



**2022 Mid-Session
Legislative Update
Senator Joy A. San
Buenaventura**

Senate District 2: Puna - East Kaʻū

March 3, 2022

Introduction

- **Senate Committee on Human Services, Chair**
- **Senate Committee on Consumer Protection**
- **Senate Committee on Health**
- **Women's Legislative Caucus**
- **Deaf and Blind Task Force, Senate Co-convenor**
- **Progressive Caucus**
- **Hawaii Island Caucus**
- **Filipino Caucus**
- **Equality Caucus**
- **Hawaiian Caucus**

Introduction: Notes

- **Reminder that this meeting is being streamed live via Facebook Live.**
 - **To keep the audio quality as clear as possible, we are asking all Zoom participants to please keep your mics muted throughout.**
- **We will take questions at the end of the presentation.**
- **Please send your questions via the chat function (Zoom) or comments (Facebook). We will do our best to address them in the order received.**
 - **We will try to get to all of your questions, however, if we miss your question or run out of time, please email my office (sanbuenaventura2@capitol.hawaii.gov) and we will get back to you.**

2022 Virtual Town Hall

- Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
- Vaccination Update
- Hawaii County Emergency Rules/Restrictions
- Post Offices Update
- Broadband Update
- Pohoiki Update
- District Priorities
- Preliminary Survey Results



We received letters from Paradise Hui Haumana Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science students about their concerns regarding the Red Hill fuel spill contamination of Oahu's drinking water.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole

THE RED HILL CRISIS

THREE CONCERNS

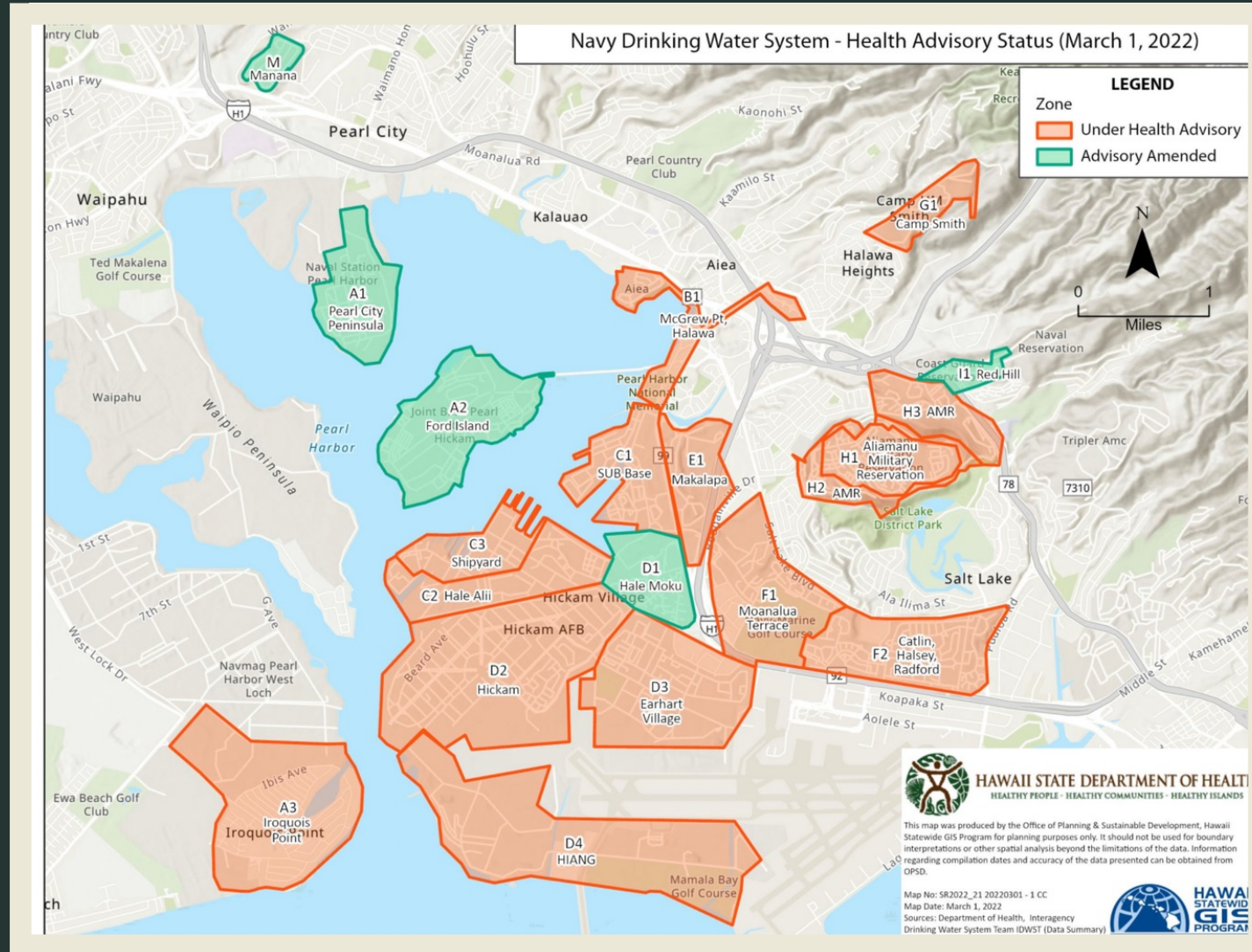
1. People

2. Aquifer

3. UST

1. PEOPLE

CONTAMINATED NAVY WATER SYSTEM



NOVEMBER 20-21, 2021



Navy reports 14,000 gallons of fuel and water mix leaked from a drain line into access tunnel at Red Hill.

