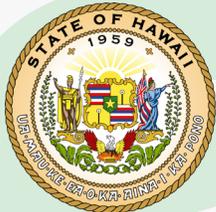




Representative Matthew S. LoPresti  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 333  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MATT LOPRESTI**

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

**DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021 - FALL REVIEW**

**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING  
"LET'S TALK ABOUT HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS"**

**WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 6:30PM**

**WHERE: ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**RSVP: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HE8ANKM4](https://tinyurl.com/he8ankm4)**

**YOU WILL THEN RECEIVE AN EMAIL  
WITH YOUR LINK.**



Scan this QR code with your  
smartphone to register

# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

President Biden has proclaimed October to be "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

Here in Hawai'i some may not think about acts of violence taking place with high frequency or volume. But violence occurs nonetheless and unfortunately Hawai'i ranks relatively high among states for domestic violence against women.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), in 2021 41.5% of women in Hawai'i experienced some form of domestic violence, placing the "Aloha State" the 11th highest in the nation. Amongst men in Hawai'i, that number is 24.1% (43rd in the nation).

NCADV defines domestic violence as "the willful intimidation as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another." They go on to clarify that the "frequency and severity of domestic violence can

vary dramatically, but the constant of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other."

Domestic violence can manifest in a number of ways and doesn't always include physical manifestations that can be easily seen. This is one of the reasons it can be difficult to identify and why raising awareness is so crucial.

According to a paper published by researchers at UC Davis "COVID-19 isolation linked to increased domestic violence." While the paper is careful not to draw direct causality, it does stress that "the pandemic, like other kinds of disasters, exacerbates the social and livelihood stresses and circumstances that we know lead to intimate partner violence."

This is an issue that doesn't get nearly enough attention and I urge you all to take a look at the great resources available at the NCADV website:



<https://ncadv.org/>. Their site hosts a wealth of information about how to identify potential signs of domestic violence, resources for help, and state and national statistics.

During prior years, I have been proud to participate in the Men's March Against Violence to help promote awareness.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY:

### I WANT TO HEAR WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

**As we move into the holiday season with an eye toward the 2022 legislative session, I'm hoping to hear from you on issues that matter the most to you and your families.**

**To meet this effort, I have created an online survey which I hope you will take the time to complete. You can use this link to complete it on your computer: <https://tinyurl.com/y4749xkz>**

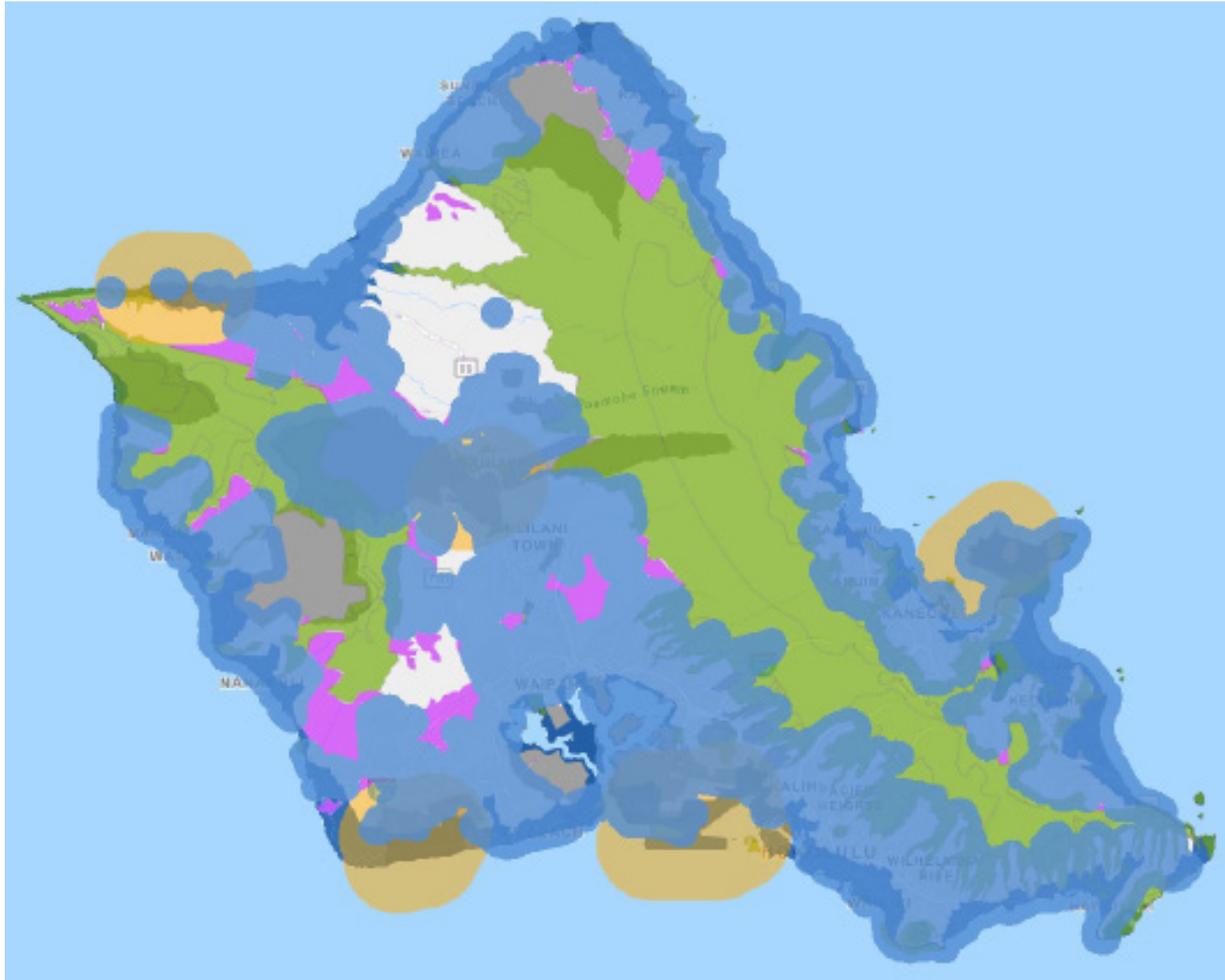
**Or you can use your smartphone and the QR code to the right to complete it.**



