

Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board – February 5, 2026

**Senator Karl Rhoads**

Last meeting: December 4, 2025

1. \$5 million in Capital Improvement Program funds have been released to finance construction at Honolulu Harbor to harden existing facilities to protect them from severe weather events.
2. AARP Hawaii is sponsoring a FREE Seminar on how to Stop Fraud Before it Starts. It will outline practical steps to take to outsmart scammers in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Cryptocurrency. The Seminar is on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30 am – 11:30 am, at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 South Beretania Street. Free continental breakfast will be provided. Registration is required, and you may call toll free at 1-877-926-8300 or online at: [events.aarp.org/fraud2-23](https://events.aarp.org/fraud2-23)
3. The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) has a new online resource called, First 5 Hawaii. This website is set up to help families across all islands identify resources and programs they may be eligible for, and streamline access to those programs. Service areas include: (1) early learning, (2) health & safety, (3) food & nutrition, (4) special needs & early intervention, (5) parenting & family, and (6) housing support. The website can be found at: [First5Hawaii.org](https://First5Hawaii.org)
4. I sent a letter to Mayor Blangiardi expressing my opposition to the City's proposed development of the Kamali'i Mini Park. In response to my concerns, the Dept. of Parks & Recreation stated that the park is not suitable for a park or for recreational activities, and a more suitable use for that parcel has yet to be determined. A copy of the City's letter is enclosed with this report.
5. Hawaii Energy, the State's energy conservation program, has launched an **Appliance Trade-Up Program** to help Honolulu residents lower energy use and manage rising electricity costs by replacing older, inefficient appliances. The program is available to residents living in

zip codes 96817 and 96819, including Chinatown, Kalihi, Liliha and Nuuanu. Eligible residents can trade in a working refrigerator or freezer for a new energy-efficient ENERGY STAR model for as low as \$250. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2026. For more information, you may call (808) 537-5577, or toll free at (877) 231-8222, or visit [HawaiiEnergy@Leidos.com](mailto:HawaiiEnergy@Leidos.com)

The Hawaii Energy News Release is enclosed with this report.

6. Please don't hesitate to call my office, (808) 586-6130, with questions or concerns or email me at: [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)