MARCH 2021



Aloha Neighbors,

Here at the capitol, I'm learning a lot. Given the tight budget, my Bills have mostly focused on initiatives that don't cost the State money. I am thrilled to report that 7 made it through the House of Representatives (mostly environmental Bills) and will now try their luck in the Senate.

These past two weeks have been mostly focused on finance hearings. Our Chair has really tried hard to find over \$100M "extra" funds stashed away in special funds and defunct programs to try to restore full budgets for important programs such as the Sex Abuse Treatment Center and the State Needle Exchange after the Governor's cuts.

In the next few months COVID vaccines will become more readily available. When it's your turn to get vaccinated, please step up and do your part! It is not only for your own health, but to be part of the solution to stopping this virus. If you are vaccinated, you are less likely to consume our hospital resources, spread the disease to others, or provide an opportunity for the virus to mutate into new variants.

Stay tuned to social media for updates on new Federal benefits as they come out.

I've so appreciated the calls and emails I've received in my first few months as your Representative. It's an honor to represent you and your interests. Please continue to reach out, as I need to hear from you to best support you.

With warmest aloha,

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Rep. Lisa Marten

# FEDERAL COVID ECONOMIC RELIEF IS ON THE WAY

See American Rescue Plan info below.

### **CESSPOOL CONVERSION ASSISTANCE INFO BELOW**

Cesspool Town Hall Conversation linked here

• WAI, a local non-profit working to help Hawai'i homeowners upgrade to new systems that are affordable, efficient and better for the environment gave a briefing last week on the situation in Waimānalo.

• If you are successful in a bid for a grant to subsidize conversion for low-income households, our office will help qualified households with the application.

# SIGN UP FOR A COVID VACCINE IF YOU ARE 70+

If you are 70+ head to <u>Hawai'i Pacific Health's website</u>, Kaiser Permanente links below, or <u>Oueens</u> to register

Kaiser - NEW! We are accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccines at our upcoming mass vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 13,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at our Mapunapuna Medical Office. Eligible individuals in Phases 1A and 1B (70+) can make an appointment for this clinic. Kaiser Permanente members can make an appointment <u>here</u>. Non-members can determine their eligibility <u>here</u>.

75+ Registration Forms can be found here: https://castlehealthgrouphawaii.com/#covid19

COVID-19 Vaccine - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 (hawaiicovid19.com) More Vaccine info and updates on my Legislative Website

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

#### \$6 Billion of federal funding for Hawai'i residents and businesses

(Click links for details on Senator Schatz's continually updated website)

DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS: Automatic \$1,400 per individual who is a:

- Social Security Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance beneficiary,
- Supplemental Security Income recipient,
- Railroad Retirement beneficiary,
- VA beneficiary or
- tax filer with income:
  - o individual >\$75,000
  - o joint filing >\$150,000
  - o single parent >\$112,500 (Reduced benefit \$112,500 \$120,000)

**<u>UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE</u>**: Through September 6, 2021 (up to 79 weeks total). Additional payments of \$300/week.

**<u>RENTERS AND HOMEOWNERS</u>: Rent assistance** paid to landlord or utility if tenant meets income ceiling below and someone in tenant household qualifies for UI, lost income due to COVID or is at risk of homelessness. Landlord or renter can apply.

**Homeowners** behind on payments or in foreclosure can apply for mortgage assistance if the owner meet the income ceiling below.

Renters

Renters		Home owners	
income	# people	income	# people
\$70,500	1	\$88,100	1
\$80,600	2	\$100,800	2
\$90,650	3	\$113,300	3
\$100,700	4	\$125,900	4
\$108,800	5	\$136,000	5
\$116,850	6	\$146,100	6
\$124,900	7	\$156,100	7
\$132,950	8	\$166,200	8

**SMALL BUSINESSES:** For payroll and operating expenses.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS:** SNAP and WIC payments increased.

**TAX RELIEF:** Increase in the Child Tax Credit (fully refundable).

**EMERGENCY PAID LEAVE:** Employers funded to provide paid sick leave / home leave if the reason for staying home is related to COVID or for caring for a child whose daycare or school is shut due to COVID.

**VETERANS:** Retraining assistance for high-demand occupations with housing stipend and an extra round of direct emergency payments.

<u>AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE, AND FISHERIES</u>: Grants and loans available for small and or midsized enterprises. Food and agricultural commodities purchased for distribution to individuals in need.

**BROADBAND ACCESS:** For schools and libraries to purchase Internet access and connected devices for students, educators and library patrons in need.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Colleges receive funds for direct financial assistance to students.