



Hawai'i Community
Development
Authority

July 2026

Community Connection

On the Calendar

August 5

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held. Agendas are posted on the website the Thursday before the scheduled Board Meeting.

August 26

Join HCDA for a public informational update at the Entrepreneurs Sandbox on proposed affordable housing opportunities in Kaka'ako. Learn about current planning efforts, including the work that's been done on four HCDA-owned properties for future affordable housing and on the Kaka'ako Makai Area Plan. Follow us for more details <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>, <https://www.instagram.com/hcda.hawaii/>, <https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiCommunityDevelopmentAuthority>

Public Open House Banyan Drive

**Monday, August 10, 2026
from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Pu'ueo Community Center
at Clem Akina Park, 145
Wainaku, Hilo**

Interactive stations will focus on:

- Public recreation
- Open space
- Cultural resources
- Economic revitalization
- Sea level rise and coastal resiliency
- Transportation

Explore stations at your own pace, share your thoughts with the planning team, or stay to talk story.

The Waiākea Peninsula Master Plan will set a long-term vision to guide the revitalization of the properties along Banyan Drive and within the peninsula over the next 20-30 years and will lay out actionable strategies to achieve the future vision.

For more information and to take an online survey, visit www.waiakeamasterplan.com or <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.

A New Chapter Begins for Banyan Drive

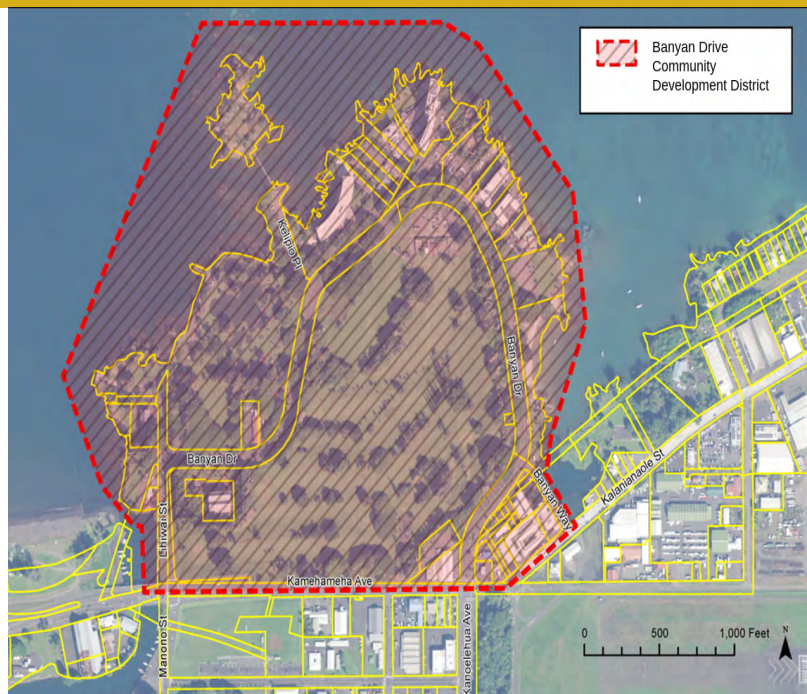
Recognizing the need to address aging infrastructure and support the long-term future of Banyan Drive, the State Legislature established the Banyan Drive Community Development District within the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) through Senate Bill 2001, C.D.1, which Governor Josh Green signed into law in June.

The new district marks the beginning of a long-term effort to strengthen one of Hawai'i Island's most iconic destinations while preserving the cultural, historical and natural resources that make it unique.

For generations, Banyan Drive has welcomed residents and visitors as Hilo's waterfront gateway. Home to historic hotels, public shoreline access, parks and recreational facilities, the area has long served as a gathering place for the community and as a destination for travelers. Over time, however, aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance and underutilized properties have limited the district's potential.

The new law positions HCDA to coordinate planning and redevelopment efforts across the district, establishes the Banyan Drive Community Development District Special Fund, appropriates funding to begin implementation and expands HCDA's board to include representatives from the district, the chairperson of the Banyan Drive Hawai'i Redevelopment Agency and a lineal descendant of the Waiākea Ahupua'a. These changes strengthen community representation, while providing HCDA with the resources needed to guide the district's future.

Hilo offers visitors something distinct from many other destinations in Hawai'i. Travelers come to experience authentic cultural traditions, breathtaking natural landscapes and the community's unique sense of place. A revitalized Banyan Drive can complement those experiences by enhancing



public spaces, improving shoreline access, supporting local businesses and creating amenities that benefit both residents and visitors.

