

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MATT LOPRESTI

HOUSE DISTRICT 41: 'EWA, 'EWA BEACH, 'EWA GENTRY, 'EWA VILLAGES, HOKALEI, OCEAN POINTE

DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2021

STAY CONNECTED WITH
REPRESENTATIVE MATT LOPRESTI

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2021 Session Update

The State Budget, HB200, moved to the Senate in late March. Read on for highlights.

Advocates and elected officials alike often refer to the State Budget as the single most important policy document the legislature produces every year.

It indicates what the priorities are, or what they should be, for the State. Not everyone always agrees with what those priorities should be, but it is nonetheless worthy to note the work done so far by the House.

With HB200 having passed out of the House, it will be reviewed by the Senate for their opportunity to add their work to this important bill.

Balancing the budget in the ongoing pandemic and economic fallout has been a struggle indeed. But the \$1.6 billion in federal support will certainly lighten that load.

With Aloha,
Matt LoPresti

Representative Matthew S. LoPresti
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 333
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813





COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The State continues to slowly expand the eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations. Below is a list of vaccination sites in and near 'Ewa Beach. Additional locations may exist and each requires that you schedule an appointment.

Resources and information in Tagalog: <https://hawaii-covid19.com/tagalog>

You can check here for more info and to schedule an appointment: <https://www.solvhealth.com/hi/c/ewa-beach-hi-srv-covid-vaccine>

1

CVS Pharmacy
91-919 Fort Weaver Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

2

Safeway Pharmacy
91-1119 Keaunui Dr.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

3

Walmart
91-600 Farrington Hwy.
Kapolei, HI 96707

4

Walmart
94-595 Kupuohi St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

5

Safeway Pharmacy
94-809 Lumiaina St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

Legislative Update

At the time of this writing, there remains about a month left in this year's legislative session and I'm pleased to report I still have a number of pieces of legislation still making their way to the end.

- [HB225 HD2 SD1 Relating to Bullying](#): Requires the board of education to develop a bullying prevention and response action plan. Requires the board of education to report annually to the legislature. Repeals Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011.
- [HB389 HD1 SD1 Relating to Post-Secondary Education](#): Requires accredited and non-accredited for-profit post-secondary educational institutions that are authorized to award degrees and operate in the State to disclose on the institution's official website, promotional digital and print media, and contracts for instruction, that they are for-profit businesses.
- [HCR74 / HR63 \(SCR135 / SR60\) Declaring 2022 the Year of the Limu](#): Recognizes the crucial part limu (seaweed) plays in a healthy and productive reef ecosystem and a key indicator of the health and resilience of an ahupua'a. Mahalo to Senator Fevella for his support of this resolution for our community and for introducing and shepherding the Senate companions through the Legislature.
- [HCR113 / HR91 Urging the United States Congress to Enact Federal Legislation Granting Statehood to the People of the District of Columbia](#): As of 2020, the U.S.

Census Bureau estimates D.C.'s population at approximately 712,000 residents. These citizens have no representation in Congress, which needs to change.

- [SCR48 Requesting the United State Marine Corps to complete an Environmental Impact Statement for the Shoreline Stabilization Project at the Puuloa Range Training Facility](#): Introduced by Sen. Gabbard.

During the first week of April, [a collection of labor leaders sent an open letter to the Speaker of the House](#) urging the body to move two otherwise dead bills to the floor for swift passage.

[SB676](#) would raise Hawaii's minimum wage to \$12 beginning January 1, 2022. The other bill, [SB614](#), would retroactively exempt unemployment benefits and pandemic unemployment assistance received in 2020 from state income tax.

I applaud these unions and their steadfast efforts to support working families who continue to struggle during these challenging economic times. I support these bills and support bringing them to the floor for swift passage.

Finally, as you've likely heard, lawmakers are scheduled to receive a raise on July 1. I believe strongly that my colleagues and I should not receive raises, especially when the legislature failed to pass any increase in the minimum wage. To get a raise at this point would be immoral and unethical.

Hawaiian Humane Society Opens Pet Kokua Outreach Center Open in Waipahu



Mar. 10

From Left to Right: Board member Bob Bean, Councilmember Tulba, Rep. LoPresti, Rep. Aquino, Board member Anna Neubauer, President & CEO Ginny Tiu, Manager of Community Outreach and Partnerships Suzy Tam, Rep. Cullen, Councilmember Brandon Elefante

The Pet Kokua Outreach Center is a much needed resource in our community.

