

Malaki (March) 2025

HOUSE DISTRICT 44 NEWSLETTER



State Representative

Darius K. Kila

House District 44

Mā'ili, Nānākuli, Ko'Olina, and
Honokai Hale

House Committees

Transportation (Chair)

Housing (Member)

Higher Education (Member)
Education (Member)


ACT279 Working Group (Member)

O'ahu Metropolitan Planning
Organization (Chair)

Hawai'i Interagency Council on
Homelessness (Member)



Connect With Me!

 @darius.kila

Greetings and Aloha, District 44!

Aloha, House District 44! We're deep into the legislative session, and things are moving fast. We just hit crossover—the point where bills move from one chamber to the other for consideration. I'm excited to share that 12 of my bills have crossed over to the Senate, the most I've had in the last two years! One of them, HB958, is the House's position on e-bike regulations. It's the only bill that has full support from the Judiciary, Honolulu Police Department, and other county agencies because it gives them what they need to enforce the law and keep our roads and sidewalks safe for everyone. I'll keep pushing forward, working hard for our community, and doing my best to represent you at the legislature. Mahalo for your support, it's an honor to serve you!
Mahalo nui loa,

Representative Darius K. Kila,

House District 44, Mā'ili, Nānākuli, Ko'Olina, and Honokai Hale

HB300 HD1 - Passes in the State House



The House passed HB300 HD1, a budget that makes key investments in critical areas across our state. Now, the Senate will take up the budget, reviewing our priorities and determining what to adjust before the final version is passed.

Key Investments

- \$408M for Affordable Housing - Infrastructure and financing to move projects forward
- \$480M for Schools - Repairs, safety upgrades, and support for military-serving schools
- \$116M for Healthcare - Strengthening hospitals, mental health care, and emergency services
- \$60M for Land & Natural Resources - Watershed protection, rockfall mitigation, and harbor improvements
- \$1.5B for Highways - Plus major funding for airports and harbors
- \$333M for the UH System - Student housing, community colleges, and facility improvements

Operating Budget Investments

- Education - \$20.9M for summer school, \$5.9M for athletics, and \$10M for skilled nursing services in schools
- Public Safety - \$5M for DOE's Safer Watch Program, \$4M for school security, and funding for law enforcement initiatives
- Healthcare - \$15M for the Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program, \$80M for hospital system improvements
- Homelessness & Housing - \$3.75M for Housing First, \$3.75M for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.5M for Family Assessment Centers in Wai'anae and Puna
- Transportation & Infrastructure - \$70M+ for airport maintenance, \$50M for Safe Routes to School, and
- \$15M for wildfire mitigation along highways
- Government Modernization - \$35M for a new Enterprise Financial System and \$10M for Benefits Eligibility



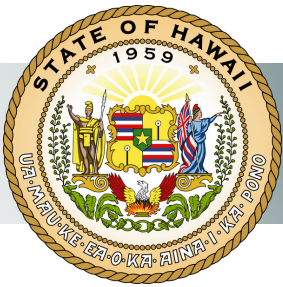
Another 'Aina Ho'opulapula Mele & Hula Conference in the books! Being surrounded by our community, mele, and culture right in our own backyard, was incredible!

Hosted By: Ho'oulu 'Ike Center for Hula and Mele



Adult Friends for Youth spent the day at the Legislature with Representative Kila and Representative Muraoka. They toured the Hawai'i State Capitol, hosted them for lunch, and introduced them during the day's floor session.

The budget now moves to the Senate, where they'll review our priorities, make adjustments, and finalize the funding plan. This process ensures we're making responsible investments that reflect the needs of our communities. I'll continue to track this closely and work to keep these critical funding commitments in place.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Safety Reminders

HECO RESPONSE TO: Nanakuli Outage 3/6/2025:

Construction work began on February 18, 2025, and due to the complexity of the tasks involved, we anticipate that it will take approximately 5 to 8 weeks to complete. Our contractor is currently trenching and digging on Mohihi Street. This process is taking a bit longer than planned due to encountering coral and the presence of dogs running on the street, which has interrupted their work. Additionally, our Vegetation Management team has commenced trimming on the circuit, which will help minimize faults related to overhead lines.

