



# 2023 End of Session Update

## Representative Cory Chun House District 35

Aloha Neighbors,

The legislative session ended on Thursday, May 4, 2023 and I am excited to share some of the highlights of this 32nd legislature.

It has been an honor to work as a part of this legislature which has come together to provide many great things for us and our community.

There is a lot to celebrate but more still needs to be addressed so throughout the interim, let's continue to work hard together and prepare for the next session.

My office continues to work with you and we look forward to hearing any questions, concerns of other feedback. Please reach out by phone at **(808) 586-6170** or via email at [repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov)

We will also be doing our part to connect with you through phone check-ins, door-to-door visits, and while participating in community events.

Mahalo,

### Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit

Thanks to the passage of **House Bill 954**, the State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) will be increasing for the next filing seasons of 2024. Upon the Governor's approval his bill will:

- Increase the maximum amount of employment-related expenses that may be used to calculate the Household and Dependent Care Services Tax Credit allowed
- Increase the refundable State EITC from 20 to 40 percent of the federal EITC
- Increase the income thresholds and credit amounts of the refundable Food/Excise Tax Credit

This bill is part of \$703,000,000 of targeted tax relief that has been appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 State budget that was passed by the legislature to help the hard working families of Hawaii.

Four bills featured in my February newsletter were passed by legislature:

#### Red Hill Water Contamination

- **HB1079** — increases oversight by the Director of Health to enforce water quality certifications

#### Government Ethics and Transparency

- **HB90** — requires fundraiser notices regardless of the amount of the ticket price
- **HB93** — allows the publishing names of committees that fail to file timely campaign spending reports
- **HB99** — limits cash campaign contributions to candidate committees

See all my community updates on my capitol website:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/memberpage.aspx?member=252&year=2023>

Or scan the QR Code



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@Representative Cory Chun

# Education



Representative Chun and two Waipahu High School students advocate for safer ways to get to school with Representative Lamosao and Transportation Vice Chair, Representative Kila

## PREKINDERGARTEN FACILITIES (HB960)

Reappropriates \$200,000,000 to the School Facilities Authority, to expand access to eligible children for prekindergarten.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HB 600)

Establishes a Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee to, in part, develop a comprehensive statewide Safe Routes to School Plan. \$10,000,000 out of the State Highway Fund to go into new Safe Routes to School Special Fund.



Pearl City High School students attended a Saturday morning Pearl City Community Association event, where Representative Chun had a chance to meet them and Pearl City school officials

# \$18.35 Million in CIP Funding Waipahu and Pearl City School Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024

<b>HIGHLANDS INTERMEDIATE</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR A COVERED BUS STOP AND SEATING	\$2,200,000
<b>MANANA ELEMENTARY</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR RESTROOM FACILITIES FOR PORTABLE CLASSROOM; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$1,100,000
<b>PEARL CITY ELEMENTARY</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CAMPUS WATER-LINES; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$1,100,000
<b>PEARL CITY HIGH</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR REPLACEMENT OF DIMMER SYSTEM AND LIGHTING IN MICHAEL D. NAKASONE AUDITORIUM; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$4,000,000
<b>PEARL CITY HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICAL UPGRADES; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$550,000
<b>WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY</b>	PLANS AND DESIGN TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING NEW PARKING LOT AREAS	\$5,000,000
<b>WAIPAHU HIGH</b>	CONSTRUCTION FOR CAMPUS-WIDE, EXTERIOR REPAINTING; AND ALL RELATED WORK INCLUDING NEW WORK AND REFURBISHMENT/REPAIR; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$2,500,000
<b>WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE</b>	PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW DIGITAL MEDIA, ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING/ELECTRONICS, ANIMATION, MUSIC AND SCIENCE (DREAMS) BUILDING; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES	\$3,000,000