DECEMBER 2, 2021



IMAGE CREDIT: STAR
ADVERTISER

- Navy announces tests have identified petroleum in Red Hill well.
- The Navy authorizes evacuation and lodging allowances for affected residents; families in hotels.

BWS WELLS AND NAVY WELL



IMAGE CREDIT: STAR
ADVERTISER

DECEMBER 3,

2021 Honolulu Board of Water Supply shuts down nearby Halawa shaft as a precaution.

DECEMBER 20, 2021

Navy begins filtering and flushing its water system.

FLUSHING PROCESS FINALIZED

JANUARY 13, 2022

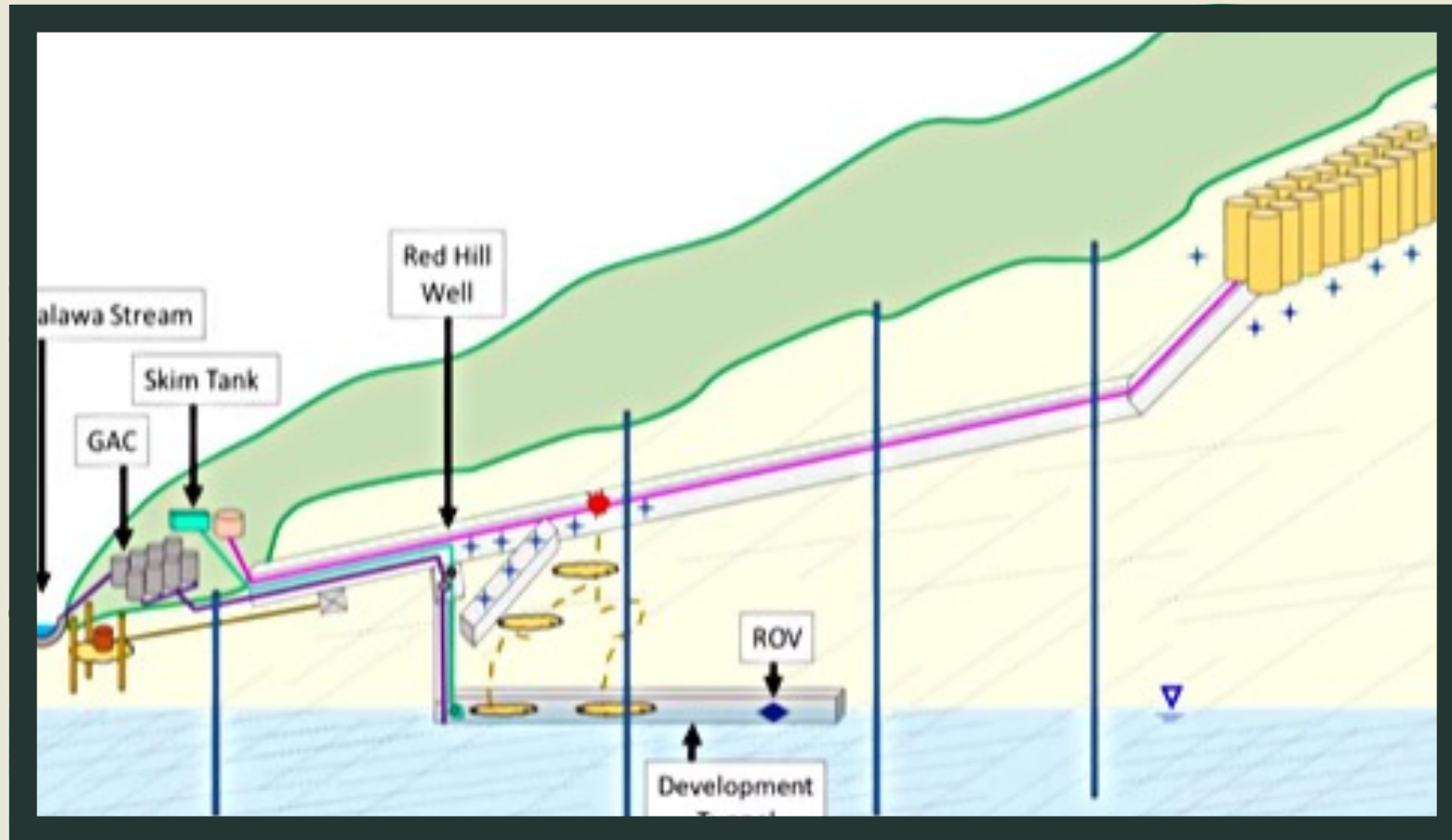
- WHO: EPA, ARMY, NAVY, DOH (IDWST)
- System Flushing - Complete
 - Flush, wait, test (3x)
- Homes, Businesses, and Individual Flushing
 - Progress - Zone 1 - Zone 5 complete

