

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station KHCM-FM 97.5
January 1 – March 31, 2024
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Section 1. Issues.

The station has identified the following as significant issues and concerns to our listeners and community during this quarter:

- 1. Maui Wildfires:** Provided coverage of the fires on Maui.
- 2. Increase in Crime:** Provided coverage of escalating crime in Hawaii.
- 3. Red Hill Fuel Spill:** How the spill has been affecting residents.
- 4. Economy:** How Hawaii's economy is doing.
- 5. Misc:** Other topics of interest.
- 6. PSA:** Public Service Announcement.

Section II. Responsive Programs

This station broadcast programming dealing with the above-referenced issues as follows:

1. Maui Wildfires:

1/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The final dump site for the estimated 400-thousand tons of ash and debris left behind after the Lahaina wildfire will not be in Olowalu. That's what Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen assured the public on Thursday. But, Bissen says the rural area about eight miles south of Lahaina can temporarily hold waste until a permanent dump site is chosen. Bissen says the Central Maui landfill in Puunene is being considered as the final dump site. The mayor adds that the volume of wildfire waste is the size of about five football fields stacked five stories high.

1/10/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Maui's burn zones fully reopened last month, allowing thousands an opportunity for closure. But some residents still haven't been allowed to sift through their homes. That's because the EPA says some properties were listed as "deferred" after workers could not enter them due to dangers like unstable structures, overhead hazards, fallen trees or asbestos.

There's still a few opportunities for Maui fire survivors to sign up to have the government to remove debris on their properties for them. Officials say anyone interested has to attend an informational workshop on the "Right of Entry" process. There's one this Saturday and another one on the 27th. Both events will be held at the Lahainaluna High School cafeteria from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Officials say the ROE process is necessary for participation in the government-sponsored hazardous debris removal programs. To sign up you can go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) [[[Eventbrite-dot-com](https://www.eventbrite.com)]] and search Fire Debris Removal / Right of Entry Workshop in Hawaii.

1/13/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) It has now been more than five months since the devastating wildfires, and some land in Upcountry Maui is still smoldering. The Maui Fire Department says organic materials underground continue to smolder, and can sometimes reignite hot spots. The MFD says, in the past two months, there have been "numerous" small fires and hot spots in Upcountry Maui. Authorities are urging people not to hesitate to call 911 if they see any flames or smoke.

1/16/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Scientists in Hawaii are reporting encouraging signs in the waters off Lahaina. Last week, Lahaina got more than four inches of rain, the most rain it has seen at once since the devastating wildfire in August. There were serious concerns about toxic ash and debris washing into the ocean and causing pollution and public health issues. While water test results aren't available yet, environmentalists say it appears that soiltac kept a lot of the ash in place, though some toxicity probably still washed into the

ocean. More wildlife and marine life have been seen in the Lahaina area as of late as well, including a monk seal that recently came to rest on the shore.

1/17/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Lahaina wildfire debris project is underway. It began earlier this week and it's estimated that crews will haul 600-thousand tons of ash and waste out of the town over the next year. The 40-million-dollar project is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and being carried out by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractor EEC Constructors. They'll be removing waste from areas where owners have finished their right-of-entry authorization process. About 200-thousand tons of debris metal and concrete will be recycled while the ash and other waste will be taken to the newly constructed landfill in Olowalu. That will be the temporary storage site for waste.

1/22/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Governor Josh Green will declare a moratorium on all short-term rentals in West Maui unless enough people step up to house families displaced by the deadly Lahaina fire. That's what he said during his second State of the State Address this morning. Governor Green kicked off his speech by taking a moment of silence in honor of those who died in the wildfire. He said hundreds of millions of dollars are going into recovery efforts, but there's more work to be done when it comes to addressing the issue of housing those affected. Green added that more than half of all short-term rentals are owned by non-state residents who make "on average four times what they would if the property was simply rented to a local family."

1/23/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Insurance companies that have had to pay out thousands to millions of dollars in claims after the Maui wildfires are going after Hawaiian Electric and other utility companies. More than 140 insurance industry plaintiffs have joined lawsuits filed against utility companies and landowners in connection with the disaster in August. Insurance companies like State Farm, USAA, Island Insurance and Tradewind Insurance want reimbursements for claims they've paid out to policyholders in recent months. Claims now total more than a billion dollars in West Maui, just for residential properties.

1/24/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Health officials say they are expanding air monitoring and sampling in Lahaina and Olowalu as debris is removed. Officials say the increased air monitoring and sampling will make sure that the air quality is not significantly impacted as ash and debris are removed from the Lahaina burn zone. Air sampling and monitoring will continue throughout the debris removal project and is expected to last a year. Health officials say they have installed about 40 real-time air monitors and air samplers in Olowalu and Lahaina.

1/31/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) FEMA is developing a plan to house Maui wildfire survivors that officials call an "absolute last resort." The plan would utilize 63 acres of privately owned land in West Maui, where 214 modular housing units would be built. The land was once used to grow sugar cane, coffee, and sweet corn. It is also the site of a planned development called Kaanapali Town.

2/1/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Maui County officials have narrowed down their choices for a permanent site to store Lahaina wildfire ash and debris to three locations. Two are in West Maui and the other is the Central Maui Landfill. Both potential West Maui sites are north of Lahaina Town. One is in the Wahikuli area and the other is in Crater Village. There are possible risks connected with both. The Wahikuli site is near residential areas and the coastline, while the Crater Village site could interfere with drinking water sources. The Central Maui Landfill in Puunene is 26 miles away from Lahaina, and transporting the debris could seriously impact traffic.

2/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Kaiser Permanente is opening a temporary clinic in West Maui. It will be on the property of the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort in Kaanapali. That's three miles north of Kaiser's former clinic in Lahaina, which was destroyed during the wildfire last August. The clinic will offer ob-gyn, behavioral health, and optical and optometry services. It will also have an on-site pharmacy and lab area. The temporary clinic is expected to open between mid-March and early April.

2/6/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The deadline for disaster victims to file 2022 tax returns is February 15th. The IRS granted an extension to taxpayers affected by disasters between August 8th and October 9th of last year, including victims of the Maui wildfires. The deadline also applies to quarterly estimated tax payments and quarterly payroll and excise tax returns. Tax payments related to 2022 returns were due on April 18th of last year and are not included in this relief.

The Maui Police Department is revealing the locations of where 100 people were found dead after the Lahaina wildfire. The information is included in the MPD's after-action report, released Monday. Most victims were found mauka of Honoapiilani Highway and four were found on Front Street. Among those on Front Street, one person was in a structure, two were over a seawall, and another died near a car that was not theirs. Maui Police Chief John Pelletier says, despite reports of cars struck on Front Street, not one person died in a car on Front Street.

