

# Senator Kurt Fevella

## September 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Have a question/comment? Let's talk story!

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Senate District 20: 'Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, and portion of 'Ewa Villages Aloha Family and Friends,

After all that our communities have gone through, I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you in good health. As you may be aware of the current events in our islands, I would like to take this time to thank God for all that He has done for each and every one of us and all that He continues to do. The Maui Fire Relief Donation Drive could not be possible with the hundreds of volunteers helping with collecting, sorting, and delivering. Containers have been shipped- completely full of donated items from our people to our people. MAHALO NUI LOA to all involved in helping in these efforts! Mahalo and God bless.









## Campbell High School Sabers Homecoming on Brand-New Field September 8, 2023

Our Campbell High School football team played their homecoming game on their brand-new athletic field. Led by Head Coach Darren Johnson, the Sabers' varsity team played against the Nanakuli Golden Eagles and won with the final score at 42 to 0. The following upcoming football games will be at Campbell:

- Friday, September 15, 2023- Sabers play against Punahou's Buff 'n Blue; and
- Friday, October 13, 2023 Sabers play against Moanalua's Na Menehune.

You may find more information relating to James Campbell High School Athletics by visiting: <u>https://www.campbellhighschoolathletics.org/</u>.



The Sabers football team playing against the Golden Eagles on home field.

### TOWN HALL MEETING Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Amvets West Oahu Veterans Center

### <u>Topics</u>

- -Water quality/safety near Kapilina/Iroquois Point
- -Future development for DHHL homes
- -City bus access to Kapilina/Iroquois Point
- -Ewa Estate potential cesspool development

Please join us to discuss important issues relating to our community!



# In the Community

## City Council Resolution 23-165 Has Been Postponed Until Further Notice

On August 8, 2023, Reso 23-165 came before the Council. The Council's decision resulted in the measure being recommitted to the Committee of Public Safety. As a recap, this measure connects properties on Ewa Estates to county sewage lines and decommissions the cesspools. This project may cost property owners an average of ten thousand dollars. As of September 14, the resolution was "cancelled and not considered." Please visit the website for updates and more information at: https://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/measure/2625.



We hereby transmit this EIS determination of EISPN for the Cluster Development at Põhakupuna at the above site in the 'Ewa District on the Island of Oahu for publication in the <u>September 8, 2023</u> edition of The Environmental Notice. Enclosed, please find a completed publication form

## The Cluster Development at Pohakupuna will need an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Jinshi Development Hawai'i, Ltd proposed to construct a 21-unit residential cluster development- comprised of six duplexes, two triplexes, and three single-family units.

According to Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), an EIS is needed as the proposal "may have a significant effect on the Special Management Area (SMA), and may be susceptible to substantial impacts because multiple dwelling units and fill will be located in the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area and area with known coastal hazards...".

To view the completed publication form, please visit the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development's Environmental Review Program website:

https://planning.hawaii.gov/erp/other-ten-publications/.

## **OHA Opens a Maui Relief Storage Facility**

On August 19, 2023, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and with the support from the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, opened the Maui Relief Storage Facility. The facility is a donation management center on O'ahu with its purpose to receive, sort, and inventory donations collected for Maui residents affected by the wildfires. The Maui Relief Storage Facility is available to receive donations from coordinated relief efforts. Businesses, churches, community organizations, etc. who are collecting and receiving large donations are recommended to call 808-341-0622 to coordinate delivery. Unfortunately, the facility is not able to



State government officials with members from OHA and CHNA pictured above in the Maui Relief Storage Facility.

accept drop-off donations at this time. Individuals wanting to donate goods and supplies are encouraged to find a donation drive for Maui fire relief in their area.



# Capitol Update

## Letter to Governor Green Relating to Lāhainā Moratorium on Property Sales, Attorney Fees, and Disbanding the Build Beyond Barriers Working Group

On August 11, 2023, I sent a letter to Governor Josh Green, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, and Attorney General Anne Lopez, urging for a swifter moratorium process that would serve as a proactive measure to shield our community from opportunists looking to exploit our people's vulnerabilities, and preserve Lāhainā's way of life.

Other important issues also mentioned in the letter were attorney fees. Ideally, the situations involving litigation for all matters related to the Lāhainā fires should be completed pro bono. Recommending the implementation of a cap, limiting attorney contingency fees to ten percent would ensure that residents are able to access the necessary funding for rebuilding without facing undue financial burden and prevent predatory behavior from law firms.

Finally, I urged that the Build Beyond Barriers Working Group (BBBWG) be disbanded and regroup to reprioritize the development of housing on Maui for the next four years, specifically in Lāhainā. The new working group should include community leaders and residents from Lāhainā and ensure that the voice of community members are involved in the redevelopment. This way we can allow for an effective and just path to rebuilding Lāhainā, with the full support of the community.

But before we help rebuilding, the people of Lāhainā need the time and space to grieve, to mourn for their loved ones, for their homes, for their ohana. Our continued thoughts and prayers for our Maui ohana during this time.



