



HONOLULU  
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 THE PULSE OF PARADISE



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**HART loan would cover funding expenses**

*The head of the city's budget committee says she is against the rail authority's plan*

By Kevin Dayton  
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With the pace of construction picking up and major new contract awards on the horizon, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation on Thursday launched its plan to borrow up to \$350 million to help cover the ongoing cost of the city's 20-mile rail project.

If HART receives the proceeds from the short-term commercial debt, it will mark the first time the rail authority has borrowed to help finance the controversial rail project. Up to this point, rail has been financed

Singer Jack Johnson joined more than 200 fourth-grade students Thursday at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge.

**JACK HELPS KIDS GET TO THE PARK**

*Singer Jack Johnson and his wife back a federal effort that promotes outdoor fun*

LOCAL / A22

SPORTS

**HE'S GROWING INTO HIS ROLES**

As a coach and a father, UH's Eran Ganot quietly delivers >> CI

**PREP FOOTBALL REACHES SEMIS**

Saint Louis vs. Mililani is the highlight game



**KAKAAKO HOMELESS**

**REMOVAL DEFERRED**

*Eight private companies decline to bid on clearing two new camps*

By Dan Nakaso  
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The state for weeks warned homeless people camped out along the Kakaako shoreline that they would be removed in sweeps that were to begin as soon as Thursday, but it's now unclear when or how that will happen after no takers were found in the search for contractors to come in and do the work.

The encampment is the second major one to suddenly spring up in Kakaako, mere blocks from where the city just finished spending



**81**  
 Tents at Kakaako Waterfront Park

**29**  
 Tents at Kewalo Basin Park

state deals with the highest number of homeless people per capita nationwide. Without a plan from the state, Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi — who represents Kakaako — worries that more homeless people will flood the area and create the same health and safety concerns that occurred just a few yards away in the so-called "Kakaako makai" homeless encampment where 911 calls and assaults skyrocketed, including a June 29 attack on

# Jack Johnson and Smokey Bear join forces to get kids into nature

By Timothy Hurley  
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Lucky fourth-graders. And their families.

Thanks to President Barack Obama's "Every Kid in a Park" initiative, American fourth-graders have the opportunity to obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide through August.

And thanks to musician Jack Johnson and his Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, many of Hawaii's fourth-graders will get to experience one of those nearby natural wonders during a school field trip.

More than 200 Oahu fourth-graders Thursday got a sneak preview of the outdoor fun during a visit to the remote and rarely visited James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge at Kahuku Point, that rugged spot where the Windward coast meets the North Shore.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, Smokey Bear and officials with the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service used the opportunity to introduce a partnership with Johnson and his wife, Kim, who committed \$100,000 to an effort that aims to send all 17,000 fourth-graders in Hawaii on a field trip to the state's federal lands or waters.

Johnson grew up surfing and playing guitar on the North Shore, and his albums have sold more than 20 million copies worldwide.

On Thursday, to the delight of his young audience, he played his smash hit "Upside Down."

Kim and Jack Johnson founded the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation in 2003 to support environmental education in Hawaii's schools and communities.

Among the programs offered by the foundation are initiatives to encourage sustainable local food and the reduction of plastics. The foundation also offers grants for school field trips specifically for hands-on learning about Hawaii's environment.

"We thought it was a great fit," Johnson said, recalling the decision to support Every Kid in a Park. "It's what we already do."

Every Kid in a Park re-



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Tracy Johnson, left, research entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helped Shane Kelly of Sunset Beach Elementary examine material found on the beach Thursday during an event sponsored by the federal "Every Kid in a Park" initiative at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge at Kahuku Point.

Foundation will help fourth-graders put down their electronic devices and video games and get outside, allowing them to bond with the great outdoors.

Research shows that children in the 9-to-11 age group are starting to make a connection to the world around them, he said.

"So it's a good time to expose them to the outdoors and be part of that competition for their time and interest," Connor said.

