



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
**OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND**  
**RESILIENCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City’s Resilience Office Wins Outstanding Public Education and Outreach**  
**Award for “Are You Climate Ready?”**



*North Shore community members strategize while playing “Are You Climate Ready: Sea Level Wise” at a Resilience Office community engagement event at Mālama Loko Ea Foundation.*

HONOLULU – The City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (Resilience Office) received the 2022 Outstanding Public Education and Outreach Award from the American Planning Association Hawai‘i Chapter (APA Hawai‘i) for their climate adaptation games “Are You Climate Ready: Beat the Heat” and “Are You Climate Ready: Sea Level Wise.” The award recognizes excellent tools and processes led by planners to meaningfully engage the public in plans and projects.

The games immerse players in the challenges and trade-offs of climate adaptation over multiple decades. By planning ahead and choosing the right adaptation options, players are able to adapt to shocks (such as erosion events and extreme heat waves) and long-term stresses (such as rising sea levels and increasing overall temperatures).

Originally developed to gather supplemental input for drafting the [Climate Ready O‘ahu](#) climate adaptation strategy, the games explore the complex dynamics of adapting to two of the five climate hazards addressed in Climate Ready O‘ahu: sea level rise and increasing heat. The other three hazards addressed in the strategy are drought, flash flooding, and hurricanes, which can bring high winds, rainfall flooding, and storm surge.

The games were first played at [six place-based workshops](#) in partnership with Mālama Learning Center, who served as a hub to assist in better connecting with local hosts in Wai‘anae and the North Shore. Partner community-based organizations included Ka‘ala Farm, MA‘O Organic Farms, Mālama Loko Ea Foundation, and Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea.

“We focused on sea level rise and extreme heat because frontline communities, like those along the Wai‘anae and North Shore coasts, are increasingly vulnerable to these climate impacts and we need more engaging tools for discussing risks and proactive solutions designed with community,” said Hailey Campbell, Climate Adaptation Specialist with the Resilience Office. The perspectives shared in these workshops add to virtual and in-person community engagement from over the past 20 months, including public opinion research, surveys, working groups, the [Community Advisory Hui](#), and an open house, as well as years of community plans and community voice calling for both climate action and adaptation.

Pauline Sato, Executive Director of Mālama Learning Center, co-facilitated the games, and commented, “By the end of the game, participants expressed profound takeaways. For example, there are many actions individuals and ‘ohana can take, but the key to making sure everyone wins is community action and support.” To learn more about the workshops, watch episode 7 of Outside Hawai‘i at [bit.ly/OutsideHawaii-Ep7](https://bit.ly/OutsideHawaii-Ep7).

“We know that O‘ahu communities and residents are our best source of ideas and partnerships for action, especially when engaged in creative ways like this,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “As island dwellers we are particularly vulnerable to climate change, especially sea level rise and heat, so consequently we hope even more families, classrooms and community groups can use these resources to stay engaged with the City and help our island get even more climate-ready.” Instructional videos and downloadable game materials are available at [www.climatereadyoahu.org/activities](http://www.climatereadyoahu.org/activities).

In addition to partaking in the games, residents are encouraged to take [this survey](#) to share feedback on 11 Climate Ready O‘ahu draft adaptation strategies. The Resilience Office will use the feedback collected to inform a public draft of the Climate Ready O‘ahu adaptation strategy, which will be open for comment early next year.

The Resilience Office was previously awarded APA Hawai‘i’s 2018 Outstanding Public Outreach and Education Award for community engagement in the development of the City’s O‘ahu Resilience Strategy, as well as the 2020 Public Agency Award.

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