

# REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ONISHI

2023 Mid-Session Newsletter

March 2023

## *Session Update*

I want to thank you again for the privilege and the opportunity to serve you in the Thirty-Second Legislature. I also want to thank my constituents of District 3 (South Hilo, Waiakea Uka, Panaewa Farmlots, Kea'au, Orchidland Estates, Hawaiian Acres, Fern Acres, Eden Roc, Fern Forest, Kuristown, Mt. View, Glenwood, Volcano, Pahala, Punalu'u and Honu'apo). It has been a pleasure serving you for the past 10 years and I will continue to work hard to ensure that all the projects that I have put forth will get done in a timely manner. Due to reapportionment, I am now representing District 2, which is the majority of the Hilo area. I look forward to taking on this new opportunity and will work hard to keep Hilo the lovely city that it is. I have been fortunate to have been able to bring back my outstanding support staff, who were born and raised in Hilo but currently living in Honolulu, Tracy Weidie – Office Manager and Isaac Goya – Legislative Aide. This year I was lucky to have found and have brought on Soana Tupua-Fanoga, who is a very experienced legislative employee at the State Capitol. She is a great addition to our team.

This session I am serving on the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee, the Housing Committee, and the Transportation Committee. These 3 areas are vital for our island and state to thrive, and I will be addressing many important issues to help our community and state. This session I have proposed legislation to address some long-standing issues, such as the redevelopment of Banyan Drive, helping local farmers and manufacturers and funding for natural resources protection. I have also proposed capital improvement funding for the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor.

I look forward to hearing from you, the residents of Hilo. Please contact my office via email at [reponishi@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reponishi@capitol.hawaii.gov) or by phone at 808-586-6120.



Rep with US Senator Mazie Hirono on Opening Day of the Legislature



## REPRESENTATIVE **RICHARD H.K. ONISHI**

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## District 2 Improvement Projects

### 1. Wailoa Small Boat Harbor Entrance

- Funding for the US Army Corps of Engineers to study and design the mitigation to the sand deposits at the entrance of the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor in Hilo, HI.

### 2. Mt. View Post Office

Funding for the US Postal Service to plan and design improvements to the Mt. View Post Office in Mt. View, HI. Work to include but not limited to: expanding the capacity of the Post Office; close the entry to the Post Office from Hwy 11; provide a security fencing from Hwy 11 to insure postal customers will not park on the shoulder of Hwy 11 to access the Post Office; extend the Old Volcano Road to the mauka side of the Post Office parcel; acquisition of the parcel; improve the Post Office parcel to connect to the Old Volcano Road for entry/exit; and add parking for staff and postal customers on the Post Office parcel.

### 3. Puainako Street

Funding for the widening of Puainako Street in Hilo, HI. Provide matching funds to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation Highways Division for the widening of Puainako Street from the intersection of Puainako Street and Iwalani/Kawili Streets to Hwy 11. The widening of Puainako Street will address the early morning and afternoon traffic congestion and safety of students on Puainako Street because of the Waiakea Elementary and Waiakea Middle Schools.