March 2, 2022



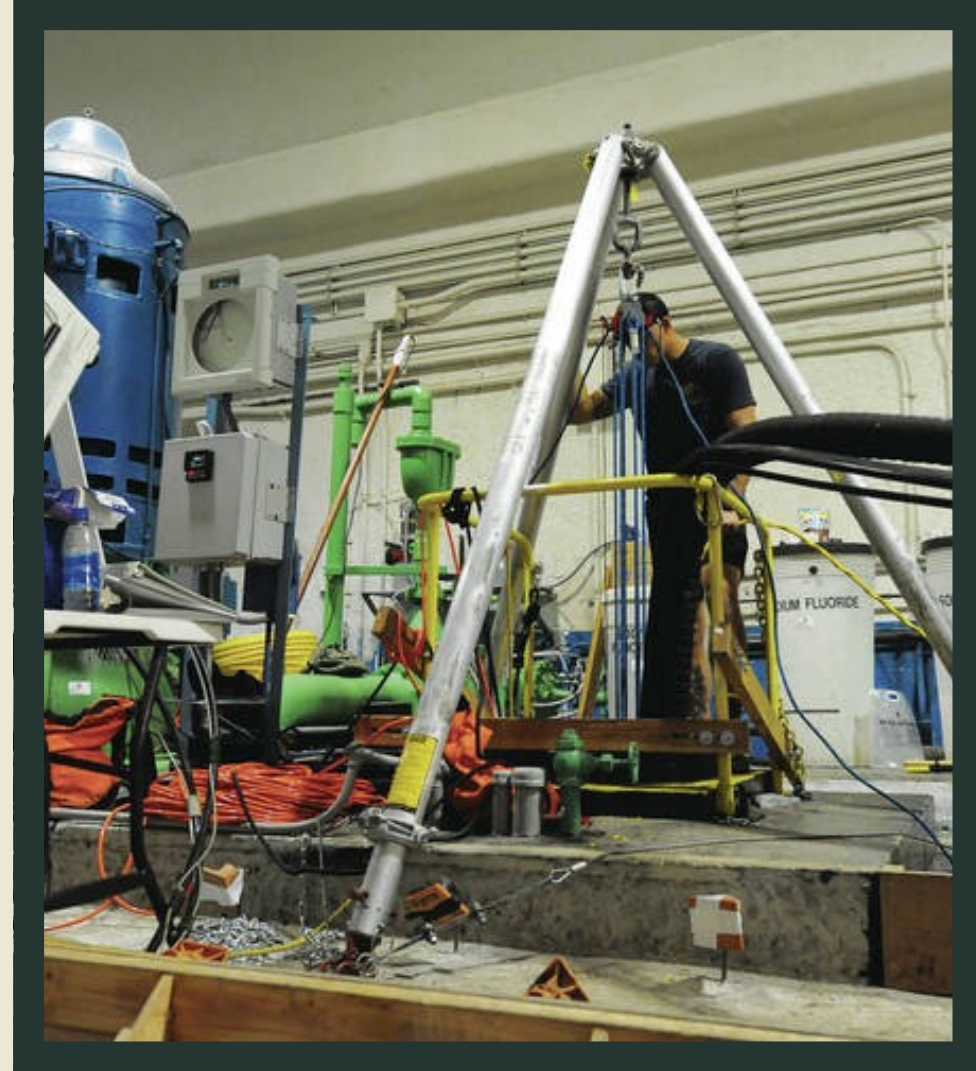
2. AQUIFER

RED HILL SHAFT RECOVERY AND MONITORING PLAN (RHSRMP)