The Maui Police Department has released the first probe into the wildfires that broke out in August. The fires that destroyed the historic Lahaina district of the island were responsible for the deaths of 100 people and the burning of over 66-hundred acres. The report found that emergency dispatch was overwhelmed by call volume, with wind and flames leaving Lahaina without cellular or wi-fi capacity. It went on to also find that officers needed the training and tools to respond, recommending police vehicles now be equipped with a "breaching kit" to clear routes.

2/9/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Survivors of the Lahaina wildfire are still suffering health issues half a year later. That's according to researchers from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine and the U.H. Economic Research Organization. This is the first scientific study of the health impacts from the wildfire last August 8th. It blames a series of health issues on the intense heat, smoke, and toxic ash the fire produced. Researchers interviewed more than 200 people who fled the fire zone to analyze the medical, emotional and financial impacts they still face. Seventy-four-percent of those surveyed report poor respiratory health and 55-percent report depression symptoms like suicidal thoughts or feelings of hopelessness. Twenty-four-percent report having unsteady access to healthcare and 13-percent

say they don't have health insurance at all. Seventy-six-percent of those surveyed lost homes, 58-percent lost jobs, and 35-percent report low food security.

2/13/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Maui police today released the name of a Lahaina resident who had been reported missing as among the 101 confirmed Aug. 8 wildfire fatalities. Paul Kasprzycki, 76, was identified as the latest victim after his family was notified. He had been on a list of 388 people unaccounted for after the Lahaina wildfire disaster. The Cold Case Detail with “highly experienced” investigators from the Morgue Identification Notification Task Force is continuing to investigate the remaining cases. Officials said they are “diligently” reinvestigating all available evidence.

2/29/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Maui County has selected the Central Maui Landfill as the permanent dump site for Lahaina wildfire ash and debris. The site is east of Puunene and next to the current landfill. County officials reached the decision in part after reviewing responses to a survey taken by residents earlier this month. Many Lahaina residents had expressed not wanting to have the debris in West Maui, even if it would mean more traffic when it is hauled to central Maui. Maui County must next finalize the land acquisition and coordinate with state and federal agencies for traffic mitigation and funding needs.

3/1/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) As Maui wildfire recovery costs continue to soar, state lawmakers are demanding an explanation from Governor Josh Green and department leaders. Lawmakers spent part of their Thursday at a meeting, asking why a thousand dollars per day, per household, is being spent on hotel rooms for survivors, while schools and other state services are facing serious cuts. The budget for public schools has been impacted by about 80-million-dollars, the most of any department. State Senator Donna Kim wondered why the state didn't use tent cities or trailers that FEMA has used for emergency housing after other disasters in the past, rather than putting so many people in costly hotels.

3/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Maui Police Department's cold case detail is still working to find two people considered missing after the Lahaina wildfire. Elmer Stevens and Robert Owns have been missing since last August. The MPD launched its first ever cold case unit in November and, since then, it has located seven people. Four of them survived the Lahaina fire, two people did not, and one person was missing but their case was not related to the fire. Officers say they will search areas that have already been searched in their pursuit of finding the two missing men.

Maui County officials are looking for the owners of 21 vehicles that were salvaged in Lahaina. The vehicles were recovered from the burn zone, all still intact with little to no visible outer damage. But, Maui County will not guarantee a warranty for the condition of the vehicles. The county is providing a chart of the vehicles' color, make, type, VIN and license plate numbers in hopes of reuniting them with their owners. Vehicles unclaimed by April 1st will be scrapped. Right now, they are being kept at a storage yard.

3/6/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Already strapped for cash after the deadly wildfires, it turns out Maui County failed to collect millions of dollars in taxes. That's according to an audit of the county's finance department. The audit focuses on the Transient Accommodations Tax, the three percent tax on hotel rooms and vacation rentals enacted in 2021. As of June of 2022, the Finance Department failed to collect about 17-million-dollars in TAT revenue. And, more than nine-million-dollars in TAT was delinquent as of June of 2022. Last month, Maui County Finance Director Scott Teruya was placed on administrative leave with pay. It's unclear if the audit had anything to do with that decision.

3/7/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A decision on where lawsuits against utility companies accused of starting the Maui wildfires will be heard, is expected this coming Monday. Wildfire victims, the plaintiffs, want the cases heard in state court on Maui. The defendants, like Hawaiian Electric and other utility companies, want the cases heard in federal court on Oahu. There is also a possibility that the cases will be heard in a combination of state and federal courts. A U.S. District Court judge on Oahu heard both sides of the argument from attorneys on Wednesday.

3/12/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Lawsuits related to the deadly Maui wildfires will be heard in Maui state court in Wailuku. A federal judge announced the decision on Monday. It comes after Hawaiian Electric and other companies facing legal action tried to move the venue to federal court on Oahu. Attorneys for fire victims and survivors are hailing the ruling as a victory.

3/19/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The results of an independent investigation into the Lahaina wildfire are being delayed for another month. The state Attorney General's Office report is now expected to come out on April 17th. Officials with the Attorney General's Office blame challenges with getting information and access to Maui County officials and employees. Investigators are putting together a timeline of events related to the fire last August 8th and analyzing how government agencies responded. With the report, the attorney general is trying to determine if more could have been done to save lives and property as hurricane-force winds and flames raged across the town.

3/22/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Some people living downwind of the Lahaina burn zone are reporting respiratory issues. The American Lung Association says, last week, it received four calls from people concerned about dust and air quality. Three of them reported symptoms like a chronic cough. Three months ago, the Hawaii Department of Health urged West Maui residents to avoid all direct exposure to fire debris. The DOH says high levels of toxic substances were found in ash samples collected from more than 100 properties in Lahaina. The substances include arsenic, lead, antimony, cobalt and copper.

3/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A new temporary campus for King Kamehameha the Third Elementary School students is officially open. Monday was the first official workday for teachers, who are getting ready to welcome 350 students next Monday. The campus in Pulelehua is taking the place of the original Kamehameha Elementary campus, which was destroyed in the Lahaina wildfire last August. Since then, students and staff have been sharing a campus with Princess Nahi'ena'ena Elementary School. On Monday morning, a

blessing and dedication ceremony was held at the new temporary campus below Kapalua Airport.