HCDA is already moving that vision forward through the Waiākea Peninsula Master Plan. The planning effort will establish a roadmap for the next 20 to 30 years, identifying strategies for infrastructure improvements, environmental resilience, cultural preservation and responsible redevelopment. Community input will help shape every phase of the process.

"Senate Bill 2001 gives us an opportunity to think holistically about Banyan Drive," said Craig Nakamoto, HCDA executive director. "By bringing people together around a shared vision, we can preserve what makes this place special while preparing it to serve future generations."

The public will have its first opportunity to participate in the planning process during a community open house on Monday, Aug. 10, at the Pu'ueo Community Center in Hilo. Residents and stakeholders are invited to meet the planning team, learn about the master plan and share ideas that will help shape the future of Banyan Drive and the Waiākea Peninsula.

The establishment of the Banyan Drive Community Development District marks more than a legislative milestone. It creates an opportunity to reconnect Hilo's waterfront with the community, celebrate its rich heritage and build a resilient, vibrant destination for generations to come.

HART: Skyline update for Kaka'ako

HART provided an update to the HCDA Board in June on the progress of Honolulu's Skyline project, upcoming traffic changes and the next phase of construction that will extend the rail line from Middle Street to Kaka'ako with six new stations.

Construction continues to move east toward Kaka'ako. After completing major work at the Kuloloia (Downtown) Station area, HART expects construction to advance east along Halekauwila Street beginning in October. As work progresses, periodic half-block closures will be implemented as part of the City Center Guideway and Stations project.

Construction progressing on Halekauwila Street

Along the Kaka'ako segment, crews have completed significant utility relocation work and are preparing for guideway construction.

According to HART, contractors are conducting investigative work, relocating remaining utilities and preparing foundation shafts for the elevated guideway. The drilled shafts, which range from approximately 75 to 250 feet deep and up to 10 feet in diameter, will support the columns carrying the rail guideway.

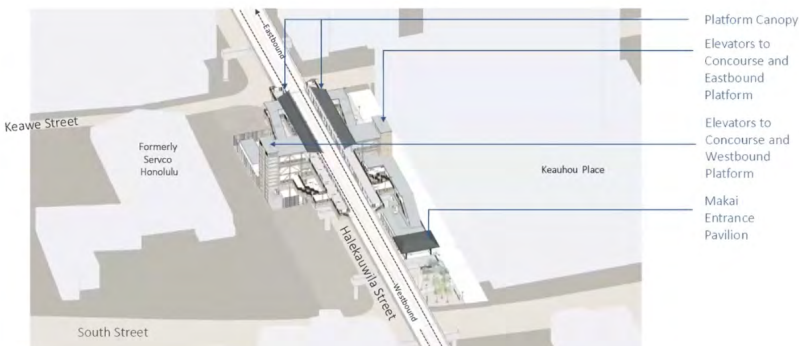
The Ka'ākaukukui (Civic Center) Station will be on Halekauwila Street between South and Keawe streets on a portion of the former Servco property across from Keauhou. Guideway shaft construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2027, followed by the station construction in the second quarter of 2027.

What residents and businesses can expect

As construction advances, motorists, businesses and property owners can expect changes to traffic patterns and lane configurations along Halekauwila Street.

Because of the size of the construction equipment required, portions of the work will require half-block closures and modified traffic control. HART said it will conduct community outreach and meet directly with nearby businesses and property owners before major construction begins to discuss schedules, access and anticipated impacts.

Ka'ākaukukui (Civic Center) Station



Renderings shown are preliminary and subject to change. Courtesy of HART.

The station will include elevators providing ADA access between street level, the concourse and train platform. HART also said the station design allows for potential future expansion on the mauka side should redevelopment opportunities arise.

Unlike earlier Skyline segments, much of the guideway along Halekauwila Street will be supported by paired columns on both sides of the roadway rather than a single center column. HART explained this design accommodates existing underground utility infrastructure while supporting the elevated station structure.



Ka'ākaukukui (Civic Center) Station



- Located at South Street/Halekauwila Street
- Start of Ka'ākaukukui (Civic Center) Station construction anticipated – April 2027
- Guideway shaft construction between South Street and Keawe Street anticipated – February 2027

Looking ahead

Construction of Segment 3, from Kalihi Transit Center to Ka'ākaukukui (Civic Center) is expected to continue through 2030, followed by systems installation, testing and trial operations. Passenger service is currently anticipated to begin in 2031.

As Skyline construction progresses through Kaka'ako, HCDA will continue coordinating with HART and sharing project updates with the community.

For more information visit <https://honolulutransit.org/>.

