

***Aloha e Friends,***

I hope you and your ‘ohana are well. I’m getting ready for the upcoming session, which begins January 19, and am working hard on drafting meaningful agriculture and environmental legislation. I’m also meeting with agricultural leaders across the state to look at ways to increase local food production and become more self-sustaining here in paradise. If you have any ideas for bills, it’s not too early to send them to my office. They don’t need to be fully fleshed out (we have lawyers who do that) but basic ideas and concepts are good. In this month’s Newsletter you’ll find current COVID-19 updates and District 20 road and construction updates. You can also view my Listen Story Community

Meeting video recording [here](#) if you weren’t able to make it live. Grab a cup of coffee, put your feet up and tune in to the myriad of happenings in District 20. Please contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me

on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](#), Instagram [@GabbardAloha](#), and Facebook at [@senmikegabbard](#). Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with your ‘ohana and friends.



**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**MEMBER**

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

**DISTRICT 20**

- ◆ Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu



*Mike*

**Landfill Locations**

Waimanalo Gulch Landfill near Ko Olina has been open since 1989 and has about 10 to 12 operable years left. The state Land Use Commission ruled in 2019 that Waimanalo Gulch must close by March 2, 2028, due to environmental justice



Landfill locations have been narrowed down to the four locations in the white areas.

issues, and the city must select a new location by Dec. 31, 2022. Jerry Pupillo, Director, Department of Enterprise Services with the Mayor’s Office said at the October Kapolei Neighborhood Board meeting that they’re still evaluating options.

The city has narrowed down the list from 12 to 4 locations in the white areas: Two of the remaining sites are near the North Shore, one is between Makakilo and Waipahu and one is near Wheeler Army Airfield. The new landfill would have a life span of 20 years, take up about 80 acres of land and cost about \$210 million. In September, the state enacted Act 73, which prohibits any waste or disposal facility from being located in state conservation districts and requires a half-mile buffer between the edge of any disposal activity and the closest residence, school or hospital property line.

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## Latest COVID Updates

- ◆ Keiki age 5 and older are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. For details, visit: [5 Things Parents Need to Know for Children & Teens](#)
- ◆ Learn about the new rules now in effect for fully vaccinated international travelers at [hawaii-covid-19.com/travel/](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/travel/).
- ◆ Plan for safely celebrating the holidays with these tips, [hawaii-covid-19.com/safe-gatherings](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/safe-gatherings).
- ◆ Get updated information on free COVID-19 test options, [hawaii-covid-19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine).
- ◆ View the National Restaurant Association's updated COVID-19 Operating Guidance, under [hawaii-covid-19.com/guidance-documents](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/guidance-documents).
- ◆ Catch up on all the Hawai'i Department of Health's latest COVID-19 news releases and updates at [hawaii-covid-19.com/news](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/news).
- ◆ International travel questions can be found at [hawaii-covid-19.com/travel/faqs](https://hawaii-covid-19.com/travel/faqs)
- ◆ The current [Safe Travels requirements](#) for travel from other parts of the U.S. to Hawaii will remain in place.

## Safe Oahu Response Plan — One Oahu

In September, Mayor Blangiardi announced moving from the Tier System to the [Safe O'ahu Response Plan — One Oahu](#). As of Nov. 3, mask and vaccine requirements are still in place.

- ◆ Outdoor and indoor seating events can be at 100% capacity. Water is allowed but no food. This includes sporting events, marathons and concerts.
- ◆ Restaurants, bars, and gyms can be at 100% capacity
- ◆ Outdoor interactive events increase to 500 (no limit starting Nov. 24)
- ◆ Indoor interactive events, such as concerts, increase to 50% capacity, maximum 150 attendees (300 starting Nov. 24)
- ◆ Interactive events such as funerals and weddings will be kept at up to 150 people max for indoor events and 500 for those held outdoors, with continued mask and vaccination requirements. On Nov. 24, the number will increase to 300 at indoor events, and no attended limit for outdoor events.
- ◆ Blangiardi acknowledged the state Health Department and governor were opposed to restoring indoor

