



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MATT LOPRESTI, Ph.D

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

DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2021

STAY CONNECTED WITH
REPRESENTATIVE MATT LOPRESTI

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

Phone: (808) 586-6080
Email: relopresti@capitol.hawaii.gov
<http://capitol.hawaii.gov>



The 2021 Legislative Session is Underway!

My colleagues and I will be
focusing on mitigating the
ongoing economic crisis.

With Opening Day behind us, the
Legislature has begun its work of
doing the people's business.

In addition to looking at options
for increasing necessary revenue to
plug gaps in the state budget and
looking at ways to help the most
vulnerable in our community, I am
pursuing a number of bills that seek
to address issues of import to the
Ewa Beach community. Examples
includes bills to address HOA power,
to increasing penalties for reckless
driving.

I have introduced or signed
on to bills to address bullying in
schools, reduce and mitigate traffic,
work from home provisions and
protections, provide paid sick and
family leave for employees, increase
the minimum wage, as well as bills
aimed at helping small business
during the pandemic crisis.

With Aloha,
Matt LoPresti

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





Capital Improvement Projects

Mahalo to Governor Ige for releasing these Capitol Improvement Project funds. And mahalo to all the members of our legislative delegation, our Neighborhood Board, and everyone who worked to secure funds for these important projects!

1

'Ewa Elementary
\$2.32 million to finance construction for various repair and maintenance needs.

Estimated Completion: Unknown



At Work For You

**National Terrorism Advisory System Conference Call
January 27, 2021**

Keeping up to date on potential threats, acts of violence, etc., I regularly participate in these sorts of national security conference calls when I am able.

As well as meetings with our Hawaii State Fusion Center, which is uniquely structured to empower front-line law enforcement, public safety, fire service, emergency response, public health, critical infrastructure partners, and private sector security personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence, thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities.



Jan. 2021 Signing my first bills for the session.

Legislation Introduced

Just some of the bills for 2021 to improve our community.

- [HB385 Relating to Transportation](#): Amends penalties for reckless driving & improperly displayed license plates.
- [HB388 Relating to Planned Community Associations](#): Prohibits any HOA from assessing a fine or requiring an architectural review for any security camera on the exterior of a member's or tenant's unit if installed three or more years ago or if installed by a previous member or tenant who occupied the unit.
- [HB389 Relating to Post-Secondary Education](#): Requires accredited and non-accredited post-secondary educational institutions that are for-profit entities to disclose in print and electronic media and signage that they are for-profit businesses registered in the State.
- [HB1216 Relating to Planned Community Associations](#): Requires that any budget increases to members of a HOA be approved by at least sixty per cent of the board membership.
- [HB1217 Relating to Planned Community Associations](#): Prohibits any HOA from assessing a fine or requiring an architectural review for construction or installation work to the exterior of a member's or tenant's unit if performed more than three or more years ago or if performed by a previous member of tenant of the unit, regardless of when the previous member or tenant performed the construction or installation work on the unit.
- [HB1219 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the Benefit of House District 41](#)
- [HB1347 Relating to the Aloha Stadium](#): Seeks to promote the safety & reliability of harbor infrastructure by identifying and developing appropriate areas within the district, including stadium parking lots as appropriate, that are fortified to withstand the structural requirements of a permanent shipping container storage and lay down facility for emergency use by Pearl Harbor

Four Bills to Rein in Homeowner Associations



Credit Hawaii Life

HOAs serve a useful purpose, but their authority must be balanced with freedoms of individual homeowners.

As the President of my Homeowners Association (HOA), I can attest to their usefulness on issues of neighborhood-wide concern. However, I have heard numerous complaints from numerous constituents about their HOA's unreasonable restrictions and after-the-fact fines.

I have introduced four bills this session to try to address at least some of these concerns and improve balance between HOA's authority and the flexibility of individual homeowners. You can see them listed on the opposite page, but I wanted to take an opportunity to highlight a couple of them.

