

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT LOPRESTI, Ph.D

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

## DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2021

STAY CONNECTED WITH  
REPRESENTATIVE MATT LOPRESTI

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## Summer Sees a Slow Return to Normal for Hawai'i

I hope everyone is enjoying the early days of summer. Toward the end of May, Governor Ige announced that masks will no longer be required outdoors, though everyone is encouraged to do so, especially if you're socializing in a large group. Indoors, masks are still required.

Obviously this is good news. The people of Hawai'i have done a remarkable job taking responsibility for themselves, their friends and their family. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawai'i has consistently been among the states with the lowest rate of infection. Even now our daily case counts are slowly dropping and currently sit in the mid-double-digit range.

Those who took the threat to heart from the beginning, who social distanced, and wore a mask whenever they were out and

about should feel incredibly proud. There's no doubt the past year has been challenging, but together we have managed to make it through.

Hawai'i's vaccination rate is among the highest in the country. According to the [Mayo Clinic](#), more than 70% of Hawaii's population has received at least one vaccine dose, placing us 3rd among states, and nearly 48% are fully vaccinated. These are fantastic numbers!

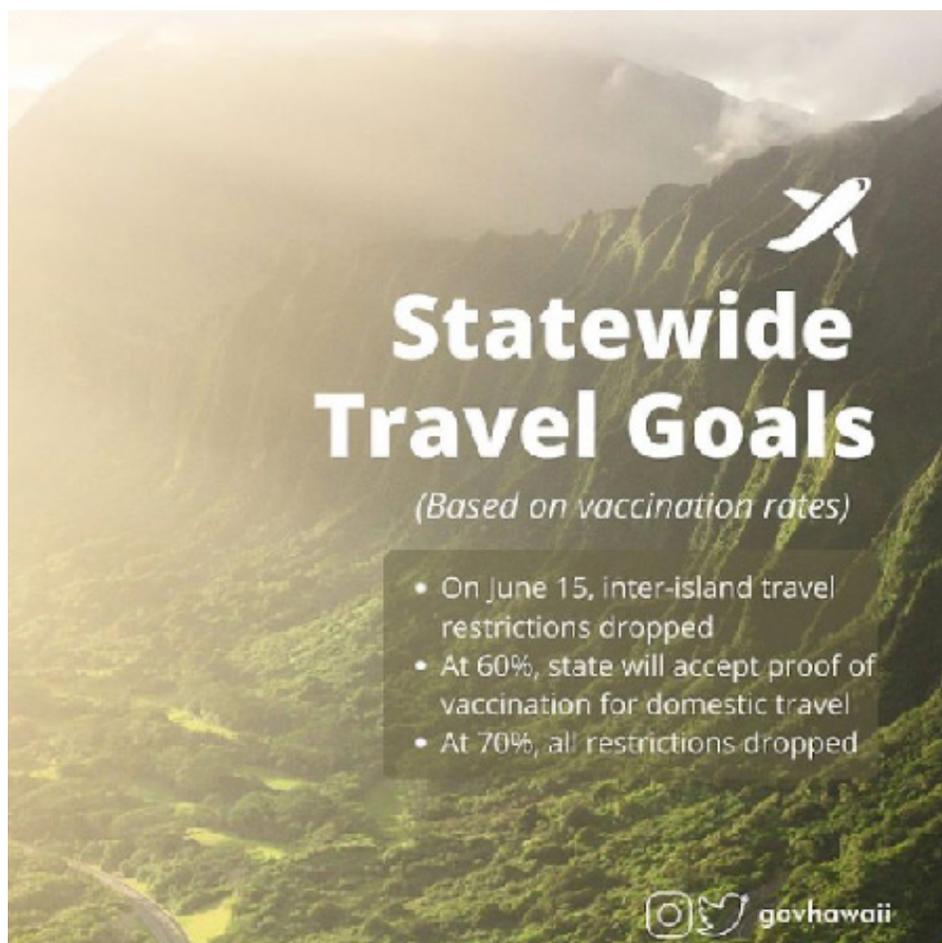
I want to thank Governor Ige, Lt. Governor Green, Department of Health Director Char, and especially all the medical staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly throughout the vaccine effort. We still have a way to go before we exceed 70%, but we are definitely on the right track.

Despite this fantastic progress and the loosening of restrictions, we must remain vigilant. Please

continue to wear a mask when you're inside at grocery stores, at the mall, etc. and when you're socializing in large groups. We certainly don't want to see a backslide into increased restrictions and we want to continue to ensure the health and safety of our island communities.

It is that vigilance and commitment to one another that has allowed us to get to this point.

With Aloha,  
Matt LoPresti




## Hawai'i Safe Travel Updates

Beginning June 15, Hawai'i residents returning from the U.S. continent who received at least one vaccine dose in Hawai'i will be able to skip COVID-19 testing and quarantine requirements.

Read more: <https://hawaiicovid19.com/travel/travel-overview/>

## Share Your Bill Ideas For 'Ewa Beach

Don't Be Shy!

[repropresti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repropresti@capitol.hawaii.gov)

OR (808) 586-6080

Representing the 'Ewa community for House District 41 is truly an honor. Though the 2021 legislative session was a challenging one, the work of representing you is never finished.

