



Caring for each other

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2019

SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI

DISTRICT 12 - ALA MOANA, KAKA'AKO, MCCULLY, MOILIILI, SHERIDAN, WAIKIKI



Aloha! Hawaii no ka oi, but what a hot summer! For me, this has been a challenging first year, starting with a fast-paced legislative session. Thankfully, we were able to pass, on your behalf, four bills, six resolutions, in addition to capital improvement projects and grants-in-aid appropriations. We helped fund

programs to help seniors age in place and to stay healthy. We advanced affordable housing. We penalized illegal liquor sales and moved to monitor opioid use and abuse.

Along with the counties, we worked on Ala Wai Watershed flood mitigation and restoration, homelessness, enforcing restrictions on short-term rentals in unpermitted residential neighborhoods, and caring for our trees (Ala

Wai promenade & Ala Moana Blvd). Additionally, we've begun to work on necessary improvements on our Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor and Canal.

Our office is here for you. Working together, we will care for each other and our neighborhoods. The survey sent to you (results located on page 5) helps us to do our work better. In this spirit, we will send you another survey to help us prepare for next year.

And, of course, we also want to hear from you during the year. If you have not already done so, please give us your email address to stay in better touch. You can do so by going to our website where you can also see when and where we will be in your neighborhood holding our monthly chats.

Let's continue caring for each other!

AUGUST 2019 SURVEY

In January, we asked you about a number of issues facing us as we began the 2019 legislature. On page 5 is what you said and what we did and are doing about it (More details at our website at senatormoriwaki.com). Please tell us how we're doing and your ideas by completing the new survey online at senatormoriwaki.com, or call us at 586-6740 if you want a hard copy of the survey. Mahalo!



CHAT WITH SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI

The next chat is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th from 2pm - 3pm at **Kakaako Kitchen, 1200 Ala Moana Boulevard**. Sharon will continue to be in the community to chat with you and to discuss issues and concerns of the



Joined by members of the community at one of our monthly chats to discuss what can be done to improve our neighborhoods

district's communities. Go to senatormoriwaki.com or call or email our office for updated schedules for Chats at:



BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW THAT AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY



Joining fellow lawmakers and the Governor for the signing of the Kupuna bills



Joining the Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC), the Governor, and Senator Hirono for the signing of the WLC bills

KEEP CONNECTED WITH US

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ACTS AND THEIR PURPOSE

Kupuna Care

Helping kupuna to age in their own homes: increased funding for kupuna care services (\$4.1M) through caregiver assistance (\$1.5M), encourage healthy aging activities (\$550,000) and updating the plans for Alzheimer's disease services (\$59,616) (Acts 123, 124, 125, 126, and 127)

Affordable Housing

Adding to the housing inventory and helping low income residents to pay for housing: \$100M to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to build more affordable housing; \$2M to the Rent Supplement Fund (Act 189)

Illegal Liquor Sale

To give police greater enforcement tools against criminal activity in unlicensed clubs: Act 15 makes unlicensed sale of liquor a felony and issues a fine of \$2,000

Homelessness & Mental Health

To provide more support for homeless: expanding and extending Ohana Zones Pilot Project (\$2M); enabling treatment for homeless with severe mental illness and funding for state health regulators to aid homeless (\$100,000) (Act 128, 129, and 139)

Women's Legislative Caucus

Helping women who were victims of sex trafficking, domestic violence, and furthering support to Title IX programs (Act 175, 176 and 177)

Crime Prevention - Opioid Monitoring

Allowing greater information sharing on prescription drug data, including opioids, among state agencies and the federal government to formulate prevention strategies (Act 230)

Hawaii Condominiums

Clarifying the right of condo associations to conduct non-judicial foreclosures, allowing for appropriate judicial review; the allocation of payments made by a condo owner that are paid in excess of any common expenses owed; allowing for the use of electronic voting in condo association meetings and ensuring secrecy and integrity of votes; extending from 30 days to 90 days the retention period of proxies, tally sheets, ballots, owners' check in lists, and certificates of election after an association meeting; and requesting the Real Estate Commission study the rules affecting condo governance and recommends improvements to the Legislature (Act 282, 192, 14, 7 and SR41)



