



Senator Joy San Buenaventura

Senate District 2, Puna

Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services • Vice Chair, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
• Committee on Government Affairs • Committee on the Judiciary

@sensanbuenaventura

October 2025 E-Newsletter

OCTOBER 26TH TOWNHALL

Aloha:

On October 26th Representative Chris Todd, Representative Gregor Ilagan, and I will be hosting a Townhall featuring Hawaii Department of Transportation Director Ed Sniffen. Director Sniffen will provide updates on Highway 130 projects and answer Highway related questions from the audience. If you require an ASL interpreter, please contact my office (j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov) by Friday October 17th so arrangements can be made.

Townhall Meeting with Sen. San Buenaventura

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 26th, 2025

Pahoa Neighborhood facility

15-2910 Kauhale St., Pahoa , HI 96778

I recently sent out a printed newsletter containing highlights of the recent legislative session. If you reside in the district but did not receive a mailer, please contact: j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov and we will send an electronic copy (PDF) to your email. Likewise, if you are currently subscribed to my e-newsletter and would like to help us reduce paper waste, please send us your name, mailing address, and a short note confirming that you would like to opt out of the print newsletters.

Joy San Buenaventura

TOWN HALL MEETING SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA

SUNDAY, OCT. 26TH, 2025

1:00PM - 3:00PM

PAHOA NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY

15-2910 KAUHALE ST., PAHOA, HI 96778

**UPDATE ON HIGHWAY 130 PROJECTS
FROM DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DIRECTOR ED SNIFFEN**



**SENATOR
JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA**



**REPRESENTATIVE
CHRIS TODD**



**REPRESENTATIVE
GREGOR ILAGAN**

IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE (I.E., ASL INTERPRETER), PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE
J.HONDA@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 17TH SO ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.





At annual Sayre Foundation dinner with (from right to left) Laura Sayre, LG Sylvia Luke, Miss Kona Coffee, Miss Aloha Hawaii and County councilman Matt Kanealii-Kleinfelder's daughter (Miss International Hawaii) , he and his wife. Thankful to Dr. Frank and Laura Sayre for raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to honor Hawaii County Firefighters and ensure that they have the equipment needed for their rescues.



With Rep. Wilson from Arizona and Rep. Liz Thomson from New Mexico. Both of whom represent states that have passed shield laws for obstetricians and have similarly improved maternal care compared to other states.



With Dr. Hatch- Pigott. Dr. Hatch-Pigott is hopeful with proposed bills introduced last session by Malama Ohana Working Group, including the trauma-informed care/training proposed by Office of Wellness and Resiliency - which I have been working on off-session to get funding.



I recently helped with the Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Group's awareness rally at the state capitol. In 2023, I introduced SB318, relating to FASD. Individuals who are prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop lifelong physical, developmental, behavioral, and intellectual conditions, which are diagnosed as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). While individuals with FASDs share many of the same behavioral characteristics and related mental health diagnoses as those with autism spectrum disorders, individuals with FASDs face unique challenges. SB318 established a pilot program to determine the feasibility of implementing a co-management system of care to support individuals with FASDs.

The state of Hawai‘i will soon submit a proposal for funding under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), a \$50 billion competitive federal grant opportunity aimed at improving healthcare access and outcomes in rural communities nationwide.

HAWAII'S RURAL HEALTH *TRANSFORMATION* PLAN

Residents are invited to collaborate by sharing information on community health needs and ideas for potential projects, as well as to submit comments through the state's public engagement hub at Engage.Hawaii.gov/RHTP. The public is encouraged to provide comments by October 20.



HIGHWAY 137, UPPER & LOWER POHOIKI INFORMATIONAL MONTHLY MEETING



3rd Friday of the month

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 18



12:00 PM



QR
ZOOM LINK

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsf--sqDkrEqmOQCWdi0H4OOiUG87-w5k>



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
SHERISE KANA'E-KANE, 808-961-8499**



Hawaiian
Electric

Financial Assistance Options



STATEWIDE

HAWAII HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (H-HEAP)

Energy Crisis Intervention

Assists households in crisis who will be disconnected.

- Applications accepted year-round
- Maximum \$650 in assistance per household



Energy Credit

Assists households not in crisis, but who need assistance.