With this in mind, I want to take this opportunity to invite you all to contact my office with any ideas you have for introduction for the 2022 legislative session which begins next January. Sure, it seems like a long way off, but it will be upon us before we know it. It's never too early to begin thinking about my bill package and what is most needed for our community.

I can't promise that every idea I receive will be drafted for a bill or be introduced for consideration by my colleagues. With a limit on the number of bills I can

introduce in any given session, a certain amount of triage and prioritization must be weighed. As well as the potential for each bill's success.

What I can promise is that I will review every suggestion and give them the attention they deserve.

I hope you will contact my office with your ideas. I will look forward to reading them.

Some examples include:

- New traffic signals
- Locations for crosswalks
- Loud mufflers
- Traffic safety
- Guidance for HOAs

When you contact my office, please include the following information:

- First & Last Name
- Residential Address
- Phone #
- Email Address



## Useful Contacts

1

### REPORT GOVERNMENT FRAUD, WASTE & ABUSE

[ethics.hawaii.gov/fraud\\_complaint/](https://ethics.hawaii.gov/fraud_complaint/)

Confidential Call: 587-0000

Email: [anti-fraud@hawaii.gov](mailto:anti-fraud@hawaii.gov)

2

### Non-Emergency Police Assistance

Call: (808)529-3111

4

### Crimestoppers

Call: 955-8300

5

### Hawaiian Humane Society

General Inquiries: (808) 356-2200

6

### Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

<https://pua.hawaii.gov/>

# 'Ewa Makai Middle School Awards Ceremony



Congratulations to these outstanding students and congratulations to everyone for making through this school year!

We all know how difficult this past year has been. For parents, for teachers, and for students, the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped our lives in ways that may never change back. Each one of us has had to learn how to adapt; to learn new skills and how to live in a scarier world than before.

That's why I was so proud and honored to participate in the achievement awards ceremony a few weeks ago.

During a year in which both teaching and learning has required everyone to adapt, improve, and persevere under stressful and unfamiliar circumstances nine outstanding students each received one of three awards:

- Perseverance Award - Recognizes students who exhibited dedication, determination, and persistence during this past school year, despite the unexpected circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

- Adaptability Award - Recognizes students who showed resilience and adaptiveness in both full distance and in-person learning.
- Most Improved Award - Recognizes students who showed exceptional improvement in their academics, as a whole, from the beginning of the school year until the end.

Being able to adapt and persevere and improve when things are tough is what makes good students. It's what makes good teachers and it's what makes good people.

While nine students were recognized for their outstanding achievements, each and every student should feel proud about making it through the school year. For many, I

imagine it to be the most stressful and challenging of their academic careers to date and to move on to the next grade is a feat of its own.

We shouldn't forget about this past school year and how students, teachers, and parents managed. Hold it in your memory and learn from it. When we care about one another and are considerate and compassionate, we can come through any crisis together.





## HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 2, 2021

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

In public statements you made during the week of May 21, you repeated your belief that cancellation of student debt would unfairly benefit wealthier students attending Ivy League colleges, despite data suggesting otherwise. We the undersigned are disappointed to hear that you remain unmoved from this belief.

It has been reported by multiple news outlets that only 0.3% of all federal student loans are owed by individuals who attended Ivy League schools. Harvard's own Editorial Board notes that only 3% of undergraduates at that school have even received federal loans. Approximately 45 million Americans collectively own \$1.57 trillion in federal student loans, with the average loan amount being \$36,510. That's the equivalent to over 7% of the United States' Gross Domestic Product.

College tuition rates across the country are rising faster than inflation and the working and middle-classes cannot keep up. We believe that a high-quality education can level the playing field in terms of income inequality and would substantially contribute to the welfare of our people, the competitiveness of our labor force and the health of our democracy.

Experts have opined that you, as President of the United States, have the authority, through executive order, to wipe out federal student loan debt.

We ask that you to take swift and decisive action on this issue for students, parents, and their families. Doing so would provide Americans with needed financial relief during these challenging times. It would stimulate the economy, help address racial disparities, and actually help to level the playing field for some of the most indebted people in our nation.

Mahalo,

Representative  
Matthew S. LoPresti

Representative  
Lisa Marten

Representative  
Bertrand Kobayashi

Senator  
Bennette E. Misalucha

Senator  
Kurt Fevella

Representative  
Amy Perruso



*Join us online for a series of free webinars:*

Sign up:

<http://aarp.cvent.com/HIVets2021>

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **TUESDAYS**

6/22 @ 4:30 PM

**Veterans Legislation and Policy Update**

6/29 @ 3:00 PM

**Veterans Benefits Workshop**

7/06 @ 4:30 PM

**Combined VA Leadership Panel**

7/13 @ 4:30 PM

**Maximizing Performance, Managing Pain**

7/20 @ 4:30 PM

**Behavioral Health Services for Veterans and Their Families**

### **FRIDAYS**

6/18 @ 2 PM

**Operation Protect Veterans:**

**Avoid Veterans Fraud**

6/25 @ 5:30 PM

**Movie Night: 1517 to Paris**

7/09 @ 7 PM

**Virtual Trivia—Pub Poll**

7/16 @ 2PM

**Estate Planning**

This series of virtual events is made possible through the collaboration of the Hawai'i Office of Veterans Services, the Hawai'i Veterans Foundation and AARP Hawai'i, in partnership with other veterans organizations and stakeholders.