

# STATE SENATOR

# Brandon J.C. Elefante

He, Him, His

Proudly serving: 'Aiea, 'Aiea Heights, Halawa, Pearlridge, Newtown, Royal Summit, Waimalu, Waiau, Momilani, Pacific Palisades, and Pearl City



## Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We are approaching the halfway point of the legislative session, when bills move from one chamber to the other for further review. A key concern right now is our state budget and the impact of reduction of funds for federal programs, like changes to the Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. As a result of changes in federal funding and eligibility rules, the state will need to cover more upfront costs to make sure these vital programs continue supporting those who need them most.

In addition to the state budget, our office has been looking into reducing our vacancy rates across all state agencies and examining ways to recruit and retain qualified individuals to work in state government. Senate Bill 99 is a bill that I introduced in partnership with Rep. Gregg Takayama after hearing concerns from schools to address the issue of school safety by hiring school resource officers with our schools. Moreover, I've also introduced SB2391 which provides annual salary step increases for public schools and public charter school teachers who have completed one year's satisfactory service and comply with specified requirements. Lastly, if you're interested in working in state government, please visit: <https://jobs.hawaii.gov/careers/> As always, please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any concerns. Wishing you all a wonderful spring season!

Mahalo nui loa for the privilege of serving you.  
With aloha,

## PRIORITY BILLS

MORE INFO ON PAGE 2



**SB99**  
School Resource Officers



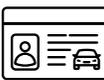
**SB2136**  
E-Bikes Regulation



**SB2391**  
Provides annual pay raises for teachers, subject to funding.



**SB2392**  
Strengthens penalties for highly intoxicated DUI offenses



**SB2665**  
Relating to renewal of driver's licenses.

## CONTACT US

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Follow @SenElefante on Instagram



## IN THE COMMUNITY



Coach Ken Suenaga

### Honoring a Swim Legend:

Family, friends, and community leaders gathered at Pearl City District Park to honor Coach Ken Suenaga with the official renaming of the park's pool in his honor. His decades of dedication to youth, mentorship, and competitive swimming helped shape generations of athletes and built a lasting legacy in Pearl City.

### Traffic Safety Awareness:

We joined HPD's Pearl City District 3 Community Policing Team and community leaders at Waimano Home Road & Komo Mai Drive to raise traffic safety awareness. A simple reminder goes a long way, drive slow, yield to pedestrians, and help keep our community safe. Mahalo to Pearl City Neighborhood Boardmember Heide Weber for organizing this event.



Pictured are from, left to right, Rep. Takayama, Rep. Chun, Sen. Elefante, Sen. Lamosao.



Pictured are from, left to right, Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Sen. Elefante, and Sazuko Sasaki.

### A Moment of Contemplation:

Mahalo to The Honorable Bishop Eric Matsumoto for delivering an inspiring Moment of Contemplation at the opening of our Senate session. Bishop Matsumoto, who serves as minister at the 'Aiea Hongwanji, helped set a reflective tone for the day. We were also honored to welcome his mother-in-law, Sazuko Sasaki, who was visiting from Japan.



**Ways & Means Hearings**

The Committee on Ways and Means continues to receive briefings from state agencies on departmental operations, workforce needs, and budget priorities. These discussions provide critical insight into vacancy rates, recruitment and retention challenges, and long-term fiscal planning as we work to ensure responsible budgeting and efficient delivery of state services.

Photo credit @hawaiisenate



Pictured from, left to right, are sixth grade students, Rep. Takayama, Rep. Chun, Principal Keith Hui, Sen. Lamosao, and Sen. Elefante.

**Pearl City Highlands PBL Showcase**

Sixth-grade students at Pearl City Highlands Elementary presented their project-based learning service projects, addressing real-world issues in our community. The showcase highlighted their creativity, teamwork, and commitment to making a positive impact. We are proud of these young leaders for stepping up and taking action.



Pictured are from, left to right, Shon Morishige, Dr. Linda Wong, Dr. Jami Fukui, Kyle Ohisa, and Dr. Parwathi "Uma" Paniker.

**Hawai'i Healthcare Heroes**

The Hawai'i Healthcare Heroes program, led by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, recognizes outstanding healthcare professionals who go above and beyond in service to our communities. These honorees represent the very best of our healthcare workforce, individuals whose dedication, compassion, and clinical expertise make a life-changing difference for patients and their families.

From providing vigilant care during life-threatening situations to serving as advocates and leaders within their fields, Hawai'i's Healthcare Heroes embody the spirit of excellence and aloha in healthcare. Their commitment strengthens our healthcare system and ensures that the people of Hawai'i continue to receive high-quality, compassionate care.