Kakaako Citizen's Patrol team in front of the Children's Discovery Center on its weekly patrolling of Kakaako



Accompanying HPD's HELP (Health Efficiency Long-term Partnership) program and its service provider partners in servicing the houseless in Kakaako



SENATE DISTRICT 12 WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU



MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

DOE continuing work on environmental assessment for bleachers and lighting at football field



QUEEN KAAHUMANU ELEMENTARY

- \$175,000 for replacement of playcourt equipment
- \$200,000 for renovation, repair and repaving of the Kināu street parking lot



KAKA'AOKO "PRIVATE" STREETS

Working with House Speaker Scott Saiki to ensure safe, well maintained streets while disputed ownership is resolved



POHUKAINA ELEMENTARY

\$20 million for plan, land acquisition, design, construction and equipment for a new "vertical" elementary school by Mother Waldron Park



CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER

We backed HCR 36 convening a task force to address crime, homelessness and related issues around the Children's Discovery Center. Senate President Kouchi appointed me to represent the Senate on the task force. Meanwhile, the transfer of jurisdiction of Kakaako park lands from the State to the City is near completion, allowing for a greater coordinated effort in dealing with the troubled area.



TREES ON ALA MOANA BLVD.

We worked with the City Council to request the administration resume watering of dying trees along Ala Moana Blvd.



FIGHTING BUILDING HEIGHT EXEMPTIONS IN KAKA'AOKO

I joined with House Speaker Scott Saiki in opposing SB1496 which would have allowed the building of a 768-foot-tall building in Kakaako (7 feet taller than Diamond Head). The measure died.



NEW FIRE STATION IN KAKA'AOKO

We are working with the Honolulu Fire Department and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to find a suitable location for a new First Responder Station in Kakaako to provide fire and EMS coverage for the burgeoning population in the area. HCR 161, adopted by the Legislature, urges the HCDA to recommend a location.



ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR IMPROVEMENT

We met several times with boaters, community stakeholders, and State boating officials to identify how the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor can achieve its full potential as the "gateway to Waikiki"



ROYAL HAWAIIAN GROIN REPLACEMENT

\$1.25 million to replace the Royal Hawaiian Groin to retain sand on Waikiki Beach



WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

\$1.85 million for plan, design, and construction of Waikiki Beach improvements along the Sheraton-Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kuhio Beach sectors to include sand restoration, refurbishment of derelict groins, and construction of new groins, with offshore sand dredging and beach sand placement



WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

\$720,000 for construction and equipment for recording studio audio integration



FIGHTING ILLEGAL SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS

Pushed for support of Council Bill 89 which now blocks unpermitted vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods



ALA WAI CANAL IMPROVEMENTS & DREDGING

In August/September, construction begins to repair and stabilize Ala Wai Canal walls and dredging to remove accumulated silt and sediments and enhanced plans for netting floating debris.



WAIKIKI SAFE WALK

We joined with Waikiki Community Center, Waikiki Improvement Association, and volunteers to assess pedestrian safety in Waikiki and bring ideas for improvement to officials.



KAIMUKI HIGH SCHOOL

- \$400,000 for design and construction of girls athletic locker room
- \$80,000 for design and construction of softball field improvements
- \$1 million for design and construction of new restrooms for the auditorium



WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

\$65,000 to support Waikiki Community Center operations providing free services and support to seniors in and around Waikiki



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

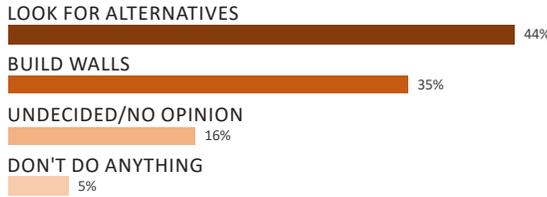
- \$300,000 to resurface the outdoor basketball court
- \$300,000 to design and resurface the parking lot and driveway

JANUARY 2019 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

QUESTION

What is your opinion on the Army Corps of Engineers' flood mitigation measures in the Ala Wai watershed, which includes the canal and surrounding areas?

