## **Christmas in September**

You will notice a healthier bank account next week as the state begins distributing nearly \$300 million in tax refunds:

- Taxpayers who earn less than \$100,000/year, or couples earning less than \$200,000/year will receive \$300 each (including dependents, so a family of four would receive \$1,200).
- Taxpayers who earn \$100,000 or more, or couples earning \$200,000 or more will receive \$100 each (including dependents).

Taxpayers who filed individual income tax returns for 2021 and have been residents of Hawai'i for at least nine months are eligible for the refund.

Taxpayers receiving refund checks by mail or who owed taxes and filed their tax returns by July 31 should receive their refunds by the end of October.





Sen. Wakai at the Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management warehouse with Isabella Silk, Marshall Islands consul general

## **Marshall Islands to Receive Covid Supplies**

In the past month COVID has raged through the Marshall Islands. Within three weeks more than 14,000 out of the islands' 42,000 people were diagnosed with the virus.

Sen. Wakai partnered with the Hospital Association of Hawaii and the local Marshallese community to donate six pallets of gloves, protective suits and masks. He also coordinated with United Airlines to have the supplies flown free of charge.

"During Hawaii's darkest days of COVID we pleaded for protective supplies and nurses. It seems natural that we now assist our neighbors who are at the spot we were two years ago," said Wakai.

## **Internet Access in Kalihi**

The Dept. of Transportation and Hawaiian Telcom have installed high-speed broadband internet service to seven properties (Hale Po'ai, Halia Hale, Hauiki Homes, Puahala I, Puahala II, Puahala III, Puahala IV) in Kalihi. About 309 residents now have free access to reliable internet for distance learning, telework, and telehealth appointments.

Fioptics, is the state's only 100% fiber internet service and provides an upload speed of 500 megabits per second and a 1 gigabit download that is one of the fastest download speeds available. If you are in a service area and cannot connect, please call (808) 587-2163.