- Applications accepted June 1-30
- Payment amounts vary



To apply please contact an office near your location:

O'AHU

(Honolulu Community Action
Program - HCAP)

Central: (808) 488-6834

Kalihi-Palama: (808) 847-0804

Lē'ahi: (808) 732-7755

Leeward: (808) 696-4261

Windward: (808) 239-5754

hcapweb.org

MAUI COUNTY

(Maui Economic
Opportunity - MEO)

MEO Maui: (808) 249-2970

Hāna: (808) 248-8282

Mōloka'i: (808) 553-3216

Lāna'i: (808) 565-6665

meoinc.org

HAWAII ISLAND

(Hawai'i County Economic
Opportunity Council - HCEOC)

Hilo Community Services:

(808) 731-7009 option 1

hceoc.net

HAWAII ISLAND

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I**State Homeless Emergency Grants Program:**

For households at-risk of homelessness or homeless transitioning to housing

- ◆ Household income at or below 50% Area Median Income*
- ◆ Open and accepting applications

 **To apply, call (808) 521-4357**



[catholiccharitieshawaii.org/
housing-assistance/](http://catholiccharitieshawaii.org/housing-assistance/)

State Homeless Prevention Program:

For families and individuals seeking rent and utility assistance

- ◆ Open and accepting applications

 **To apply, call (808) 961-7050**



[catholiccharitieshawaii.org/
housing-assistance/](http://catholiccharitieshawaii.org/housing-assistance/)

* Please reference Area Median Income Limits and Federal Poverty Levels on page 7

We're Here For You

Hawaiian Electric offers support to customers who may be experiencing financial hardship. Please visit

hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement

to learn more about our payment arrangement options.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**HOPE SERVICES HAWAI'I**

- ◆ Utility assistance is available when a household faces eviction and is in arrears
- ◆ Utility assistance is available when Section 8 households have utility arrears and face losing their voucher due to non-compliance
- ◆ Currently open and accepting applications

 **To apply, call (808) 935-3050**



[hopeserviceshawaii.org/
services/housing/](http://hopeserviceshawaii.org/services/housing/)



STATEWIDE

COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT**DHHL Wildfire Rent and Utility Assistance Program**

Rent and utility relief is available for DHHL lessees, undivided interest lessees, and applicants on the DHHL waitlist.

- ◆ Applicants must prove direct or indirect impact due to the wildfires in either Lahaina, North or South Kohala.
- ◆ Applicant households must NOT be receiving other subsidies (i.e., state-funded rental assistance, AUW, American Red Cross, FEMA rental coverage, Section 8, etc.) or insurance proceeds provided to such household that has been received or is available to pay costs intended to charge the NHHBG grant.
- ◆ Household income at or below 80% Area Median Income* for renters and undivided interest lessees; at or below 120% Area Median Income* for DHHL lessees.
- ◆ Assistance may be directed toward the following:
 - Security deposit
 - Rent (up to 6 months)
 - Utilities and home energy costs
 - Trash removal
 - Solar energy costs



To apply, call (808) 596-8155

OR email



wildfire@hawaiiancouncil.org



[hawaiiancouncil.org/
helpmaui/dhhlwildfire/](http://hawaiiancouncil.org/helpmaui/dhhlwildfire/)

**Kūpuna Rental Subsidy Program**

Rental subsidies are available for eligible kūpuna (62 years or older) on the DHHL waitlist.

- ◆ Recipients will pay up to 30% of their total household income toward their rent, and program will cover remainder of rent
- ◆ Household income at or below 80% Area Median Income*
- ◆ Household must not be receiving Section 8 or any other type of rental subsidy.



To apply, call (808) 596-8155

OR email



dhhl@hawaiiancouncil.org



hawaiiancouncil.org/kupuna/

* Please reference Area Median Income Limits and Federal Poverty Levels on page 7

GRADUATING IN '26?



COCA-COLA
SCHOLARS
FOUNDATION

Apply by 9/30 for a
\$20,000
scholarship!



Do you make a positive impact in your school and community through your leadership and service?

The 2026 application is open **August 1 to September 30, 2025**, for high school seniors for a **\$20,000 scholarship** from the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation!**

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

full details available in the online application

Applicants must be:

- Graduating high school in the 2025-2026 academic year
- Enrolled at a school in the 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., or select DoD schools
- Eligible for federal financial aid
- Going to college in the U.S.

Applicants may not be:

- Children or grandchildren of current or former employees of the Coca-Cola system
- Graduating high school outside of the 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., or select DoD schools
- High school graduates
- Temporary U.S. Residents



COCA-COLA
SCHOLARS
FOUNDATION

Questions?
Email us at
scholars@coca-cola.com

LEARN MORE AT www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org

Senate District 2 Student Success Updates

Taylor Tanaka 2024-2025 Spring President's List, Oregon Institute of Technology

Raine Onodera 2024-2025 Spring President's List, Oregon Institute of Technology

Natasha Salvador 2025 Spring Dean's List for Academic Excellence, Biola University

The Hawaii State Senate congratulates and commemorates Taylor, Raine, and Natasha for their wonderful achievements and wishes them continued success in all future endeavors.

Legislative Reference Bureau: Public Access Room

The Public Access Room (PAR) provides the public with information, facilities, and services to assist them as they engage and participate in the State legislative process. PAR's website includes guides on how to track measures, submit testimony, and subscribe to hearing notices.

To learn more, please visit: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>