

Senator Kurt Fevella

SEPTEMBER 2024

Newsletter



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

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



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Aloha Family and Friends,

As we are in the month of September, we are inching closer to the end of 2024. Much has happened in our community, since our last month's newsletter. Please review the 'Important & Contacts' page, as we have provided a couple of new contacts for your convenience.

I would like to ask that we continue to be aware of our surroundings as recent events have came up in our neighboring communities. Let's spread the spirit of aloha to all!

Mahalo and God bless,

Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Teacher of the Year 2025

Kim Vertudazo, an English Language Arts teacher at the James Campbell High School, was selected as the 2024 Teacher of the Year in the Campbell-Kapolei complex area. She started in 2012 teaching the ninth grade class and to this day, has maintained her position, while fulfilling several other mentor-related roles. As our students and community have witnessed, she is dedicated to preparing our keiki for an ever-changing world and believes in strengthening the relationships among students, educators, and community/stakeholders to help move our community upwards. Congratulations and mahalo nui Mrs. Vertudazo for your commitment to our keiki!



Mrs. Kim Vertudazo is among 16 other finalists to be selected as the Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.

Both 'Employee of the Year' and 'Team of the Year' from 'Ewa Makai Middle School



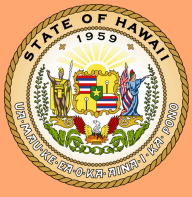
Jason Locke, the recipient of the Employee of the Year Award, standing in front of 'Ewa Makai Middle school.

Jason Locke was named Employee of the Year in the Campbell-Kapolei complex area. His work ethic exudes passion for his community through leadership, safety advocacy, service, and student support, while also keeping the spirit of aloha. Congratulations Mr. Locke on being selected for this year's Employee of the Year Award and mahalo nui for your acts of service throughout the community! Another congratulations to the office staff at 'Ewa Makai Middle for being recognized as the Team of the Year. All the best to you all as you compete against the other complexes for State Employee and Team of the Year.

'Ewa Makai Middle School Named by AMLE - 'School of Distinction'

August 14, 2024

Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) is the only international organization for middle school educators. They are dedicated to empowering teachers to help establish opportunities and create possibilities for our keiki. The honor of 'Ewa Makai Middle being one of two schools in Hawai'i to be recognized as the 'School of Distinction' this year and among seventeen schools in the nation, is profound. Congratulations to Principal Sanders and 'Ewa Makai Middle School and mahalo for exemplifying the importance of our keiki's voice and choices!



In the Community

Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center

August 7, 2024



I had the pleasure of meeting with Wren Wescott from Longroad Energy and Julie, a researcher at the site I toured- Mahi Solar project- Hawai'i's first mixed-use agrivoltaic farming site. Agrivoltaics is the installation of solar panels on farmland while agricultural activities are done under and/or between the solar panels. There are two agrivoltaic projects: Mahi Solar (Kunia, O'ahu) and Pulehu Solar (Kula, Maui). The site I toured grew asparagus, blueberries, and mamaki tea, among other crops. It was quite an experience!



Sign Waving and Press Conference Over City Towing Contract

August 9, 2024

I hosted a sign waving event and held a press conference at the Honolulu Hale to urge the City Customer Services Department to terminate its current towing contract. I have sent a letter to Mayor Rick Blangiardi and the Department of our concerns as it must be addressed: the hookup fee is \$900 and the current towing contract has a company that does not have a solid waste management permit. For a towing contract to be valid, the company must have a solid waste management permit. All Island Towing does not have a permit, as I have verified this information with the Dept. of Health and requested that the contract be immediately void as they are not eligible to continue its towing contract.



Basketball Hawaii Youth Academy 2024 Summer Fest

August 11, 2024

The Basketball Hawaii Youth Academy held its 2024 Summer Fest at the West O'ahu Veterans Center in Iroquois Point. There were many activities at the festival: arts and crafts, food, games, music, and vendors. I was excited to join and participate in our community event. A portion of the collected proceeds was given to the special needs (keiki), veterans, and basketball players' programs.

The Basketball Hawaii Youth Academy (BHYA) is a volunteer-based program with a mission to mentor and teach basketball fundamentals to keiki. The BHYA hosts basketball clinics and leagues for boys and girls, with age groups ranging from three to eighteen years old. All skill levels are welcome as there are beginner, intermediate, and advanced teams. Mahalo to the numerous of community members and parents that have donated their time and investing in our keiki! BHYA provides affordability for many of our 'ohana and also includes free clinics.