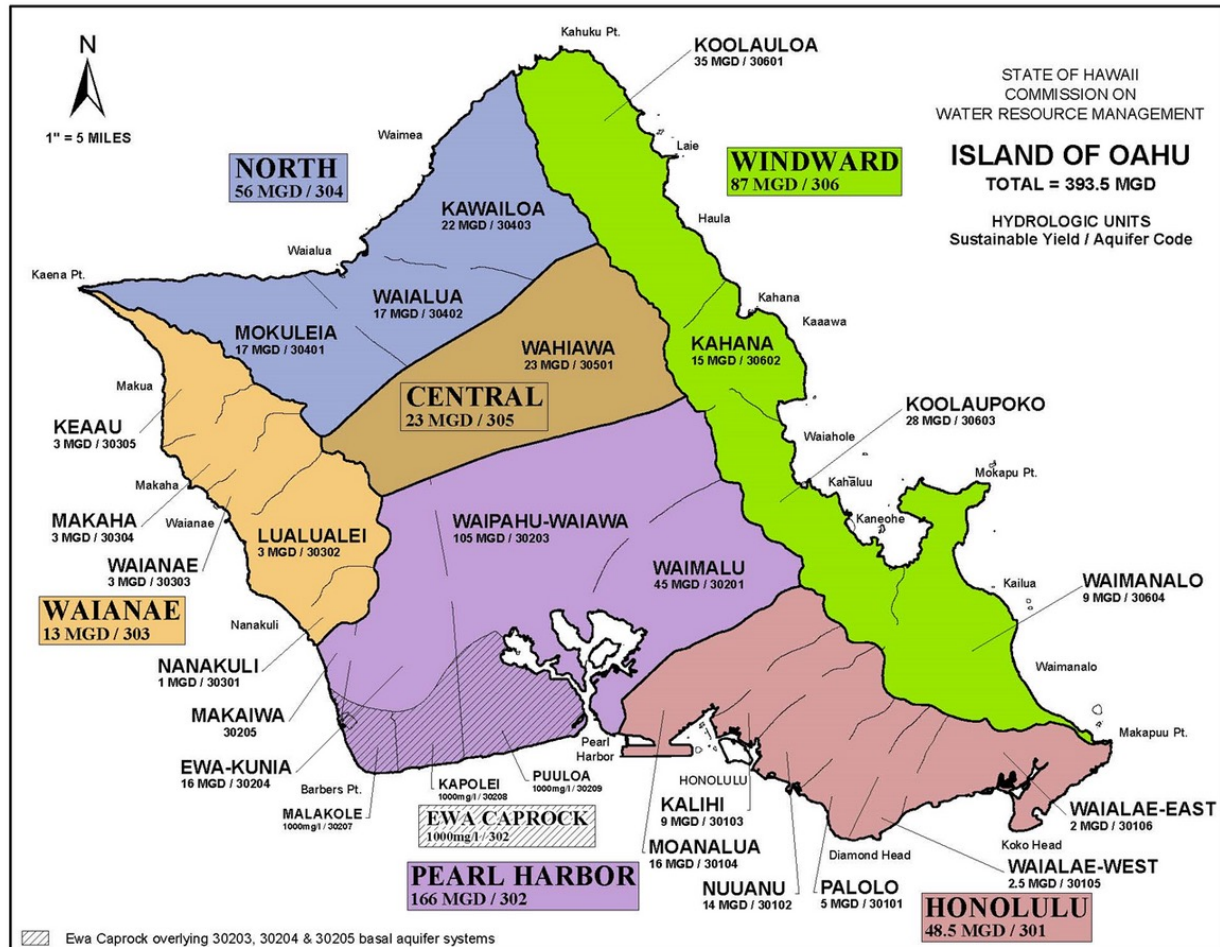


IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Skimming top of well
- Well flushing (5m gal/day)
- Testing (real time)
- Discharge into Halawa Stream (under permit)
- Timeline?



LONGTERM ACTIONS



06/20/2018

- Track groundwater contaminants
- Aquifer modeling
- Monitoring wells
- Important Data?

IMPLICATIONS - WATER SUPPLY

- Halawa Shaft, Halawa well, Aiea well closed indefinitely
 - Halawa Shaft - 20% of water supply for urban Honolulu
 - Aiea and Halawa wells - 50% of water for Aiea and Halawa
- Peak period capacity?



RELEASE OF FLUSHED WATER INTO HALAWA STREAM

- NPDES permit issued by DOH
- Flooding concerns minimal
- Ecology concerns - UH stream lab regularly monitoring



3. UST

ADMIN. ORDER AND EXEC. ORDER

- AOC (ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON CONSENT) 2015
- Executive Order and Lawsuit:
 - December 6, 2021: Gov. David Ige issues an Executive Order to suspend activities and defuel the tanks
 - December 2021-January 2022: Navy contests EO, not a crisis → not an immediate public health threat
 - January 11, 2022: Navy says it will comply with Hawaii's order
 - February 2, 2022: Navy sues State of Hawaii in federal and state courts



GOVERNMENT ACTION

- Federal
 - Funding - \$100 million
 - Fed. Legislation Feb. 11
 - Navy Spending - \$250 million (Jan. 13)
- State
 - Multiple bills & resolutions pending - session concludes in May
- County
 - Bill 48 - Requires permits for 100,000 gallons, five year limit, no leaks



OTHER CONCERNS

- National security
 - Priorities
 - Russia
 - China
 - North Korea
 - Terrorism
 - Natural disasters
- Long term relationships with community
- Other military leases
- Economics