**Scan this QR code with your smartphone to complete the survey!**



# ALERT • City May Look to ‘Ewa for New Landfill Site



One of the potential sites identified is just north of the ‘Ewa Beach community.

On August 27, the Star-Advertiser reported that the Honolulu Department of Environmental Services (ENV) has narrowed its search for a new landfill to a handful of areas for which no mandated restrictions apply. Those restrictions include:

- Cannot be within a 1/2 mile of a residential community, any school, or any hospital
- Must be sufficiently distanced from any airport
- Cannot be in a conservation district
- Cannot be located in a tsunami evacuation zone
- Cannot be located on land which has been developed or which is planned for development

- Cannot be on federal lands
- Having identified all those restricted lands, only those areas identified in white on the above map are suitable locations for the new landfill.

The landfill at Waimanalo Gulch is very near capacity and has been ordered closed by 2028. The City must identify a location for the new landfill by the end of next year.

The ‘Ewa community already has located within it the island’s largest wastewater treatment facility. Do we really want to be home to the new landfill as well?

As the map indicates, there are other, potentially more remote locations the City can choose as the new landfill’s home. While my office confirmed with ENV that no decisions have been made at this stage, beyond eliminating all the restricted land from consideration, it is

important that ‘Ewa residents make their position know.

**I am opposed to putting the new landfill in or near ‘Ewa and believe it makes more sense to choose a another location.**

I urge everyone to complete this survey from Environmental Services: <https://tinyurl.com/zfydt7ay>.

You can also find more information at the ENV website (<http://www.honolulu.gov/opala/newlandfill.html>) and you can email any questions, thoughts or concerns you have to [newlandfill@honolulu.gov](mailto:newlandfill@honolulu.gov).

It is so important to make your voice heard on this issue that could directly impact our community.

# Rep. LoPresti Calls for Increased Budgetary & Organizational Support for HPD to Address Increased Population in West O'ahu



With enduring respect for those who protect and serve our community, I call on HPD to have an increased presence.

Earlier this year, the Assistant Chief of Police and I had several discussions about the need for increased police presence in 'Ewa Beach and he graciously offered to have HPD's elite traffic division officers come out to 'Ewa Beach for a time to help regarding ongoing larger racing, speeding, and traffic enforcement issues for a few weeks. While this helped for a time, we still need more active police presence, and I am in an ongoing discussion with HPD about this. Most recently I have reached out to Interim Chief of Police Rade Vanic to ensure that our community's needs stay on the radar of incoming and newer top brass in the department.

In response to my contact with Interim Chief Vanic, I was fortunate to have a follow up meeting with several officers in charge in of District 8 to discuss these issues and hear from them about potential solutions as well as how I might be able to help. It was a very frank and positive conversation.