On Wednesday, March 10 I was pleased to be in attendance for the grand opening of Hawaiian Humane Society’s Pet Kokua Outreach Center in Waipahu.

Located within the well known Filipino Community Center, the Outreach center will provide much needed support for pet owners in Waipahu and the surrounding communities, including Ewa Beach. Specifically, the Outreach Center will serve as a pet food bank, as well as a resource for useful information for your pets.

The Hawaiian Humane Society expects the Outreach Center to remain available at the Filipino Community Center for the next couple of years as they make progress toward completing their new West Oahu shelter facility, which will be twice the size of their Moili’ili campus.

A much needed resource for our community, I have heard from the Humane Society that the Outreach Center is already very busy and is being well-received by everyone.

It is clear this service is desperately needed, especially since the start of the COVID pandemic; our pet family members have been impacted as too many have struggled to meet their basic financial needs.

The Pet Kokua Outreach Center is a welcome addition to our community.

Hours of Operation:
Sunday: 10am - 1:30pm
Mon. - Thur: 1pm - 5:30pm
Fri. & Sat: Closed

Filipino Community Center
94-428 Mokuola St. #214A
Waipahu, HI 96797

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, you can contact the Outreach Center:

- By email: outreach@hawaiianhumane.org
- By Phone: (808) 356-2222



Tips & Tools for Testifying

1

Engagement 101

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>

2

Using the Legislature’s Website

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/using-the-legislatures-website>

3

Remote Testimony Procedures

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/RemoteTestimony.pdf>

MATTHEW S. LOPRESTI, PhD
Representative, District 41



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 18, 2021

Department of Health
Immunization Branch
Ronald Balajadia
1250 Punchbowl St., Rm 443
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chief Balajadia,

I am requesting your support and assistance in establishing more vaccination distribution locations in Ewa and West Oahu.

According to a recent article in the Star-Advertiser (March 16, *Only 8.8% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have received COVID vaccine, DOH says*) are dramatically disproportionately lagging behind in receiving vaccinations. Currently, it seems the vast majority of vaccine locations are either in East Oahu or on the Windward side of the island.

With such large Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino populations on the West Side of Oahu and specifically Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Nanakuli, and Waianae, I feel strongly more effort should be focused on establishing vaccination centers in these areas to accommodate those residents. Especially those who may not have the means or ability to travel considerable distances for their vaccination.

As the process moves into Phase 1c and beyond, I believe it is vitally important that these areas on Oahu not be neglected and urge you to do more in establishing vaccination centers in Ewa and West Oahu.

I am ready to assist in whatever capacity may be required to get this done and appreciate your timely response.

Aloha,

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.
State Representative, District 41
Hawaii State House of Representatives

National Security and Shoreline Protection at the Pu'uloa Rifle Training Range

As a strong supporter of our national defense and addressing climate change, I was proud to attend a site visit to the MCBH Pu'uloa Firing Range.



Mar. 3 Touring Pu'uloa Training Range, Rep. LoPresti discusses options with Range Administrators and members from Surfrider Foundation.

In early March, I had the good fortune to visit the Marine Corps Pu'uloa Rifle Training Range.

Pu'uloa has been a site for military training since the early 1900s and continues to be a key training facility to this day. It also hosts the Pu'uloa Rifle & Pistol Club.

Sea-level rise may put the facility at risk of inundation in coming years and conversations have begun with military leaders and community and environmental advocates for the best approach to protect the important training facility.

Last year the military began looking at constructing a sea-wall to protect the site, which drew the attention of environmental

organizations like the Surfrider Foundation. Surfrider and others tend to oppose the construction of shoreline sea-walls which may protect the land immediately behind it, but which can have terrible unintended consequences for nearby shorelines with accelerated coastal erosion.

MCBH has been in ongoing conversations to work to find a solution to the impending problem; a solution that all the concerned parties can support.

The site visit on March 3rd was a part of that on-going conversation and I was happy to be joined by members of Surfrider Foundation. Together we learned about the vital importance of the Pu'uloa training site, as well as

some of the measures MCBH is looking into to mitigate shoreline erosion at Pu'uloa.

Together I am confident we can maintain the training facility's ongoing use and mission, as well as make sure the steps taken to protect the site from sea-level rise do not have unintended negative environmental impacts.

