



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MATT LOPRESTI

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

DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

STAY CONNECTED WITH
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2021 Session Update

March 11 is an important threshold for this year's legislative session.

First Crossover marks the unofficial "halfway point" for the 2021 Legislative Session.

This date is the point at which bills that have made it through all their committee hearings move to the opposite chamber. House Bills move to the Senate and vice versa.

After crossover, the committees of which I am a member will hear Senate Bills that have crossed over to the House.

Once the bills are returned to their originating chamber, the House and Senate Committees will come together in "Conference" and negotiate differences between the House and the Senate.

Bills that survive that process will then be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

With Aloha,
Matt LoPresti

Representative Matthew S. LoPresti
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!



Farrington Highway Widening

\$100 million for widening from Kapolei Golf Course to Ft. Weaver Rd.

Estimated Completion: June 2026



At Work For You

Meeting with Governor Ige to Discuss the Future of Aloha Stadium

During the first week in March, I had the opportunity to meet with Governor Ige to share my concerns about the proposed redevelopment of the Aloha Stadium, particularly with regards to including the backup laydown site for shipping containers in the event Honolulu Harbor is unusable as a result of some disaster.

I also was fortunate to have some time to share other issues of import for our community.



Sidewalks Equal Safety in 'Ewa

A CIP request is just the beginning of what needs to be done to make 'Ewa a safer place.

Since before I was first elected to office in 2014, one of the biggest issues that desperately required a solution is the lack of sidewalks along vast stretches of Fort Weaver Road.

Whether its 'Ewa residents outside exercising, walking their pets or to the grocery store, or students walking to or from school everyday, Fort Weaver Road is a dangerous place for pedestrians.

Every year I have been in office, including this year, I have included in my Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests for the district an ask for funds for the design and construction of sidewalks along this major artery in and out of our community. Unfortunately, every year the Department of Transportation has opted not to proceed with this project.

As we move into the spring and summer, I will be reaching out to community members, the Ewa Neighborhood Board, and school children to engage everyone in a massive letter-writing campaign

to the Governor and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HI-DOT).

It is my hope that if we can work together to elevate the urgency for these improvements, we will see change.

Legislation Still Moving

- [HB225 HD2 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 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.

Emergency Infrastructure Must be Included in Any Redevelopment of Aloha Stadium



Credit Hawaii Public Radio

Portions of my Floor Speech on February 12 in opposition to HB1348.

In our collective mad dash to demolish and redevelop the Aloha Stadium district, any number of considerations appear to have been swept aside, in my opinion, to the benefit of a few. It appears at this stage, to me, that little to no consideration has been given to affordable housing, to workforce housing, and perhaps most importantly to the district’s central role for use in emergency situations.

This is a matter of state and national security. This is not just a district issue, a district project. This is a state-wide and a national concern. Honolulu Harbor is an indispensable port for container ships that are vital lifelines to Hawaii’s food supply, not to mention the countless other products and supplies that allow us to live in these remote islands.

While plans were largely in place to use the port at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as a backup should some catastrophic failure happen at Honolulu Harbor and it becomes unusable, there is no space within

Joint Base that can serve as a laydown storage area for shipping containers.

The New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District has been identified by HI-EMA and the DOD as the best place for this laydown storage area. I’ve pointed to the need for this since 2016. Despite the position of HI-EMA and the DOD, There is no reference to it in the EIS or in any of the development plans. It seems at this stage absolutely no consideration has been given to the need for this emergency infrastructure.

The alternative plan is to bring those things 20 miles to Kalaeloa. However, if there is a south shore event that takes out Honolulu Harbor there is a very good chance that Kalaeloa would also be wiped out.

It is critically important that any redevelopment of Aloha Stadium include infrastructure for this emergency laydown area. To not do so would be potentially catastrophic for our island, our state, and potentially our country.



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>

Ewa Beach, Kapolei Food Assistance Locations with Days & Times

Walanae Coast Community Foundation
8am Second Saturday each month

Kapolei Theater & K-Mart Parking Lot
890 Kamokila Blvd. #107
Kapolei, HI 96707
(Produce Plus)

Immaculate Conception Church
1st & 3rd Friday 5pm-6pm

91-1298 Renton Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 681-3701
(Food Pantry)

Ewa Beach Baptist Church

Last Saturday each month 10am-11am

91-743 Pohakupuna Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 689-8888
(Food Pantry)

**Ewa Beach United Methodist Church Loaves
& Fishes –**

2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 8am-10am

91-660 Pohakupuna Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 689-0153

Child & Family Services

Every Wednesday 2pm-4pm

91-1841 Ft. Weaver Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 681.3500
(Food Pantry)

**Message of Peace Ministry @ Illma
Intermediate School**

Every 3rd Saturday 9am

91-884 Fort Weaver Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 225-5920
(Produce Plus)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Last Friday each month 8am

91-1004 North Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 689-8681
(Food Pantry)

Saint Jude Catholic Church

Every Tuesday & Thursday 3:30pm - 4:30pm

92-455 Makakilo Dr.
Kapolei, HI 96707
Phone: (808) 672-8669

Hawaii Food Bank Pop-Up Food Distribution: Food for 400 Households

Ewa Pu'uloa District Park –Wednesday December 23 9am-11am

91-201 Kaimele Pl.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

*Produce Plus: "Ohana Produce Plus is a mass, mobile food distribution program that enables Hawaii Foodbank to bring food directly into the communities where it is needed most.

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.



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.

Hawaii 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.

Progress on the Haseko Lagoon

In late February, I met with the Department of Health (DOH) to discuss HB104/SB923 Relating to Pools to get an update on the situation and to offer any assistance I could to find a solution to the situation. Both HB104 and SB923 failed to meet necessary deadlines to advance this session. Though I offered to submit a resolution or draft new legislation and was prepared to do so, they said no additional bill or legislative resolution is necessary at this time.

I understand Haseko will be submitting an application to DOH for a variance from their Administrative Rules regulating pools.

It is my hope that the variance process will resolve this issue in a way that meets the community's needs, as well as providing mechanisms to ensure the marina/lagoon meets health and safety standards for those who wish to make use of it.