

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J.C. AQUINO

District 38 – Waipahu

February 2021



REP. HENRY J.C. AQUINO
38th House District

Chair, House Committee on
Transportation

Member, House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Member, House Committee on
Housing

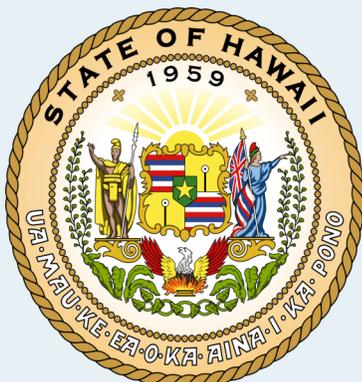
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Aloha Board Members and Neighbors,

As we complete the first half of the legislative session, our priorities continue to focus on the economy, public health, safety, education, housing, climate and agriculture initiatives. In this issue of the Neighborhood Report, I've highlighted a few bills I've introduced or co-sponsored. Please visit www.capitol.hawaii.com for a complete list of all the bills I've introduced or co-sponsored and detailed bill information and status.

Congratulations to Waipahu High School (WHS) Seniors *Hollie Rader* and *Ashley Pascua Valois*, who will represent Hawaii at the 2021 United States Senate Youth Program. Also congratulations to WHS Academy of Natural Resources successful Young Entrepreneurs Program.

I will continue to work on issues impacting our community and state. Please feel free to call my office or email me at repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Aquino".

Rep. Henry Aquino



Hawaii Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program

Congratulations to Waipahu High School Seniors *Hollie Rader* and *Ashley Pascua Valois*, (pictured above with Representatives Henry Aquino and Ryan Yamane), who will join Senator Brian Schatz and Senator Mazie Hirono in representing Hawaii during the 59th annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week, to be held March 14—17, 2021. Ms. Rader and Ms. Valois were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will each also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 program will break ground as the first-ever fully virtual Washington Week, and is designed to be a highly interactive and exciting education and leadership forum for the nation's most outstanding student leaders.

2021 Bills of Interest

Rep. Aquino introduced several bills this session addressing a variety of issues impacting our community and state. The following are a few bills of interest. For more detailed information regarding this list along with a complete list of all the bills I've introduced or sponsored, please visit Rep. Aquino's House webpage at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. This website enables you to track individual bills, view hearing notices, submit testimony and sign up to present testimony via ZOOM videoconference.

HB 1278: Provides timely relief to support Hawaii's struggling employers and expedite the State's economic recovery from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, House Bill (HB) 1278 was introduced and passed by both the House and Senate as HB 1278 HD1. This measure provides the necessary relief to Hawaii employers while minimizing the long-term impact on the health of the State Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund (UCTF). The approved measure was sent to the Governor.

HB79: Establishes an affordable homeownership revolving fund within HHFDC to provide loans to nonprofit community development financial institutions and nonprofit housing development organizations for the development of affordable homeownership housing projects.

HB225: Board of Education to develop a bullying prevention and response action plan.

HB227: Clarifies the group of professionals who are prohibited from knowingly referring or transferring patients to an uncertified or unlicensed care facility. Repeals the landlord exclusion. Department of Health to prioritize complaint allegations based on severity for inspections of state-licensed or state-certified care facilities.

HB309: Expands coverage of breast cancer screening and imaging.

HB314: Requires that providers of health or human services that receive state funds file annual financial reports and the reports be disclosed to the department of taxation. Exempts certain contracts with existing reporting requirements.

HB508: Increases the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, and aerial devices outside of the times permitted by law.

HB1191: Establishes the broadband infrastructure grant program to award grants to applicants to extend deployment of infrastructure used to provide broadband service to unserved areas of the State. Amends the Hawaii technology loan revolving fund to change it to the Hawaii broadband infrastructure fund, including the types of funds deposited into the fund. Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the broadband infrastructure grant program.

HB 1081: Requires the Department of Transportation and each county's transportation department to create and maintain a priority list of sidewalk installation and improvement projects and to publish the priority list on their respective websites.

HB 1090: Amends requirements for child passengers. Requires rear facing child safety seats for children less than 2 years of age. Requires the use of child safety seats or booster seats for certain children less than 10 years of age. Raises certain fines for violations.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

On 2/1/21 Alexander and Baldwin, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaii Foodservice Alliance sponsored a food drive serving employees & families of Waipio Shopping Center businesses & restaurants. Pictured (left to right): Bryan Miyamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani, Representative Ryan Yamane, Representative Henry Aquino, Representative Ty Cullen, and Meredith Ching.





Waipahu's Academy of Natural Resources Nurtures Young Entrepreneurs

Working with a curriculum created by Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation's Young Entrepreneur Program (YEP), students in Waipahu's Model Natural Resources Academy experienced what it is like to create an original value-added product and bring it to market. YEP is an opportunity for students to gain real-world experience of building a business end-to-end including the creation of a product with local sourced material, writing a short-form business plan, production, marketing, sales and customer fulfillment. Student businesses receive start-up capital based on their business plan, as well as net revenue proceeds from sales.

Kisa Matlin, Natural Resources Production Pathway teacher gave high praise to the program, "The Young Entrepreneurs Program was an AMAZING experience for my students - they learned about local plants (Nīoi - Hawaiian chili pepper, and Pōhinahina, a native groundcover), how to apply for a grant, do market research, launch a product in an online marketplace, design advertisements, and perhaps most valuably, they learned to communicate professionally with customers."



Matlin shared 10th grade student, Jericho Cabrera's reflection, "Our product centers around one of our most drought-tolerant plants found in Waipahu: Pōhinahina possesses important healing properties and can be used to soothe skin irritation due to dryness, eczema, acne, and even sunburns. Waipahu High School is located in a place where many invasive species grow wild in our harsh, dry environment. But, through all those invasive (plants) we find hope in this small native plant that thrives in our harsh ecosystem. Pōhinahina protects itself against the harsh winds and salt coming off Pearl Harbor as well as the heat waves that tear through Waipahu. This plant brings hope in an area where many natives no longer grow. We chose the name Marauder Mea Kahiko (Marauder Traditions) to show our school pride and draw from the power of the 'āina (land) that raised us and the ingredients that grow from our native land. Like Pōhinahina, the students of Waipahu's Academy of Natural Resources have grown even through the harsh conditions of 2020. Purchasing our healing Pōhinahina skin salve supports our continued growth and allows us to share a small piece of our school with others.

"The teaching team really enjoyed working on this project," Matlin shared. "The whole thing would not have been possible without the support of Hawai'i Agriculture Foundation and American Savings Bank, who provided us with curriculum support and mentorship as well as the start-up funds."

CIP Funds Released

Capitol Improvement Project funds (\$755,000) were released to finance additional construction for the **Leeward Bikeway** from Philippine Sea Road to Waipahu Depot Street on Oahu. The total project cost is \$19,470,500.