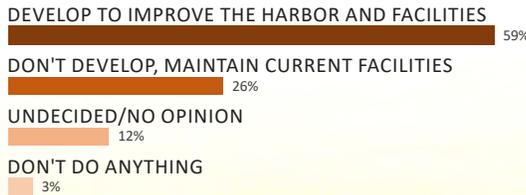
RESULT



WHAT WE'RE DOING

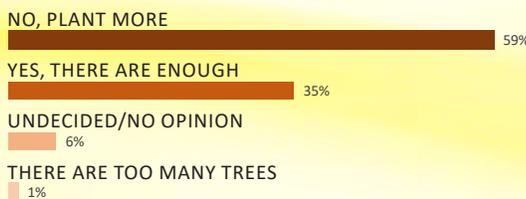
We sought local match for the federal flood risk management project, and additional funding for ecosystem restoration but project is to be finalized with a local sponsor; we will work with the City Council to support Bill 19-145 efforts to explore alternative plans to minimize project impacts on affected communities.

What do you think about the State Department of Land and Natural Resources' development of the Ala Wai public small boat harbor?



We are working with DLNR, stakeholders & the community to improve the public harbor as a "gateway to Waikiki."

Are there enough trees in Kakaako and Waikiki?



We continue to support planting more trees and caring better for what we have, including those along Ala Moana Blvd and the Ala Wai Canal Promenade.

Developers building affordable housing often seek exemptions from zoning and land use ordinances, e.g. taller buildings, higher density or less onsite parking, etc. Considering Hawaii's housing shortage, should exemptions be granted to build affordable housing?



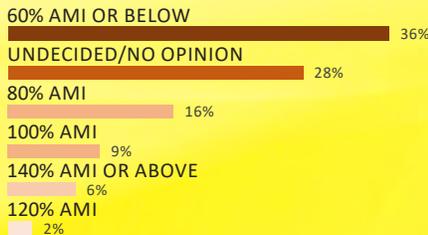
We support the ALOHA homes drive for affordable housing for residents but voted against heights beyond the 400 foot limit now in law.

What do you think about the use of private funds to build a large, new playground at Ala Moana Beach Park, which would be open to the public during daylight hours?



We seek to have the playground relocated to a more appropriate location, e.g. the Kakaako parkland next to the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center.

What is considered "affordable" housing largely depends on who you ask. Percentages of Area Median Income (AMI) are often used to gauge "affordability" in real estate where a median earning household can afford a median priced home (100% AMI). What percentage of AMI in Hawaii is affordable to you?



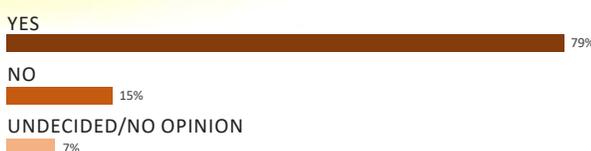
I support concentrating government-funded housing for households with incomes of 80% or less of the area median income (AMI).

The Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs administered by the State Executive Office on Aging makes funds available to seniors and their service providers to allow them to age in place. Should funding for this program be increased?



We sought and got increased funding for kupuna care, kupuna caregivers and healthy aging programs (see details in bills signed into law section).

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are businesses where shareholders profit from holding real estate in Hawaii but are not subject to State corporate income tax. Do you support taxing REITs like other corporations that conduct business in Hawaii?



The legislature passed SB301 to delete the REIT exemption from corporate income tax; it was vetoed by the Governor. It would have given us at least \$60 million/year that could have been used for infrastructure and other state needs.



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INSIDE:

- Survey results from the previous newsletter
- Legislative highlights
- Subdistrict updates
- Community engagement initiatives



With colleagues at the Punawai Rest Stop, the first facility of its kind in the state, that provides a safe place with showers, hygienic services, and referral/out-reach materials for the houseless



Touring the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor to discuss needed improvements with the State's Boating and Ocean Recreation Division



With fellow lawmakers at Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority discussing possible affordable housing solutions



Legislators and community advocates show support for Kupuna Caregiver Legislation



Joining the Waikiki Community Center and other agencies in the Waikiki Safety Walk to assess & recommend improvements for pedestrian safety



City Councilmember Kobayashi, Rep. Nishimoto, Sen. Moriwaki, Rep. Belatti, Speaker Saiki and Sen. Ihara listen to community concerns at our annual Town Hall meeting