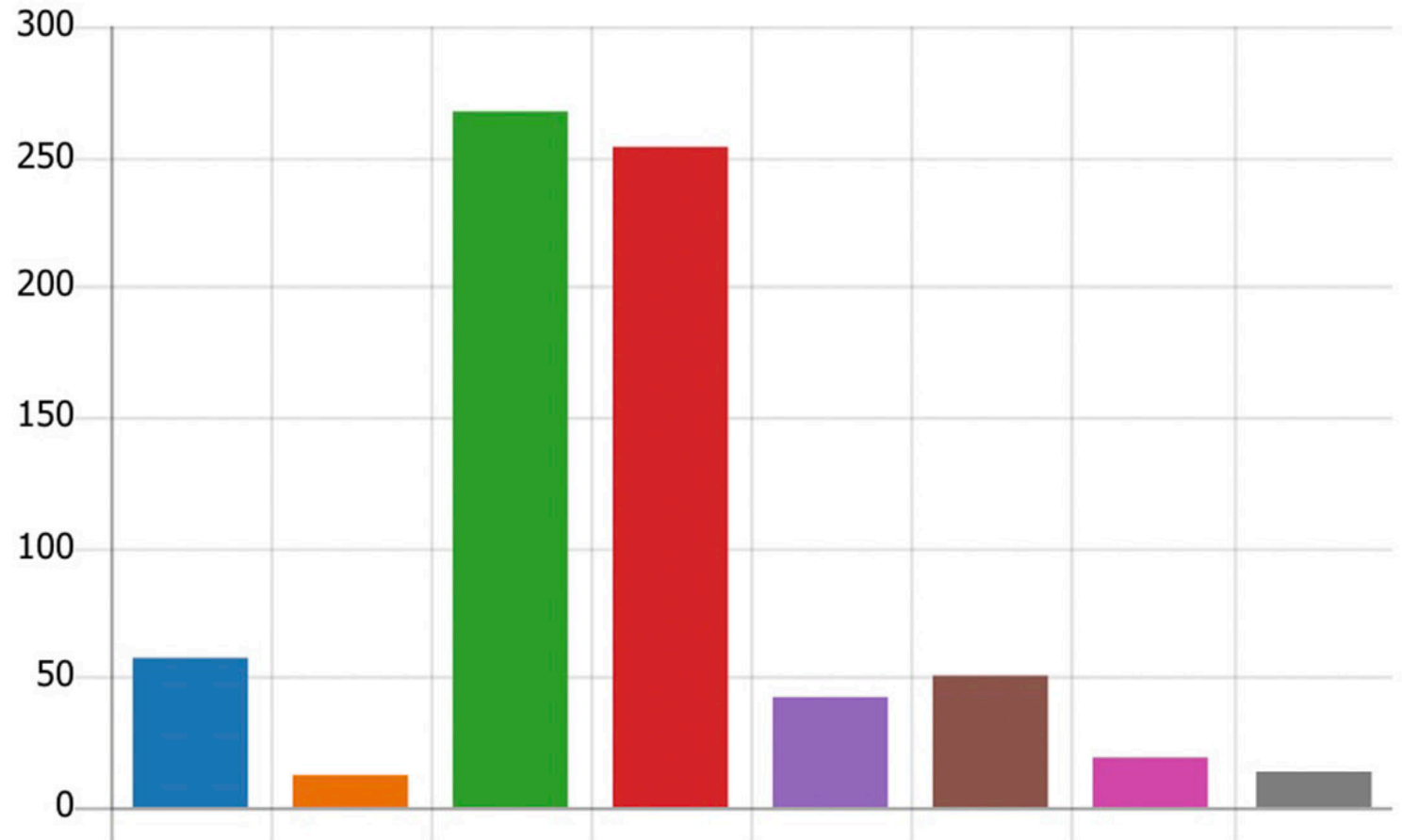


2022 District 2 Survey Results



1. What do you think is the most important issue facing our community? (choose one)

Food Insecurity	57
Lack of Childcare	12
Traffic	267
Increase of Crimes	253
Lack of Support for Education	42
Lack of Work Opportunities/Tr...	51
No Internet Access; No Cover...	19
None of the above	13



Traffic Update

- **2015 CIP budget for the Alternate Road: \$15 million**
- **2018 budget \$40 million towards 4-lanes between Keaau-Pahoa – resulted in 4-lanes from Keaau to Shower; 3-lanes to Kaloli and the Ainaloa roundabout**
- **2021- \$1.5 milion right turn on red light approved for Shower Drive into Highway 130**

Crime

HPD looks for recruits for 'rewarding career'

By **JOHN BURNETT**
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

The Hawaii Police Department is seeking committed men and women to protect and serve the Big Island.

"It's a very rewarding career," Chief Paul Ferreira said Tuesday. "If you want to make a difference, you want to contribute to the community, this is one way of doing it."

Starting pay is \$65,652 a year. Benefits include paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, military leave, health insurance, group life insurance, uniforms and equipment stipend, automobile subsidy and retirement for those who qualify.

"Recruits draw full pay, full benefits, including vacation,



FERREIRA

phase, and they don't come out and go solo until somewhere in the fall."

Candidates must be at least 20 years old when applying, 21 when graduating from the academy, and be in good health and physical condition with good eyesight. They must also be a high school graduate or have a GED equivalent, possess a valid driver's license, be legally qualified to carry and possess firearms, with no convictions for misdemeanor or felony domestic violence.

Ferreira said the novel coronavirus pandemic is a factor that has kept the department

the deaths of suspects in custody, such as George Floyd, hampers recruitment efforts, as well.