3/28/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Hawaii will not be instituting a moratorium on short-term vacation rentals. Governor Josh Green, who threatened to temporarily ban vacation rentals in West Maui, says the state has reached the minimum number of units it needs to house families impacted by last summer's wildfires. Green says more than three-thousand displaced residents are still in hotels, but that number is down from eight-thousand last August. Green says families still living in hotels are slowly being transitioned into more permanent housing. The governor still says some of Maui's 31-thousand short-term rental properties could and should be used as housing.

2. Increase in Crime:

1/2/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Two Honolulu police officers are seriously wounded and a suspect is dead after a shootout near the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The officers were rushed into surgery after the shootout with 44-year-old Sidney Tafokitau, which happened at about four o'clock Monday afternoon. The suspect was killed by officers. A dayslong manhunt for the suspect intensified late Monday morning, when he was spotted driving a stolen car in Kalihi. HPD says he shot at plainclothes officers who were trying to arrest him. HE got away then stole another car at gunpoint in Windward Oahu.

HPD believes TAFOKITAU was involved in two recent shootings. YESTERDAY morning, he allegedly shot a 39-year-old woman on the Moanalua Freeway in Halawa. She is hospitalized in serious condition after being shot multiple times. He was also accused of shooting at a group of men and stabbing another man after an argument in Kalihi on December 16th.

1/3/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) New information is emerging about the man who was killed by Honolulu police in a shootout that also left two officers wounded. The HPD now says thAT 44-year-old SYDNEY TAFOKITAU was armed with an unregistered AR-15 style assault rifle on Monday. And, the woman who the man allegedly shot and seriously injured as she was driving on the Moanalua Freeway in the morning has been identified as the suspect's ex-girlfriend. TAFOKITAU shot at police four separate times in different locations on Oahu as they tried to arrest him during the course of about ten hours. He also carjacked a person in Windward Oahu at gunpoint. The two officers who were shot remain hospitalized. The woman who was shot is expected to survive.

MEANWHILE TAFOKITAU had a decades-long criminal history. Before Monday's events, the man was wanted in connection with a shooting and stabbing in Kalihi in mid-December. In November, he was charged on suspicion of having an illegal gun and a magazine that held too many rounds, and for being a

felon in possession of a gun. In 2001, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of weapons crimes and multiple robbery counts.

1/4/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The head of Hawaii's police officers' union is denying claims that Monday's pursuit of a dangerous shooting suspect violated Honolulu Police Department policy. Robert Cavaco says the man, who was later shot and killed by officers, was considered an active shooter at the time and had to be stopped. Witnesses say more than 40 police cars were chasing the man at high speeds. Earlier this week, former HPD Deputy Chief John McCarthy said officers and commanders should have terminated the pursuit because it was too dangerous, and "forgot their basic mission to protect life and property." Cavaco says the length of the chase and the number of officers involved were necessary to stop the man's rampage.

1/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Bomb threats that led to the evacuations of three state courthouses in Hawaii are unfounded. On Thursday morning, emailed bomb threats mentioned explosives being placed inside the Ronald T.Y. Moon building in Kapolei, Kauika-ouli Hale in Honolulu and the Puuhonua Kaulike courthouse in Lihue. Police swept the courthouses and found nothing suspicious. A mass email that included a bomb threat was sent to courthouses across the nation on Thursday. Investigators believe the same person or entity that sent bomb threats to several state capitols on Wednesday, including Hawaii's, is responsible. The threat to the state capitol was also deemed a hoax.

1/8/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) After years of delays, the trial of suspected Oahu crime boss Michael Miske begins today with jury selection. Federal authorities arrested the longtime business owner more than three years ago. About a dozen of his former co-defendants have already agreed to plea deals. The case may involve more than 900 witnesses. Among his many alleged crimes, Miske is accused of obstruction of justice and witness tampering. The Civil Beat reports some potential jurors have already expressed concerns about their safety and the safety of their families. The trial involves Miske and his two remaining co-defendants - - his half-brother and a woman who was married to his late son, Caleb.

Three men are behind bars on suspicion of breaking into the Oahu Country Club in Nuuanu. The 39, 51, and 53-year-old men were arrested early Sunday morning. The oldest suspect is also accused of resisting arrest. Police say the trio trashed the locker room at the country club. Photos show locker doors left open with shoes and other items thrown all over the room.

Police are investigating an alleged axe attack in Honolulu. A witness claimed to see a man brutally attacking his friend with an axe over the weekend. The victim was rushed to the emergency room in serious condition, according to Honolulu Emergency Medical Services. A suspect was taken into custody and then later released as the investigation continues.

1/11/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The two Honolulu police officers who were seriously wounded in a shootout with a murder suspect on New Year's Day are out of the hospital. The officers were released on Wednesday and are now continuing their recovery at home. They were shot in a gun battle with the man in Manoa after a manhunt that lasted several hours and spanned multiple parts of Oahu. The suspect was killed in the shootout. The officers both had to have surgery.

After three days of mediation, there is still no settlement between two former Saint Louis High School football stars and the woman accusing them of sexual assault. The attorneys for Jayden De Laura and Kamoi Latu will continue settlement talks today. Attorneys for Saint Louis School are also involved in the talks. De Laura and Latu are accused of sexually assaulting the woman on campus in 2018. She was a minor at the time. Latu is a senior at the University of Wisconsin. De Laura is in the NCAA transfer portal after spending two years at the University of Arizona.

1/16/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) There's new information about a stabbing that happened in the Kakaako area on Sunday night. Honolulu police say a 72-year-old man was stabbed in the back of the neck in an unprovoked attack. The man suffered a wound just to the left of his spine and is hospitalized in serious condition. The suspect is still on the loose.

1/22/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The long-awaited trial of suspected Honolulu crime boss Mike Miske starts today. But, Miske will no longer be joined by his half-brother as a co-defendant. Thirty-two-year-old John Stancil has agreed to a plea deal with the government. Stancil is scheduled to officially change his plea before opening statements this morning and faces up to 20 years in prison. It's not clear if he has agreed to testify. Several other of Miske's former co-defendants have already pleaded guilty and have agreed to testify against him.

1/23/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Prosecutors in the corruption trial against former administrators for the city and county of Honolulu are planning to use newly unsealed court records as evidence against them. The documents include transcripts of audio recordings that were secretly recorded by Acting HPD Chief Cary Okimoto, who was hired after disgraced ex-police chief Louis Kealoha retired. The recordings show that city officials, Donna Leong, Roy Amemiya, and Max Sword, were planning a scheme to pay off Kealoha without getting city council approval and were doing everything they could to get Okimoto to cooperate. The three are being charged with conspiracy to defraud the government.