My office received a call from a homeowner who had been fined by their HOA for modifications made by the previous homeowner. Though the caller hadn't been previously aware of the changes, and mentioned this to the HOA representative, they still were required to pay a fine.

Stories like this are not unique, not to the caller and not to the Ewa

community. So two of the bills I authored this session seek directly to address this particular issue.

Another bill will seek to prohibit HOAs from banning home-based businesses, with certain exceptions. Small, home-based businesses are vital to our economy, particularly at a time when working from home is key to the health and safety of our friends and family.

HOAs are meant to serve as community organizations which pool resources to the benefit of all. They should not be arbitrary enforcement mechanisms for arbitrary and inconsistently applied rules.

Should these bills receive a public hearing, I encourage everyone who shares my frustration to submit testimony in support.

Just to the left are some helpful tips for submitting written and oral testimony in the COVID age and with the State Capitol closed to the public.



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>

Hawaii Utility Bill Assistance Program



The Hawai'i Utility Bill Assistance Program will begin accepting applications at 8 a.m. on Feb. 8, 2021.

The Hawai'i Utility Bill Assistance program aims to help Hawai'i residents who are financially affected by the pandemic and who have fallen behind on their payments to electric, water, sewer and gas utilities.

Residential customers who meet eligibility requirements can receive a one-time assistance of funds up to \$750. That amount can be paid to one utility or split among several.

Hawaiian Electric is the founding sponsor of this statewide program to help qualifying families recover from the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hawaiian Electric has pledged \$2 million in shareholder money from its parent company, Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI), to the Hawai'i Utility Bill Assistance Program, which will be administered through Aloha United Way on O'ahu in partnership with Hawai'i's local United Way chapters.

Learn more at: <https://www.auw.org/utilityhelp>

Speaking With Politically Engaged Youth

Happy to hit the ground running after the November Election.

One of the things I enjoy most about being in public office is the numerous opportunities I am offered to speak to young people. From elementary school-aged kids to high school and even college students conversations about public policy and civic engagement are so important.

Most recently, I was fortunate to meet with some members of the Youth Council of the Hawaii Pacific Health Institute (HIPHI).

The students who participate range in age from middle school to college. These inspiring individuals have made a commitment to themselves, to HIPHI, and to their fellow Youth Council members to actively engage and participate.

“Peer-to-peer education and activism” is their mission and their

focus is reducing teen smoking and vaping.

I am so thoroughly impressed with these individuals. Their competence, their passion, and their commitment to this work they’ve chosen to do.

The HIPHI Youth Coalition, as part of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii shares the credit for passing legislation for smoke-free bars and restaurants, raising the legal age for tobacco products to 21 statewide.

For this year’s session, the Youth Council will continue to support legislation to curb the use of tobacco and vaping including:

- Banning the sale of flavored tobacco products and mislabeled e-liquid products.

- Adding e-liquid and electronic smoking devices to the definition of “tobacco products” ensuring they are taxed equal to traditional tobacco products.

Because of their impassioned advocacy, in part, I decided to be a Primary Introducer of both of these bills and look forward to working together to protect our keiki and pass these bills.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about and joining the HIPHI Youth Council, you can find information here: <https://www.hiphi.org/youth/#tab-id-2>.



Legislation That Creatively Reduces Traffic

- [HB1218 Relating to Home-Based Businesses](#): Prohibits HOAs from banning home-based businesses, with certain exceptions.

- [HB836 Relating to Income Tax Credits](#): Establishes a tax credit for employers who allow telework for at least 30% of their employees

- [HB1293 Relating to Remote Work](#): Establishes a remote work transition grant program to assist businesses in converting to virtual offices.

- [HB567 Relating to Employment](#): Requires departments to establish telework and alternative work schedule policies.

Perhaps one of the small positives to result from the COVID-19 pandemic has been more flexibility to work remotely from home and, as a result, a reduction in traffic. These are a few bills that seek to make permanent in some fashion the ability to telework, which could prove beneficial to those living in the Ewa Plain.