On Thursday Johnson, Connor and U.S. Forest Service Associate Chief Mary Wagner joined fourth-graders from Sunset Beach, Kahuku and Laie elementary schools as they engaged in special hands-on activities that included a marine debris beach cleanup, native plant restoration and the

dissection of an albatross bolus, which is the indigestible material that is "thrown up" by the large seabird.

Moving from station to station, set up amid the coastal dunes and grasses, students also learned about sea turtles, the yellow-faced bee and habitat preservation for endangered water birds.

The event was hosted in partnership with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, a national coalition of groups that aims to connect children and families with the outdoors.

Each child received an Every Kid in a Park pass that provides free entrance for them and their families to any of the federally managed lands and waters across the country, including national parks, wildlife

refuges and national forests and grasslands.

"This is one of the more exciting programs coming from the federal government in years," Schatz said. "It's going to make a real difference in kids' lives to give them the opportunity to explore the world. And for Hawaii kids, to have access to all of the federal lands for free is an incredible gift. Hopefully it will create a new generation of people who care for the land."

Schatz said that while Hawaii students might not make it to the mainland, the islands still have a lot to offer, including a number of spectacular wildlife refuges, the Arizona Memorial and Volcanoes and Haleakala national parks.

"There are people who fly across the planet to visit places that are just 15 or 20 minutes away from us, so it's a good reminder for all of us," he said.

Johnson said he holds fond memories of the outdoor field trips when he was growing up on the North Shore.

"One of the things that stuck with me was the impact of those field trips," he said. "Sometimes (kids) don't know they are learning, but that's when they are learning the most. There's so much you can learn in a class, but there are different kinds of learning outside."

Any fourth-grader can log on to the website at everykidinapark.gov and complete an educational activity in order to obtain and print a paper pass. Students may also trade in their paper pass for a more durable pass at participating federal sites nationwide.

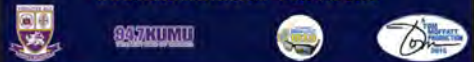
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#### Time to plug in for the Holidays

The holiday season is here and many are using extension cords for holiday decorations.

Basically, an extension cord provides a path for electrical current to travel from a fixed outlet to an appliance. The type of cord needed for a given job is determined by the amperage drawn by the appliance, whether the appliance is grounded and if it is for interior or exterior use.

The wire in an extension cord is rated by its resistance to the flow of electricity passing through it.

The diameter of wire in the cord is directly proportional to the amount of current it will carry. Larger wires carry more current. If too much current is forced through the wire, it will overheat and blow a fuse or trip a

breaker. Any Underwriter Laboratories (UL) listed cord will carry the label (UL) near the cap. It is important to check for this label. To use UL listed for outdoor use, three wire round cords must have connectors and cap molded to the cord and a lip on the end of the connector to prevent misuse.

The most common size outdoor extension cords are 16/3, 14/3 and 12/3. For light uses on small power tools the 16/3 is fine. For higher amperage tools, such as a table saw, 12/3 is recommended.

**SAFETY TIPS:** Only use UL listed outdoor extension cords in wet areas. Flexible cords must be in a continuous length when used. Never cut two short cords together to obtain

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IN THIS SUNDAY'S HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

Longs Drugs

sears

cently released a video with Johnson encouraging youngsters to visit public lands.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor said partnerships like the one with Kokua Hawai'i

overheat and blow a fuse or trip a circuit breaker.

Home extension cords are usually rated from 18-gauge to 12-gauge, with 18 being the smallest diameter. The 18 gauge is sufficient for lamps, but should never be used with power tools where a greater amp rating is required.

Heavy-duty "SJT" round cord will better withstand the constant flexing when using portable power

plug two short cords together to obtain needed length. Never yank a cord to remove it from an outlet. Always check your cord to make sure it is not frayed or has a torn jacket where wires are exposed.

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