1/24/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A woman is fighting for her life after a suspected liquid chemical attack near the Ala Moana Center. Whoever attacked the 25-year-old woman on Tuesday night is still on the loose. Honolulu EMS says she was assaulted with an "unknown chemical" and is hospitalized in critical condition. Last year, there was a chemical attack in Mililani that also left a woman critically injured.

Witnesses are beginning to take the stand in the Mike Miske criminal conspiracy trial. The alleged crime boss is expected to see hundreds of witnesses testify against him in the coming weeks, including several former associates. On Tuesday, the court heard from 78-year-old Robert Lee, a retired accountant who owned a building material company that went bankrupt. Lee says one of Miske's associates robbed him, kidnapped him, and beat him in 2017. Lee says he had fallen out with a business partner, who he believes hired Miske's people to hurt him.

1/25/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Honolulu police are still searching for a man who attacked a woman with a liquid chemical near the Ala Moana Center. The suspect in

Tuesday night's attack is believed to be a man in his 20s. Police say the man fled on foot, but was later seen riding a bicycle while shirtless. The victim, a 25-year-old woman, is hospitalized in critical condition with severe burns to the front of her body. The woman ran into a nearby gym, where people treated her burns with water. She was initially speaking with first responders, then went unconscious.

1/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A man is behind bars in connection with a chemical attack that left a woman in critical condition. 29-year-old Sebastian Mahkwan was arrested in the Nimitz area on Thursday night. He is accused of second-degree attempted murder. The victim, a 25-year-old woman, suffered burns to her face and front of her body near the Ala Moana Center on Tuesday night. She remains hospitalized. On Thursday, the woman was identified as a Chinese language teacher at Maryknoll School.

An arrest has been made in connection with last Saturday's shooting that left a 64-year-old innocent bystander dead in his own driveway in Waianae. 21-year-old Korey Farinas was arrested Thursday. Police believe he shot from a car at another car, but missed, hitting the victim. Police also say the incident started as a confrontation between two groups of people at a nearby Longs Drugs. The suspect is facing manslaughter, attempted murder and gun charges.

1/29/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) There is new information about the man accused of attacking a woman with a liquid chemical near the Ala Moana Center last week. Court documents show he has been arrested 55 previous times, mostly for trespassing. He was released from jail last Monday, the day before the attack, after posting an eight-thousand-dollar bond for drug and assault charges connected with a case from October. KHON-TV reports the man was living in a homeless encampment. On Saturday, he was charged with second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault. The victim, a 25-year-old schoolteacher, is still hospitalized with burns to the front of her body.

A man accused of shooting a Waianae resident to death in his own driveway is now formally facing a second-degree murder charge. 21-year-old Korey Farinas was charged on Saturday, a week after he allegedly killed 64-year-old Andrew Quisquirin with a stray bullet intended for someone else. The man was arrested last Thursday after several days on the run.

1/30/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The suspect in a chemical attack near the Ala Moana Center will remain behind bars on two-million-dollars bail. 29-year-old SEBASTIAN MARKWAN made his first court appearance on Monday. He is charged with second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault. He allegedly threw a liquid chemical on 25-year-old DANYING ZHANG as she was walking down a street last week. The SCHOOLTEACHER from China was working as a guest teacher at Maryknoll School through an international exchange program. Meanwhile Zhang will likely be permanently disfigured.

Honolulu police have launched an attempted murder investigation after a 22-year-old man was shot multiple times in Kapolei Monday night. The incident around 10:30 p.m. near the area of Kamaaha Avenue at Kanehili Street. Investigators said the victim was in his vehicle when he was approached by several masked individuals who attempted to get into his vehicle. According

to HPD, while driving away from the suspects the victim heard several rounds go off. he sustained several gun shot wounds and was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

Honolulu police are investigating a pair of reported kidnapping incidents in Mililani. Investigators confirm both incidents happened last Friday. First, a 16-year-old girl was reportedly shoved into a white van at the Mililani Town Center. She managed to escape the van the next morning. Then, on Friday afternoon, an elementary school student avoided an attempted kidnapping. The student says a man in a white van got out and started chasing him as he was biking home from school. He was able to ride away and get home safe. It's unclear if the incidents are in any way connected. No arrests have been made.

2/1/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) An alleged top associate of suspected crime kingpin, Mike Miske, was back on the witness stand on Wednesday. Wayne Miller, who is testifying in Miske's trial, made several serious claims. Miller claims he was Miske's right-hand man, and received several orders to have people assaulted or killed, often because of money or personal grudges. That meant placing trackers on vehicles and following people for long periods of time. Miller also claims Miske wanted a longtime girlfriend killed, offering he and other associates 200-thousand-dollars to carry out an execution, but they declined to do it. Miller will be back on the stand today.

2/5/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A man is behind bars on suspicion of flying to Kona International Airport with 12-thousand-dollars worth of fentanyl. Big Island police say the man had just arrived on a flight from the mainland on Friday, when officers caught him with more than 21 grams of a powdered substance, suspected to be fentanyl. The DEA says just point-oh-two milligrams of fentanyl is enough to be considered a deadly dose. The man, who was already out on bail in a separate case, is due in Kona District Court today.

2/7/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The federal trial of suspected crime lord Mike Miske is on pause until Monday morning. Court documents say a juror fell ill. This past Monday, the judge, the prosecution and the defense held a discussion, and agreed to temporarily suspend the trial. The U.S. Department of Justice is planning to call 947 witnesses. It's not clear who will take the witness stand next.

An administrator is injured after trying to break up a fight at Hilo High School. The woman and police officers intervened after a group of students gathered for a fight during recess on Tuesday morning. The 51-year-old administrator was inadvertently bumped by an officer, fell and hurt her ankle. She was taken to a hospital as a precaution. Five students who were involved have been suspended. No students were injured.

There is another report of a Honolulu police officer allegedly driving drunk and crashing a department-subsidized vehicle. The Honolulu Police Department confirms it has launched an administrative inquiry into the crash that left another driver hospitalized on January 8th. Witnesses say they saw Officer Tyson Chun, a 19-year veteran of the force, hit a car that was pulling out of the Wahiawa Shopping Center, then clip a utility pole. Multiple witnesses say they also saw Chun toss beer bottles from his SUV after the crash, in a possible attempt to hide evidence. But, records show he was allowed to leave the scene without first being given a breathalyzer test.

