

SENATOR

**DONNA
MERCADO
KIM**

PROUDLY SERVING DISTRICT 14



KAPALAMA · 'ĀLEWA · KALIHI · KALIHI VALLEY · FT. SHAFTER · MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY · RED HILL

KALIHI-PALAMA COMMUNITY REPORT

Aloha Neighbors & Friends!

On January 15th, the thirty-third legislature convened. I am proud to serve District 14 and will continue to be a proponent of our many needs. I express my gratitude for your continued civic engagement and positive impact of individual and community initiatives on our state and government. My committee assignments will remain the same.

- Chair of Higher Education Committee
- Vice Chair of Education Committee
- Member of Ways and Means Committee
- Member of Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Committee

Mahalo,



Funds Released to Linapuni Elementary School

\$160,000 in funds have been secured for improvements to Linapuni Elementary School's communications systems. Mahalo Governor Green for releasing the funds for the construction and implementation of it

This aims to promote student safety and ensure a risk-free environment for Linapuni students. Projects like these are critical components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better Hawai'i.

Senator Kim's Bill Introduction

SB 1542 – Relating to Age Verification App Developers and App Stores

Requires app store providers to determine the age category for each of their users in the State and verify their age, provide a mechanism for parents to block minors from downloading unsuitable apps; and obtain parental consent before allowing a minor to use their app store to download and purchase apps.

SB 1544 – Relating to Wireless Communication Devices in Schools

Requires each public school to implement a policy to prohibit students from using cellular phones and other wireless communication devices during school hours, subject to exceptions for education, health, and emergencies.

SB 1545 – Relating to Nepotism

Repeals language in the State's Code of Ethics that exempts the Legislative Branch from prohibitions against nepotism in public employment.



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February 19, 2025

Community Events and Updates

Winter 2025 Community Bulletin Survey

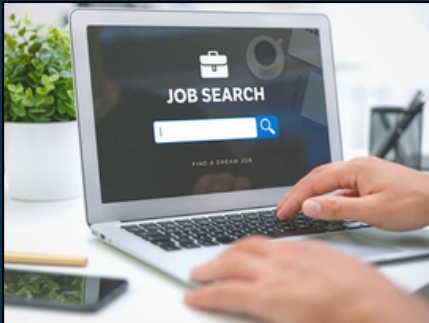
Scan the QR code
to submit your
survey online!

Thank you to those who have filled out my community bulletin survey! Your feedback on the critical issues facing our community is invaluable as I prepare for the legislative session. I review each response carefully to ensure that your perspectives help shape the approach I take in addressing the needs of our community. If you have not filled out the survey yet, you can do so by scanning the QR code.

The survey results will be reported in my Spring/Summer edition of the community bulletin. This will provide insight into how others in the community feel about certain issues. Should you have any additional feedback, feel free to contact my staff or me at our office at (808) 587-7200.



Work Hawai'i at Your Library



When: February 14 at 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Where: Kalihi-Palama Public Library

Contact: 808 832-3466

Need assistance with your resume, computer skills and/or job search? Visit the library to meet with a representative from WorkHawai'i who will help answer your questions and more. Receive one-on-one job placement assistance and informational resources about WorkHawai'i programs.

Keiki Storytime

When: February 25 at 9:15 am – 10:30 am

Where: Kalihi-Palama Public Library

Contact: 808 832-3466

Join your local library for keiki storytime. Keiki will enjoy a few stories, rhymes or songs, and do a craft or creative activity. Materials will be provided. Program is best suited for children ages 3 – 5 years old, but families are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver.



Support your local library



Over the past year, I've used my community report to highlight and promote local library events. As a legislator with a strong focus on education, I recognize that libraries provide essential resources for both students and the broader community.

Libraries are much more than just a place for books; they are vibrant hubs for community engagement. From hosting bonsai shows to offering space for meetup groups, libraries foster connections and bring people together in meaningful ways.

February 19, 2025