"Some people are going to look at it and go, 'Do I really want to do this? Do I really want to be out there and take on that responsibility?' It's got to play on people's minds," Ferreira said. "Fortunately for us, you don't see the antagonism against police here that you see in some mainland states."

Ferreira said it takes a great deal of discipline and commitment to be a police officer — more than is needed for most occupations.

"We tell the recruits on the very onset, and I say it to them personally, 'This job is a career. It's a lifestyle; it's a change in your life.' It's not intended for everyone. Not everyone is

Hawaii County Police just closed applications for the latest recruit class on Tuesday (March 1).

In Honolulu, the police union has said officer staffing is at dangerous levels.

Maui is also having a hard time recruiting police officers.

Food Assistance

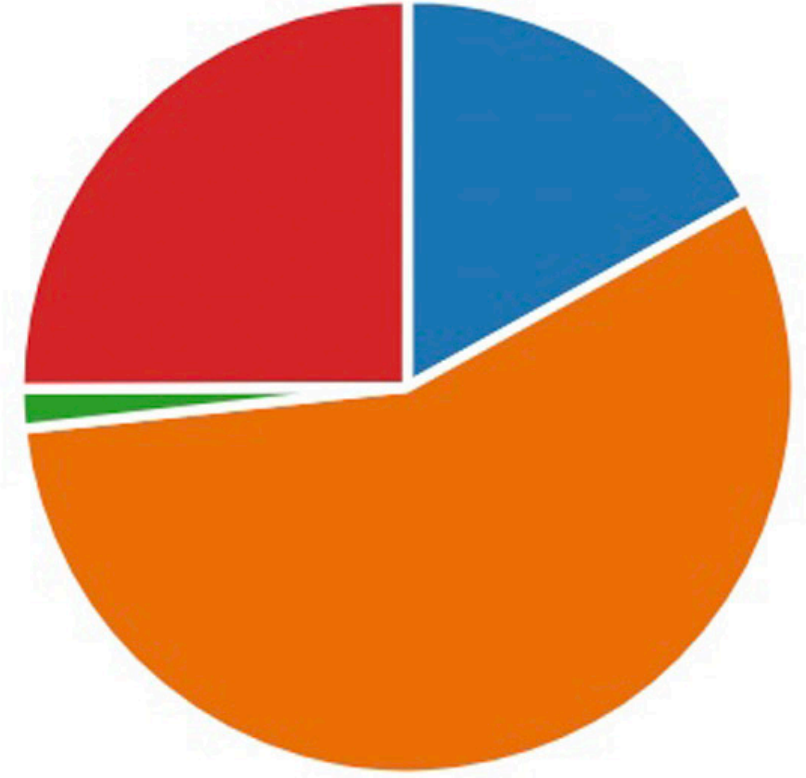


Photo: [Home - Hawaii Foodbank](#)

- **SB2169 SD1**: RELATING TO FOOD ASSISTANCE
- Appropriates funds to fund the operating expenses of the four Hawaii food banks contracted by the Office of Community Services to administer the Emergency Food Assistance Program in each of the State's counties. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

2. Other than issues with private roads in your subdivision, what are the infrastructure needs in Puna and East Ka'ū? (multiple answers allowed)

- Poor Internet Access 165
- No Alternate Roads 548
- None of the above 16
- Other 244

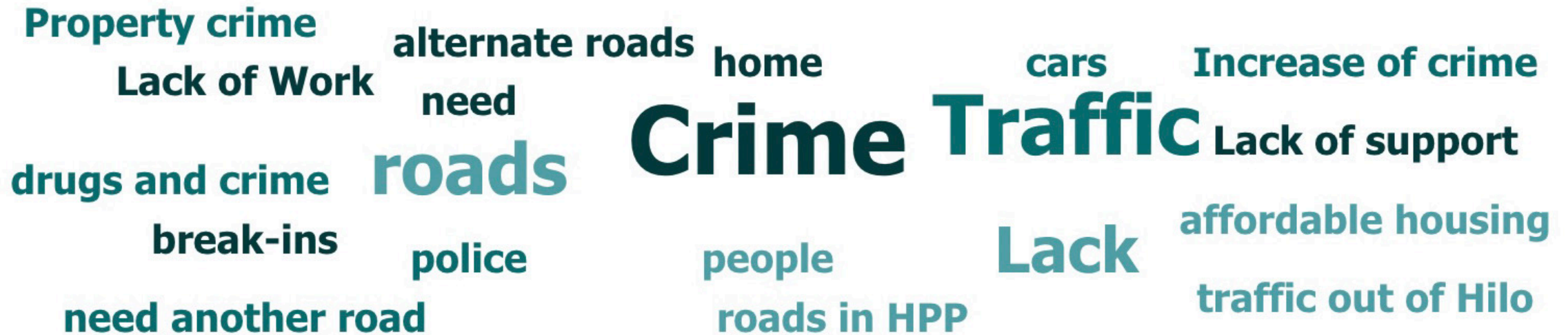


3. What is your biggest issue in the community?

672

Responses

112 respondents (17%) answered **Crime** for this question.



