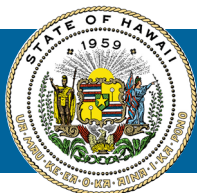
Mangan, Dan & Breuninger, Kevin. Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, ending 50 years of federal abortion rights. CNBC. June 24, 2022. [cnbc.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-by-supreme-court-ending-federal-abortion-rights.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-by-supreme-court-ending-federal-abortion-rights.html)

WAWAMALU BEACH UPDATE

by Reese Liggett

The general condition of this park just east of Sandy Beach is recovering toward natural conditions and free of 4-wheel vehicular intrusion. There is an abundance of native Hawaiian vegetation throughout most of the park, although dense groves of the very invasive koa haole trees predominate along the highway. It is thought better to leave them along the highway to supplement DPR's partial boulder barrier against 4-wheel vehicles. It is planting time, and there is an abundance of native seed hanging from native plants right now. Several passive barriers have been erected to discourage pedestrian and two-wheel traffic

between many dunes—thereby providing places to spread seed and encourage natural revegetation. Fortunately, only one passive barrier has been vandalized, and it was easily restored. Conservation service organizations are rallying for Wāwāmalu Beach's recovery to a near-natural state.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813