



# 2025 Update



State Representative Gregg Takayama • District 34 • Pearl City • Waiau • Pacific Palisades

August 2025

## Aloha Neighbors:

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as your State Representative. I'm continuing to advocate for the safety and well-being of our community and ensuring that your tax dollars are spent wisely.

Due to Federal budget cuts and other economic uncertainties, this has been a challenging year but we made progress on some top Pearl City priorities by toughening fireworks

enforcement laws, advancing the clean-up and security at our long-neglected Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, and appropriating \$1 million for designing an emergency access road for Pacific Palisades.

This session I became chair of the House Health Committee, so this legislative update describes measures I helped pass to improve the health of our citizens throughout Hawaii.

Also, this year the largest tax cut for working families in Hawaii history took effect – enacting the law we passed in 2024 - by raising the standard deduction, which increases the amount of income that is exempt from taxes

and amending tax brackets by lowering tax rates.

As always, my goal is to work for a cleaner, safer and healthier community we can proudly hand down to future generations. I'm proud to serve as your Representative at the State Capitol and I hope you will contact my office if you have questions, comments or problems.

Mahalo,

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## New health laws aim to reduce disease and improve patient care

These important health-related measures were passed by the House Health Committee and have already – or will soon – become law.

**Immunization funding.** Makes vaccines for children and adults available at low cost by providing \$934,000 to the Health Department for the bulk purchase of immunization vaccines. **SB1434 (Act 175)**

**Viral Hepatitis Funding.** Aims to reduce Hawaii's high mortality rate from hepatitis B and C by establishing a hepatitis prevention and public information program with \$545,000 and three new positions in the Health Department. **SB1431 (Act 114)**

**Cancer study.** Provides \$500,000 to the UH Cancer Center for a health assessment study of native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos, including the health effects of living near landfills. **HB1300**

**Cigarette tax.** Raises the cigarette tax from 16 cents to 18 cents to further discourage smoking and earmarks the added revenue to support the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. **HB 441 (Act 95)**

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Gregg joined more than one hundred volunteers helping clean up **Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery** on the Memorial Day weekend.



Students from Pearl City's Children's House visited the State Capitol on January 10th and were hosted by Rep. Cory Chun and Gregg.



# New health laws aim to reduce disease and improve patient care

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**Prior Authorization Reform.** Creates a working group to address delays in providing coverage for patient treatment, medications and tests caused by prior authorization requirements imposed by health insurers. **HB250 (Act 151)**

**Nurse Midwives:** Enacts professional standards for licensed midwives to ensure the safety of mothers and infants, while also allowing for native Hawaiian birthing practices. **HB 1194 (Act 28)**

**Cognitive Assessments.** Helps the early detection of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias by requiring annual cognitive assessments for patients who are Medicare beneficiaries. **HB700**

**Health Disparities.** Provides \$550,000 in each of the next two years for the first-ever study of the special health needs and challenges among individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. **SB850**

**Early childhood safety.** Improve early childhood well-being by appropriating \$860,000 for establishment of peer-to-peer support programs for parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five in the Family Health Services Division of the Health Department. **HB237**

**Crisis Intervention Center.** Authorizes the Department of Health to plan a second Oahu Crisis Intervention and Diversion Center to care for unsheltered persons suffering substance abuse or mental illness. **HB 1462**

**Loan repayment.** Assists health professionals by repaying their educational loans in exchange for two years' service in rural areas. \$15 million is allotted in each of the next two years and is expected to aid about 900 health professionals. **HB300**

**Nurse training.** Provides a pathway for high school students to earn healthcare certificates that lead to certified nurse aide (CNA) positions after graduation. Allots \$3 million to be matched by private funds. **HB300**

**Foreign Medical Graduates.** Increases the supply of physicians by expanding the pathway for foreign medical school graduates to be licensed as physicians after passage of certain examinations and two years' post-graduate medical training. **HB1379 (Act 174)**



A House-Senate **conference committee** completed negotiations on a health bill with the exchange of copies between Gregg and Sen. Henry Aquino.



At the annual **Pearl City Lions Club Valentine's Day breakfast** Gregg helped work on the food serving line.



Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke joined other guests at **Pearl City Elementary** to celebrate the opening of a new pre-kindergarten classroom on September 27.



Pre-kindergarteners at Pearl City Elementary were presented with free backpacks filled with school supplies donated by **Lt. Governor Luke's office.**





Gregg helped paint curbing at **Pearl City Highlands Elementary School** at its community work day on April 12.



Pearl City High School's annual **Chargerpalooza student showcase** on April 3rd included instruction on delivering cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

# Community improvements receive funding

## Momilani Elementary School

Governor Green has released \$3,550,000 for installation of perimeter fencing and other security improvements at Momilani Elementary School.

## Lehua Elementary School

The School Facilities Authority will be renovating a classroom at Lehua Elementary School for use by pre-kindergartners this year.

## Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery

Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery has received a State grant of \$150,000 and a City grant of \$125,000 for improvements to security and grounds. Recently volunteers led by Larry Veray installed a security access gate to discourage trespassers and illegal dumping - the first of many changes coming to the Cemetery.



A new security gate has been installed at **Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery**.



Palisades Elementary **Principal Gavin Tsue** was presented with a House-Senate certificate March 7th by Sen. Brandon Elefante and Gregg congratulating him on receiving the 2025 National Distinguished Principal Award.

# HONORING Outstanding Citizens

Lehua Elem.



**Vitolio DeColibus Laban Jr.**

Momilani Elem.



**Zoe Lui**

Palisades Elem.



**Joshua Lwin-Maluo**

Pearl City Elem.



**Naomi Roeder**

Pearl City Highlands Elem.



**Ayven Yasuda**

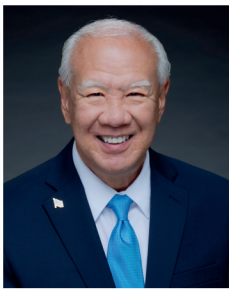
Waimalu Elem.



**Reyshell Oasay**

Each year, Gregg presents a citizenship award to a deserving student at each district school. These are among the 2025 winners:





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Gregg's office collected more than 90 bags of clothing from fellow legislators for donation to the **YWCA's Dress for Success** program helping formerly homeless and incarcerated women seeking a second chance.



Passing out goodies is one of the fun highlights of the annual **Pearl City Christmas Parade**, last celebrated on December 1st.



The **Pearl City-Aiea legislative townhall meeting** on May 21 featured talks by UH President Wendy Hensel (center), water polo coach James Robinson (far left), and football coaches Timmy Chang and Chris Brown (far right).