



District 51 WAIMĀNALO—KAILUA

State Representative Lisa Marten



REDUCING IMPACT OF THE KEOLU RIDGE FENCE

Due to an outpouring of concern from residents over the Bellows fence being constructed on Keolu Ridge, I was able to enlist the support of all of our local elected leaders, as well as our Congressional delegation, to appeal to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The marines shifted their work away from the contentious area, redesigned the fence, and adjusted their contracts. They will shift part of the fence down below the hill, so that the cleared area on Lanikai ridge will never be built and the adjacent portion already on Keolu Ridge will be removed. The section closer to Waimanalo will remain on the ridge-line due to priority training activities there, but will not have two feet of barbed wire on top, and will be painted to blend in. I am very grateful to the Marines as the cost of the changes means they will not complete the perimeter at this time. It was worth the effort, as this fence is likely to outlast us all.



Aloha neighbors,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to serve. This session I changed all my committees to learn as much as I can about a broad range of issues important to our District. As Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, I was thrilled to see progress on teacher pay and housing, pre-school expansion, and health and safety in schools.

I continue to work on local issues. These include reducing homelessness in our community, exploring opportunities for affordable housing, protecting our beaches, managing and restoring the Ka'iwa Ridge trail, restoring the health of our waterways, and supporting Kailua schools and health care services.

I also continue to help my constituents navigate government services and register complaints with the right agency. I look forward to talking story about your concerns or ideas. Just call or email!

With warm aloha, *Lisa*

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Lisamarten.com has info and links to Bills. Sign up for our infrequent e-news on the website or shoot us an email.

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2023 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

This session 274 Bills passed out of 3,132 introduced. Many were redundant and some found their way directly into the budget. Much accomplished and much left to do.

TAX RELIEF for Hawaii's working families by doubling the refundable Food/Excise tax credit, doubling the Earned Income tax credit, and almost quadrupling the Child and Dependent tax credit. This reduces State tax income by \$703,000,000 for the next five years.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR MEDICAID PATIENTS by increasing reimbursement to match Medicare rates. This helps patients, and also helps health care providers.

TAX VAPING PRODUCTS at the same rate as tobacco (70% of wholesale) in order to disincentivize use among youth. This is our only revenue generating measure and is expected to generate \$15,000,000/year. Once again, we failed to ban flavored vapes.

STATE LAND AND OCEAN PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION funded with additional \$194,200,000.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR CONCEAL CARRY FIREARMS in response to US Supreme Court ruling include bans from schools, public buildings, restaurants and bars. Training and background checks are required. They must carry their permit, cannot drink alcohol while carrying, nor leave a gun in an unattended vehicle.



SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE with \$280,000,000 for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and \$100,000,000 for the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.

SOLAR ENERGY FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS through a revolving loan fund of \$100,000,000 given to the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority.

EXPAND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE with over \$93,000,000 in Federal funds.

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE WORKERS from interstate legal actions and updating existing rights to abortion under Hawai'i law in response to US Supreme Court ruling.

RESPONSE TO CORRUPTION AT THE LEGISLATURE

Ethics Commissioner Robert Harris celebrates passage of ethics Bills at signing ceremony.



The Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct made 33 recommendations. Most of these were addressed through 30 Bills and a Rule change passed this year.

Increased criminal penalties for fraud, false statements, or obstructing an investigation. **Campaign contributions prohibited** shortly before, after and during session, **lobbyist gifts prohibited**, requires lobbyists to attend training and to disclose what they are lobbying for. Bills advanced **election integrity**, **campaign finance reform** for both candidates and PACs, and increase **public online access**, including legislative allowance expenditures.

Neptism was finally outlawed in State government in a Bill and in the legislature through House Rules.

FAILED TO PASS: term limits, sunshine law, public campaign financing, and requirements for Committee Chairs to explain why they kill bills.

ARIEL'S LEGACY


Nothing can change the suffering Ariel experienced in her short life, but we can try to reduce the risk to our most vulnerable keiki going forward. The CWS reform Bill championed by Rep Marten and the community was vetoed by Governor Ige last year. However, this year those resources and more ended up in the budget and in Bills that passed this session. The message got through: the Department of Human Services budget narrative commits to strengthen post-permanency services for children, like Ariel, who are adopted out of foster care.

YOUTH MOBILE CRISIS OUTREACH pilot will provide immediate response by a team specializing in children and adolescents in the home, school or community. The team will follow up for 8 weeks helping the caregivers, be they a birth family, foster family or other develop coping strategies and get into other long term services if needed. This \$3.5 million program was part of the original draft of my bill last year, and was included in the Majority Caucus package.

MĀLAMA OHANA WORKING GROUP with representation from all the organizations serving foster kids and their families, as well as adult foster kids and foster parents will come together to design and recommend transformative changes to the child welfare system. This was a part of our Bill last year, so the increased funding would be well used.