Among the issues I discussed

with Major Beckley, Captain Tanaka, Sergeant Muraoka, and Corporal Pagan in our meeting was the serious need for a permanent increase in the number of officers patrolling our community. With the massive increase in population on the West Side of O'ahu creates an increase demand on our police force. The officers I spoke with agreed, but pointed to staffing shortages, as well as the sheer size of the area they are charged with protecting.

District 8 is massive in size. It extends from 'Ewa Beach all the way past Makaha and Makua Valley to the Western tip of island – that is, from Iroquois Point west Campbell Industrial Park, and then all the way north to Kaena Point. That is far too large an area for one police station based in Kapolei to handle, especially with our well-documented population boom across the Leeward Coast and the 'Ewa Plain. **I want to fully support HPD in advocating that a new District 9 be**





**created for West O'ahu.** This will reduce the strain on HPD officers in our area and enable them to better focus on our communities. To accomplish this however will take a serious re-investment by our government back into our communities. Our area's tax dollar contributions across West O'ahu have long been increasing, but so far re-investment in basic infrastructure (roads, schools, police, etc.) are still struggling to keep pace.

To help, if you see something that shouldn't be happening, call 911. That is the number to call for any interaction with police or need for police involvement. It is OK to call 911 if it is not an emergency. That is the first question they will ask and simply say you would like to report something to the police. The more you call and encourage policing in your area or on an issue you believe needs increased attention, the better they will be able to advocate for more policing resources for our area. If people do not report crime, then they will not record a need for more enforcement to those who determine the police budget. It may seem counterintuitive, but you can actually help get more police in

the Ewa area by reporting issues to the police more often and asking for more police presence from them and from your elected officials.

I deeply appreciate the hard and often dangerous work police do in our community. I have even had the opportunity a few times to participate in HPD's ride along program, where I get to ride along with an officer for a shift to learn more about the communities needs from their perspective. **It is my goal to continue maintaining this close familiarity with our officers to better understand what they need from government to do their often-difficult jobs.** Taking the time to do this hands-on engagement keeps me grounded and better enables me to both directly advocate to HPD for our community's policing needs and at the same time better informs me about what HPD needs from elected officials like me to be able to do their jobs protecting you.

If, like me, you believe HPD should be engaged in more patrols in 'Ewa Beach, I encourage you to contact the Kapolei Police Station: (808) 723-8400. Or you can use

this link to share your thoughts with them electronically: <https://www.honolulu.pd.org/templates/contact/>.

You may also consider calling the mayor's office at: 786-4141 or email at Mayor@Honolulu.Gov.

In the coming weeks, I will be working to coordinate a gathering of Westside elected officials who represent communities included in Patrol District 8 and HPD officers in that district to talk about how we might support them to address budget issues, staffing shortages, and a reshaping of patrol districts to better serve our communities and keep them safe.



# Hawaiian Humane Society 'Ewa Beach Campus: Update

74% of 'Ewa residents have at one pet in their home.

Earlier this year, I was fortunate to be present at the Hawaiian Humane Society's groundbreaking ceremony for their brand new 'Ewa campus.

Thanks to a generous donation of a five-acre parcel from D.R. Horton-Schuler Homes in 2015, this new campus, situated at the intersection of Old Fort Weaver Rd. and Fort Weaver Rd., will serve West O'ahu's growing community.

When you consider that approximately 74 percent of 'Ewa residents have at least one pet in their home, the highest percentage of any community in the state, this is very welcome news.

The distance between West O'ahu communities and the Humane Society's Mō'ili'ili campus is a barrier for pet owners who need to re-home their animals, resulting in unnecessary suffering and contributing to pet abandonment. Abandoned animals are at increased risk of illness, injury and death.

Given West O'ahu's rapidly growing population, and the fact that mainland animal welfare organizations that add a second campus typically attract clients who were not previously using their services at all, they expect demand for



services at the 'Ewa campus will be even greater than the demand at their Mō'ili'ili campus.

According to the Hawaiian Humane Society, mass grading of the site should be completed by the time this newsletter is published. The general contractor is expected to begin construction in late October or early November. At that time, construction fencing will be erected around the site as well as increased construction activity.

Once the general contractor takes over and begins work, Hawaiian Humane Society plans to install a construction camera to they can easily share the

progress with the community. The project is expected to be completed late next year or early in 2023.

Included in the plans for the campus is a dog park, which our community is sorely lacking.

West O'ahu is home to 32 percent of the island's homeless population, and approximately 29 percent of unsheltered homeless individuals on O'ahu report having at least one pet. Low income and homeless pet owners face additional challenges in feeding, sterilizing and caring for their animal family members. The 'Ewa campus will strive to keep these vulnerable families together.