**PRIORITY BILLS**

Continued From Page 1

**SB99**

**Relating to government.**

Helps fill critical school resource officer roles by allowing retired officers to serve without losing retirement benefits. The bill passed the Senate.



**SB2136**

**Relating to transportation.**

Updates e-bike and electric mobility regulations to improve safety, clarify classifications, and protect pedestrians.



**SB2391**

**Relating to education.**

Provides automatic annual and longevity step salary increases for public and public charter school teachers who complete satisfactory service, subject to collective bargaining and available funding. It aims to improve teacher retention by ensuring educators receive consistent pay progression over time. The bill passed the Senate.



**SB2392**

**Relating to traffic safety.**

Strengthens DUI laws by increasing penalties for highly intoxicated drivers, making a first offense a misdemeanor with enhanced sentencing requirements and upgrading repeat offenses to a class C felony. The bill also imposes stricter probation conditions, longer license revocations, ignition interlock requirements, and prohibits deferred acceptance of guilty pleas for DUI convictions. The bill passed the Senate.



**SB2665**

**Relating to renewal of driver's licenses.**

Requires drivers who have received a traffic citation or infraction within the past five years to complete a Department of Transportation road safety course and pass a written exam before renewing their driver's license. The course includes an online safety video and a test on traffic laws, highway signs, and safe driving practices. The bill passed the Senate.



## **CITY & COUNTY DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

**EMERGENCY** 911

**NON-EMERGENCY** DIAL 911 & SAY "NON-EMERGENCY"

**ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORTING** (808) 768-2530

**COMPLAINTS (CITY-RELATED)** (808) 768-4381

**CITY REFUSE & RECYCLING SERVICES** (808) 768-3200

**GRAFFITI HOTLINE (HPD)** (808) 723-3475 OR 911

**POTHOLE HOTLINE** (808) 768-7777

**SATELLITE CITY HALLS INFORMATION** (808) 768-4325

**SENIOR CITIZEN INFORMATION** (808) 768-7700

**SEWER LINE PROBLEM** (808) 768-7272

**STREET LINE MARKINGS** (808) 768-3638

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL MALFUNCTION** (808) 768-8387

**FERAL CHICKENS** (808) 768-4381

**STREET TREES** [DUF@HONOLULU.GOV](mailto:DUF@HONOLULU.GOV)

**CITY ROADWAYS & SIGNS** [DFMROADS@HONOLULU.GOV](mailto:DFMROADS@HONOLULU.GOV)

## **STATE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** (808) 586-1500

**CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT** (808) 692-7060

**COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS** (808) 587-3222

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** (808) 587-2150

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE** (808) 441-7000

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** (808) 784-6200

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** (808) 586-4400

**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION** (808) 587-4242

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DCCA)** 1-844-808-DCCA (3222)

**HAWAI'I STATE OMBUDSMAN** (808) 587-0770

**HUMAN SERVICES** (808) 586-4997

**INFORMATION PRACTICES** (808) 586-1400

**LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS** (808) 586-8844

**LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I** (808) 536-4302

**LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN** (808) 586-7268

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS OHA** (808) 594-1835

**HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS DHHL** (808) 620-9500

**643 PEST HOTLINE CALL:** (808) 643-PEST (643-7378)

**ONLINE REPORT:** [643PEST.ORG](http://643PEST.ORG)

## **RESOURCES**

### **Aloha United Way 211**

211 Community Resource Specialists assist with food, housing, utilities, SNAP pre-screening, substance abuse, mental health, transportation, domestic violence, legal and financial aid, as well as support and care programs for kēiki and kūpuna.

**Call:** 211

**Text:** (877) 275-6569

**Chat:** [auw211.org](http://auw211.org)

### **Hawai'i CARES 988**

Hawai'i CARES 988 connects individuals to behavioral health services through a coordinated and responsive system of care for crisis intervention, substance use treatment and recovery, and mental health concerns.

**Call/Text:** 988

**Chat:** [hicares.hawaii.gov](http://hicares.hawaii.gov)

### **Honolulu 311**

Honolulu 311 is the official mobile app and online platform for the City & County of Honolulu, Hawai'i. It offers a free and user-friendly platform for reporting issues like potholes, broken streetlights, cracked sidewalks, illegal dumping, and vandalized signs.

**Smartphone App:** Honolulu 311

**Website:** [web5.hnl.info/hnl311](http://web5.hnl.info/hnl311)