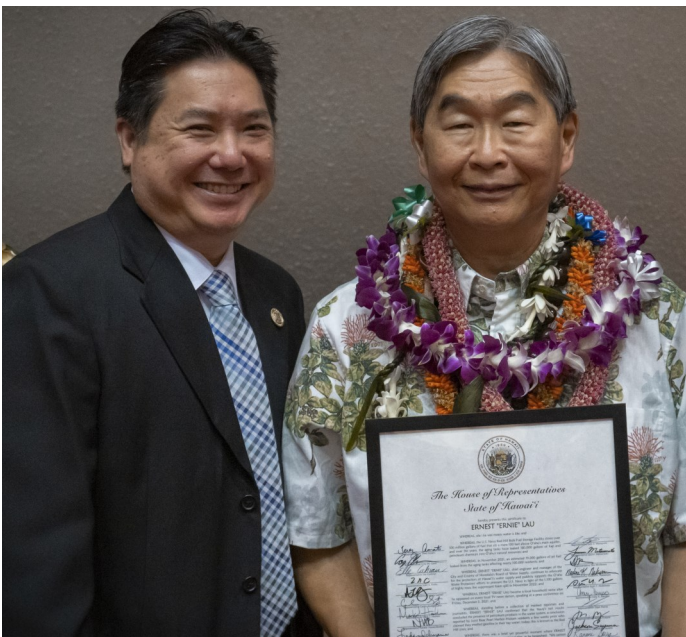
## 2023 Legislative Highlights: Public Health and Safety

### **ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES; E-LIQUIDS; TOBACCO PRODUCTS; UNLAWFUL SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS (SB 975)**

1. Beginning January 1, 2024, imposes a 70 percent excise tax on the wholesale price of each electronic smoking device or e-liquid sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer.
2. Establishes the offense of unlawful shipment of tobacco products.
3. Adds electronic smoking devices and e-liquids under the definition of "tobacco products" for the purposes of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law.
4. Increases the license fee for wholesalers and dealers of cigarettes or tobacco products to \$250 and the retail tobacco permit fee to \$50.
5. Requires applicants for a retail tobacco permit to specify if each place of business sells electronic smoking devices or e-liquids, or both.

### **SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN STUDY (HCR 29)**

Requests a study for potential solutions addressing legal and physical situation at Sunset Memorial Park with recommendations for a long-term management plan submitted back to the legislature by January 2024.



Board of Water Supply's Ernie Lau was honored by the State House for his tireless efforts to keep Hawaii's drinking water safe. Representative Chun stands in support, acknowledging water quality as a district priority

## **TAKE DOWN TOBACCO** NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION



As a long time voice for cancer prevention, Representative Chun was asked to speak at the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action event held at the State Capitol

### **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGN (HB 278)**

Appropriates \$1,000,000 for the Executive Office on Aging to create and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT ON TELE- HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS (HB 907)**

Allows for the reimbursement of services for the diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of a mental health disorder delivered through telehealth via an interactive telecommunication system using two-way, real-time audio-only communication technology in certain circumstances. Sunsets December 31, 2025.

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL; STATE WATERS; WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS (HB 1079)**

Conforms to definitions and civil penalty amounts pursuant to federal regulations and laws, including the Clean Water Act. Consolidates separate water quality certification statutes into one section of law for clarity. Clarifies the authority of the Department of Health to conduct water quality certifications. Increases certain statutory civil penalties.

# Affordable Housing and Homelessness



During House Floor Session there is always an opportunity to recognize the public in attendance for the day. Representative Chun and his colleagues acknowledge guests in the gallery

## RETURN-TO-HOME PILOT PROGRAM (HB1366)

Appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Human Services, establishing the Return-to-Home Pilot Program to provide eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with family and friends in their home state. As part of a public-private partnership. Three year pilot that sunsets January 1, 2026.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM (HB 1397)

Establishes the Supportive Housing Pilot Program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (Office), in collaboration with the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (Corporation), Hawaii Public Housing Authority (Authority), and various state, county, and community agencies, to offer payments for supportive services up to \$800 per month, matched with federal Medicaid funds, for residents participating in the Pilot Program, and develop a supportive housing information system to collect data relevant to the Pilot Program. Appropriates a total of \$5,000,000 for contracts relating to the rent supplement payments (not to exceed 20 years), support services for qualified individuals and families in new supportive housing, and for the development of the supportive housing information system. Two year pilot that sunsets June 30, 2025.

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- \$10,800,000 for homelessness programs including **SB898**, **HB1366**, and **HB1397** (below)
- \$200,000 Grant-in-Aid to **Achieve Zero** for costs relating to address the needs of the houseless and those at risk of houselessness in areas across Oahu, including Pearl City and Waipahu

## CRISIS MOBILE OUTREACH TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH (HB948)

Establishes a Child and Adolescent Crisis Mobile Outreach Team Pilot Program and appropriates \$3,500,000 to the Child and Mental Health Division of the Department of Health. Two-year pilot that sunsets December 31, 2025.

## RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM FOR KUPUNA; HOMELESSNESS (SB898)

Appropriates \$1,000,000 to establish the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna to provide state rent supplement assistance and other services to qualified kupuna, 62 years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority may coordinate with the counties or specialized non-profit organizes to implement the Program. Three year pilot that sunsets June 30, 2026.



Representative Chun and the rest of the State Legislature donated 150 Easter Baskets filled with essential household items to support local families in need. Representative Kila (bunny) and Senator McKelvey (chick) take a moment for fun while they help load all the baskets into cars delivering the donations to various community organizations

# Legislative Highlights: Fireworks and other Noise Pollution

## ILLEGAL FIREWORKS TASK FORCE (SB821)

Establishes a two-year Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement and appropriates \$1,250,000 to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into the State, promote compliance with state fireworks control laws, and ensure the safety and security of facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

## EMERGENCY VEHICLE SIREN USE (SB346)

Permits authorized emergency vehicles, except police vehicles, to use sirens at their discretion when responding to an emergency or in other specified situations if the siren is not reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

## EXCESSIVE NOISE PILOT PROGRAM: NOISE DETECTION CAMERAS (SB588)

Appropriates \$2,500,000 from the State Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation to work in conjunction with counties to develop and implement a pilot program to use noise detection traffic cameras to address excessive traffic noise. Pilot program sunsets 12/31/2025.



Representative Chun discussing ideas with several of his House colleagues, including Representative Garrett (right)

## FERAL CHICKENS (SCR92)

Requests that the Departments of Agriculture, Land and Natural Resources, and Health, work with City and County of Honolulu to identify solutions to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens on the island of Oahu. Requests that a program be created to provide traps to the public to capture feral chickens and roosters.



Cleanup day along the Pearl Harbor Bike Path in honor of Earth Day 2023. Representative Chun alongside 300 other volunteers went to work along the full stretch of the 10 mile trail collecting 4.79 tons of trash, 22 tires and 8.24 additional tons of metal

## Community Highlights: Pearl City



Pearl City High School's Performing Arts Center's namesake, Maestro Michael Nakasone (center) honored for 30 years of service as a band professional on a national level. (left to right) Pearl City High School Band Director Chadwick Kamei, Sen. Aquino, Rep. Chun, Rep. Sayama, Rep. Lamosao, Rep. Kong, Sen. Kidani, Rep. Takayama, Sen. Elefante, and Rep. La Chica



During the legislature's annual Education Week, Rep. Kong, Takayama, and Chun help to recognize Pearl City High School's Daphne Okunaga as the 2023 Pearl City/Waipahu Complex Teacher of the Year



The Pearl City Foundation hosts its annual Easter egg hunt at the Momilani Community Center. Volunteering were Rep. Chun and Takayama



Pearl City and Aiea Legislators hosted the Governor's first Townhall event at Pearl Ridge Elementary School. (Left to right) Rep. Kong, Rep. Takayama, Senator Elefante, Governor Green, Rep. Aiu, and Rep. Chun came together to highlight some of the accomplishments of the 2023 legislative session and take questions from the community

## Community Highlights: Waipahu



Waipahu Intermediate hosted the 2023 Mara Urbanozo Middle School Hip Hop Dance Completion at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall where they competed against 7 other Intermediate and Middle Schools. Waipahu Intermediate Principal Alvan Fukuhara along with Representative Chun and Lamosao attended and cheered them on



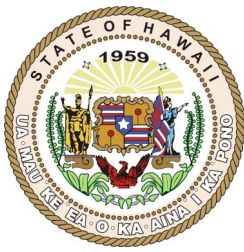
Waipahu District Park Pool has re-opened after years of prolonged closure. (left to right) City Councilmember Weyer, Rep. Lamosao, City Councilmember Tulba, Rep. Chun and Naomi Hanohano from the City's Neighborhood Commission



Waipahu High's culinary arts students (pictured with Rep. Chun) participated in the Flavors of Farm to School program. The students created kabocha sweet potato pie to showcase local foods and recipes that could be used on school menus



Representatives Chun and Lamosao cheered on Waipahu High School's two teams participating in the 2023 LifeSmarts State Competition held at the University of Hawaii and hosted by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The two teams placed Second and Fourth



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## Legislative Before and After

(Top) Representative Chun and fellow first time Representatives Kila, Garrett, Lamosao, Takenouchi, Kahaloea, and Aiu during Opening Day Ceremonies

(Bottom) The same group on Sine Die with other first timer Poepoe and Representatives Evslyn and La Chica who were both appointed by the Governor later on in the Session