Emergency Contact Information:

Hawaiian Electric

O'ahu: 1-855-304-1212

Non-Emergency Contact Information:

- **Hawaiian Electric**
 - For vegetation concerns or questions regarding tree trimming and inspection, please contact:
 - O'ahu: 808-543-7836
 - Or visit: [Hawaiian Electric Tree Trimming Safety](#)



Touch-A-Truck at Kapolei Commons! Toyota Hawai'i and Hawai'i State Toyota Offroad at the 10th annual Touch a Truck event. As Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, I was glad to see different modes of transportation on display and witness young people excited about future careers in the field. I also had the chance to connect with community members and chat with the hardworking members of IBEW1260, who keep Hawai'i powered every day. I also had the opportunity to connect with Kiran Polk of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce to discuss upcoming opportunities for our local Westside businesses as Kapolei continues to grow.

COMMUNITY SURVEY ON LEGISLATIVE TOPICS



*Please note that this survey is fairly detailed, as it includes background information for context. Feel free to take your time and participate at your own pace, you can always return later to complete it when it's convenient for you.

My office is seeking your community input and perspectives on two key issues:

- ☒ **Online Sports Betting in Hawai'i**
- ☒ **Red-Light Traffic Safety Camera Program**

Your responses are valuable and contribute to understanding the wide array of opinions within our community. Thank you for participating and sharing your viewpoints.



Scan the QR code to
take the survey or visit:

<https://bit.ly/3QLydz3>



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HB958 HD2 – Our omnibus House bill cracking down on the rampant misuse of e-bikes across the state. It requires all motor-equipped bicycles to stay on the ground at all times, bans certain reckless actions, and prohibits high-speed electric devices on public roads. Manufacturers and distributors will need to label electric bicycles and post signs at points of sale. The bill also sets clear restrictions: no one under 16 can operate a Class 3 e-bike, they can't be ridden on sidewalks, and anyone under 18 must wear a helmet when riding a bike or electric foot scooter. On top of that, we're repealing the outdated requirement for mopeds to use bike lanes.

HB664 HD1 – This bill creates the Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the Department of Law Enforcement to take the lead on reducing gun violence in Hawai'i. The office will handle public education, fund community-based intervention programs, and research trends to propose policies. A governor-appointed director will run the office, advising state and county agencies on how to tackle this issue. Most importantly, the office will focus on culturally relevant outreach, ensuring communities have access to firearm safety education, lost or stolen gun reporting, protective orders, and mental health and substance use resources. It'll also invest in community-driven violence intervention programs to help stop cycles of violence and retaliation before they escalate.

HB698 HD1 – We're strengthening Hawai'i's animal cruelty laws because harming animals won't be tolerated, period. This bill increases penalties and recognizes the clear link between animal abuse and other violent crimes. First-degree animal cruelty jumps from a Class C to a Class B felony, and offenders won't be allowed to own a pet or equine animal for at least five years. Second-degree animal cruelty stays a misdemeanor but becomes a Class B felony if it results in an animal's death or involves ten or more animals. We're also tightening laws on dogfighting, making first-degree offenses a Class B felony and escalating repeat offenses to a Class A felony. Second-degree dogfighting (like betting or possessing training equipment) moves from a Class C to a Class B felony for repeat violations. Other provisions crack down on animal trapping violations, harming service animals, and pet abandonment because Hawai'i deserves strong laws that hold people accountable.

HB1300 HD1 – This bill funds a multiethnic cohort study at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to research how social determinants of health, lifestyle, environmental exposures, and resilience impact Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. A key focus? Studying the health risks of living near landfills in Nanakuli. We've had landfills in our backyard for decades, we deserve to know what impact they've had on our health. I'm proud to introduce this bill and will push to move it forward.

HB228 HD1 – This is another omnibus bill, but I want to highlight one key piece: cracking down on people who use shields to block or obscure their license plates. Whether it's law enforcement or a concerned citizen trying to report reckless driving, people need to be able to see license plates. This bill sets a minimum \$500 fine for violators, making it clear that this won't be tolerated.