

Representative **Andrew Takuya Garrett** *2025 Winter Newsletter*

Proudly serving District 22 (Mānoa/Tantalus/McCully-Mō'ili'ili)



Aloha e Friends and Neighbors!

As we enter the Year of the Snake, I hope your year is off to a fantastic start!

Now in my second term, I'm honored and humbled to be back at the State Capitol to advocate on behalf of the residents of the 22nd District.

This year, I'm particularly eager about my committee assignments, including my role as Chairperson of the House Higher Education Committee. As a proud UH Mānoa graduate, I am committed to resetting the Legislature's relationship with UH and supporting its mission to become the premier educational institution in the Pacific.

The legislative session moves quickly, but please know we'll do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd love to hear from you.

With aloha and gratitude,

2025 Committee Assignments

Chair

- Higher Education

Member

- Education
- Labor
- Culture & Arts

Caucus Member

- Keiki
- Kūpuna
- Working Families



With Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke at Noelani Elementary School's new preschool classroom made possible by the Ready Keiki Initiative

Connect with Rep. Garrett via social media!



@repgarrett



Bills Introduced by Rep. Garrett

HB541: Relating to Urban Development

Exempts Oahu from Act 39, SLH 2024 which authorized at least 2 ADUs on residential properties.

HB548: Relating to St. Francis

Authorizes UH to issue revenue bonds to purchase the former Saint Francis school site.

HB542: Relating to the Hawaii Promise Program

Expands the Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified students at any 4-year UH campus.

HB547: Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Establishes the Spay and Neuter special fund to reduce pet overpopulation with various revenue and fundraising sources.

HB441: Relating to Cigarette Taxes

Increases taxes on cigarettes and allocates those funds to the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund.

HB1384: Relating to A.I.

Establishes an Artificial Intelligence (AI) advisory council and requires a comprehensive action plan.

HB188: Relating to CIP for District 22

Appropriates funds in the FY26-27 budget for the following:

- **Noelani Elementary:** \$5.5M for a new portable building.
- **Mānoa Elementary:** \$550k for perimeter fencing.
- **Hōkūlani Elementary:** \$275k for a shade structure.
- **Mānoa Library:** \$330k to replace the elevator.
- **UH Mānoa:** \$6.5M to demolish Hale Noelani dormitory and \$9M in design/planning funds for parking structure on upper campus.

To track the status of these measures, please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Meet our Team!

(Seated left) **Takemi** joined us as our office manager in late 2024, bringing nearly 20 years of experience from her time at Hawaiian Telcom.

(Seated Right) **Wren**, a recent UH graduate, serves as the committee clerk for the Higher Education committee.

(Standing) **Connie**, a very passionate education advocate, is our legislative aide responsible for constituent services.

If you're ever by the Capitol, please stop by Room 323 and say hi!





Happenings in District 22



Aloha President Lassner!

After a remarkable 47-year career at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, President David Lassner retired as the 15th President (and first UH graduate) of the UH system. Here, Rep. Garrett presents President Lassner with a congratulatory certificate on behalf of the State House of Representatives at a recent event at College Hill. President Wendy Hensel, with experience most recently at the City University of New York system (CUNY), began her first day on January 2, 2025. Here's to a well-deserved retirement!



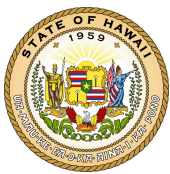
Congratulations to Noelani and Mānoa Elementary Schools!

Kudos to the Noelani Elementary School (#3) and the Mānoa Elementary School (#5) communities for being named among the best elementary schools in Hawai'i by U.S. News and World Report! This prestigious honor reflects the leadership of Principals Gusman and Okamoto, the dedication and passion of their educators, the hard work of their students, and the invaluable support of the parents that make up the PTAs of each school. Keep up the fantastic work!



Mānoa Banyan Court Files Final Environmental Assessment (FEA)

Lin Yee Chung Association (owners of the Mānoa Chinese Cemetery), recently filed an FEA for its Mānoa Banyan Court project. Over 1,400 pages of public comments were submitted to the City Department of Planning and Permitting on LYCA's plans to build affordable housing for seniors on an adjacent lot to the cemetery. It is unclear when the Honolulu City Council (not the State Legislature) will vote to approve or deny the project.



Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett

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*Rep. Garrett with Governor Green, Speaker Nakamura
and House colleagues on Opening Day*

We'd love to hear from you!



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