

State Representative Luke A. Evslin

Serving District 16 - Wailua, Hanamā'ulu, Kapaia, Līhu'e, Puhi, portion of 'Ōma'o



From Līhu'e to the Legislature: 2025 Session in Review

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ 8 bills passed and heading to the Governor
- ✓ Over \$120 million in CIP funding for Kaua'i
- ✓ \$395 million for statewide affordable housing
- ✓ 1,000 acres of farmland permanently preserved
- ✓ 2 waterline replacement projects
- ✓ 1 major highway widening project

Aloha,

With the cost of living still squeezing local families and pushing many away, this session, **we focused on housing, the cost of living, and infrastructure.** In my second year as Housing Committee Chair, I remain committed to tackling the housing crisis head-on and cutting costs for working families.

The Kaua'i delegation secured more than \$120 million in Capital Improvement Projects over the next two fiscal years. District 16 wins include: permanent preservation of 1,000 acres of farmland; funding to design and build four new lanes on the highway between Puhi and the Tree Tunnel; and new teacher- and faculty-housing at KCC.

We also **passed landmark legislation to stabilize Hawai'i's property insurance market, expand free school meals, and fund natural resource preservation and biosecurity across Hawai'i.**

Our housing package advanced on three fronts—**clearing state bottlenecks, funding affordable homes, and protecting renters.** We streamlined permits, lifted costly state fees, accelerated historic-site reviews, invested heavily in workforce housing, and strengthened tenant safeguards. **These reforms will shorten timelines, lower up-front costs, and unlock more housing options. Full details are inside.**

My Capitol office remains open year-round. Call (808) 586-6270 or email repevslin@capitol.hawaii.gov whenever I can help.

Luke A. Evslin



DID YOU KNOW?

Our office can help with everything from navigating state services to drafting legislation for you.

202 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

✓ Legislative Wins

This year, **eight of my introduced bills and two resolutions passed both chambers.** These bills reflect our community's values and statewide needs.

HB422 – Reducing Housing Costs by Eliminating School Impact Fees

Repeals costly state permitting fees for small-scale development, reducing the cost of housing.

SB1263 – Streamlining Historic Preservation Reviews

Streamlines historic preservation reviews for projects near transit, expediting housing development while preserving historic and cultural resources.

HB732 – Updating Special Management Area (SMA) Permit Thresholds

Increases the valuation thresholds for SMA minor permits not located on the shoreline, facilitating more efficient processing of housing permits.

HB736 – Advancing Wastewater System Innovation

Establishes a pilot program at the University of Hawai'i to test new wastewater technologies, aiming to improve water quality while decreasing the cost of individual wastewater systems.

HB735 – Expanding Wastewater System Capacity

Eliminates the current restriction of two dwelling units per septic system, providing more flexibility to families to add additional dwelling units to a single septic system.

HB420 – Clarifying Construction Defect Claims Process

Clarifies the process for construction defect claims, including notice requirements and mediation procedures, to ensure timely and fair resolution of disputes.

HB1409 – Supporting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

Funds mixed-income housing and incentivizes counties to allow more housing near transit stations.

HB1316 – Regulating Rental Vessels in State Parks

Mandates that all rental kayaks on the Wailua River must be registered and numbered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, reducing overcrowding on the river.

HCR66- Allow Single-Stair Apartment Buildings

Requests that the state building code council permit a single stairwell to serve apartment buildings less than six stories, thereby saving money and enabling buildings to fit on small lots.



✓ Other Major Legislative Highlights

✓ HB427 – Strengthening Biosecurity Measures

Enhances Hawai'i's biosecurity by supporting rapid response capacity and strategic coordination to protect native ecosystems and agriculture from invasive species threats.

🏠 SB66 – Housing Streamlining

Requires that counties allow an architect to self-certify a building permit if it takes longer than 60 days to approve.

💰 HB300 – State Budget

Invests \$240 million in statewide affordable housing, including a historic \$100 million for "workforce" housing for those who make too much to qualify for low-income housing but too little to afford market-rate housing.

🍽️ SB1300 – Free School Meals

Expands access to free school meals for students across Hawai'i, reducing hunger and supporting learning.

✓ SB1396 – Economic Development

Implements a green fee to ensure that tourists contribute to climate change mitigation and the preservation of natural resources.

📄 SB1044 – Property Insurance Stabilization

Addresses the state's growing insurance crisis with reinsurance support and incentives for disaster resilience.

🔥 HB806 – Fireworks Enforcement

Provides counties with new enforcement tools to curb illegal fireworks and reduce public safety hazards.



FUNDING & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

💰 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

- ✓ Acquisition of 1,000 Acres of Agricultural Lands
\$39,000,000 (FY26)
- ✓ Kūhiō Hwy Water Main Replacement (Hardy to Oxford)
\$1,500,000 (FY26) + \$3,000,000 (Dept. of Water)
- ✓ Vidinha Stadium Improvements
\$8,000,000 (FY26)
- ✓ Līhu'e Airport Improvements
\$10,226,000 (FY26) + \$9,740,000 (FY27)
- ✓ Nawiliwili Harbor Improvements
\$14,996,000 (FY26) + \$9,000,000 (FY27)
- ✓ Kaumuali'i Highway Improvements
\$5,000,000 (FY26) + \$26,000,000 (FY27)
- ✓ Kaua'i Community College Workforce Housing
\$5,000,000 (FY26) + \$10,000,000 (FY27)
- ✓ Wilcox Elementary Tennis Courts resurfacing
\$950,000 (FY26)

💰 Grant-in-Aid Funding (GIA)

- The Kaua'i Food Bank, Inc. 💎 \$75,000 (Operating Budget)
- The Kaua'i Food Bank, Inc. 💎 \$116,000 (CIP)
- Hale 'Opio Kaua'i 💎 \$168,000
- Kaua'i Economic Opportunity 💎 \$600,000





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Staying Connected

From infrastructure projects and farmland preservation to cutting red tape on housing, this session delivered real results for Kaua'i. I'm deeply grateful for your trust and for the chance to serve.

Even while the Legislature is out of session, I'm available and ready to help. Whether you need help navigating state services, sharing your ideas for future legislation, or informing me of community concerns, my office is always here to serve you.

Reach Out Anytime:

☎ (808) 586-6270

✉ repevslin@capitol.hawaii.gov

@repevslin on Instagram

Mahalo for the privilege of representing you.



Serving Kaua'i Year-Round

No matter the season, my office remains open and ready to support you.