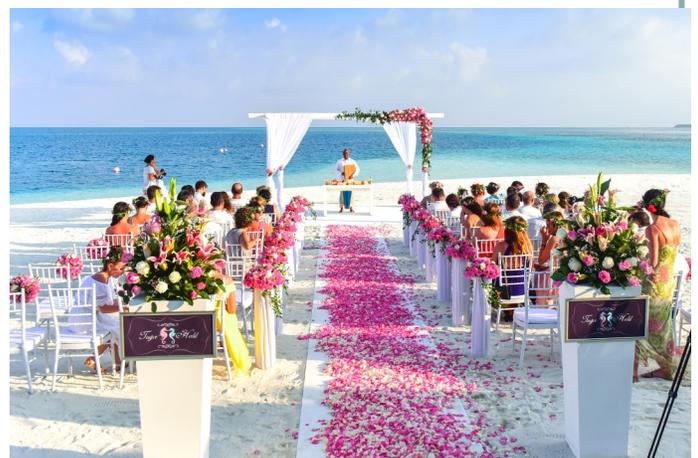
entertainment venues to full capacity. The Gov. says he's not comfortable with the city's plan to allow large indoor events on O'ahu, but the Mayor is going forward with his plans despite the gov's disapproval — a major departure from the beginning of the pandemic when the city and state had to be lock, stock and barrel regarding COVID restrictions. Ige feels that indoor "interactive" events, like weddings, pose the highest risk for COVID transmission.

- ◆ As of Nov. 12, outdoor dining and activities no longer require patrons to mask up or social distance.
- ◆ The 50% pandemic-related limited indoor capacity for gyms, restaurants, bars and social establishments, won't apply in Honolulu and Maui as of Nov. 12.
- ◆ Honolulu and Maui require restaurant and bar patrons to provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test for Covid-19 within the past 48 hours before customers can enter, but Kauai and Hawai'i counties do not.

## COVID Travel Restrictions



- ◆ Quarantine can be bypassed when traveling to the islands from any international location if proof of vaccination and a negative Covid-19 test are provided.
- ◆ Travelers can't board if they don't meet the new requirements.

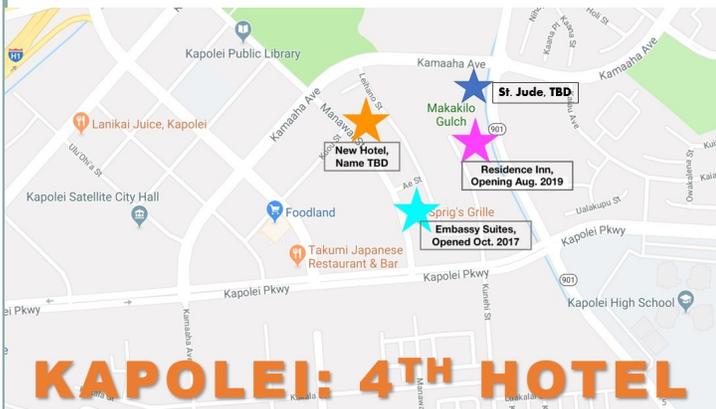


# DISTRICT 20 COMMUNITY UPDATES

## KAPOLEI: 4<sup>TH</sup> HOTEL

Well, folks we've got three hotels in Kapolei right now. The 175-room Hampton Inn and Suites opened in 2016 at the Ka Makana Ali'i Shopping Center, about a mile down Kapolei Pkwy toward Ewa. Then the 180-room Embassy Suites was built in 2017; followed by the 183-suite Marriott Residence Inn in 2019.

Now, here comes #4... a Utah-based partnership is seeking a city permit to build a 204-unit limited-service hotel under The Element by Westin brand at a cost of roughly \$70 million on a 3-acre block known as Leihano at Kapolei, close to the Embassy and Marriott hotels. They'll be hiring about 130 employees. Besides the two existing hotels, the block includes the 84-unit 'Ilima at Leihano assisted living complex, a Liliuokalani Trust children's center, C.S. Wo & Sons furniture stores, a Raising Cane's fast-food restaurant, a 7-Eleven store, Starbucks and a Hele gas station. Previously announced plans for the block also include a St. Jude Catholic Church, a National Kidney Foundation facility, a medical office building and a First Hawaiian Bank branch.



Fourth hotel coming to Kapolei (Date TBD).

## Future Dog Park in Kalaeloa

And for you dog lovers....You may have noticed what looks like the makings of a dog park just mauka of the tennis courts in Kalaeloa. We did some digging and found out that yes! There are plans to open that fenced-in area and turn it into a park for our furry friends. However, there's a structure in the midst of the fenced-in area (hence the fence) that first needs to be removed before our furry

friends can frolic there... another one of those old structures left over from the days of the Navy – this one an old bath house – that needs to go! No timeline on this yet, but I'll keep you posted.



Future dog park coming to Kalaeloa (Date TBD).