Child Protective Services contracts with non-profits visiting homes and working with families were increased and enhanced by **\$4.2 million each year**. Mahalo to LG Luke for helping get this in the budget.

An **Audit of CWS operations** requested last session is currently underway. The results will be available to the Mālama Ohana working group to consider.



Patty does intake form for houseless resident

MENTAL HEALTH & HOUSELESSNESS

Because this is the biggest concern among District residents, I used my session budget (normally devoted to office staff) for street outreach in Kailua and Waimānalo to target individuals that were not yet in services or who were ready to get off the street.

Patty Wong and her husband Roger, who had already been feeding the houseless in Kailua, coordinated with the many resources that I would like to better connect with each other. They identified and created relationships with people where they are, did intake for **IHS**, lined up appointments for the **Waimānalo Health Center Mobile Outreach**, and transported them to care and shelters like Weinberg Village and Daybreak. Patty and Roger have done an extraordinary job for our communities this session.

I also worked with DLNR and potential builders of permanent housing at the site to secure the State lease for **Hui Mahi'ai 'āina**. We are waiting for engineering survey results. I also secured funding to expand capacity at **Wienberg Village** with additional temporary units.

At the legislature, I worked on expanding **Assisted Community Treatment** which gets people into treatment when they are not able to make the decision for themselves and workforce development. Some bills died last minute and I will need to try again next year.

Measures that will **increase health care providers** include increased Medicaid reimbursement, full reimbursement for telephone mental health care, reducing administrative barriers for medical and EMT licenses.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Our **NATURAL RESOURCES** received a boost with additions to the base budget of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. They are funded to improve to our much-loved State Parks (\$50 million), boating and ocean resources (\$60 million), and trails (\$2 million). Capacity was also expanded for Forestry Resource Management (\$25 million), Ecosystem Protection and Restoration (\$14.7 million) and land acquisition (\$1.5 million).

DLNR will create online infrastructure for a reservation systems to manage attractions.

I spend a lot of time fighting **INVASIVE SPECIES** personally through my non-profit which is restoring the watershed of Hāmākua Marsh. This year we added \$1.5 million in funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, of which I am a member, and targeted several specific pests.



District 51 farmers wanted to strengthen the response to **COCONUT RINOCEROSUS BEETLES**. I introduced a bill to fund positions, and they showed up to testify. They were heard: \$2.5 million was included in the budget.

I also wrote a bill which funded \$500,000 for the Hawaii Ant Lab in Waimānalo to fight **LITTLE FIRE ANTS**.

Efforts were also funded to combat Axis Deer, and coffee and ornamental ginger pests.

PK-12 EDUCATION



Vice-Chair of Education

PRE-SCHOOL ACCESS FOR ALL KEIKI 3 AND 4 requires 465 new classrooms. We appropriated \$200 million to renovate existing classrooms for preschool. Four of these will be ready to use in August in Kailua and Waimanalo. Private pre-schools are also part of the solution, with \$50 million in subsidies to low income parents to send their children. Each new classroom needs a teacher and assistant, so scholarships are being funded publicly and privately and degree tracks are expanding throughout the UH system.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION helped by increasing entry-level salaries 32% to \$50,000, and 14% pay raises over 4 years to allow advancement at top.

TEACHER HOUSING PROJECTS funded at \$187 million, including to investigate Windward sites.

SEX ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION was funded for roll out in DOE schools. Windward teachers report a need consistent with Hawaii research indicating one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18. Abuse of young children usually occurs in the home and they do not know that they can escape it.



STATE FUNDS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Capital Improvement Projects Funded

Windward Community College. \$11 Million

Repair and replace air conditioning system.

Waimanalo Pathways. \$2.5 Million

Plans, design and construction of off-street walking and biking pathways through Waimānalo from Olomana golf course to Sandy Beach Park.



Kailua High School Athletics. \$7.5 Million

For design and construction of athletic facilities and related improvements. To repair the bleachers and the field will require an engineering study of the stream flowing into the center of the field from the Women's prison, repair of the drainage under the field, and then repair of the field and bleachers. It will be a long process.

Blanche Pope Elementary \$5 Million

Construction for a new free-standing building to house the Hawaiian-Language immersion program. The design was already funded two years ago. The program adds a grade each year as the students age up and will have PK—5th next year.



GRANTS IN AID FUNDED

Alternative Structures International \$200,000

They run the emergency shelter for the homeless at the former **Weinberg Village** in Waimanalo and help their clients qualify for independent housing. These funds will expand the capacity of the shelter with additional temporary shelters on the same site.

808 Clean Ups. \$25,000

Waimanalo resident Kimeona Kane and his committed volunteers clean up even the nastiest trash, as well as restore habitats.

