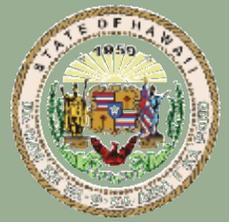




BERTRAND KOBAYASHI STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 19 — DIAMOND HEAD,
KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU



March 2022

Aloha Neighbor,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. As the state continues to navigate through these unprecedented times, the State House of Representatives have met safely – implementing virtual hearings, enforcing strict pandemic protocols, and wearing masks. I will work with our community and government leaders to successfully reopen the state again. Please continue to do what you can to keep our community safe and stop the COVID spread.

The 2022 Legislative Session has passed the mid-point and the House and Senate have vetted more than two thousand bills. The surviving bills crossed over to each respective body for further work and this does not include the bills still alive from the 2021 session. The results of our survey are inside. It's always interesting to know the pulse of our community and to read your comments. Mahalo to everyone who participated either by mail or online.

I encourage you to continue to share your thoughts with me about any of the issues that are of concern to you. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov or (808) 586-6310.

Mahalo nui loa,

Bert Kobayashi
State Representative
District 19 – Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu



Representative Kobayashi giving the invocation at the start of the House Legislative Session.



Representatives Patrick Branco and Bert Kobayashi, twinning in their colors of support for Ukraine.



In a show of solidarity for the people of Ukraine, House members wore blue and yellow and adopted HR 58 and HCR 32, condemning Russia's attack and supporting swift and severe economic sanctions imposed on Russia.

RED HILL Fact Sheet

Closure of Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Oahu, Hawaii and Redistribution of Fuel in Accordance with INDOPACOM Strategic Fuel Storage Plans

Permanent Closure of Red Hill

Following Secretary Austin's direction of March 7th, the Department of Defense will safely defuel and close the Red Hill fuel storage facility in Oahu, Hawaii. The Red Hill facility will be defueled in compliance with environmental safeguards and in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. By no later than May 31, 2022, the Secretary of the Navy and Director, DLA will provide a plan of action with milestones to defuel the facility. The plan of action shall require that defueling operations commence as soon as practicable after the facility is deemed safe for defueling and shall target the completion of that defueling within 12 months.

In parallel with the permanent closure of Red Hill, the Department of Defense remains committed to mitigating the impacts of the November incident. The Department will complete environmental mitigation efforts for the Red Hill drinking water well and any other impacted areas. The Department will also restore safe drinking water to all affected residents and provide best-in-class sampling and testing to ensure the continued safety of drinking water.

Taking Care of People

The Department of Defense remains committed to mitigating the impacts of the November incident on the environment, and to care for all affected people and families. We will continue our focused work on environmental mitigation efforts for the Red Hill drinking water well and any other impacted areas.

We will restore safe drinking water to all affected residents and provide best-in-class sampling and testing to ensure the continued safety of drinking water. Rapid Response Teams were established and are on call 24-hours a day to respond to resident concerns about their water. These teams are trained to address problems on scene and can conduct flushing and testing as well. Physical and virtual "Storefronts" were established to assist military families as well as non-federal civilians serviced by the Navy's water system with claims and entitlements.

In-person town hall events were initially held by the Army and Navy, along with public health experts and project engineers to answer questions and explain Navy efforts to restore safe drinking water. They later shifted to daily virtual engagements via Facebook Live: Joint Base Water Daily Update hosted by Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Chief of Staff. The commander of the Army's Task Force Ohana continues to conduct regular town hall meetings, in person and over Facebook, to address the concerns of those living in Army housing areas affected by the contamination. Additionally, Army and Navy representatives participate in local neighborhood boards to address questions from predominately non-military residents about the progress of restoring the drinking water system. Command leadership teams conduct periodic visits to neighborhoods to speak with family members, and are engaged in all communities.

A dedicated Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam public website is updated daily with information about resources and services available to families. The Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST) also has an Environment Data Management System website that provides post system flushing status and drinking water sampling data.

We are committed to providing care for our military families by addressing any health impacts from this incident and by using available authorities to provide assistance to address displacement from homes or damage to household goods



WHAT'S NEW: Capitol re-opens and bills progress

The State Capitol re-opened to the public on March 7th under the current Governor's emergency order, which requires full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours. Masks are required.