‘Ōlelo

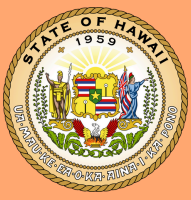
August 22, 2024



In my latest community update with my special guest, Corey Rosenlee, we spoke on the significance of community service and its impact, as well as the priority of our keiki's education. Mr. Rosenlee is a resident of 'Ewa Beach and has served our communities in the capacity of a teacher at James Campbell High School and as a former president of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association. Mahalo to Mr. Rosenlee for sharing your mana'o!

Please visit the [‘Ōlelo website](#) to see the entire listing of my segments.





Capitol Update

Governor’s Emergency Proclamation

August 7, 2024

As there has been an increase of condominium insurance throughout Hawai’i, Governor Green has released a [Proclamation Relating to Condominium Insurance Stabilization](#). This proclamation is intended to help condo renters and owners to help alleviate financial hardship. The proclamation ends on October 6, 2024. Please visit [Governor Green’s website](#) to view more proclamations.

Australian Delegation

Members of the Senate and House met with members from the Australian delegation at the State Capitol. It was interesting to converse on our local issues and solutions.



Sen. Fevella and a couple of his House colleagues with the delegates from Australia at the State Capitol.

Informational Briefing on the School Bus Route Shortages

August 15, 2024

The House committee on Education hosted an informational briefing to provide the committee and public of the updates on the state-wide school bus route shortages. Across Hawai’i, about 20% of our keiki attending DOE schools utilize buses. There is a downhill trend of the retention of our school bus drivers; as a result, routes have been discontinued. When discussion was up for discontinuing bus routes, factors such as: availability of public transit, population demographics, and school levels, were considered. Although it was mentioned that the contractors are able to cater to the students, despite limited drivers, the schools have adapted to the bus route shortages, as some schools begin at different times (7:30 and 8:15 a.m.) and positions in schools may allow the flexibility to drive school buses. Click [here](#) to watch the info-briefing on YouTube.

Informational Briefing for Act 279 Working Group

August 15, 2024

The House of Representative’s Act 279 Working Group held an informational briefing for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide an update of the funds appropriated in Act 279 (2022) and discuss any potential legislation to assist with utilizing the funds. [Updates for East Kapolei](#): Kanehili has 404 lots with 99% occupied. Ka’ulukaha’i II (K. II) has six different divisions of residential lots that has some lots occupied (K. II-B), being developed (K. II-C), some not being constructed yet, (K. II- D, E, F), and some to be designated as low density apartments (K. II- A). You may [view the meeting](#) on YouTube.

EET, CPN, & WAM Site Visit

September 4, 2024

The Senate committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism (EET), Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN), and Ways and Means (WAM) attended a site visit on Maui. The Hawaiian Electric company (HECO) provided a tour for the legislators around its infrastructure and operations. The purpose of the visit was to provide the committees



Visiting an Upcountry site that serves a remote area.

an update on how the system operators manage and oversee Lana’i, Moloka’i, and Maui. The tour included a stop near Maui Ocean Center, Lahaina Substation 34, underground infrastructure near Front Street area, and multiple visits Upcountry. The committees also had the opportunity to see the newest fire detection tools.



One of HECO’s sites in the West Maui community.



Important Dates & Contacts

'Ewa Neighborhood Board

Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

'Ewa Beach Public and School Library and online (Webex)

Visit: <https://www.honolulu.gov/nco/boards.html>



Spread ALOHA

Everyday

Saber's Homecoming Fair & Game

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Sen. Kurt Fevella's Town Hall

Wednesday, September 18 at 7 p.m.

Iroquois Point Elementary School Cafeteria

We hope to see you there!

Interim

May 6, 2024 - January 2025

Connecting our Community

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



City Dept. of Facility Maintenance
808-768-3343

Handi-Van Operations
808-456-5555

Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands
808-620-9531

Dept. of Health
808-586-4400

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

State Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations
808-586-8844



Unemployment Insurance Claims
808-762-5751

State Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
808-587-0401

Neighborhood Board Commission
808-768-3710

City Dept. of Parks & Recreation
808-768-3003

Dept. of Public Safety
808-587-1288

City Dept. of Transportation Services
808-768-3053

State Dept. of Transportation
808-587-2150