Mālama Honua FY2024 1.75 Million

Plans and design grant to Mālama Honua Public Charter school for administration building for the public charter school at new Waimānalo Location on Hui Mālama o Ke Kai Foundation's Campus.

Castle Medical Center. \$300,000

For purchase of advanced imaging oncology equipment in expanded cancer clinic.

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Capital Improvement Projects Funded

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Kailua Library and parking. \$3 Million

Plans, land acquisition, design and construction of a new Kailua Library and understory parking lot. Potential land swap with City for parking lot in the courtyard by Cinnamons.

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EXCITING PROJECT UPSTREAM

Alternative Structures International \$200,000

ASI has a State grant to manage the emergency shelter for the houseless at the former Weinberg Village in Waimānalo. They help their clients qualify for and transition to independent housing. These funds will expand the capacity for more clients with additional temporary shelters on the same site. This site has been accepted by many Kailua houseless residents that decline to go to shelters in town.

808 Clean Ups. \$25,000

The staff and committed volunteers clean up even the nastiest trash in our District, as well as restore habitats.



Maunawili Forest and Lo'i. \$7 Million

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) worked for years to amass \$23 million from Department of Defense, US Forest Legacy and now the State to buy and preserve 900 acres (shown in orange). The land includes the Maunawili Falls trail, the Royal Hawaiian golf course, farmland and forest. TPL and the City also funded the purchase of adjacent tracts by non-profits Ho'okua 'āina (116 acres in purple) and Kauluakalana (60 acres in blue) to restore, farm and use for education.



Let's be inspired by those that do good work in our community. Please call or email to nominate someone!

A FOOD FOREST IN WAIMĀNALO?



Interested?
Please help by using
this QR code.

Your feedback will guide the proposed project and allow us to keep you in the loop.



The project would offer residents free tree seedlings and technical help to select, plant in your yard, and care for your tree. You will be given options for trees that are right for your space and provide either food, cultural products or native habitat. We are preparing to apply for funding and are piecing together partnerships with CTAHR and community organizations. Wish us luck!

THIS SESSION LIMU KALA BECAME OUR STATE MARINE ALGAE

Rep Martin's
**DISTRICT 51
COMMUNITY
HERO**



Let's be inspired by those that do good work in our community. Please call or email to recommend someone.

SCHOOL VISITS TO THE CAPITOL

This year I have had the pleasure of hosting several school visits to the Capitol. Students do a scavenger hunt to learn about some of the iconic spaces, faces, and installations at the Capitol.

Students learn how laws are made, including taking on the roles of legislators and testers in the real room where it happens. They check out my office, so they know they always have a place to call home when at the Capitol. The field trip is often combined with a visit to another nearby site. I am happy to make arrangements that meet the needs of each group. Encourage your child's teacher to call my office!

Waimānalo Intermediate 8th Graders after mock hearing and visit to Queen Lili'uokalani exhibit at Washington Place.



COMMUNITY UPDATE



Sewage in Kailua Bay

The State Department of Health (DOH) regulates the levels of pathogens that can be released by Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) and City treatment plants through the shared sewage outfall beyond Mokapu Peninsula. Both plants have exceeded their permit levels in recent years, leading to infections among some ocean-loving residents, and missed ocean recreation for others. The DOH does not find this situation acceptable, and neither do I.

MCBH has exceeded permit levels during regular maintenance when they take half the system off line to clean it. I advocated through legislation and conversations to increase plant capacity and to re-use water for irrigation (they are the largest Windward consumers of water). Happily, Federal funding is in the works.

Our City plant exceeded multiple times since 2020. Malfunctioning equipment (since fixed) explained an event in 2021, but it is unclear whether exceedances this past month can be explained fully by heavy rains and a faulty

power connection to a clarifier. They are investigating further by taking samples at each stage of processing. We built the tunnel to store storm water that penetrates the system, but it is insufficient when rains increase volume four-fold as they did April 28. The City is systematically installing lined pipes and removing illegal connections to sewer pipes (often gutters), but the problem remains.

We need a redundant system that is resilient to heavy rains and equipment mishaps. A UV light system to kill bacteria, which the City will install by 2025, will help.

Ka'elepulu families secure safer crossing!

Ka'elepulu Elementary School crosswalk was the tragic site of the first traffic death of 2023. That wide stretch of Keolu Drive encourages speeding by design. It is a City street that is in the pipeline for a major overhaul by Complete Streets, but not for a few years. The school community has asked for a safer crossing now.

The State Department of Transportation has a crew and budget to install raised crosswalks. I asked them to work with the City, and there is now an agreement for the State to install one on either side of the school. The City plans to also narrow the crossing with posts and paint.



3rd Graders from Ka'ohao Elementary in mock hearing.

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