The public corruption trial of former Honolulu prosecuting attorney Keith Kaneshiro is being delayed by a few weeks. Kaneshiro and several co-defendants were supposed to go on trial on February 27th. The newly named presiding Judge Timothy Burgess has delayed it to March 12th. Burgess says he needs time to get up to speed with the case and address some outstanding legal issues. Burgess replaced Hawaii Judge Michael Seabright, who last month, suddenly recused himself from the trial without saying why.

2/13/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The trial of accused crime lord Mike Miske is back in session. The trial resumed on Monday, after a week-long break was ordered because a juror fell ill. Sarah Maile Tufele, the ex-girlfriend of Wayne Miller, who was identified as Miske's "right-hand man," took the witness stand. Tufele says Miske used the messaging app What's App to communicate with her when he thought Miller was talking to the feds. Some of those messages were shown in court, including one she says was a threat Miske made against she and her son after he found out Miller was indeed cooperating with federal investigators.

Three suspects accused of murdering a ten-year-old girl on Oahu will remain behind bars without bail. A judge denied the suspects bail when they made their initial court appearance on Monday. One of the suspects asked to be released so she could continue seeing her doctor during her pregnancy. The girl was found dead last Thursday. The case was reclassified from an unattended death to a murder after signs of significant trauma were found on her body. The suspects, the girl's legal guardians, were arrested the following day. They are facing the charges of second-degree murder, kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and unlawful imprisonment.

2/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A woman who was attacked with a liquid chemical near Ala Moana Center is still hospitalized after more than a month. But, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce says the 25-year-old's condition has stabilized. The victim, a schoolteacher, has also been able to make contact with her parents, who are in rural China. The 29-year-old man accused of attacking the woman remains behind bars without bail.

2/27/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Three people have been arrested and 142 people have citations after Honolulu police raided an after-hours nightclub in Kakaako. Dozens of officers in tactical gear stormed "The Attic" early Sunday morning. The citations were given to people accused of being in an illegal liquor establishment. The arrests were for alleged illegal liquor sales. The HPD says it also recovered illegal drugs and a ghost gun from the nightclub.

A 13-year-old girl has been arrested in connection with an alleged threat made to Maui's Kalama Intermediate School. The girl, arrested on Monday afternoon, is facing a terroristic threatening charge. Four other schools on Maui have been the target of threats this week. The first incident was reported Sunday, at Baldwin High School. Someone wrote about a shooting planned for Monday or today on a toilet seat, saying the "goal" is "15 students." The affected schools are staying open, but with a heightened police presence.

2/28/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Two more teen girls have been arrested on suspicion of making terroristic threats against a school on Maui. Investigators say the 13 and 14-year-old, arrested Tuesday, are responsible for recent threats made to Iao Intermediate School. Both girls have since been released to their parents. On Monday, another 13-year-old girl

was arrested in connection with threats made to Kalama Intermediate School. Baldwin High School has also been the target of at least one threat this week. No arrests have been made in that case.

Parents and advocates for children are raising the alarm about a disturbing series of sexual assaults that occurred at an Oahu middle school. The state Department of Education confirms the abuse was captured on a cell phone camera in a recording that was circulating among students. Now, some parents are questioning their children's safety. Earlier this month, Honolulu police arrested a 13-year-old after video surfaced that allegedly showed him sexually assaulting a 13-year-old classmate. According to law enforcement sources, both boys are in a special needs class at Washington Middle School.

3/1/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) An animal cruelty investigation is underway after four cats were found killed in Hawaii Kai in the past week. Three cats were shot in the head and one was attacked by dogs, after their owner allegedly let them out to hunt the cat. No arrests have been made. Animal cruelty is a Class-C felony in Hawaii and can result in jail time.

3/4/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A woman is behind bars on suspicion of assaulting a Honolulu police officer in Waikiki. Saturday night's incident was the second reported attack on an HPD officer in as many days. On Friday night, a man was arrested on suspicion of assaulting a security guard and responding officer in Waialae. In that incident, the officer was punched.

3/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The man accused of stabbing another man to death inside a condo in Kakaako has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder. The 30-year-old man allegedly killed a 63-year-old man last month. Detectives say the two had met on a dating app in mid-February. The suspect is scheduled to go on trial on May 6th. He is facing life in prison without the possibility of parole, if convicted as charged.

3/11/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Five family members are dead after a murder-suicide at a home in Manoa. Honolulu police say a man stabbed his wife and three children to death on Sunday, then turned the knife on himself, taking his own life. The children were 17, 12 and ten-years-old. Police say this is one of the deadliest crimes of its nature in Oahu's history. The motive is not clear. But, the HPD says officers were called to the home by a neighbor after an argument.

Three people are wounded after an apparent shooting at a suspected illegal game room in Honolulu. The shooting happened early Sunday morning, at a building on North School Street. One man is in critical condition, while two other men are in serious condition. The suspected shooter, a 24-year-old man, is behind bars after fleeing the scene. Detectives believe the violent conflict started after he and three other suspects tried to get inside the game room. The other three suspects have not been identified.

3/12/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The man accused of killing his wife and three children in a murder-suicide at a home in Manoa had no prior history of violence. But, KHNL-TV reports he had money troubles. 46 YR OLD PARIS ODA worked as a chiropractor

near Ala Moana Center. Three years ago, the owners of a professional office building on King Street sued Oda and his company for close to 90-thousand-dollars in rent and fees. The money that was owed dated back three years.

3/13/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Honolulu Police Department believes two recent acid attacks are connected. Detectives say the suspect who attacked a woman with acid in Mililani last year helped plan an acid attack near Ala Moana Center in January. The more recent attack, which left a teacher critically injured, was allegedly part of a murder-for-hire plot. The HPD says the motive for the second attack was to cast doubt on whether the right suspect was behind bars for the first attack. Both suspects were indicted on additional charges by an Oahu grand jury on Tuesday and are being held without bail.

A man who beat a security guard in Downtown Honolulu to death with a metal water bottle has been sentenced to 20 years in prison. The victim, who worked at Fort Street Mall, died in May of 2022, more than a week after falling and hitting his head. The 32-year-old suspect was initially charged with murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

3/14/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Jury selection is underway in the bribery and criminal conspiracy trial of former Honolulu prosecuting attorney Keith Kaneshiro. Attorneys began questioning potential jurors this week. Hundreds of people filled out three written questionnaires and are now being interviewed face to face. A dozen jurors and four alternates will be selected. They'll be deciding if the actions of Kaneshiro and five defendants who worked for a local, politically connected engineering firm were illegal.

