



On the calendar

Feb 7 at 9:00 a.m.

A Public Decision-Making Hearing will be held on the proposed amendments of the Kaka'ako Mauka Area Rules, HRS Chapter 15-217. HCDA Staff has made recommendations on the possible amendments to the Mauka Area Rules. The goals of the enhancements are to improve the development of a vibrant and resilient Kaka'ako Community Development District.

For more information about HCDA, the public hearings or board meetings visit <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.

Kung Hei Fat Choi

Welcoming the Dragon

By Armaine Tomacder

Living in Hawai'i, it's impossible to ignore the various cultural influences that are present in our unique melting pot community. One of the most prominent examples of this is the celebration of the Lunar New Year, which is almost always associated with the Chinese zodiac. On February 10th, 2024, we will be celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Wood Dragon.

According to Chinese astrology, belief, and folklore, there is an astrological cycle of 12 years represented by 12 different animals of the zodiac. Each year is further categorized by one of five elements, depending on the last digit of the given year. With that being said, the last Year of the Wood Dragon was celebrated 60 years ago!

Many Chinese believe when a person turns 60, they have completed this sixty-year cycle which is cause for celebration, and the 60th year is a period of rebirth.



Photo courtesy of Ward Village.

The characteristics of the dragon (success, intelligence, and honor) coupled with the qualities of wood (vitality and creativity), this lunar new year 2024 is believed to bring growth, innovation, progress, and abundance. The same virtues were anticipated for the last Year of the Wood Dragon in 1964, which we now identify as the year that The Beatles entered the American music industry, President Johnson declared "war on poverty" and introduced a variety of federal welfare programs (including Medicare), and signed the US Civil Rights Act into law.

Events to welcome the Year of the Dragon

Night in Chinatown Festival & Lunar New Year Parade

Feb. 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Family-friendly festival in Chinatown - Beretania & A'ala Park, Maunakea Street to A'ala Street. The Parade starts at 4:30pm from the Hawai'i State Capitol to River Street. Learn more at <https://chinatown808.com/nightinchinatown/>

Lunar New Year Celebration at SALT at Our Kaka'ako

Feb. 10, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy martial arts demonstrations and the Asian Lion Dance Team performing Chinese lion dance, meet 2024 Miss Chinatown Hawaii and 2024 Miss Hawaii Chinese 1st Princess. Learn more at <https://saltatkakaako.com/events/>

Year of the Dragon Festivities at South Shore Market Courtyard

Feb. 17, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Lion dance performances will start at courtyard and continue throughout the neighborhood. 1-4 p.m. Master Chinese calligraphy artist Ina Chang will be on-site creating traditional Chinese New Year blessings. Learn more at <https://www.wardvillage.com/explore/activities/lunar-new-year/>.



Image courtesy of Our Kaka'ako.

Making it safer

One street at a time

"In the decade from 2012 to 2021, an average of one person a week died in a traffic crash on Oahu," states the Complete Streets website.

Complete Streets are streets designed to improve safety and balance the needs of all road users – people walking, biking, driving and accessing public transit.

The City and County of Honolulu is implementing Complete Streets by updating policies and guidelines, piloting quick-build design solutions, and implementing roadway design changes that are proven to improve safety as part of all roadway and transportation projects, including routine maintenance, repaving, and roadway rehabilitation.

Thanks to the City's commitment to improve road safety, several streets in the Kaka'ako area have been improved with the addition of new curb ramps, cross-walks, bike facilities, and tree trimming.

By the end of 2023 Auahi, Cooke and Kamake'e Streets were visibly improved, and the City anticipates completion of the upgrades on those streets as well as on Pohukaina, Ilalo and Queen Streets in 2024.

For more information visit www.honolulu.gov/completestreets.



Tax filing tips

from the Hawai'i Department of Taxation

Tax season has officially begun.

The Hawai'i State Income Tax

Deadline is April 22, 2024.

The Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filing deadline for tax returns is

April 15, 2024.

Avoid delays with these tips:

1. File Early

Filing early is the best way to prevent cyber criminals from stealing your refund. If you have been a victim of identity theft, you may enroll in the Department's ID Theft Protection Program by visiting Hawai'i Tax Online at <https://hitax.hawaii.gov>. Those enrolled in the program will be notified when an income tax return is filed with your name and social security number, and you will be asked to verify that you filed the tax return.

2. File Electronically

Compared to paper filing, e-filing improves accuracy, provides verification that your tax return was filed and processes faster so that tax refunds are delivered to you quicker. In addition to the many fee-based commercial tax preparation software, taxpayers can also file for free directly with the Department using Hawaii Tax Online at <https://hitax.hawaii.gov>.

3. Use Direct Deposit

It is the quickest and safest way to receive your refund.

4. Check for Accuracy and Errors

Double check all social security numbers are correct, the appropriate filing status is selected, attach the required forms, and sign your return to prevent common causes of delays.

For more information and help visit

<https://tax.hawaii.gov>.

If you need additional assistance after checking the website please call Taxpayer Services at 808-587-4242 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To check on the status of your state refund visit <https://tax.hawaii.gov>.

