

# SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING  
DISTRICT 14

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



## NAVY RELEASES INFORMATION AND VIDEO OF THE AFFF SPILL AT RED HILL

After months of pushing and insisting on the release of the AFFF spill investigation and the videos to the public, JTF-RH has finally made it publicly available on May 5th, during their livestream press conference. Rewatch this press conference here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/31871>

Access the AFFF investigative findings here:  
<https://www.pacom.mil/.../AFFF%20Investigation...>

Watch the (2) AFFF release videos here:  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/.../key-events-red-hill-bfsf...>  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/.../red-hill-bfsf-afff-incident...>



As Sen. Kim suspected, the incident was absolutely preventable and due to the Navy's procedural shortcomings and lack of quality assurance. Since the spill, the Navy has been reevaluating their quality assurance protocols but unfortunately it did not happen soon enough. Stricter safeguards and more assertive oversight by the Navy to reduce the risk of this type of mishap is critical, and something Sen. Kim resolved to press for. Sen. Kim who meets regularly as a member of the JTF-RH Defueling Information Sharing Forum will be attending another meeting this month.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION - ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*

The 32nd Hawaii State Legislature adjourned on May 4, 2023. The State Budget (HB 300), which Sen. Kim voted for, was passed and transmitted to the Governor's office for his approval. One of the more significant items in the budget is the Tax Credit measure, HB 954 HD2 SD2 CD1, which passed. It increases for five years Hawaii's earned income tax credit, food/excise tax credit and household and dependent care services tax credit.



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**SCR 92** relating to feral chickens was adopted in final form on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The resolution that was introduced by Sen. Kim, urges the Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Health, and the City and County of Honolulu to establish and implement a five-year pilot program designed to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs. \$5 Million is budgeted for the program that could include free traps to capture the feral animals. The areas to be focused on are: Kalihi, Moanalua, Kalaeloa, and Kapolei.



## Apple Maps Updates Navigation for Dillingham Boulevard and Kamehameha Highway



The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) announced today that Apple Maps is now updated to reflect the current traffic conditions throughout HART's construction area along Dillingham Blvd and Kamehameha Hwy. The often-used app now navigates users safely to their destination in compliance with all current traffic condition, including current left turn restrictions. Google Maps updated its app in April 2023.

One traffic lane will be open in each direction on Kamehameha Hwy and Dillingham Blvd, from Middle St to Kaahi St, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Left turns from Kamehameha Hwy, Dillingham Blvd and from driveways are restricted, except for the westbound left turn onto Alakawa St and the westbound left turn onto Kaahi St. Left hand turns onto Dillingham can only be made at signalized intersections.

Alternating intersections in the mauka and makai direction will be closed intermittently during weeknights from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

## New Contract Approved by 92% of Public School Teachers

The new four-year contract deal includes \$577 million for pay increases of approximately 14.5 percent over the term of the contract, including a 32 percent increase for new entry-level hires. It also added a new pay class for veteran educators who have been stuck at the top level of the pay scale, some for more than a decade.

Hawaii State Teacher's Association (HSTA) represents approximately 13,500 public school teachers statewide.

DOE Superintendent Keith Hayashi said, "This helps elevate the teaching profession across the pipeline, from beginning teachers to veteran teachers to non-traditional teachers, while supporting their professional growth."



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