



Senator Kurt Fevella

October 2022

NEWSLETTER



Aloha Friends and 'Ohana,

As you may know, October kicks off the start of our seasonal holidays. While we are continuing to work through the hustle and bustle of life, let us continue to care and look out for one another, including ourselves. As it is said, "Your health is your wealth." October is known to be celebrated and acknowledged for many reasons and among these are National Breast Cancer Awareness and National Bullying Prevention Month. While both are distinctly separate, it is identical in ways one may be affected: physically, mentally, and emotionally. Being proactive is a choice that starts with you. Choosing to visit your physician or not saying any verbal/nonverbal negative output to others is your decision to make.

"Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you."

- John C. Maxwell

Mahalo and God bless,

Kurt Fevella

Supporting Our Kaiser Mental Health Clinicians Statewide

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Join us on the picket line (visit <https://nuhw.org/> for dates and times)
2. Contribute to our strike fund (visit <https://nuhw.org/> on how to donate)
3. File a complaint with Kaiser or consumer protection agencies (visit nuhw.org/kaiser-strike-HI for more information)

@Senfevella

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@KFevella

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Got a question/comment?

Please feel free to contact me!

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The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2022

Senate Communications: Jacob Aki 808-586-6291

SENATOR FEVELLA ASKS KAISER PERMANENTE EXECUTIVES TO ADDRESS THE UNDERSTAFFING CRISIS OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Honolulu, Hawai'i – On September 21, Senator Fevella sent a letter to Kaiser Permanente executives on behalf of the 266,000 Kaiser-insured members in Hawai'i and psychologists, social workers, nurses and chemical dependency counselors employed by the company who are currently on strike. In the letter, the senator asked the executives to return to the negotiating table to address the understaffing crisis of Kaiser's mental health care services.

Senator Fevella stated, "The ongoing strike by Kaiser's therapy and mental health clinicians has brought to light the severity of Kaiser's staffing crisis, but it also points to Kaiser's unwillingness to fairly negotiate a resolution when Kaiser's response is to propose a wage freeze and cut retirement benefits, including the elimination of pensions for new hires."

While Kaiser has been able to negotiate raises and continue to provide benefits for non-mental health unionized employees, they have continually put negotiations with mental health unionized employees on hold. "It is imperative that Kaiser break through the current stalemate for its members and for those potential skilled therapists in the greater island community who could be available for hire if not for Kaiser's poor working conditions and unsatisfactory compensation scale," wrote the senator.

Due to violations of the national behavioral health standards, Kaiser has been placed under a corrective action plan by the National Committee for Quality Assurances. Senator Fevella suggested using "tried-and-true" methods such as hiring, training, improved working conditions and increased investment in benefits to



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2022

Senate Communications: Jacob Aki 808-586-6261

SENATE MINORITY LEADER FEVELLA ISSUES STATEMENT AS KAISER MENTAL HEALTH CARE WORKERS ENTER SEVENTH WEEK OF STRIKE

Honolulu, Hawai'i – As Kaiser mental health care workers enter their seventh week of a strike, Senate Minority Leader Kurt Fevella (District 19 - 'Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of 'Ewa Villages) issued the following statement regarding Kaiser's refusal to reach a fair agreement:

"Kaiser Permanente Mental Health Workers in Hawai'i have been on strike for seven weeks now. As members of the National Union of Health Workers (NUHW), Kaiser's mental health care workers are protesting the severe understaffing of its mental health services.

During the October 5, 2022 rally at the State Capitol, Senator Fevella stated several elected officials and community leaders called on Kaiser officials to do more to improve access to care for its patients who are waiting months to see a Kaiser therapist. The next day Kaiser returned to the bargaining table only to reject NUHW's proposal and offered no further counteroffer to bridge remaining differences between the parties.

Since our rally, Senator Fevella was disappointed to learn that Kaiser has sent an email to private providers with an offer to pay \$6,800 up front for 40 sessions to see five Kaiser patients during an eight-week period. Kaiser's unwillingness to negotiate in good faith and instead pay private providers \$170/person which is more than its typical reimbursement of \$128/session clearly indicates Kaiser officials disregard for its own mental health workers, some of whom have 10 or more years of services at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i.

