

Representative Scott K. Saiki

Rep. Saiki at the Condo Insurance Town Hall at McKinley High School's auditorium.



Rep. Saiki joined advocates and community members to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility.



Rep. Saiki reading to Lunalilo Elementary School students at Read Across America Day.



Why is the Price of Condo Insurance Increasing?

Hawaii is now facing the financial impact of climate change. Many of us are paying more for HO6 and condo insurance. This is largely due to increased hurricane, wildfire, and water leak risks.

Hawaii has only 3 condo insurance carriers, and the natural disaster risk has led to higher premiums. Some condo buildings are not fully insured. A building that is underinsured may not meet federal lending requirements and may prevent lenders from providing mortgages and loans for units within the building.

Other states such as Florida and California are experiencing the same conditions. Like those states, Hawaii cannot require an insurance company to continue to operate in the state or to lower premiums. The Legislature is working on proposals to potentially stabilize the insurance market.

House Bill 2686 and Senate Bill 3234 propose to create a fund that can provide stopgap coverage for underinsured buildings as a last resort. House Bill 2801 proposes to create an alternative and more economical financing mechanism for buildings that require major repairs and preventative action, especially for water pipe replacement. You can track the status of these bills by visiting the Capitol website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov and using the search bar to enter the bill number.

Rep. Saiki joined by Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Rep. Adrian Tam, and Rep. Scott Nishimoto recently held a town hall to discuss condo insurance. The panel was comprised of experts from the insurance, lending, and association industries. We had a great turnout of over 200 people; mahalo to all who attended. **For those who couldn't make it or wish to revisit the discussion, the recording and materials from the town hall are now available. Please visit the link below, navigate to the "Links" tab, and under "Town Hall" you'll find the recording and handout.** Condo insurance is an important issue that requires all of our attention. Please feel free to reach out to Rep. Saiki at the contact info below if you have any questions.

<https://saiki.house/RepScottKSaiki>



First of Its Kind Homeless Health Crisis Center Opens in Iwilei

Rep. Saiki attended the opening of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center which will provide medical, mental health, and shelter services for homeless individuals. The triage center is located at the Iwilei Resource Center next to I.H.S., where first responders can divert persons there for treatment. The City owns the building, and the Legislature funded \$6.7 million for staffing and operations. The center can accommodate 16 individuals in initial crisis with an additional nine stabilization beds. Pioneering in its approach, this center by the Department of Health addresses a crucial gap in crisis care. It not only diverts individuals from arrest to care but also eases the strain on community emergency departments, ensuring taxpayer money is put to efficient use.



Solidifying Same Sex Marriage Rights

At the height of the same-sex marriage lawsuit in Hawaii in 1998, Hawaii voters approved a constitutional amendment to prevent the Hawaii courts from deciding whether same sex marriage is constitutionally protected. This meant that Hawaii law prohibiting same sex marriage would remain in effect. But in 2013, the Legislature amended the law to authorize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

Rep. Saiki has introduced legislation (House Bill 2802) to propose repealing the 1998 marriage provision in the Hawaii Constitution. The legislation is currently pending. If the Legislature approves it, the constitutional amendment will be placed on the general election ballot in November 2024. Thank you to community advocates who are working on this legislation. You may check the status of HB2802 at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

House Moves Aggressive Housing Legislation

The House has taken a bolder approach to build affordable housing. The state has previously provided funds for infrastructure and some construction projects. But this is costly and the federal government no longer subsidizes affordable housing construction at the same rate. This year, the House is advancing legislation that will streamline the zoning process to allow private property owners to build units in residential and commercial areas. The legislation will provide minimum zoning standards but preserve the city's authority to approve and deny building permits. These proposals are found in SB3202.





Rep. Saki attended the Kakaako Easter Egg Hunt with Senator Sharon Moriwaki, hosted by the Ward Village Moms and the Harbor Church ohana. This was a fun event where families joined in on hunting eggs donated by businesses and organizations in Kakaako.

District 25 Updates

Actions Taken to Improve Road Safety

It has been one year since the tragic death of McKinley High student, Sara Yara, at the Kamakee-Kapiolani Blvd. crosswalk. This and other accidents are a major concern of our community. Working with State and City transportation officials, Rep. Saiki and area legislators took these actions within 3 months of the McKinley crosswalk accident:

- Installed speed humps at the crosswalk and Pensacola St.
- Installed a red light camera at the crosswalk
- Began implementation of a left turn signal at the crosswalk

The McKinley crosswalk death was made even more tragic because the driver was cited for more than 200 traffic violations over the years, but never received jail time. Upon learning this, Rep. Saiki met with Prosecutor Steve Alm. As a result, the Prosecutor's Office changed its policy and will now prosecute repeat violators. Rep. Saiki also met with the Judiciary, and the traffic court judges will now be more vigilant in repeat offender cases. Pedestrian and road safety are a top concern of our community. Rep. Saiki will continue to work with transportation officials and area legislators to improve our sidewalks and roads to prevent these kinds of accidents from reoccurring. Thank you to residents who have advocated for increased safety.



Rep. Saiki Hears From Harbor Square, 801 South St., Koula, & Koolani Residents

Rep. Saiki held a meeting with residents at Harbor Square, 801 South St., Koula, and Koolani over the past two months. The conversation included pedestrian safety, condo insurance, and crime. It was a great opportunity to hear questions and suggestions from residents. Thank you to the residents who attended the meeting. If you would like to schedule a similar meeting, please contact Rep. Saiki.



Representative Scott K. Saiki

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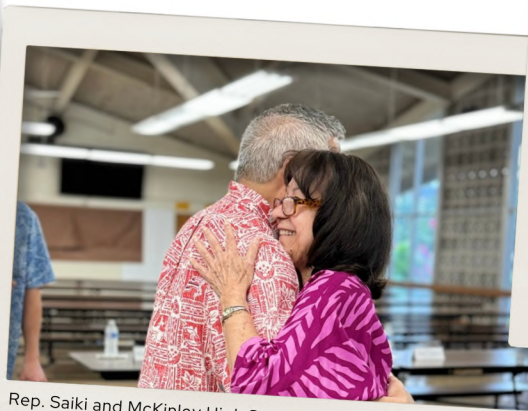


SCAN ME

INSIDE: Why is the price of condo insurance increasing?



Rep. Saiki with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii (CTFH) Youth Council, a youth-led initiative that is fighting back against the tobacco industry.



Rep. Saiki and McKinley High School Teacher, Laverne Moore, at our annual town hall held at the MHS cafeteria.



Rep. Saiki throwing up a peace sign with Oahu's own Bretman Rock as the Legislature recognized Bretman's incredible impact on Hawaii's residents and Filipino Americans.



Rep. Saiki talking to a constituent during the town hall held at 801 South St.



Rep. Saiki congratulating the McKinley Girls D2 Basketball team on their victory against Farrington for the D2 OIA Champion title.



Mahalo Planned Parenthood Teen Council for your advocacy and supporting Rep. Saiki's resolution requesting the DOE to standardize sex education curriculum in Hawaii.