## Farrington Highway, Kapolei

I received an update from State Deputy Director of Transportation, Ed Sniffen, on the Farrington Highway project which will extend three miles from Kapolei Golf Course to Ft. Weaver Rd. Construction will start August 2022. Improvements will include increased capacity through the corridor by adding one or two lanes. There will be new sidewalks, bike lanes, a 44-foot landscaped median strip, new bridges, culverts, and major utility relocation. Estimated completion is by August 2024.

### FARRINGTON HIGHWAY

- Three miles from Golf Course to Ft. Weaver Rd.
- Construction start - May 2022
- Widening to four lanes
- \$100M put in the budget 2020



Farrington Highway, Kapolei estimated completion Aug. 2024.



**ALOHA (VA) Clinic coming to Kalaeloa. Estimated completion late 2023 or early 2024.**

## Advanced Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access (ALOHA)

The blessing and groundbreaking for the ALOHA “multi-specialty” VA Clinic was in May of this year. The (VA) awarded the 15-year lease to locate the \$100M, 88,675 square-foot Advanced Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access (ALOHA) project at Kalaeloa to be developed by Hunt.

The multi-specialty VA clinic will provide primary care, mental health care, x-ray, laboratory, diagnostic, pharmacy, and specialty care for the area’s veterans and 87,000 veterans on O’ahu. The ALOHA clinic will bring approximately 400 jobs during construction and more than 200 new clinic jobs between the healthcare and administrative staff as they open. Hunt is investing more than \$40M in infrastructure improvements in the Kalaeloa area, which began this summer.

Development of the VA Clinic on Parcel 1 is progressing well. Mass grading was completed, and the project was turned over to the next contractor, Nan Inc. They will take over the rest of the construction. Overall the project remains on schedule to be completed late 2023 or early 2024.

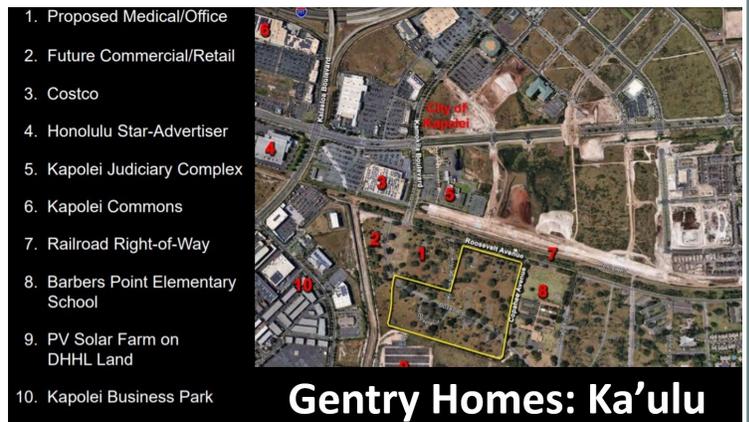
## Gentry Homes

Gentry Homes now has a name for this new project just down the road from where I live: Ka’ulu – which means “The hill that absorbs the sun.” Named after the ‘ulu tree, one of the first trees early settlers brought to Hawai’i. When the original inhabitants arrived on O’ahu they landed in Kalaeloa and planted the first ‘ulu trees.

Gentry worked with Uncle Shad and other local kupuna to

come up with a name, which highlights the origin of the first people living on O’ahu , looking forward to beginning a new life. There were no archeological sites found on the site and it has been 100% approved by SPHD (State Historic Preservation Division). This is a special site that represents the establishment of new roots and a new life.

Taken to heart, the meaning and history here are very appropriate. Some folks thought the homes were going to be high rises and were happy when they found out that’s not happening. Gentry Homes, *<ahem>* I mean Ka’ulu, is a 390-unit residential community, with 256 multifamily attached units, and 133 single-family detached units on a 30-acre parcel, and is bordered on three sides by future public



**Ka’ulu coming to Kalaeloa. Estimated completion 2023.**

roadways – Copahee Avenue, Saratoga Road, and Kamokila Boulevard. Hunt Companies plans to improve these roads to City standards, providing an environment where it’s safe and convenient for people to utilize conventional and alternative modes of transportation, including use of rail, bus, bicycles and walking. The northwest portion of the parcel is adjacent to the future site of the ALOHA Vets clinic which is identified as Parcel 1C. Homes will be built in increments, with site work beginning in 2022. To the east of the project site is Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES) which serves approximately 500 students from kindergarten to grade 5. Southwest of the Project Site is a five-megawatt solar farm on land leased from DHHL. The first homes are expected to be complete in 2023.

### LISTEN STORY RECORDING

ICYMI, [click here to go to my YouTube page to view the recording....](#) ! (BTW, that’s me at the beginning singing a cut off my 2002 album “Stand as One.”)