A deadly shooting at a home in Aiea is reportedly now linked to a missing child case from 2021. Police say a 33-year-old man shot a 20-year-old man to death during an argument yesterday about a jewelry sale. The suspect has been identified as Leroy Rodrigues. Neighbors say the home is also where 43-year-old Travis Rodrigues lived. The older Rodrigues was indicted on suspicion of murdering his 18-month-old daughter, Kytana Ancog.

3/15/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Hawaii chiropractor who fatally stabbed his wife and three children before taking his own life was in severe “financial distress,” had tried to get a firearm and told relatives earlier this month he planned to murder his family and burn the house down, HPD said. In a news conference Friday, HPD Lt. Deena Thoemmes detailed the latest on the investigation, saying that the motive in the murders was the financial problems that father Paris Oda was experiencing. She said Oda hadn't paid taxes in years and his business was struggling. She said in late 2023, Oda told relatives that he was struggling financially and falling behind in payments on his car, his children's tuition and loans.

3/19/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The suspect in a highly publicized murder at a home in Hawaii Loa Ridge is changing his plea. On Monday, 25-year-old Juan Baron changed his plea from not guilty to guilty, after reaching a deal with prosecutors. By doing so, Baron admits to killing 73-year-old Gary Ruby, whose body was found encased in concrete in a bathtub at his multi-million-dollar mansion in 2022. Baron previously confessed to detectives that he had strangled Ruby, who he was romantically involved with. The terms of the plea deal allow Baron to receive a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole. Both

the defense and the state will ask for him to serve at least 20 years behind bars before he's eligible for parole.

3/21/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The bribery trial of former Honolulu city prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro is underway, with opening statements delivered on Wednesday. Several co-defendants are also on trial, with the main one being powerful construction executive Dennis Mitsunaga. Kaneshiro is accused of taking dirty campaign money from Mitsunaga, in exchange for prosecuting a former employee of his company. The defense says what happened was typical politics and not a bribery conspiracy as the prosecution claims.

Two Honolulu police officers are being investigated for manslaughter. The case is connected with their arrest of a 77-year-old man in the Ala Moana Shopping Center parking lot in late December. The man was riding a moped the officers believed was stolen. HPD Chief Joe Logan says physical force was used to make the arrest. The man was injured, but refused to be treated at a hospital. Two days later, police and paramedics were called to the man's home, where he told them he had been assaulted by police officers. He was taken to a hospital and diagnosed with multiple fractures to his face and ribs. But, after just a few hours, he left the hospital for unknown reasons. The man was then found dead at his home on January 10th. The Honolulu Medical Examiner ruled the manner of death a homicide.

3/22/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Hawaii Ethics Commission is fining former Mililani High School athletics director Glenn Nitta. The 274-thousand-500-dollar fine, announced Thursday, is the largest fine ever handed out by the ethics commission. It comes after Nitta stole more than 400-thousand-dollars from the Mililani Athletic Booster Club. He used money from the booster club's account to make monthly payments on personal credit card accounts, write checks to himself and family members, pay off personal bills and to withdraw cash from ATMs in Las Vegas. Nitta was convicted of eight felony counts last November and was sentenced to probation.

3/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The city of Honolulu will pay 12-point-five-million dollars to the driver of a car that was allegedly run off the road by police in Makaha. The rollover crash, which happened during a pursuit in 2021, left all six people inside the car seriously injured. The driver, a 38-year-old man, suffered a traumatic brain injury. His attorney says his client will never work again. Three officers are accused of breaking Honolulu Police Department protocol by chasing the car without their lights and sirens on. They're also accused of leaving the scene after the crash, then coming back and acting like they didn't know what happened.

3/27/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Oahu community continues to remember a family that was stabbed to death in Manoa. On Tuesday night, hundreds of people attended a vigil for the Oda children on the lawn of the Waikiki Shell. Earlier this month, the children, aged ten, 12 and 17, were stabbed to death, along with their mother. Their father was also found dead, after taking his own life. Investigators believe he lashed out because he was having financial issues. The vigil was organized by the kids' schools and other community members.

Honolulu police have arrested a 50-year-old suspect accused of stabbing a man in the chest in Waikiki. The incident happened around 2:15 a.m. on Tusitala Street. Authorities said the suspect was arguing with the 59-year-old victim before stabbing him with a “dangerous instrument.” EMS said the victim was stabbed in the chest. He was taken to a nearby hospital in serious condition. The suspect remains in custody pending investigation. An attempted murder investigation is ongoing.

3/28/24– Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A man accused of shooting a pregnant woman in the parking lot of Maui's Wailuku Elementary School has been charged with attempted murder. The 19-year-old man was charged on Wednesday, two days after he allegedly shot the 21-year-old woman during an early morning confrontation. KHNL-TV reports the victim was pregnant and was shot in the stomach. But, she and her baby are expected to survive. Police say the confrontation started when the woman and her boyfriend were asleep in their car. The suspected shooter and another man approached them and asked them for drugs, which they didn't have. Then, the suspects allegedly returned with a gun.

3. Red Hill Spill:

1/10/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Navy is warning the public after nearly one-point-nine-million gallons of partially treated wastewater were released into the ocean. The Navy's sewage treatment plant at Pearl Harbor released the wastewater during Monday's heavy rains. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam says the water was not fully treated because rain damaged a transformer that powers the plant's ultraviolet light system. The transformer was knocked out for about five hours from Monday afternoon to night.

1/13/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Navy confirms water tests have detected a trace amount of diesel at four homes in the Pearl Harbor area. But, officials say it is not jet fuel, which leaked into the Navy's water system after the 2021 Red Hill fuel spills. The level of diesel found is not high enough to trigger any official warnings. A trace amount of diesel was found in one Earhart Village resident's water heater in November. She says that was about the same time an oily sheen reappeared in her tap water. The sheen went away last month.

1/17/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The remaining 60-thousand-gallons of fuel are expected to be removed from the Navy's Red Hill storage facility by the end of March. After that happens, a new Navy team will take over operations and shut down the facility. Then, an environmental cleanup process can begin. It's expected to take several years. So far, more than 100-million gallons of fuel have been removed from the troubled World War Two-era facility. But, there are still lasting effects. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative estimates up to one-point-nine-million gallons of fuel may have spilled into the aquifer below Red Hill during the past several decades.

2/8/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The military is in its final weeks of defueling the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the site of a disastrous fuel leak in 2021. Defueling is expected to wrap up at the end of March, when the task force will turn operations over to Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill. The Navy says 104-million-gallons of jet fuel have been drained from the facility six months ahead of schedule. The next step in the process is cleaning eleven miles of pipes and removing sludge from the bottoms of the fuel tanks, which is expected to take three years to complete.