Post Offices Update

For all Post Offices, the COVID-19 pandemic has spiked the number of packages being shipped across the country.

Pahoa

- The 2014 and 2018 lava flows have challenged operations.
- Community growth has increased mailings.
- A USPS study on Pahoa is underway, results expected in late 2022 to determine if expansion or relocation of the Post Office is warranted.
- The Postmaster is considering canopies providing cover for waiting customers outside of the lobby.

Keaau

- The Postmaster is working to reduce the PO Box waiting list.
- Many customers reside in Hawaiian Paradise Park (HPP) getting packages over the counter.
- A few years ago, the Postal Service offered to install, at their cost, Cluster Box Units (CBU) mail receptacles for every current HPP resident and extras if the HPPOA provided a centralized location within the subdivision. Due to an HPPOA leadership change talks stopped; discussion has now continued with the current leadership.

Mountain View

- The Post Office will be completing a space analysis of the site and parking lot which should be completed in 60 days. The manager will be discussing it with Legislative members.

Broadband Update

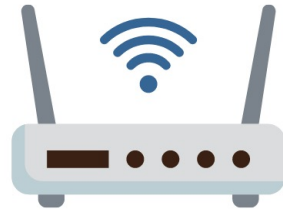
- Spectrum and HawaiianTel continue to expand their coverage areas.
- Aloha Broadband is still providing service for areas.
- The cellular carriers have started offering at home internet services
- Hawaiian Homelands will be able to change internet service providers away from Sandwich Isles Communications later this year if they want.
- Starlink continues to deploy satellites but has a long waitlist with service to Hawaii being highly variable.

Broadband Update

Affordable Connectivity Program

broadband.hawaii.gov/acp/

ACP PROGRAM BENEFITS



Up to \$30 a month towards broadband service from a participating provider



Up to \$75 towards broadband service for households on Hawaiian Home Lands



A one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet

Broadband Infrastructure



- **SB2479**: RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
- Requires each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after 1/1/2023, to include all necessary broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband service.

Housing Subdivisions

- **SB3324 SD1: RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE IN HOUSING SUBDIVISIONS**
- Establishes a working group to address the problem of infrastructure repair and maintenance in planned housing subdivisions that do not have compulsory community associations.



4. What would promote a better quality of life for you in our community?

619

Responses

55 respondents (9%) answered **crime** for this question.



Pohoiki Boat Ramp Update

- Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) moving forward with plans to dredge a channel restoring access to the current boat ramp.
- The State is working with Limtiaco Consulting Group on engineering and design.
- Dredging project will use \$1.5 million previously appropriated by the Legislature and will supplement it with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) monies.
- Dredging project qualifies for environmental assessment exemption. Maintenance of already existing infrastructure.
- Key to economic recovery.

Pohoiki Boat Ramp Update: Restoration Options

Excavation and Dredging

- Removal of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sand by dredging or excavation
- Placement of sand back on the beach
- Estimated construction cost: \$2.5M
- Construction timeline: approximately 9 months

Entrance Channel Improvements

- Follow-up to dredging and excavation
- Installation of permanent structures to protect entrance channel
- New swim area
- Estimated construction cost: \$6M
- Construction timeline: 2-3 years

New Boat Ramp Facility

- New ramp on new lava flow on the north side of the bay
- Construction of new breakwater, boat ramp, loading dock, trailer turn around and parking area
- Estimated construction cost: \$28M
- Construction timeline: 5-6 years+

Public Access for the People

To learn how the Legislature works, and how to submit testimony for bills the Public Access Room is a free, non-partisan resource for residents to use.

In March, the Hawaii State Capitol will once again open to the public to visit in person.

You can visit PAR online and in person. lrb.hawaii.gov/par/

***PAR*-ticipate with the Public Access Room!**

The Public Access Room (PAR) was created by the Hawaii State Legislature to help the public get involved at the capitol. PAR is here to answer your questions, provide non-partisan guidance on the process, and to simply make things easier for you.

Add your voice to the law-making process! Reach out to us and we'll help you to *PAR*-ticipate at the Legislature!

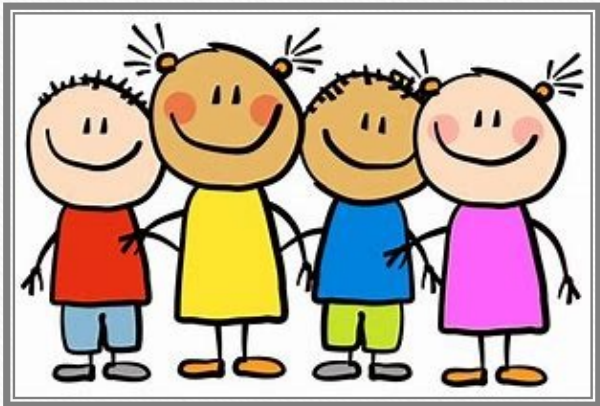


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Facebook: **PublicAccessRoom**
Twitter: **@Hawaii_PAR**
YouTube: **Hawaii_Public Access Room**

Priority Bills

Child Wellness



- **SB2857**: RELATING TO CHILD WELLNESS
- Established within the Department of Human Services, a five-year Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program that pays \$50 to a state medicaid benefit recipient who is a parent to a child, each time the child completes a well-child examination. Requires the Department of Human Services to adopt rules and report to the legislature.

