

Nu‘uanu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board –January 17, 2023

Karl Rhoads

Last meeting: November 15, 2022

1. \$20 million in capital improvement project funds was released as an infusion to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund. The Fund will finance the construction of affordable housing projects statewide. This is something that I have advocated for, although I asked for more money.
2. \$900,000 in capital improvement project funds was released for renovations to the Hawaii State Hospital Guensberg Building. This is important as it helps address mental health problems among the homeless.
3. \$1,165,000 in capital improvement project funds was released to provide for air conditioning to Buildings K & F at Kawanakoa Middle School.
4. \$1,450,000 in capital improvement project funds was released to Nuuanu Elementary School to provide for repainting, renovations and a new playground for 2nd and 3rd grade students.
5. \$1,165,000 in capital improvement project funds was released for drainage improvements at Pauoa Elementary School.
6. The Red light safety program is now in effect at the following locations:

Vineyard Boulevard and Palama Street – Live for Citations
Vineyard Boulevard and Liliha Street- Live for Citations
Vineyard Boulevard and Nuuanu Avenue- Live for Citations
Pali Highway and Vineyard Boulevard- Live for Warnings
Pali Highway and School Street- Live for Warnings
7. Last week, the Dept. of Health reported 1343 new covid cases with a 7-day average of 170 cases and 5 deaths. There is also another Omicron variant, XBB.1.5, that is spreading rapidly throughout the U.S. and is more contagious. I encourage you to get your shots and boosters and continue to wear masks inside even where you don't have to.

8. Keep in mind that even with 75% of the population fully vaccinated, 93% of those who died in 2021 from covid were unvaccinated. That means that your chances of avoiding illness and death are much higher if you vaccinate & boost.
9. I also encourage you to get your flu shots. They are available now and can be taken on the same day as the covid booster. While the flu is usually not nearly as deadly as covid, in the 2018-19 flu season it killed 27,000 Americans.
10. Don't hesitate to call my office, 586-6130, with questions or concerns or email me at senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov