

SENATOR  
DONNA  
MERCADO  
KIM



PROUDLY SERVING  
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY  
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!

Thirty-First Legislature

The beginning of this new year has been markedly tumultuous. With this year's legislative session quickly approaching, the wellbeing of our community is at the forefront of my mind. COVID-19 has proved it is not going anywhere anytime soon and as new variants develop, such as the omicron variant, our healthcare providers are being pushed to their limit. In addition to the pandemic, I have been diligently following the developments surrounding the fuel leak at the Red Hill Storage Tank Facility. Over the years I have advocated for the regulation of these tanks and these recent events reaffirm the need for this facility to be decommissioned.

Other legislative matters that I will be attending to this session include the state of higher education in Hawaii as the Chair of the Committee on Higher Education. As the Vice Chair of the Committee on Education, I will be ensuring the quality of our state's public schools. I will also be participating as a member of the Judiciary Committee in matters of the judicial branch of our government.

I understand what a difficult and trying few years it has been for all of us. Nonetheless, I am committed to continuing to push forward in addressing the issues that have plagued us. My hope is that as a community we may forfeit our differences and come together so that we come out on the other side of this stronger than before.

I encourage and appreciate the feedback I have received from you, my constituents, on issues affecting our district and value your input going forward I would like to express my gratitude for your trust in me to represent our district and advocate for its wellbeing. While the Capitol still remains closed to the public until further notice, my staff and I are here in office working on these issues. Feel free to contact us at 587-7200. I invite you to participate in the legislative process through virtual means. Your testimony and calls to action are very much welcome and fuel the democratic process. My staff and I will try our best to relay any updates or resources that may be of use for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Mercado Kim".

JANUARY 2022

## Leak at the Red Hill Fuel Facility

New developments continue to surface every day concerning the state of the fuel leak at Red Hill Storage Tank Facility. Last month, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) received numerous complaints from consumers of the Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor -Hickam (JBPHH) water system. The Navy has since shutdown operations at the fuel facility, but has yet to comply with the DOH's emergency order to safely defuel the tanks.

On January 6, Senator Kim participated in an in-depth tour of the Red Hill Fuel Facility, her second visit to the facility, along with other state and city lawmakers. After the tour, Senator Kim issued the following joint statement with Representative Aaron Ling Johanson and Honolulu City Councilmember Carol Fukunaga,

"We appreciated touring the facility to see what happened firsthand. However, we still have many concerns, particularly regarding the facility's aging infrastructure and the Navy's ability to prevent future spills.

As area legislators, we strongly support the decommissioning of the fuel tanks and urge the Navy to comply with Department of Health's emergency order to empty the Red Hill fuel tanks. The safety and well-being of our constituents is paramount and we'll continue to work closely with our Congressional delegation to hold responsible parties accountable."

The Hawaii Board of Water Supply (BWS) has been pushing for years for the defueling and decommissioning of the fuel tanks. The tanks' position of merely 100 feet above the Oahu's only aquifer poses a serious threat to the island's water security. Over the years, numerous fuel spills have shown that the Navy is incapable of managing the fuel tanks in such a way that does not cause any environmental harm.



## COVID-19

### New variants and restrictions

Amidst record breaking case counts on Oahu, Mayor Rick Blangiardi has announced the reinstatement of restrictions for large indoor events. The new restrictions that go into effect on Monday January 10, 2022 limit events with over 1,000 persons to 50% capacity.

The surge in COVID-19 cases can be attributed to a new variant of the infection known as Omnicron. As the Omnicron variant is more volatile than previous variants, such as delta. It spreads much more easily. However, healthcare professionals report that Omnicron results in fewer hospitalizations.

Experts have stressed the importance of receiving a booster shot in strengthening immunity to variants such as Omnicron.

## CAPITOL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Unfortunately, the Capitol remains closed to the public in an effort to protect the health and safety of our community. However, I strongly urge you to participate in the legislative process through virtual means.

*To submit testimony go to:*

[Capitol.hawaii.gov](https://capitol.hawaii.gov)

*To view hearings go to:*

[Youtube.com/c/HawaiiSenate](https://www.youtube.com/c/HawaiiSenate)



## UH Football Program WAM-HRE Informational Briefing

On Friday, January 7, 2022 the Ways and Means Committee and Committee on Higher Education held a joint informational hearing concerning University of Hawaii's athletic program, in particular the football program. Over the last few months, several UH Football players have announced their intention to leave UH and transfer to other universities with some citing mental health issues and abuse from head coach Todd Graham. The Committee on Higher Education working jointly with the Way and Means Committee felt compelled to hold a briefing after receiving numerous calls and emails from student athletes and their parents whose complaints have gone unresolved by UH, in order to allow these individuals to voice their concerns. President of UH, David Lassner, appeared in person at the hearing, while the Chair of the Board of Regents Randolph Moore, Athletic Director David Matlin, and Coach Graham attended via Zoom. Senator Kim and other committee members raised concerns about the mental health of UH athletes following public testimony describing a toxic environment in the UH Football program and accusations of mistreatment against Coach Graham. On a broader level, they discussed how the image of the university and the future of UH athletics is in jeopardy because of the publicity such allegations have garnered. UH denied these allegations and claimed they have done everything they could to address the issue which conflicts with the testimonies presented. President Lassner dismissed the over hour and half's worth of public testimony as one-sided. Following the hearing Senator Kim shared, "You know I thought it was sad," she continued, "And I actually thought it was shameful in the sense that they were more concerned that we were cherry picking instead of wanting to sincerely address the claims made by the students." Senator Kim felt, "They missed the point. The point is missed that these students need to be heard, somebody needs to stand up for them." In light of UH's commitment to mental health, Senator Kim felt that they should be looking into each and every claim as well as meeting with the student athletes and parents that have voiced their concerns. Beyond the coaching staff, the senators pressed the Board of Regents Chair on addressing these issues immediately and consider a possible need for systemic change within the UH Athletics Department if the public testimony is found to be credible.



*UH President David Lassner was the only UH representative to attend the briefing in person.*

To view the hearing and future hearing visit [youtube.com/c/HawaiiSenate](https://youtube.com/c/HawaiiSenate)

## Funds released for District 14

Name: Interstate Route H-3, Tunnel Improvements, Oahu

Amount Released: \$8 million

Description: To finance design and construction for tunnel improvements on the Interstate Route H-3 on Oahu.



## COVID VACCINATION NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 14 & SURROUNDING AREAS

(As of Monday January 10, 2022)

ZIP	TOTAL POPULATION	TOAL # INITIATED (1st SHOT)	TOTAL % INITIATED	TOTAL # COMPLETED	TOTAL % COMPLETED	ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE UN-VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS
96701	40,857	30,464	75%	28,363	69%	7,839
96782	38,000	27,280	73%	25,377	67%	8,345
96813	25,446	27,334	107%	25,022	98%	**
96817	56,144	47,798	85%	44,559	79%	4,837
*96818						
96819	53,083	46,439	87%	42,912	81%	3,329

The total population does not include military.

The Estimated Eligible Unvaccinated Individuals is based on 93.75% of the population. The 93.75% determination is an assumption to enable the calculation and is not necessarily a true percentage.

\*For 96813, because of the assumption of 93.75% being eligible, there is no estimated eligible unvaccinated individuals. Since the total amount of individuals vaccinated is higher than the 93.75% estimation, that number ends up being negative.

\*For 96818, DOH doesn't actually have a breakdown for this zip. Since the population is high military and they don't get data from the DOD, the available data doesn't allow for reliable projection.

