



# GREGGOR ILAGAN

Council Member for District 4  
(808) 965-2712

## APRIL PROGRESS REPORT

### DISTRICT 4

Hawaiian Paradise Park, Hawaiian Beaches, Makai of Pāhoa Town, Nanawale Estates, Leilani Estates, Pohoiki, Kapoho

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“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”

— Lao Tzu

## \$434.7 Million Budget

Over three days in late April, council members met with the heads of each department regarding their budget requests for fiscal year 2015-2016 that begins July 1.



Councilmember Ilagan questions Finance Director Deanna Sako on the budget.

The \$434.7 million operating budget in Bill 28 is based on an estimate of property values; the budget will be amended again at a Finance Committee meeting on May 5 to reflect the certified property values. Also on the agenda will be Bill 29, the capital budget.

The operating budget is funded primarily by property taxes, transient accommodation taxes, and fuel taxes,

and funds the general operations of county government. The capital budget is for buildings and infrastructure improvements, and is largely funded by general obligation bonds.



Corporation Counsel Molly Stebbins prepares to respond to a Council Member.

Council members may amend the budget bills at special meetings of the Council on May 18 (in Kona) and June 1 (in Hilo). Contact Council Member Ilagan’s office if you would like to receive an emailed link to the bills; a hard copy is available for public inspection in the Pāhoa office.



The Police Department is one of the 20 county departments and agencies that the Hawai'i County Council reviewed in the April budget hearings.

*Aloha!*

I would like to congratulate all the students who are graduating this month. Your hard work and determination have gotten you this far. Always continue learning and improving yourself as you move forward. Good luck on your next endeavor. To those of you whose studies were interrupted by the tropical storm and lava emergencies, I salute your ability to endure and to persevere.

The current session of the state Legislature adjourns on May 7. We asked for funding for an ambulance in Puna, Albizia control, and funding for a primary care training program. Soon we can celebrate our wins and reflect on the losses.

In the month of May, I am focusing on the County budget and am critically reviewing the many programs in the departments. I could always use your help and if you have any feedback on making our County government better, please reach out. I am open to new ideas and am willing to take the time to work out an issue.

Sincerely,

*Greggor Ilagan*

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member

# In Progress from January to April

**Neighborhood Watch bill** - Council Member Greggor Ilagan's Neighborhood Watch bill has been tweaked further after review from the Traffic Division. Bill 47 will be discussed May 5 in the Public Safety and Mass Transit Committee. If it is not withdrawn or postponed, it will go to the Council for first reading on May 19.



**Pāhoā Village Design District** - The package of bills relating to the Pāhoā Village Design District has been postponed to the May 6 meeting due to amendments that needed to be made. If approved by the Council on May 6, the bills will go to the Mayor and will be effective upon approval.

**SuperPAC disclosure** - The House and the Senate have reached a tentative agreement and are set to send

the bill to Governor David Ige in early May.

**Puna and Makalei ambulances** - Bills to fund these ambulances persisted until May 1; however, they did not pass a crucial joint House-Senate conference committee and as a result the legislature will not fund either ambulance for the coming fiscal year.



**PGV Noise Reduction** - The fourth and final phase of drilling for PGV's production well was nearing the end in late April. "We are hopeful that it will be done by the end of this month," said Mike Kaleikini, director of Hawaiian Affairs for PGV, in April. Working with the County and PGV, Kaleikini has asked its acoustical engineer to provide an estimate for rendering the following services: 1) A review of the available historical noise data from the PGV monitoring stations to

provide a historical summary of noise levels from the PGV facility; 2) Identify the current various sources of noise from the various pieces of equipment of the power plant; and 3) Provide recommendations for reducing noise, and include the predicted amount of noise reduction and the cost of each noise reduction. The engineer has not yet responded and the Planning Department, Council members Paleka and Ilagan, and PGV look forward to hearing back from him.



**Puna Road Connectivity** - Ilagan's office is still preparing to introduce a communication creating an ad hoc committee to discuss Puna road connectivity. The earliest this is able to happen would be during one of the meetings in June.