Kaiser, which reported a \$8.1 billion net profit in 2021 and \$56.7 billion in cash and investments, would



Community Events/Legislative Updates

HDOT's Plastic Road Pilot



On October 12, 2022, I had the pleasure of meeting with Deputy Director Ed Sniffen of the state's Department of Transportation and his staff to witness the beginning of the plastic road pilot in our 'Ewa Beach community. As mentioned in its published news release-

"The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) is testing an asphalt mix with recycled plastic as part of its sustainable transportation initiatives. The plastic road pilot will take place on Fort Weaver Road between Kilaha Street and the beginning of Fort Weaver Road near Cormorant Avenue. The amount of plastic modified asphalt mix used in this pilot—1,950 tons—will keep the equivalent of 195,000 plastic bottles out of the landfill.

As part of the pilot, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Hawai'i Pacific University have been contracted to evaluate the performance of the plastic modified asphalt and the potential of the material to release microplastics into its surroundings. The evaluation period will take place over a year and a half. HDOT will share the results of the evaluation with the public and the legislature.

Fort Weaver Road between North Road and Cormorant Avenue will be paved during the pilot project. The paving began on October 11, 2022, and is expected to be complete in late July 2023, weather permitting.

Lane closure notices will be posted to <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/roadwork/>.

SAY HER NAME... Ariel
REMEMBERING HER NAME & STORY... AS A YEAR IS COMING UP, WE NEED TO CONTINUE KEEPING ARIEL'S LEGACY ALIVE... WE WILL BE BRINGING A CANDLE LIGHTING & BALLOON RELEASE
Please Join Us
WHEN: September 17th (Sat)
TIME: 5:30pm-7:30pm
Where: Waimanalo Gym
ALSO
Join The Convoy
Meet at Blake's Theater's Parking Lot Same day and time



On September 17, 2022, a candlelight vigil for Ariel Sellers was held at the Waimanalo Gym. Her family members, loved ones, and members of the Kailua community, came together with the purpose of remembering her story. Recalling this past session, HB1932 HD1 SD2 CD12 became law- Act 217, which: 1) requires the Child Welfare Services of the Department of Human Services to develop a modern case management software solution that is compatible with existing child welfare technology; 2) submitting progress reports to the Legislature and; 3) appropriates funds for the development of the modern case management software solution. Although this bill does not resolve all the issues that arose from Ariel's case, I believe it is a steppingstone to what we can prepare for next session as well as with many other potential legislations. **For more information on this legislation or reports, please visit <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.**

Candlelight Vigil for Ariel Sellers



JCHS's Football Homecoming Lunch

September 23, 2022 was Cambell High School Sabers' homecoming game against Moanalua. The team was provided lunch by David Alcos and his family with my staff supporting their efforts and our team. Mahalo to David Alcos and family as well as the non-profit organization, God Forgives Bad Boys & Bad Girls, for their encouragement. Congrats to our Campbell Sabers on their 51-15 victory and their final game scoring 49-21 against Wai'anae!





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What's Happening?

- **Oct. 27th: Town Hall Meeting**
 - Asing Community Park from 7:30 to 9:00 pm
- **Oct. 29th: Ewa Beach Lions Club Trick or Treat**
 - Ewa Beach Shopping Center at 5:00m p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 5th: Ewa Beach Lions Club Food Drive**
 - 'Ewa Beach Shopping Center's Longs Drugs from 8 to 10 am
- **Nov. 10th: Ewa Beach Neighborhood Board Meeting**
- **Daily - Spreading ALOHA to all**



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Connecting our Community

Public Safety

Police, Fire, Ambulance 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

Report Damaged Sidewalks 808-768-8159

Complaints About Public Trees 808-971-7151

Clean Stream Hotline 808-768-7890

Medicare Call Center 800-633-4227

Social Security 800-772-1213

Report Pot Holes (City) 808-768-7777

Report Pot Holes (State) 808-536-7852

City & State Departments

Education ('Ewa)
808-692-8000

Handi-Van Operations
808-456-5555

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