## FREE VACCINATION SITES

LOCATION	ADDRESS	DATE/TIME	INFORMATION
Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services	2239 N School St	Call to schedule	Call 808-791-9489 for more information
CVS Longs Pharmacy Locations	850 Kamehameha Hwy 2070 N King St	Check website for available times	Visit <a href="https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine">cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine</a> for more information or to schedule an appointment
Times Pharmacy Kamehameha	1620 N School St	Check website for available times	Visit <a href="https://www.timespharmacyhawaii.com/covidvaccine">timespharmacyhawaii.com/covidvaccine</a> for more information or to schedule an appointment
Walgreens Pharmacy-Liliha	1520 Liliha St	Check website for available times	Visit <a href="https://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy/schedule-appointment.jsp#/location">walgreens.com/pharmacy/schedule-appointment.jsp#/location</a> for more information or to schedule an appointment
Neil Blaisdell Pikake Room	777 Ward Ave	Every day 7:30am - 6:30pm except Tuesdays	Visit <a href="https://www.covid.queens.org/vaccination">covid.queens.org/vaccination</a> or call 808-691-2222 for more information or to schedule an appointment

## FREE COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS

LOCATION	ADDRESS	DRIVE OR WALK-UP	INFORMATION
Airport	Past Baggage Claim 31	Walk-up: Daily 9am - 5pm	Pre-register at <a href="https://oahucitypass.lumisight.com/signup">oahucitypass.lumisight.com/signup</a>
Aloha Stadium	99-500 Salt Lake Blvd	Walk-up: Tues - Thurs 12am - 2pm  Sun 10am - 4pm	Schedule appointment at <a href="https://home.color.com/covid/sign-up/eligibility">home.color.com/covid/sign-up/eligibility</a>
Neal Blaisdell Arena Parking Lot, off of Kapiolani Blvd	777 Ward Ave	Drive-up: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm	Schedule appointment at <a href="https://testing.nomihealth.com/easy_registration/172/onsite">testing.nomihealth.com/easy_registration/172/onsite</a>
Waikiki Shell	2805 Monsarrat Ave	Walk-up: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm	Schedule appointment at <a href="https://testing.nomihealth.com/easy_registration/172/onsite">testing.nomihealth.com/easy_registration/172/onsite</a>
Walgreens	1520 N School St	Check website for availability	Visit <a href="https://walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing">walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing</a> to schedule an appointment
Diagnostic Laboratory Services	99-859 Iwaiwa St	Check website for availability	Visit <a href="https://appointment.dlslab.com">appointment.dlslab.com</a> to schedule an appointment

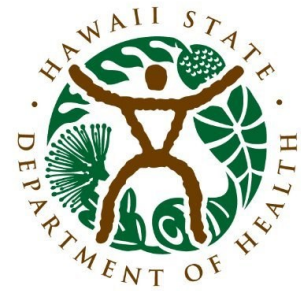
# USEFUL COVID-19 WEBSITES

## COVID-19 STATE OF HAWAII PORTAL

***health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019***

State DOH website updated daily

- \* Case counts
- \* Vaccine numbers
- \* Cases by residence status and travel history
- \* Cases and deaths broken down by race, age, gender, underlying health conditions
- \* Cluster reports
- \* Long-term care facilities with reported cases



## SAFE TRAVELS PROGRAM

***hawaiicovid19.com***

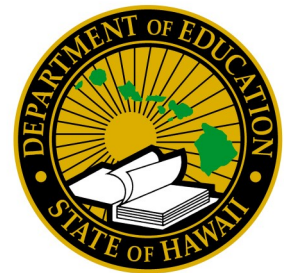
- \* Pre-travel testing program
- \* Travel.hawaii.gov - upload mandatory travel and health forms, proof of vaccination



## DEPT. OF EDUCATION COVID-19

***hawaiipublicschools.org***

- \* Case counts broken down by each school



## HiEMA COVID-19

***hiema-hub.hawaii.gov***

- \* Hospitalization numbers
- \* ICU beds and ventilators
- \* Economic trends - unemployment rates, recovery forecast, visitor stats, local business guidance

