



Office of Representative Adrian Tam

May 2021

Highlights of the 2021 Legislative Session

I am pleased to share with you some of the highlights of the 2021 legislative session, which concluded on April 29, 2021 (Sine Die). Out of the thousands of bills introduced, 160 were passed through the House and Senate and are on their way to the Governor's desk for signature into law. Two of my bills and one of my resolutions made it through: HB282 CD1 and HB286 HD1SD2, and HCR45/HR36.

I am particularly proud of HB282 CD1 Relating to Minors, which aims to address youth homelessness. At present, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Hawaii have limited options, and many avoid shelter services for fear of being placed into the foster care system. Moreover, organizations are limited in their ability to provide shelter to minors due to the current definition of "provider". As a result, homeless youth often end up spending nights on the streets, where they are extremely vulnerable, or are forced to return home to abusive or unsafe conditions.

After input from community stakeholders and many service providers, HB282 CD1 was drafted to broaden access for unaccompanied youth to no-cost shelters and related services by expanding the circumstances under which a minor may consent to shelter and services, and by clarifying the definition of "provider" to include certain organizations that are not considered child placing organizations or child caring institutions.



In addition, HB286 HD1SD2 Relating to Real Estate Investment Trusts also passed final reading. The aim of this measure facilitates the gathering of more accurate data regarding Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) by authorizing the Department of Tax to report assets and revenues annually. REITs have been profitably operating in Hawaii for years. This bill greatly improves reporting transparency.

And finally, HCR45 SD1: URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO STOP UNWANTED AND ILLEGAL ROBOCALLS passed in response to the many complaints from constituents about robocalls from a wide variety of sources, including scammers who target our kupuna.

More information about these bills/resolutions can be found at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

INTERIM PRIORITIES

Although April 29th, 2021 marked the end of this year's legislative session, I will continue to work during the interim on ways we can address issues brought to me as priorities for many residents of District 22, including homelessness, diversification of Hawaii's economy, and the high and ever increasing cost of living.

Bills introduced in 2021 are technically still alive for the 2022 session (the second year of the biennium), but I will be able to introduce at least 10 new bills. Feel free to contact my office if you have ideas for legislation that you would like to discuss.



WAIKIKI SAND REPLENISHMENT PROJECT

You have probably noticed that the sand replenishment project in Waikiki is currently underway. This month it entered its final state of truck hauling and sand placement. The beach will remain open, but the truck haul route along the beach will be closed when active, with dedicated access points to allow access to the ocean. Back-up beepers on the trucks will be disabled and replaced with a soft “scratch” noise. The active construction zone where the sand is being placed will be cordoned off each day and clearly marked with cones, tape, and barricades for people’s safety. There will be no work on Sundays and beach areas are open with the exception of the project staging area and at Kūhiō Beach.



Credit: Jessica Loiterton, KITV

The sand placement will start at the Diamond Head end of the Royal Hawaiian beach cell near the Duke Kahanamoku statue and the placement will progress 100-200 linear feet down the beach working towards the Royal Hawaiian groin each day and be completed by mid-May.

This is the second time in a decade Waikīkī has had a sand replenishment project, due to sea level rise, this will be necessary over the course of the next few decades, every 5-10 years.

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for all Hawai'i residents who are at least 16 years old. The Department of Health is working with local, state and federal government agencies as well as hospitals, pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, and other healthcare providers to safely and quickly administer the vaccines. Each county is accelerating vaccination based on availability of appointments.

Happy to do my part to keep our community safe.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Status in Hawai'i and FAQs:](https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/)
<https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/>
Vaccine Call Center: 808-586-8332

A graphic with a light blue background and a white circle. Inside the circle is a syringe icon. To the right of the syringe, the text reads "16 & older eligible for COVID19 vaccine". Below the circle, it says "FIND OUT WHERE TO GET YOURS HERE: hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine". At the bottom, there is a small logo for the Hawaii State Representative, Adrian K. Tam.





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