

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**SENATOR STANLEY CHANG**  
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

OCTOBER 2017



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► **HANDY CONTACTS**

**Pothole Hotline**  
808-768-7777

**Abandoned Vehicles**  
808-733-2530

**Building Permit**  
808-768-5555

**Trash Collection**  
808-768-3200

**Street Light Repair**  
808-768-5300

**Lawyer Referral & Information Service**  
808-537-9140

**Current Bill Status**  
[capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)

We are halfway through the hurricane season, and so far the Hawaiian Islands have seen **9 named hurricanes** in the Central Pacific basin. This is right on track with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Central Pacific Hurricane Center's prediction that climate conditions point to a near- to above-normal hurricane season this year. Take the time now to prepare for your family, business, and property *before* a hurricane hazard approaches your area:

**1. Develop an Emergency Plan**

- Transportation
- Evacuation routes and lead times
- Home, business, & property security
- Pets and animals care

**2. Prepare a Home Survival Kit**

Be ready to cope with loss of *water, electricity, gas, and telephone services* in your own home.

Caregivers and kūpuna need to have a detailed disaster plan that involves creating a support network of neighbors and friends. Caregivers of people with dementia should have more than one person to watch over every loved one to help keep them calm and to make sure they do not wander away. Include a **two-week supply** of needed medication. Include extra eyeglasses and hearing aids in your emergency kit, along with extra batteries for battery-operated medical or assistive technology devices.

Hawai'i's hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through November 30, 2017.

For more information on hurricane preparedness:  
[nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php](http://nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php)

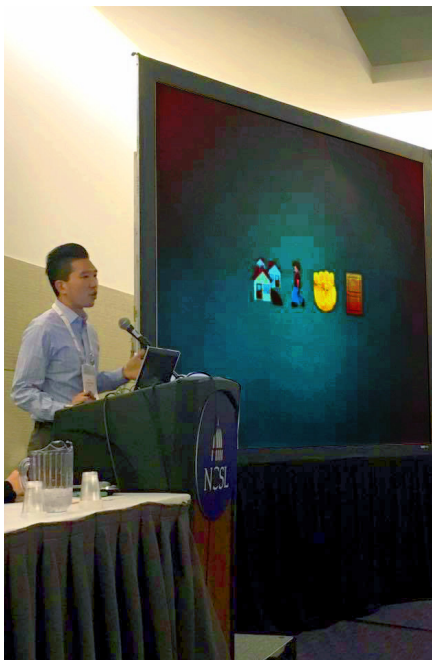
**3. Prepare an Evacuation Kit**

Determine what you would need to bring with you *before* the danger arrives.

**4. Stay Calm, Stay Alert, Stay Informed**

Listen to your local radio stations for official announcements by the *Hawai'i Civil Defense Agency* and *National Weather Service*; ensure access to a battery-powered radio.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



### MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVE

August 9 ◀ Senator Chang was a featured panelist at the **National Conference of State Legislatures'** annual convention in Boston, MA, giving a millennial perspective on how governments and communities work together.



### TACHIBANA RETIRES

September 2 ▶ Senator Chang and former Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland presented Joanne Tachibana with a certificate upon her retirement from the City & County of Honolulu after **40+ years** of service.



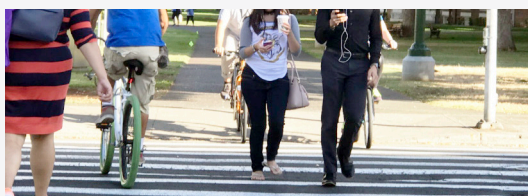
### THINKTECH HAWAII

August 23 ▲ Senator Chang sat down with Carl Campagna to discuss homelessness solutions on ThinkTech Hawai'i (streaming live 11–5pm daily), a publicly funded show that envisions our best prospects for the future. Watch the full interview: [goo.gl/q8NL32](https://goo.gl/q8NL32)



### THE MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

September 17 ▲ Senator Chang attended the **United Chinese of Hawai'i's** banquet celebrating the 68<sup>th</sup> National Day of the People's Republic of China and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival at the Pacific Beach Hotel.



Earlier this year, the City and County passed a new law that prohibits pedestrians from looking at their phone and mobile device screens while crossing the street. The new law will take effect **October 25, 2017**. Violation of this law will result in a **\$15 to \$35 fine for the first offense, \$35–\$75 for the second, and \$75–\$99 for the third**. It is still legal to talk on your device while crossing the crosswalk and to look at your device while on the sidewalk.