EXA CIBA EXTREGA

The Honorable Sylvia Luke Lieutenant Gover State of Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General Department of the Attorney Gener 425 Queen Street Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor

State of Hawaii Executive Chambers Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Governor Green, Lieutenant Governor Luke, and Attorney General Lopez,

Subject: Lähainä Moratorium on Property Sales, Attorney Fees, and the Build Beyond Barriers Working Group

I am writing to you to echo the voices of my Ohana in Lähainä and the Lähui regarding the fires in Lähainä. This is in regards to safeguarding the well-being of our contrusting in Lähainä and protecting the property, personal interests, and cherished way of life from unethical practices and external influences.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to consider pushing for a swifter moratorium process. This would serve as a proactive measure to shield our community from opportunists looking to exploit their vulnerabilities, and preserve Lishand's way of life.

I also wish to address the matter of attorney fees during this challenging time. I strongly recommend the implementation of a cap, limiting attorney contingency fees to 10%. However, the ideal situation would be that litigation for all matters related to the Likaina fires to be done pro bono. This would ensure that residents are able to access the meessary funding for rebuilding without facing undue financial burden, and prevent predatory behavior from law firms.

Governor Green has also similarly expressed concern of future legal settlements being sent off island to other law firms in the country, Learning from the experiences of other communities, such as the 2018 widdlers in Paradise, CA, where residents faced subtantial attorney fees, we must take measures to protect our residents from similari situations. In the case of california, victims received a settlement totaling \$13.5 billion. If a law firms' contingency is 33%, \$4.5 billion would be allocated to them. Our Ohana in Lihania need all the funding they need and should not be paying large contingency fees to law firms.

Lastly, I would also like to humbly request that the Build Beyond Barriers Working Group (BBBWG) be disbanded and regroup to reprioritize the development of housing on Maui for the next 4 years,

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Page 2 of 2 2 specifically in Libaina. The new working group should include community leaders and residents from Libaina, and ensure that the voice of community members are involved in the redevelopment. This way we can allow for an effective and just path to rebuilding in Libaina, with the full support of the community.

I respectfully request your support in addressing these critical issues, as your advocacy for the community will not only alleviate the concerns of our Ohana but also reinforce their faith in the system. It is important that we work together to prevent the exploitation of our community members and ensure that their property and personal interests remain secure. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to our shared goals.

Kurt Jevella



Senator Fevella holds a press conference at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

### Lāhainā Press Conference

Following the letter to Governor Green, Lieutenant Governor Luke, and Attorney General Lopez, I held a press conference on September 5, speaking on what was mentioned in the letter- urging for a quicker moratorium on property sales in Lāhainā, placing a cap on attorney fees, and disbanding the Build Beyond Barriers Working Group to reshift it's focus on developing housing in Lāhainā.

KITV news wrote a piece on the press conference. You may click <u>here</u> to view the article.



Sen. Fevella was interviewed by KITV news following the press conference.



# Important Dates & Contacts

## <u>'Ewa Neighborhood Board</u>

Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. 'Ewa Beach Public and School Library Visit: <u>https://www.honolulu.gov/nco/boards.html</u> to access agendas, minutes, and more information on the Neighborhood Board.

## <u>Senator Kurt Fevella's Town Hall</u>

Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. Amvets West Oahu Veteran Center 5001 Iroquois Avenue Ewa Beach, HI 96706

## Central Pacific Hurricane Season

June 1-November 30, 2023

## <u>Connecting our Community</u> Emergency Services

Ambulance/Fire/Police: 911

State Emergency Management Division: 808-733-4300

State Highway Safety Hotline: 808-831-6714

## Utilities

Hawaiian Electric Co. (trouble only): 808-548-7311

Hawaiian Telcom (customer care): 611

Board of Water Supply (report leaks): 808-748-5000 ext. 1

The Gas Company (trouble only): 808-526-0066

## **Community Concerns**

City Refuse & Bulky Item Collection: 808-768-3200 (Missed) Pickup in 'Ewa Beach: 808-768-9732 Graffiti Hotline (HPD): 808-723-3475 Damaged Sidewalks: 808-768-8159 Public Trees: 808-971-7151 Clean Stream Hotline: 808-768-7890

Medicare Call Center: 800-633-4227

Social Security: 800-772-1213 Potholes (City): 808-768-7777 Potholes (State): 808-536-7852

## City & State Departments

Education ('Ewa) 808-692-8000

Handi-Van Operations 808-456-5555

Hawaiian Home Lands 808-620-9531

> Health 808-586-4400

Mental Health Hotline DOH Hawaii CARES 808-832-3100 or 1-800-753-6879

Labor & Industrial Relations 808-586-8844

Land and Natural Resources 808-587-0401

Neighborhood Board Commission 808-768-3710

Parks & Recreation 808-768-3003

Public Safety 808-587-1288

Transportation Services 808-768-3053

Transportation 808-587-2150