## County Council and Committee agendas

Would you like to be alerted about items on upcoming County Council and Committee agendas? If you would like to be on the list to receive an update, please write to [greggor.ilagan@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:greggor.ilagan@hawaiicounty.gov), or call the office at 965-2712, and ask to be added to the Council agenda list.

Before each meeting, Council Member Greggor Ilagan sends out to an agenda via email to more than 140 people to alert them of agenda postings.

The Council is required by the County Charter to hold two meetings per month, and at least one meeting per quarter in West Hawai'i. Committee and Council meetings are generally held on the first and third week of each month, with the first meeting of the month in Hilo and

the second meeting of the month in Kona. However, there are exceptions.

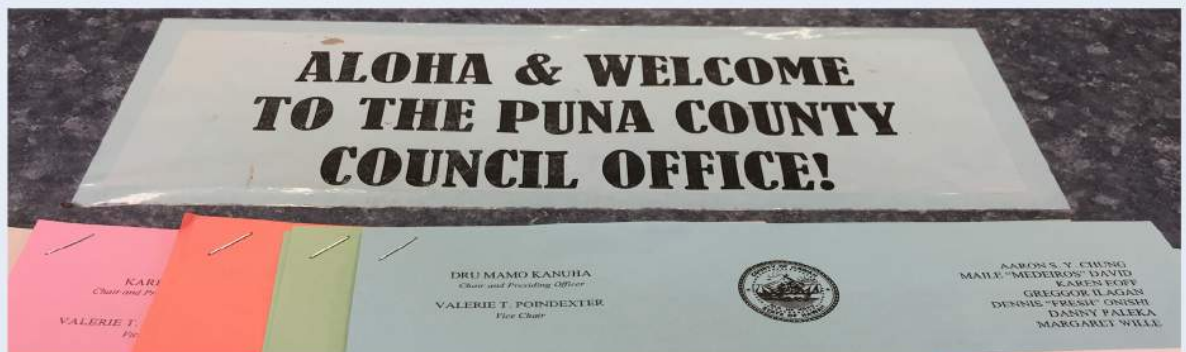
State law requires agendas to be posted no later than six days before a meeting, and Ilagan's office usually sends out the agenda as soon as possible.

These mailings contain clickable links to the agendas for both Committee and Council meetings, and will highlight bills, resolutions and communications that are considered by Ilagan's office to be of particular interest to the people of Puna, including Puna rezoning requests and matters relating to

geothermal energy.

Any member of the public is entitled to speak or to provide written testimony on any item on the agenda. Remote testimony sites are located across the island, including at the Pāhoā Community Center. Contact the Office of the County Clerk at 961-8255 if you have any questions.

If you do not have email and you would like to review the agendas for upcoming meetings, you may visit the Pāhoā Council office during regular business hours. Call us for directions.



# Pāhoā Park Master Plan: Phase I - Construction underway



Construction on the first phase of the Pāhoā District Park has resumed. After being placed on hold during the lava emergency last year, the Department of Parks and Recreation is moving ahead on Phase 1 as originally envisioned before the lava

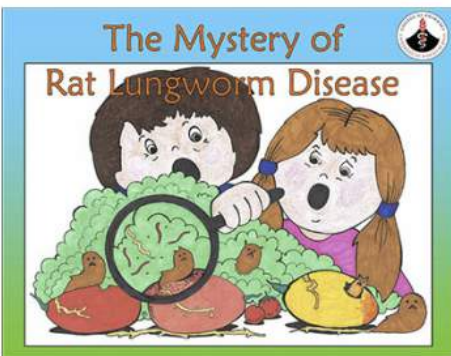
emergency.

Phase 1 will include two multipurpose fields, covered basketball/volleyball courts, a youth baseball field, a high school baseball field, parking and landscaping.

Depending on available funding, Phase 2 will include a 400-meter track, more playing fields for youth baseball and soccer, and amphitheater with a stage, parking, a covered playground and an archery range.

## Rat Lungworm Disease

Council member Greggor Ilagan will be introducing a resolution asking the State of Hawai'i Department of Health to give greater attention to the public health threat of rat lungworm disease.