3/6/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Navy will continue monitoring its drinking water system for another year after a recent spike in complaints about water and air quality. That will also mean continued testing. The water system, which serves 93-thousand people, was poisoned by jet fuel during the 2021 Red Hill fuel leaks. Military officials said they successfully restored the drinking water system in March of 2022. But, residents who rely on it have continued making intermittent complaints ever since. The military is in the process of removing the last remaining fuel from the underground tanks at Red Hill.

3/7/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The process of removing nearly 105-million gallons of fuel from the troubled Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is complete. On Wednesday, the military's Joint Task Force Red Hill announced the last of the accessible residual fuel has been removed from the underground tanks. The defueling process officially began in October. The EPA and Hawaii Department of Health are now inspecting the facility. The next process to follow is closing the World War Two-era facility, which sits above a critical aquifer that supplies drinking water to most of southern Oahu.

3/8/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Navy is now disputing its own test results, which have shown intermittent detections of petroleum in its drinking water system. Officials now say the test results may be "false positives." On Thursday, the Navy made a presentation at the Red Hill Fuel Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Detections of total petroleum hydrocarbons have been periodically found in water test samples for the last two years. But, officials say that doesn't necessarily indicate the presence of petroleum. However, residents have reported seeing sheens in their tap water and having to endure new and ongoing health problems during that same period of time. The Navy says it can't explain what is causing that.

3/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The EPA has completed its latest inspection of the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The EPA says Joint Task Force Red Hill is ready to let the Navy take over the process of shutting the facility down. The regulatory inspection conducted earlier this month shows the task force has met the eleven criteria needed to be met for the transfer to take place. More than 104-million gallons of fuel were removed from the underground tanks in recent months. The Navy is responsible for removing a remaining 32-thousand gallons of residual fuel and sludge still in the pipelines and storage tanks. Joint Task Force Red Hill is scheduled to make the handoff to the Navy on Thursday.

4. Economy:

1/9/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The union representing nurses at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children can now call for a strike whenever it sees fit. With a 96-percent yes vote, unionized nurses have authorized a strike. Hawaii Nurses Association members voted Friday, with the results announced Monday. They have been working without a contract since December 1st. The nurses say they're unhappy with staffing ratios and the progress of contract negotiations.

1/10/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Honolulu City Council's budget committee is approving a federal agreement to fund ongoing Skyline construction. The agreement, which would fund construction to a future station in Kakaako, was approved in a split vote on Tuesday. Next up, the full Honolulu City Council will vote on the agreement. That is expected to happen at its meeting on January 24th. The agreement would make 744-million-dollars in funding from the Federal Transit Administration available. The first 125-million-dollars of that would be released early this year.

1/11/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Amazon is in need of drivers to deliver packages on Oahu. It comes with the grand opening of Amazon's new 200-million-dollar delivery station at Sand Island on the horizon. The company is planning to start out with a fleet of 200 delivery vans, then increase operations in the future. Amazon has 900 employees in Hawaii. It wants to hire 500 more in the next year.

The founder and CEO of Meta is launching a cattle-raising project in Hawaii. Billionaire Mark Zuckerberg says he's raising cattle at Ko'olau Ranch on Kauai to create some of the "highest quality beef." In Wednesday's announcement, Zuckerberg said he's going to exclusively feed his cattle macadamia meal and beer.

1/18/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Maui County is facing a large shortage of government workers. The county says it needs to fill at least 800 government-funded positions. The most vacant jobs are within the Maui Police Department. There are about 500 to 600 open permanent positions and another 300 open seasonal positions. Seasonal jobs include college interns and school crossing guards. The Maui County Council has approved adding about 245 government positions in the past three years.

1/19/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Oahu's housing market is cooling down. The Honolulu Board of Realtors says single-family homes on the North Shore have seen the largest decrease in median sales price, with a nearly 20-percent drop to one-point-four-million dollars. There was also a 41-percent decline in the amount of homes sold in the area. Officials say rising interest rates is one of the main causes for the softness in the market, but the Honolulu Board of Realtors predicts that interest rates will go down which will create more opportunities for buyers.

1/23/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Governor Josh Green is renewing his calls to impose a 25-dollar climate impact fee on tourists. Visitors would be hit with the charge when staying at a hotel or short-term vacation rental. Green believes the fee would generate 68-million-dollars per year, money he says is needed to offset the impacts of global warming. A bill that called for charging visitors a 50-dollar fee died during last year's Hawaii legislative session. It has since been rebranded as a climate impact fee rather than a visitor fee or green fee, as it was called last year.

Today, a Hawaii County Council committee is expected to be introduced to several bills that would limit the number of short-term vacation rentals on the Big Island. The bills are in response to ongoing complaints about noise, parking and character loss in residential and agricultural areas. The goal would be to replace many short-term rentals with more long-term rentals. Lawmakers are hoping the changes also lead to reduced housing costs.

1/25/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Honolulu City Council is approving a federal agreement that would partially fund future construction of Skyline. The federal government still has to sign off on the agreement for it to become official. The Federal Transit Administration would provide 744-million-dollars for rail construction to a planned station in Kakaako by 2031. About 125-million-dollars of that is expected to be released early this year.

1/31/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Hawaii lawmakers are considering a constitutional amendment that would let property tax revenue fund public schools. The House bill would allow the state to place a surcharge on residential investment properties valued at three-million-dollars or more. There would be an exemption for primary residences and affordable housing. Supporters say it would make some of Hawaii's most wealthy homeowners better support the education system, which is historically underfunded. But, opponents say the bill's language is misleading to voters and could discourage real estate investment on the islands. A similar bill failed to pass six years ago.

2/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Members of the state house's Economic Development Committee are mulling a bill that, if enacted, would legalize sports wagering in Hawaii. Supporters say House Bill 2765 would establish licensing requirements for sports-wagering operators and suppliers. Opponents, meanwhile, reportedly cite numerous studies blaming gambling for social issues such as divorce, child abuse, bankruptcy, embezzlement, theft homelessness and suicide. The bill was introduced by State Representative Daniel Holt, who represents Sand Island, Iwilei and Chinatown.

2/8/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Hawaii legislative session is going on, and legalizing marijuana for recreational use is once again a big topic of discussion. The state Attorney General's Office recently drafted a legalization measure and Attorney General Anne Lopez has changed her stance in favor of legalization. The Senate bill would allow adults older than 21-years-old to use marijuana recreationally and it would establish a statewide authority to regulate all categories of cannabis, including hemp. On Wednesday, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Prosecutor Steve Alm, and the police chiefs of Hawaii's four major counties joined forces to speak out against that measure.

