

Mid-Session Community Update

Representative Cory Chun
House District 35

April 2026



Representative Cory Chun
House District 35

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

It is a bit past the halfway point of the 2026 Legislative Session, and I am honored to announce that several of the measures I introduced this year have made it through the House and have crossed over into the Senate. It has been such a pleasure to work with my colleagues and my community on these bills, and I will continue putting forth my best effort to advocate for these measures.

There has also been progress regarding on-going projects shared with my office by the community. Many concerns, such as cleaning up bulk trash and illegal dumping along public areas and fixing roadways and fences, are being addressed with the respective departments, and we have received tentative timeframes for these community improvement projects. As official updates reach my office, I will be sure to share them with you formally.

I encourage you to continue keeping an eye on the legislative calendar, as more important deadlines are coming in the next weeks. We are now in the final stretch, and as always, my office, phone line, and inbox are open if you would like to provide suggestions, ask questions, or share concerns.



Scan the QR
code to view a
digital version of
the February
2026 Newsletter!

Mahalo,

First Crossover 3/12/26

The bills that made it through the House have moved on to be considered by the Senate, and the House will be hearing Senate Bills! Check out the Hawai'i House of Representatives' YouTube (@hawaiihouseofrepresentatives) to watch recorded and live-streamed hearings.

Right: Chair Chun and Vice Chair Kusch of the AGR House Committee listening to a testifier at an Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) hearing.



Follow me on social media and keep in touch!



@rep Cory Chun



Representative Cory Chun

Legislative Updates

Hawaii News Now Interview with Representative Chun

Scan the QR code to watch Representative Chun share his insight on some of his bills and other agriculture topics from this Legislative Session:



Community Impacts: 2026 Mid-Session Noteworthy Measures

HB 1525: Seeks funding to increase the number of in-person voting centers across the state and improve public outreach to support voter engagement.

HB 2444: Increases the income eligibility limit and credit amount per exemption for low-income household renters.

HB 2503: Broadens the definition of an "aerial device" and authorizes the forfeiture of fireworks that would constitute a felony violation.



Kūpuna Caucus Bill Package

The five House Bills of the Kūpuna Caucus package have made it through to the Senate. One of the companion bills, SB2866 from the Senate, has crossed over to be heard by the House.

Keiki Caucus Bill Package

Three out of five of the House Bills for the Keiki Caucus package made it through to the Senate. HB1561 and HB1564 did not cross over. The Senate companion bills did not make it through to the House.

Visit the Hawai'i State Capitol website to learn more about these bills and create an account to track measures! If you would like to submit testimony online to share your thoughts on any of these measures, please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov or come in-person to testify during hearings!

Prioritizing Kūpuna Needs

Representative Chun's news article was published in the March 2026 edition of the **MidWeek Regional Voices**, featuring two kūpuna-centered bills. In a collaborative effort this Legislative Session, Senator Lamosao and Representative Chun worked together to create **HB2498**. The Care Home Resilience Program intends to assist in funding structural and operational improvements to senior care facilities to better protect them against natural disasters, such as heavy storms and wildfires.



Grant-in-Aid: Supporting Non-profit Organizations

Representative Chun extends a great mahalo to all the non-profit organizations that have come to the State Capitol to meet with him and share information about their cause. Several applications for grants were received, and here are some based on the voices of District 35:

- **Best Buddies Hawai'i, LLC:** \$85,000 to support their chapters on Maui and Oahu, including the Pearl City High School.
- **Hawai'i Farm Bureau Foundation:** \$300,000 for the State Farm Fair to educate and share the importance of agriculture in the community.
- **Weed & Seed Hawai'i, Inc:** \$400,000 to help reduce crime, specifically in the Waipahu community.
- **Adult Friends for Youth:** \$448,862 to provide therapy services and intervention to support at-risk youth on the Leeward side.



On 3/11/26, Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) advocates visited Representative Chun to discuss their Grant-in-Aid application.



Food & Product Innovation Network and Agricultural Awareness at the Capitol

As Chair of the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems, Representative Chun has been extra attentive to matters pertaining to our local produce and agriculture industry. This session, he co-hosted two special events.

February 25 was **Food & Product Innovation Network (FPIN) Day**. Agricultural artisans shared their unique products with legislators and visitors, highlighting the importance of supporting our local businesses.

On February 26, many gathered to the State Capitol to celebrate **Agricultural Awareness Day**. A cornucopia of vendors from all across the state shared information about their farming practices and manufacturing processes.

The agriculture industry is vital to providing food to families in Hawai'i. **HB2208** seeks to build and support partnerships between farms and food assistance programs. With this measure, more keiki will have secure access to good meals.



Community Highlights & Events

The Hawai'i Department of Education recognized three schools for their excellence for the **2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award**. These schools ranked as Hawai'i's top-performing schools in test scores. Congratulations to Mānana Elementary, Mililani Mauka Elementary, and Wilson Elementary for their innovation and student success in learning.

Although the national program is being retired, HIDOE is looking to establish a state program to continue encouraging schools, students, and teachers to bridge achievement gaps.



Left: Representative Chun and Senator Lamosao posed with teacher and staff award recipients from Mānana Elementary.

Right: Waikele Elementary's Food Services Manager, Curtis Mostoles, celebrates his Manager of the Year award with his Cafeteria Team, Representative Chun and Senator Lamosao.

National LifeSmarts Competition 2/20/2026

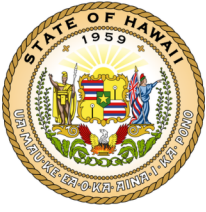
Representative Chun showed his support for the Waipahu High School teams that competed against two other schools in the state. The students showed their knowledge on core consumer topics such as personal finance, health and safety, and the environment. The LifeSmarts Program prepares keiki for life in the complex, global marketplace. It was an excellent performance and a close competition. Congratulations, Marauders!



Pearl City Highlands Elementary Project-Based Learning 2/26/2026

From coastal erosion to youth vaping, the 6th graders at Pearl City Highlands Elementary put together thoughtful video and poster board projects to showcase important topics that they cared about. Senators Elefante and Lamosao and Representatives Takayama and Chun visited each student group's display to hear their thoughts on meaningful matters. Mahalo to Principal Keith Hui and his team for coordinating this enlightening event!





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TAKE ⚡ DOWN TOBACCO NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Representative Chun, a long-time advocate against tobacco and supporter of cancer prevention, attended the March 18th event at the State Capitol.

Organized by the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Youth Council, the Take Down Tobacco campaign calls for attention to pass laws to reverse the youth vaping epidemic and bring awareness to their cause.

Governor Josh Green officially recognized the day as the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action.



Representative Chun and many members of the House and the Senate commemorated the tobacco-free advocacy event with shakas and smiles with Governor Josh Green and the Hawai'i Youth Council.

Take a stand against Big Tobacco

protect our keiki

DID YOU KNOW...

The 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey reported that over **1.6 million kids** across the country used flavored vapes and e-cigarettes.

In Hawai'i, **46%** of high school students **vape every day**.