Rat lungworm disease, or RLWD, is caused by nematodes, tiny worms that reproduce in rats and develop in slugs and snails. East Hawai'i provides the ideal habitat for these worms, and 90 percent of the cases originate from East Hawai'i, and Puna in particular.

When a rat eats an infected snail or

slug, the worms grow, mature, reproduce, and are excreted in rat feces, which are then eaten by snails or slugs, continuing the cycle. The snails and slugs are drawn to fruits and



Graham, 23, is from Kapoho and was infected in Puna on Dec. 2008. He was hospitalized for 4 months, was comatose for 3 months, and still has vision and motor skill difficulties. Photo used with permission.

vegetables, which, if unwashed or uncooked, may result in meningitis, coma, paralysis and death. The nematode works its way through the intestines, and into the blood, to the liver and the lungs, then to the central ner-

vous system and then the brain, where it dies and causes more damage.

One recent victim of this disease was reported in the Green Lake neighborhood, when a young man contracted it from his catchment tank in a case that received recent media attention. Although he is now walking with a cane, his family is concerned that there is zero funding available for research and eradication of RLWD and no awareness in the community.

Ilagan met with Sue Jarvi Ph.D., an expert in parasite interactions, who in April held a public talk about the disease and what can be done about it. Dr. Jarvi believes the State and Federal governments can do more to recognize that RLWD is a serious problem in Hawai'i, and to respond accordingly with funding for studies to determine a catchment filter study and a public education campaign. This resolution, if approved by the Council, will inform the State about the enormity of this disease and the threat it presents to Puna.

# Is your water catchment safe?

Find out how to ensure your safety by attending one of a series of free community workshops that the UH Sea Grant College Program is offering around Hawai'i Island this spring.

Well-designed, installed, and main-



Chantal Chung hands out a water testing kit.

tained catchment systems can provide clean water for potable and non-potable uses.

The UH Sea Grant College Program was awarded a federal grant to focus on best practices in the use of rainwater catchment for residential water needs on Hawai'i Island.

More information on the free water catchment workshops and additional project details are available at the [hawaiirain.org](http://hawaiirain.org), by emailing Chantal Chung at [cechung@hawaii.edu](mailto:cechung@hawaii.edu), or by

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"I hope people will take advantage of this opportunity by contacting the UH Sea Grant program."

— Greggor Ilagan

calling (808) 329-2861.

As part of this yearlong effort, UH Sea Grant and its partners is holding nine free informational workshops across the island for residents to learn more about rainwater catchment operations, and maintenance and best practices to improve safety.



A free community workshop on rainwater catchment was held in Ainaloa



## Sign-up

**Hawai'i County Civil Defense Alerts and Notifications Self Enrollment.**

Go to the following website:  
[www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense/](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense/)

808-935-0031  
[civil\\_defense@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:civil_defense@hawaiicounty.gov)

"I hope people will take advantage of this opportunity by contacting the UH Sea Grant program," Council member Greggor Ilagan said. His office recently hosted a workshop featuring Chung in Ainaloa.

Water testing kits and instructions will be provided free of charge to those attending the workshops. The free workshops have been held in neighborhoods and communities throughout Hawai'i Island beginning in March.

## In observance of Denim Day 2015



Certificate of commendation presented April 22 to the Zonta Club of Hilo.

If the jeans don't fit, you must acquit, the Italian Supreme Court ruled in 1999 when it overturned a rape conviction, and inadvertently inspired Denim Day, a rape prevention education campaign that raises community awareness about

the devastating impacts of sexual violence and how to prevent it.

In July 1992, an 18-year-old student reported to police that her 45-year-old driving instructor had raped her the previous day during a driving lesson.

In 1999, the Italian Supreme Court reversed a lower court's conviction of the man, finding that "it is a fact of common experience that it is nearly impossible to slip off tight jeans even partly without the active collaboration of the person who is wearing them."

Italian women in Parliament wore jeans the next day in support of the victim, and the global storm of protest led to the first International Jeans for Justice Day.

The Council of the County of Hawai'i joins the Zonta Club of Hilo in observance of Denim Day 2015 and commends their work to stop sexual violence in our community.

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