## YOUR CONCERNS



### Tax Relief for Working Families

To help our struggling neighbors, the Legislature passed HB209, a landmark cost of living reduction bill that Governor Ige signed into law as Act 107.

Act 107 establishes a state earned income tax credit, mirroring the federal earned income tax credit (EITC), to help low-income workers retain a larger percentage of their yearly income. It also permanently extends the higher rates of the refundable food/excise tax credit, which makes it less costly for those in need to afford necessities like food.

Hawai'i residents who file for the federal EITC will be eligible to claim the state-level EITC. Anyone who is currently claiming the Refundable Food/Excise Tax Credit will be allowed to continue claiming it at its current rate.

Act 107 is a fiscally responsible measure that is financed through the restoration of the highest income tax brackets that existed until 2015.

“A state EITC will help working families afford our high cost of living. It is also an incentive for people to work. It is one of the most powerful tools we have to help working people in Hawaii,” said Senator Chang.

The economic impact of Act 107 on working families is significant. It is estimated that more than 107,000 Hawai'i households receiving the federal EITC would potentially be able to claim the state credit. According to the Department of Taxation, Act 107 will give \$130 million back to low-income families over the first six years of the credit. Additionally, the Refundable Food/Excise tax credit portion amounts to \$110 per exemption per claimant.

### **EQUIFAX** Data Breach

The State of Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) has announced that an investigation into the massive data breach involving the consumer reporting agency Equifax. Equifax's breach affected at least 143 million Americans. As a result, information compromised in the breach included Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, names, dates of birth, credit card numbers and addresses—creating a perfect opportunity for impacted people to become victims of identity theft.

The company has set up a website where people can check whether their personal information potentially was affected by the breach: [equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://equifaxsecurity2017.com)

The OCP states that consumers should:

- Regularly request their free credit reports, inspect them closely, and promptly dispute any unauthorized accounts;
- Inspect all financial account statements closely and promptly dispute any unauthorized charges;
- Consider placing alerts on their financial accounts so their financial institution alerts them when money above a pre-designated amount is withdrawn;
- Beware of potential phishing emails; don't open any email messages or attachments from unknown senders and do not click on any unknown links. Fraudsters will frequently send coercive and misleading emails threatening account suspension or worse if sensitive information is not provided. Remember, businesses will never ask customers to verify account information via email. If in doubt, contact the business in question directly for verification and to report phishing emails;
- Be on the lookout for spoofed email addresses. Spoofed email addresses are those that make minor changes in the domain name, frequently changing the letter O to the number zero, or the lowercase letter l to the number one. Scrutinize all incoming email addresses to ensure that the sender is truly legitimate.

Consumers with questions regarding Equifax's data breach are encouraged to contact Equifax at **866-447-7559**.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION



## HDOT Makes Project Status Data Available to the Public Online

The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) Highways Division is making project status data available publicly on their website. Available data includes the schedule, scope, and estimated cost for all current State Highways projects as well as all projects planned to begin construction in the next two years.

The data is accessible through the following link:  
[arcg.is/2wsEM62](https://arcg.is/2wsEM62)

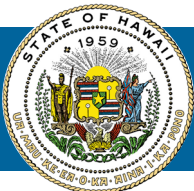
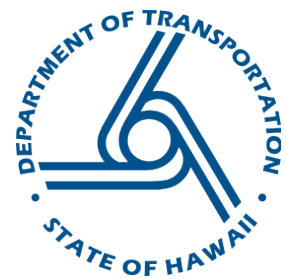
“We are pleased to roll out the HDOT Highways Project Status Map,” said HDOT Deputy Director for Highways Ed Sniffen. “This map tool allows members of the public to easily access information on Highways projects in their community. I would like to thank the Highways staff and the Office of Planning for their support in making this data widely available.”

The HDOT Highways Project Status Map can also be found on [hidot.hawaii.gov](http://hidot.hawaii.gov) by selecting Highways in the ‘Home’ menu, then ‘Major Projects,’ selecting ‘Project Map.’

Users can view project information by selecting the lines along roads on the map or by selecting ‘View a PDF list of Projects by Area’ in the map legend. Users may also toggle between current construction projects and planned future construction using the tabs ‘Current Construction’ and ‘Future Projects.’

The search feature represented by the magnifying glass symbol allows users to search for projects by entering any part of a project name. For example, beginning to input “Kamehameha” will show an auto complete list of the projects involving Kamehameha Highway.

The HDOT Highways Project Status Map will be updated on a regular basis. Questions or comments on the map may be sent to [dotpao@Hawaii.gov](mailto:dotpao@Hawaii.gov).



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
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