2/12/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) State lawmakers are reviewing a bill that would allow advertising and marketing on and inside the Hawaii Convention Center. Similar to a stadium

or arena, it would also allow naming rights to be sold to create revenue. Hawaii Tourism Authority Interim President and CEO Daniel Naho'opi'i says, according to a study, the advertising would bring in 400-thousand to 500-thousand-dollars in its first year, equating to about 13-million-dollars in 20 years. The bill would also make the Hawaii Convention Center exempt from requirements regarding concessions on public property.

A vote on a bill that could financially benefit Hawaii's tipped employees is expected today. Last Wednesday, the Senate Labor and Technology and Ways and Means committees differed their votes to Friday, then on Friday, differed voting to today. The bill would require employers to pay their tipped employees at least Hawaii's minimum wage of 14 dollars an hour. Hawaii currently has a so-called tip credit that allows restaurants to pay tipped employees less than the state's minimum wage.

The Hawaii Department of Education is falling far short of its mandate to buy more locally-produced food. The DOE's goal is to spend 30-percent of its food budget on locally grown and produced products. But, officials say it would require a five-fold spending increase to achieve that by 2030. Last year, locally-sourced food products accounted for a little more than six-point-one-percent of the DOE's spending. That was slightly down from the six-point-two-percent reported in 2022.

3/1/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Hawaii's visitor arrival and visitor spending totals were down in January. More than 763-thousand people visited the islands in January, which was three-point-six-percent fewer than in January of 2023. Visitor spending for the month reached one-point-eight-one-billion-dollars, which was down four-point-five-percent from January of 2023. The numbers were released Thursday, by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. They represent a continuing monthly decline in visitor arrivals and spending since the Maui wildfires last August.

3/5/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Hawaii's condo prices are the highest in the nation, and that's largely because of the state's strict building regulations. A new report from the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization says building regulations inflate the cost of condo development by 58-percent. Monday's report says regulatory costs account for 387-thousand-dollars of the price of a new two-bedroom condo that sells for close to 670-thousand-dollars. UHERO says that figure represents twice the sales price in an "average state." Hawaii requires developers to help pay for infrastructure, which includes upgrading roads, sewers or electrical. If not, their permits won't be approved. The price of land, materials and labor in Hawaii is also the highest in the nation. Those costs all get passed on to home buyers.

3/7/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) A bill that would legalize recreational marijuana is getting a green light from the state Senate. Senators approved the proposal on Tuesday with a 19-to-six vote. However, the proposal is expected to meet some challenges in the state House as state Representative David Tarnas said they'll have more questions and concerns. Governor Josh Green said he'll sign the bill if it's passed.

3/8/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Hawaii Department of Education is planning to ramp up its spending on construction projects in the next three and a half months. The DOE is in a race against time before the end of June. Late last year, the DOE faced backlash from state lawmakers after announcing it was planning to let 465-million-dollars in capital improvement funding lapse. There were delays in getting projects started, and it was not going to be able to spend all of the

funding before the state deadline hit. The DOE is now presenting a more aggressive spending plan to the state Board of Education.

3/12/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) State tax collections are expected to increase this year despite the fallout from the Maui wildfires. The state Council On Revenues, a panel of economic experts, is forecasting tax collections to grow by four percent or more this year and next year. On Monday, the council voted to stick to its previous prediction of four percent growth in collections for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30th.

3/14/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Hawaii House of Representatives is approving an 11-billion-dollar budget bill for the 2025 fiscal year. The budget includes a billion dollars for Maui wildfire recovery. It also gives schools millions more for their operational and capital improvement budgets, along with a second chance to finish projects that have lapsed in the past. Affordable housing would get 240-million-dollars in funding. Some public safety departments' budgets would double, while millions more would also be committed to airports, highways and harbors. But, the parks and ecosystem restoration departments would lose funding. The budget now goes to the state Senate for consideration.

3/18/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Cape Air is considering expanding into Hawaii. The Massachusetts-based airline could serve Lanai, which is currently only served commercially by Mokulele Airlines. Mokulele is asking for federal dollars to continue operating on Lanai, saying if it doesn't get the extra funding, it will need to raise ticket prices to meet rising costs. Cape Air services 32 destinations across the U.S. and the Caribbean. Ed Sniffen, director of the Hawaii Department of Transportation, says officials from the company recently met with the Hawaii airports division and some legislators representing Lanai.

3/20/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Honolulu Salary Commission is voting to recommend pay raises for city leaders, including members of the City Council and Mayor Rick Blangiardi. The unanimous vote was cast on Tuesday, after Blangiardi sent the salary commission a letter, saying he does not support the raises for himself or his executive branch. If approved, dozens of city officials would see their pay increase by three-point-six-percent in the next fiscal year. Honolulu City Council members got a 64-percent raise last June, taking their annual pay to 113-thousand-dollars. This June, it could be pushed to 116-thousand-dollars.

3/22/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) Carpenter Media Group is the new owner of the company that owns the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. On Thursday, Carpenter announced it has completed the purchase of U.S. and Canadian publisher Black Press Media in a stock purchase. The deal also involved two of Carpenter's Canadian financial partners. BPM is staying under Canadian majority ownership, to stay in compliance with Canadian laws and regulations. BPM owns more than 150 newspapers and media operations.

3/26/24 – Newscast (30 sec. 6am,7am,8am,9am,10am) The Honolulu City Council is adopting a resolution that opposes a "tiny lots" bill. The bill, which is currently moving through the state legislature, could shrink the minimum lot size and grow the number of homes allowed on them. Honolulu and several other counties have expressed concern about the loss of county powers to plan and regulate neighborhoods. The "tiny lots" measure will get a hearing next Monday afternoon at the capital.

5. Misc:

3/7/24 – Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Radiothon 6am-6pm Fundraising program benefiting the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

3/8/24 – Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Radiothon 6am-6pm Fundraising program benefiting the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

6. PSAs :

1. Hawaii Association of Broadcasters – 3x/day (:30)
2. National Association of Broadcasters – 3x/day (:30)
3. Hawaii Pacific Health – Women’s 4K Run & Walk – 4x/day (:30) (2/1/24-3/31/24)
4. Kokua Support Services – 4x/day (:30) (1/8/24-2/29/24)
5. ABC of Cancer – St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – 12x/day (:60) (3/7/24-3/10/24)