Please note that restriction guidelines are expected to change on March 26 with more details to follow.

All committee hearings are both in-person and remote via ZOOM. All committee hearings and floor sessions are on YouTube. Please go to the hearing notices on the Legislature's website or to the Live & On-Demand Video webpage (<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/livevideo.aspx>) to access the House and Senate YouTube channels.

Bills are at half-way mark called 'first cross-over'

'Cross-over' is when the House and Senate exchange bills approved to that date. There is a second 'cross-over' when the House and Senate exchange whatever 'first cross-over' bills approved by the second chamber. About half of the first 'cross-over' bills do not make second 'cross-over', either because they are disapproved by the second chamber or are duplicates.

Here is the status of some of the 353 bills which crossed over from the House to the Senate:

- HB 2511 provides \$600 million for Hawaiian home lands residential construction.
- HB 2510 increases the minimum wage in stages to \$18/hour by 2028. This is a compromise to the Senate's proposal of \$18/hour by 2026. The bill increases the minimum wage to \$13/hour on January 1, 2023, then an additional \$1/hour each year thereafter. This bill also makes the earned income tax credit permanent and refundable. ["refundable" means that taxpayers receive this amount whether or not they owe the equivalent in taxes, so is more generous than a non-refundable tax credit.]
- HB 2464, use of force in self-defense, was recommitted to committee, effectively stopping this bill. This was the most contentious bill this year in the House. It would have expanded the use of deadly force in self-defense, especially for the very few people who have a 'concealed carry' gun permit. Hawaii does not have a 'concealed carry' gun law, which in other states usually means that anyone with a gun permit can 'conceal carry.' This bill was so controversial that no government agency testified in support or opposition to this bill.
- HB 1585 clarifies and limits the Governor's emergency powers.
- Fireworks are addressed in 3 bills [HB 2275, HB 1695, HB 2273], expediting processing of fireworks infractions, increasing fines from \$2,000 to \$5,000, adding noise pollution to certain fireworks violations.
- HB 1822 extends driver's license renewal from 2 years to 4 years for ages 72 to 80.

For inquiries on other bills, please contact our office at 808 586-6310.



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

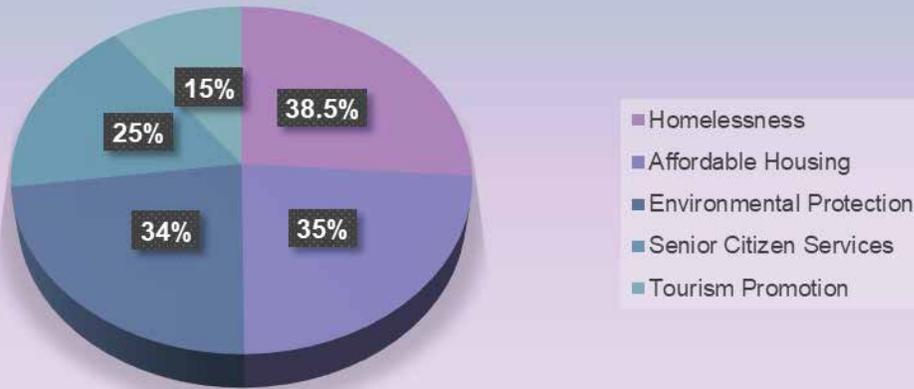
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Community Survey Results



Mahalo nui for taking part in our 2022 Community Survey. This year's survey results showed three areas that you felt were of most importance; Homelessness 38.5%, Affordable Housing 35%, and Environmental Protection 34%.

Representatives Bert Kobayashi and Sonny Ganaden hold signs in support of the closure of the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.



Rep. Kobayashi with DOCARE Officer Eddie Thompson at the reopening of Diamond Head State Monument to visitors.



Rep. Kobayashi with Sen. Stanley Chang, Rep. Mark Hashem, and Rep. Jackson Sayama serving as panelist for the Kalani High School Freshmen 'Imi Loa House presentations on Sustainability.