

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

OCTOBER 2018



Kokonut Koalition: Keepers of Koko Crater Trail

The Office of Senator Stanley Chang recognizes community organizations dedicated to improving our neighborhoods. One such organization is the Kokonut Koalition. Here is their story.

The Kokonut Koalition is a growing group of hikers of the Koko Crater Trail and others who are concerned about the trail's long-term prospects. We have organized in an effort to convince the City and County of Honolulu and perhaps the State to take active measures to preserve and improve this unique asset.



RADAR SET AN CPS-1, Koko Crater AFS atop Koko Head.
Source: HANG 25, History of the Hawai'i Air National Guard
by Colonel Walter F. Judd, 1971

This historic tramway—commonly known as the **Koko Head Stairs**, or simply **the Stairs**—was built in 1942 by the U.S. Army Signal Corps to provide access to an early radar station perched on the rim of Koko Crater. The tram is long gone, but the remaining track has been used as an endurance hike for decades. It rewards hikers with expansive views of Moanalua Bay and Diamond Head to the West, Hanauma Bay and Koko Head to the South, and the Waimanalo coast to the North.

The tramway has been deteriorating for decades without any maintenance other than what has been done clandestinely by unauthorized volunteers. It exists in a state of benign neglect by the City and County of Honolulu, which has never maintained it and doesn't even consider it to be a sanctioned trail. Their neglect is benign only because they allow it to remain open, though we wonder how long that policy can remain in light of the trail's accelerating deterioration.

The Stairs are now at what we consider a tipping point. Erosion has undermined the tramway to the extent that one major tropical storm or hurricane could do enough significant damage to make it unusable. Fortunately, there was little recent damage done by Olivia. On a busy day, **well over a thousand people** from all walks of life and many international origins climb the Koko Crater Stairs. It has become a must-do event for our adventurous visitors.

For the **Kokonuts**, it's our regular workout. Some of us have been hiking the Stairs for over twenty years, many for a decade or more. I've been hiking it regularly for four years, usually four times a week and often three-trips per session. It has become a habit that sustains me. All of us regular hikers feel this way.

I greet the day with this hike. Others enjoy a sunset hike and still, others like to broil themselves under the midday heat of the Hawaiian sun. We all feel a deep attachment to this trail and passionately believe that it deserves better treatment than it has received.

The Kokonut Koalition and our supporters want this trail first to be stabilized to ensure that it has a future, but ultimately to be completely rebuilt.

—Drew Murphy, Kokonut Koalition

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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 Permit
808-768-5555

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

IN THE COMMUNITY



IOLANI GROUNDBREAKING

August 29, 2018 ▲ Senator Chang attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new K-1 classrooms at 'Iolani School, his alma mater.



THE LEGAL CLINIC

September 12, 2018 ▲ Senator Chang met with community advocates starting The Legal Clinic, which provides legal services to needy immigrants in Hawai'i.

Participate in Your Neighborhood Board

One of the best ways to get involved in your community is to participate in or even join your local neighborhood board. The neighborhood boards meet once a month to discuss issues facing the neighborhood, city, and state. The following neighborhood boards are in Senate District 9:

- **Neighborhood Board #1
Hawai'i Kai**
Meets on the last Tuesday of every month at Hahaione Elementary School at 7:00pm.
- **Neighborhood Board #2
Kuli'ou'ou-Kalani Iki**
Meets on the first Thursday of every month at Wailupe Community Park Library at 7:00pm.
- **Neighborhood Board #3
Waialae-Kāhala**
Meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Wesley United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.
- **Neighborhood Board #4
Kaimuki**
Meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Kaimuki Christian Church Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.
- **Neighborhood Board #5
Diamond Head / Kapahulu / St. Louis**
Meets the second Thursday of every month at the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse at 6:30pm.

RSVP NOW!



HOW TO ACHIEVE 65,000 HOUSING UNITS BY 2025

**A CONFERENCE ON
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
Presented by Senator Stanley Chang



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018
8:00 am till 2:00 pm



HAWAII STATE CAPITOL AUDITORIUM
415 S. Beretania Street, Basement Level

FREE

SEATING IS LIMITED

To RSVP, speak on a concrete idea to increase our affordable housing supply, or if you have any questions, contact:

ADRIAN TAM / A.TAM@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV / 808-586-8420

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Heavy Rain Claims

IF YOU HAVE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) COVERAGE AND YOUR DAMAGE IS FLOOD RELATED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR AGENT AND SEE THE NFIP CLAIMS PROCESS TIP SHEET AT:

<https://www.fema.gov/nfip-file-your-claim>

FOR AUTO CLAIMS

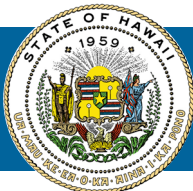
If you have comprehensive (other than collision) coverage on your auto insurance policy and your car suffered storm or flood damage, contact your auto insurance company to make a claim.

FOR NON-FLOOD RELATED HOMEOWNERS CLAIMS

- Check for damages and if possible take photos of the damages.
- Secure your property to prevent further damage and keep receipts for any materials used.
- Report damage to your insurance company or agent (**make a claim**).
- If your home or condo is uninhabitable ask if your policy covers the cost of temporary or alternative housing.
- Submit proof of loss forms or other claim forms if requested by your insurance company.
- Set damaged items aside for later inspection by your adjuster.
- Don't begin **permanent** repairs until damage is inspected by an adjuster or told to do so by your insurer.
- Work with your adjuster and a licensed contractor to estimate the cost of repairs.
- Receive claim check and begin repairs.
 - There may be supplemental payments issued by the insurance company if additional damage is discovered in the course of repairs and as you replace your damaged items.
 - Be careful of scams. Do not sign your entire claims check over to a contractor.
 - If the damage is extensive and you have a mortgage, your claim check may list you and your lien holder as payees.

Contact the Hawaii Insurance Division
if you have any questions or need assistance

cca.hawaii.gov/ins
(808) 586-2790



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