The programs and services offered at the 'Ewa campus will include:

- Animal cruelty investigations and rescues
- Pet lost and found
- Animal admissions
- Adoptions
- Pet Kōkua
- Educational programs for youth and adults
- Veterinary care for animals being made available for adoption
- Affordable spay/neuter for owned animals and Free-Roaming cats
- An off-leash dog park



# Traffic Improvements for 'Ewa

Our community continues to need more traffic lights and pedestrian safety measures.

Last month, I sent a letter to the City and State traffic divisions asking for updates on a couple of previously requested improvements. That letter also included a number of requests for new improvements for the 'Ewa community.

The first update request is for a **raised crosswalk at the intersection of Keoneula Boulevard and KaMakana Street**. I have been told, and I hope the letter will confirm, that the administrative hurdles for this project have been cleared and now we are waiting for construction to begin.

The second is for a **traffic light at the intersection of Kapolei Parkway and Kuhiuka Street**. The has informed that this project has been pushed back to 2023, which is not soon enough.

I also asked for the following:

- A Kalaeloa traffic signal at the intersection of Roosevelt Ave. and Fort Barrette Rd (at the FBI building).
- A raised crosswalk or traffic light at the intersection of Kapolei Parkway and Kaimalie Street. This intersection needs some infrastructure for pedestrian safety, especially given its proximity to 'Ewa Beach Elementary School.
- A crosswalk at the intersection of Kapolei Parkway and Ko'ana Street. Pedestrians need a safe place to cross from the Parkside neighborhood to the Laulani Community Park.
- A study for a possible traffic light at the intersection of Geiger Road and KaMakana Street. A number of residents have expressed frustration with attempting a left turn onto Geiger Road.
- During peak travel times, there is a tremendous back up at the intersection at Franklin D. Roosevelt Avenue and Fort Barrette Road. In addition to traffic lights there, I believe the area would benefit from a widening of the road to allow for the creation of turning lanes, thus further alleviating traffic.

I was also recently informed that the request for a raised crosswalk at Keoneula Blvd. and Kamakana St. have been approved by the City. The project is now in the bidding stage and unless material shortages cause delays, it should be completed in approximately three months.

Finally, as you may recall, the Legislature in two prior sessions, appropriated \$33 million for widening Fort Weaver Rd. and the installation of sidewalks. Both times these funds were appropriated, the State Department of Transportation refused to expend the moneys. Despite efforts to understand this, I have never received a full explanation. Included in my letter is a request for one.

All these improvements are important for the safety and vitality of our community and I will continue to work with the City and State administrations, as well as all the elected officials that represent the 'Ewa community. We're in this together for you.



The community is asking Gentry Homes Hawaii to install a traffic light at the intersection of Ka Makana Rd. and Geiger Rd. To help facilitate that effort, I've created a petition to eventually share with Gentry: <https://chnng.it/hmqxh7HZ>. Please share with your local networks.

## SUCCESS!

**Mahalo to Haseko and the City & County of Honolulu for listening to the Ewa community and beginning the installment of a raised crosswalk on Keonaula Blvd. at Kamakana St.**

**Construction began on October 25 and is expected to be completed by late November or early December.**

# Rep. LoPresti to Host Virtual Town Hall on HOAs: Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30pm

I look forward to hearing from you!

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

For the 2021 legislative session I introduced four bills to address just some of the issues I am aware of relating to Homeowner Associations and their

occasionally draconian rules and penalties on their members. I am working hard on legislative solutions to some of the problems constituents have often brought to my attention with regard to HOAs.

Earlier this month, I met with representatives from Associa Hawaii and Hawaiiana HOA management firms to begin a dialogue with them about how we might work together to address some of the most egregious rules and



fines. Our conversation was friendly and collaborative and I look forward to more such conversations as we approach the 2022 legislative session.

To further this dialogue and to receive input and insight from the community, I am hosting a Virtual Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30pm. I have invited Representative Aaron Johanson who is Chair of the House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs. It is his

committee that will be the subject matter committee in the House.

I have also invited representatives from Associa Hawaii and Hawaiiana management companies so they can hear first hand from the community.

If you are interested in attending the Virtual Town Hall, which will be conducted over Zoom, you can request the Zoom link by following the instructions in the box to the left.

I hope you will attend for this important conversation.

## Sign up for the Virtual Town Hall

You can sign up to participate using the QR code:



**Representative Aaron Johanson is Chair of the House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs and will be our special guest.**

**If you have questions for the Town Hall, please submit them in advance to [relopresti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:relopresti@capitol.hawaii.gov).**



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to register