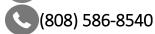


415 S Beretania St, Room 435 Honolulu, HI 96813







Stay Connected!

Subscribe to our weekly enewsletter by emailing or calling my office.

LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY UPDATES INSIDE!



Little Fire Ant UpdateWe Need Your Help!

Little Fire Ants (LFAs) have been found in over 14 locations in our community. LFAs are one of the most destructive invasive ant species in the world. LFAs are extremely small, but once they establish a colony, there can be as many as 22 million ants living on your property. LFAs will sting humans and pets, and their stings are extremely painful and last for days. LFA stings have caused blindness in many dogs and cats.

Please help us identify and treat LFA infestations in our district. Testing your property for LFAs is free and easy. To request your test kit, go to www.stoptheant.org and a kit will be mailed to you.



CAPITOL

Representative Lisa Kitagawa

Aloha,

The 2024 Legislative Session began in mid-January and bills are currently moving through the legislative process. Please visit capitol.hawaii.gov to search for bills or topics that you are interested in. Since being elected to office in 2018, it has been my priority to keep the community informed and updated, as well as connect all of you to community and statewide resources and events. The best way to stay connected is to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter, where we provide traffic updates, community resources/events, and legislative updates. Please contact my office to subscribe to our e-newsletter. You can also stay connected with my office through Facebook and Instagram (@RepKitagawa). I look forward to connecting with all of you. Mahalo for the opportunity to continue to serve you and our community.

Update on Initiatives to Reduce Homelessness in Our Community

Since being elected to office, one of the top concerns that community members have shared with me are about the growing homeless population in our community. In response to this concern, we created the Kāne'ohe Joint Outreach Center (KJOC) back in 2019, which was a 3-year pilot program to provide medical and social services to those in need. The Kāne'ohe Civic Center, where the KJOC was located, will be undergoing renovations later this year and will hopefully be completed by the middle of next year. Once completed, the Civic Center will provide a "one-stop shop" of social services for those in need.

Governor Green has also recently created the Ka Malu Koʻolau Kauhale on Poʻokela Street (near WCC) in an effort to reduce homelessness on the Windward side. The Kauhale, which provides communal living spaces, will provide temporary housing for up to 34 people in need of shelter, and includes food, medical, and case management services. The location will have 24-7 security and peer support. Project Vision Hawaiʻi will be operating the site. For more information, visit www.projectvisionhawaii.org/kamalukoolau, scan the QR code, or call (808) 201-3937.



PEOPLE'S VOICE 2024 SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to those of you who completed our community survey. There were **over 440 participants**! I've read through each response and appreciate being able to learn more about the priorities and concerns of community members. These graphics show the results from the survey.

unsure

4.6%

26.9%

BILLS I INTRODUCED THIS 2024 SESSION

<u>HB1898</u>: Establishes and appropriates funds for two full-time positions to implement the Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project.

HB2174: Requires the State to impose and collect a fee for search or rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after leaving a hiking trail to enter an area closed to the public or hiking on a trail closed to the public, with a sign giving notice of the closure.

<u>HB2175</u>: Appropriates funds for and includes community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Ka'a'awa to Hau'ula communities.

<u>HB2644</u>: Recognizes the Hawai'i Ant Lab as the lead organization in addressing little fire ant infestations, and appropriates funds.

MOST COMMON TOPICS SHARED IN THE "COMMENTS" SECTION:



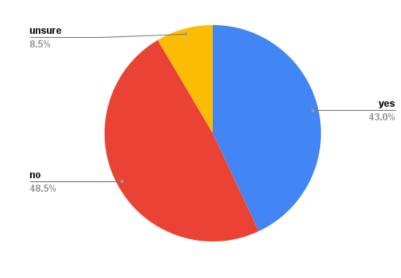
(the larger/darker words appeared more frequently in the comments received)

Top Priorities

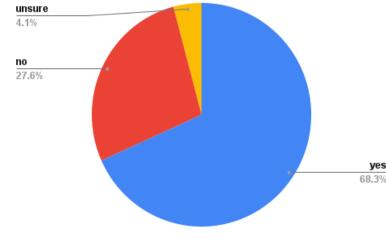
Priority	Votes
Reducing the cost of living/ Providing tax credits	240
Reducing crime/ Improving safety	227
Increased funding to reduce homelessness	124
Increased funding for education	121
Increased funding for mental health initiatives	102

(not all individuals indicated their top two priorities)

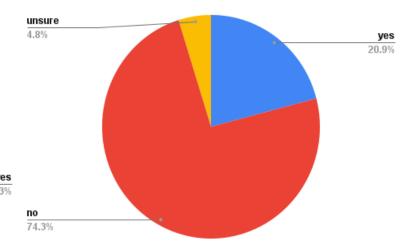
Do you support a payroll tax to cover paid family leave for workers with family medical needs?



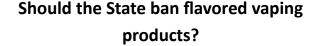
Do you support building affordable housing units in our community?

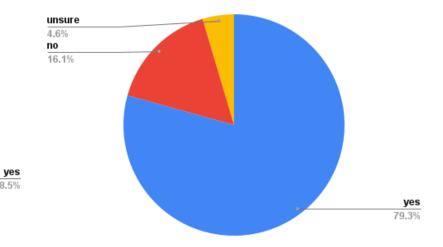


Should the state legalize psilocybin (magic mushrooms) for adult use?



Should the State encourage teleworking for its employees where practical?





(unsure answers mean an individual did not answer the question or circled both yes and no)