Hawai'i is a special place. Both for its ecological uniqueness, but also for its critical role in our national defense. We must do what we can to protect that uniqueness.

City & County of Honolulu New Rent & Utilities Program Opens April 5

Learn more about the program at: <http://oneoahu.org/renthelp>

Can Pay For:

- Rent
- Household Utilities
- Supported for 12 Months

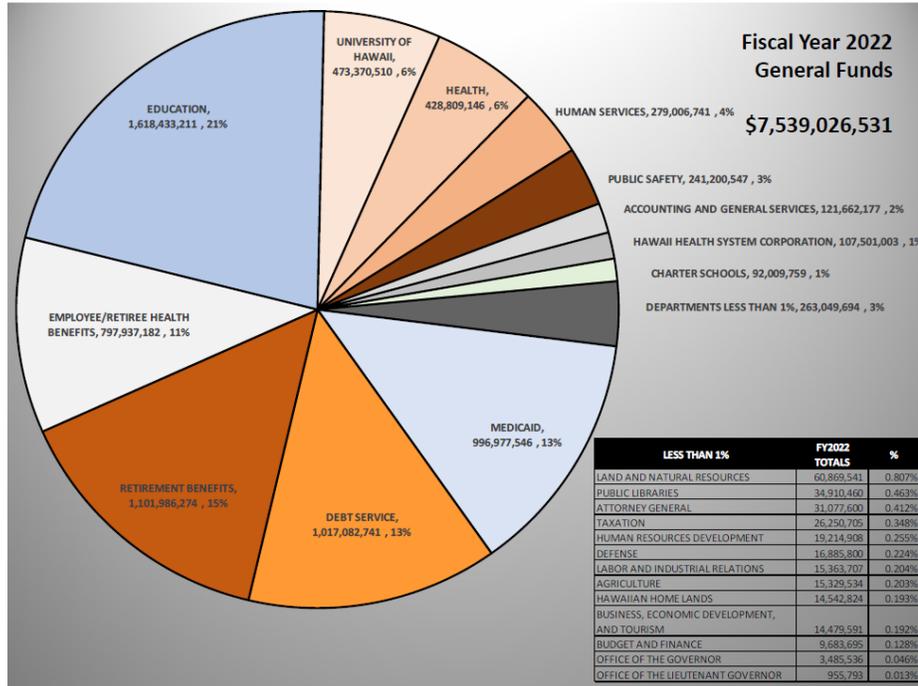
Who Can Qualify:

- Oahu Residents
- COVID Income or Job Loss
- Proof of Late Rent or Utility Bills
- Household Income Limits

Documents Needed:

- Government Issued ID
- Rent Agreement or Bill
- Household Tax Document
- Recent Pay Stubs
- Unemployment Insurance Receipt

Highlights from the 2021-22 State Biennium Budget



\$1.6 billion in federal assistance comes at just the right time as we contemplate our budget.

Late last month the House passed HB200, the State Biennium Budget. There are clear signs that Hawaii's economy is on the upswing, but there are still countless people struggling to pay their most basic bills.

The budget bill has moved over to the Senate where it will be considered, and likely amended, by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Though it's still too early at this stage to have a good sense of what the final budget will look like, there are some items worth noting that the House put into the budget for our state, our community:

Department of Labor & Industrial Relations:

- \$2.11 million in federal rescue funds for the Disability Compensation Division Modernization.

- \$2.08 million in 2022 and \$740.9 million in 2023 federal rescue funds for UI loan repayments.
- \$105 million to tackle the massive processing backlog of thousands of unpaid unemployment claims.

Department of Human Services:

- \$500,000 for 2022 in federal rescue funds to the rent supplement program.
- \$5.4 million in 2022 in federal rescue funds for additional general assistance payments.

Department of Education:

- \$88.7 million in state funds and \$11.2 million in federal rescue funds to restore funding to classrooms.
- \$32.3 million in state funds to restore funding for special education.



Capital Improvement Projects

Currently these projects are included in the State Budget, HB200. The bill is still making its way through the legislative process, but they are worthy of note.

1

Campbell High School

\$1.02 million for plans, design, and construction to maintain and improve facilities and infrastructure and may include bio science lab centers.

Estimated Completion: Unknown

2

'Ewa Elementary School

\$2.25 million for plans design, and construction to maintain and improve facilities and may include repair and renovation of restrooms, ground and site improvements.

Estimated Completion: Unknown