# **Community Connection**



### On the calendar

#### **July & August**

Geotechnical boring activities will be conducted along North King Street between Dillingham Boulevard and Kokea Street, intermittently during non-peak traffic hours. This investigation is being conducted to gather subsurface soil and rock information for the purpose of lwilei-Kap lama Electrical Infrastructure Project. The data collected will be used to determine the appropriate design and ensure the safety and stability of the project.

For more information visit <a href="https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/">https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/</a>.

#### August 6 at 9:00 a.m.

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held. Agendas will be posted on the website the Thursday before the meeting. For more information about HCDA, the public hearings or board meetings visit <a href="https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/">https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/</a>.





## **HCDA** is no longer limited to districts

In July, Governor Josh Green, M.D. sign Act 252 into law, which authorizes the HCDA to cooperate with or assist public and private sector entities to engage in projects that improve the state. It streamlines how the HCDA implements TOD infrastructure improvement projects and authorizes HCDA to issue bonds to finance the development of infrastructure in TOD zones and in HCDA's community development districts.

"This bill makes some of the most significant changes to our statutory scheme since the establishment of the Transit-Oriented

Development Infrastructure (TOD) Improvement Program in 2022, which is in Part X of the Hawaii Revised Statutes," said Craig Nakamoto, the executive director of HCDA.

TOD projects under Act 252 focus on creating affordable, livable communities near transit stations by strategically investing in infrastructure improvements.

Key aspects of TOD projects include: Infrastructure Development

• Construction, installation and improvement of essential infrastructure such as roads, sewers, water, power,

communication and storm water management systems.

- Ensures sufficient infrastructure to support affordable housing, pedestrian connectivity and community amenities.
- **Community Building**
- Promotes walkable, bikeable communities with safe and convenient access to transit.
- Includes meaningful community amenities like parks, recreational facilities and event venues.

#### **Cost Reduction**

- Aggregates amenities like parking and green spaces into public spaces to lower housing costs.
- Encourages mixed-use development to provide daily needs within walking distance and generate revenue to offset community costs.

#### **Program Areas**

• TOD program areas are defined as parcels of land within county-designated TOD zones or within a half-mile radius of proposed or existing transit stations.

#### **Financing Tools**

• Authorizes HCDA to issue revenue bonds to fund TOD infrastructure improvements. This provision will afford the

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## **HCDA**

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agency the ability to issue bonds for infrastructure construction that could facilitate the development of housing units and provide an alternative to reliance on legislative funding.

• Establishes a special fund to manage revenues and user fees for TOD projects.

#### **Pilot Project**

• The act mentions a proposed park-and-ride transit and community hub adjacent to the Skyline's Waiawa, Pearl Highlands station on O'ahu as an example of TOD implementation.

By implementing these strategies, TOD projects aim to reduce housing and transportation costs, improve quality of life and foster sustainable, vibrant communities near transit hubs.

"This act emphasizes the importance of complete community infrastructure, including water, sewer, power, affordable housing, pedestrian connectivity, parks and community amenities," said Nakamoto. "It also allows HCDA to utilize its powers to plan, develop and construct projects outside of community development districts. This more accurately reflects HCDA's evolving role to facilitate the development of communities that serve the highest needs and aspirations of the people of Hawai'i."



# **Invasive species**

Harmful to people and the environment

Summer is here and people will be spending more time enjoying the beauty of the islands, outdoors.

Since a skunk was found at Kaka'ako Waterfront last month, we would like to thank those who acted quickly to report it.

Several native Hawaiian bird and snail species are now extinct due to predatory invasive species, introduced diseases and habitat loss.

In Hawai'i, invasive species typically refers to species that are both:

- 1. Harmful to the environment, economy, and/or human health.
- 2. Not native to Hawai'i (i.e., species that were introduced with human assistance rather than by their own means of introduction).

"Hawai'i's native plant and animal species are those that arrived here without the assistance of humans: seeds for Hawai'i's first plants arrived here by floating on the waves, being blown by the wind, or transported by traveling birds," according to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council website. "Those original introductions spawned, through the course of evolution, native Hawaiian species that are often found nowhere else in the world. Our 'ōhi'a and koa forests are uniquely Hawaiian, as are the hoary bats, 'i'iwi and 'apapane that once filled those forests."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists 578 threatened and endangered native Hawaiian species, about one third of the entire list. Due to the high number of endangered species found here, Hawai'i is often referred to as





the "endangered species capital of the world" or "ground zero."

We can all help to protect our beautiful island home, watershed and agricultural resources from invasive species by reporting it when you see any suspicious plant, insect, or animal.

Frequently reported pests are the coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui froq,





oriental flower beetle, rose-ringed parakeet and the mongoose. However, reports have also included a variety of insects, frogs, birds, plants, fungi, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and now, a skunk.

For more information or to submit a report visit <a href="https://www.643pest.org">www.643pest.org</a>.