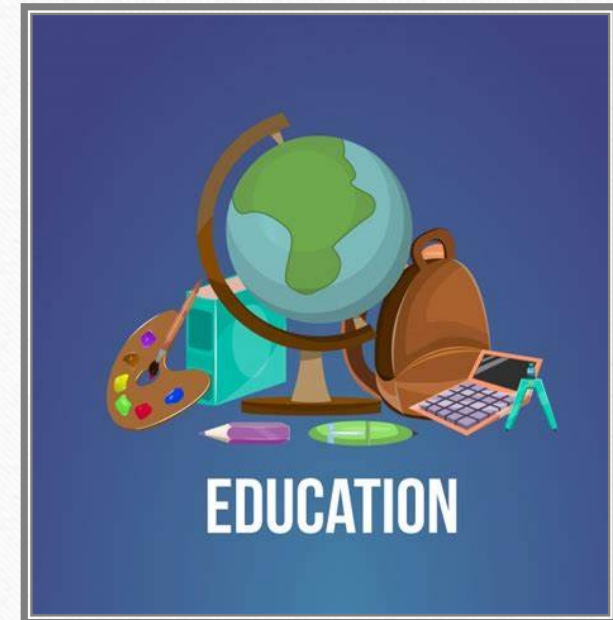
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families



- **SB2150:** RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
- Authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide housing assistance subsidies of up to \$500 per month to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families participants who are participation in the First-To-Work program.

Early Childhood Education

- **SB2701 SD2**: RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION
- Establishes a 1-year child care worker subsidy pilot program to assist in retaining the existing child care workforce. Appropriates moneys for the pilot program to be expended by the Department of Human Services. Appropriates moneys to be deposited into the early learning special fund and expended by the Executive Office on Early Learning for the Hawaii early childhood educator stipend program.



Home Healthcare Fees

- **SB2880**: RELATING TO HOME HEALTH CARE
- Prohibits any increase in the fees charged for providing home health care services during the pendency of an emergency proclamation or state of emergency concerning a public health pandemic on the sole basis that the patient receiving the services requires that the home health care service provider be vaccinated against the underlying disease causing the emergency.



Feral Pig Control Permits



- **SB3320 SD1**: RELATING TO FERAL PIG CONTROL PERMITS
- Codifies certain administrative rules of the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding permits to destroy or control harmful feral pigs. Requires the authorized agent of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to issue or deny permits for complaint-based destruction or control of game mammals within one hundred eighty days. Allows applicants to appeal permit decisions if a permit is not issued within one hundred eighty days. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Attachment or Execution of Property



- [SB3323 SD1](#): RELATING TO ATTACHMENT
- This bill will create a safety net for debtors who cannot pay their bills by preventing creditors from attaching one month's worth of child support or spousal support, a house or property worth up to 100K beyond a mortgage; a car up to \$2500

Housing Bills to Watch

- **Relating to Youth Crisis Center (SB2481 SD1):** Establishes the Youth Crisis Center Branch within the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch to head the Office of Youth Services.
- **Relating to the Public Housing Authority (SB2251 SD1):** Allows the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to develop mixed-income and mixed-financed housing projects, provided that no such projects shall be constructed on ceded land vacant on or after January 1, 2022.
- **Relating to Affordable Housing (SB2372 SD1):** Requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to review the Affordable Rental Housing Report and Ten-Year Plan issued by the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing in July 2018.

Crime Bills to Watch

- **Relating to Child Torture (SB2092 SD1):** Adds a new section to Chapter 709, HRS, to establish the class A felony offense of child torture.
- **Relating to Negligent Homicide (SB2163):** Makes it a class A felony for a person to cause the death of another while operating a vehicle in a negligent manner and under the influence of an intoxicant if the person has one or more convictions for operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant within twenty years of the instant offense, a suspended and revokes license and privilege to operate a vehicle due to driving while under the influence of an intoxicant, or the person is a highly intoxicated driver.
- **Relating to Abuse of Family or Household Members (SB2082):** Adds abuse of family or household members to those felonies that qualify for repeat offender sentencing.
- **Relating to Family Court (SB2422 SD1):** Requires certain persons to immediately submit a written report to the court if the person has reason to believe that a child in foster custody has suffered an injury that may arise to a tort claim.

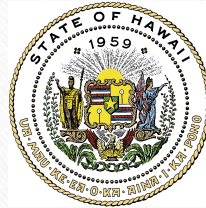


Questions?

Send your questions via chat (Zoom) or comment (Facebook)

We will hold a Town Hall in person Saturday, May 14th at
Mountain View and Pahoia

Contact Information



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