



Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett 2026 Summer Newsletter

Proudly serving District 22 (Mānoa/Tantalus/McCully-Mō'ili'ili)

Aloha!

As I reflect on the work of the 2026 Legislature, I am proud of the progress we made for working families, students, and our local communities during a time of continued uncertainty nationally and globally.

One of our most important accomplishments this session was preserving the historic tax cuts passed in 2024 for Hawai'i's working families. With the high cost of living continuing to strain households across our state, protecting this relief remained a top priority. We also took tangible steps to protect immigrant rights, reduce the influence of dark money in politics, and uphold Hawai'i's values of fairness, due process, and civil liberties.

As Chair of the House Higher Education Committee, I was proud to advance measures expanding access to the Hawai'i Promise Program and improving transparency around graduate outcomes so students and families can make more informed decisions about career pathways.

At the same time, challenges remain ahead. The Kona lows in March impacted our community and others across the state, while policy proposals coming out of Washington, D.C. could significantly affect Hawai'i's economy, immigrant communities, education system, and social safety net. We will continue monitoring developments closely and stand ready to respond thoughtfully to changes that affect our state.

While no legislative session is perfect, I believe we made important strides toward building a more affordable, equitable, and resilient Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the continued trust and privilege of serving as your state representative. As always, my office remains here to assist you.



(Top) This session also marked the close of an era as we bid mahalo and farewell to Representative Della Au Belatti after 20 years of dedicated public service. While she represented Makiki and Tantalus with distinction, her roots are here in Mānoa, where she grew up and attended Maryknoll School.

(Bottom) Just hours after adjournment on Friday, I caught a redeye flight to support the Rainbow Warriors in the NCAA Men's Volleyball National Championship – and watched the 'Bows bring home another title. It was a fitting reminder of the pride and resilience that unite our Hawai'i community. Go 'Bows!

2026 Bill Updates

The Legislature passed 268 bills this session, most of which are now pending a decision by the governor. He has until July 15 to decide whether to sign these into law, veto, or let become law without his signature.

SB3125: Tax Reform and Tax Credit Adjustments

Description: Makes various amendments to Hawai'i's income tax laws beginning in tax year 2027, including changes to income tax brackets and rates, while also modifying or phasing out several tax credits.

Position/Rationale: **SUPPORT.** This bill preserves the historic tax relief enacted for working families while helping ensure the long-term sustainability of the state budget. The bill also refocuses and places guardrails on certain tax credit programs to improve accountability and better align incentives with the state's fiscal priorities.

HB2021: E-bike Regulation

Description: Establishes new safety and operational requirements for electric bicycles and electric micro-mobility devices, including helmet requirements for riders under 18.

Position/Rationale: **SUPPORT.** As e-bikes and other electric mobility devices become increasingly popular, Hawai'i must adopt common-sense safety standards that protect riders, pedestrians, and drivers alike. This measure helps clarify the rules of the road while promoting safer and more responsible use of these emerging transportation options.

SB2175: Ban on Disposable E-Smoking Devices

Description: Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of disposable electronic smoking devices in Hawai'i beginning January 1, 2027.

Position/Rationale: **SUPPORT.** Disposable vaping products have contributed to increased youth nicotine use while also creating unnecessary environmental waste. This measure takes a responsible step toward protecting public health, reducing underage access to vaping products, and addressing the growing environmental impacts of disposable e-cigarette devices.

HB2592: Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) Transition Amendments

Description: Extends deadlines related to the transition of management authority over Mauna Kea lands to MKSOA and authorizes certain lease extensions.

Position/Rationale: **OPPOSE.** I remain a strong supporter of astronomy and the role Mauna Kea plays in research, education, and Hawai'i's economy. Continued delays to the transition process risk creating further uncertainty. We must provide clearer long-term stability for astronomy while respecting Native Hawaiian rights and stewardship responsibilities.

SB2471: Corporate Spending in Elections

Description: Prohibits corporations and other artificial persons created under state law from spending funds on election activities or ballot-issue campaigns.

Position/Rationale: **SUPPORT.** This measure seeks to reduce the influence of dark money in politics and strengthen public trust in our democratic process. It aims to rein in corporate spending in elections, promote greater accountability, transparency, and fairness in our political system. (Signed as Act 11)

HB1888: Protections for Educational Workers and Sports Officials

Description: Strengthens protections by increasing penalties for harassment and authorizing additional legal protections in certain cases.

Position/Rationale: **SUPPORT.** Teachers, school staff, and sports officials deserve a safe environment free from harassment and intimidation while performing their duties. As a sports official myself, I understand firsthand the importance of maintaining respect and safety at school athletic events.

Investing in the organizations that strengthen our community

One of the most rewarding parts of serving District 22 is advocating for nonprofits that make a difference in the lives of our residents.

This session, I was proud to help secure Grant-in-Aid funding for these organizations providing critical services, preserving culture, and building stronger communities:

Hawaiian Humane Society — \$450,000
Mō'ili'ili Community Center — \$300,000
Mānoa Heritage Center — \$200,000
Japanese Cultural Center — \$35,000



Rep. Garrett in the Community



- Clockwise from Top Left**
1. Appearing on PBS Insights to discuss UH athletics
 2. Joining ULS students during Education Week
 3. Honoring Paige K. of Hawaii Youth Symphony during Art at the Capitol event
 4. Enjoying Noelani Elementary School May Fair with former Mānoa Senator Brian Taniguchi
 5. Joining Mānoa ES Students at Tigers Den event
 6. Recognizing former UH President David Lassner for 47 years of service to UH
 7. Celebrating Earth Day with Mō'ilī'ili Community Park clean-up with Councilmember Scott Nishimoto and Mō'ilī'ili NB Chair Morgan Lee
 8. Joining UH student-athletes during Unity Prom event for special needs high school students



We'd love to hear from you! Please call (808) 586-8475 or email us at repgarrett@capitol.hawaii.gov. For those of you on social media, follow us on Instagram @repgarrett for frequent updates!



Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Room 323
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ph: (808) 586-8475

Email: repgarrett@capitol.hawaii.gov

Instagram: @repgarrett

Join us for a Town Hall on Emergency Preparedness



*Assisting with flood clean-up at
Noelani Elementary School*

While North Shore communities received significant attention during the March Kona Low storms, our own neighborhoods also experienced serious flooding impacts — from homes along Mānoa Stream to elementary schools like Noelani and Hokulani.

Please join me, Councilmember Scott Nishimoto and Senator Carol Fukunaga for our next community town hall to hear from government officials, emergency responders, and community leaders about lessons learned from these storms, how residents can better prepare for future weather events, and ongoing efforts to build more resilient communities across our district.

Wednesday, June 17th, 2026
Noelani Elementary School
6pm to 7:30pm