

# **STATE CAPITOL UPDATE**

**REPRESENTATIVE SONNY GANADEN**

## **COVID-19 NEW NORMAL**

### **DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,**

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you in good health and good spirits! The pandemic has stayed with us far longer than anyone could have anticipated. The state is facing an unprecedented budget crisis as a result of the near total collapse of the tourism industry throughout 2020. Our current calculation is \$1.4 billion less in the General Fund for 2021, which will inevitably lead to painful cuts in some sectors of the state.

Unfortunately, the Capitol remains closed through the pandemic. However, my primary duty is to you. Please feel free to call or email any concerns to me at any time. I encourage you to testify on all bills, which will occur online only during this legislative session.

The legislature's priority this session is to assess the budget and assist individuals with basic needs and services. As a freshman representative, I am Vice Chair of the Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans' Affairs. I am also a member of the committees on Education, Higher Education and Technology, and Water and Land.

It costs nothing to plan for the future. Our office is pursuing bills that support roadway and sidewalk improvements throughout lower Kalihi (Kam IV, Gulick, Mokauea, and Beckley streets, with more to come), and working closely with our colleagues in the city and the Department of Transportation to create a plan to rezone portions of our neighborhood to improve infrastructure and flooding. We are introducing bills to improve internet connections throughout the district to support students, modernize criminal justice prior to the relocation of the O'ahu Community Correctional Center on Dillingham, continue the support of essential healthcare workers, and working with hotels to ensure a safe return to work.

**KEEP WEARING YOUR MASK IN PUBLIC AND WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!**

Best wishes,  
Sonny

# Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

*Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits to those who have exhausted their benefits and have a zero dollar (\$0) balance.*

To apply for PEUC, sign into your UI account and click the link under the PEUC announcement

You will be directed to a page with the five prequalification questions as follows:

1) Are you unemployed or working less than full-time hours and your gross earnings is less than your weekly benefit amount?

*For example, if you work less than full-time hours and your wages are less than your weekly benefit amount, select "Yes."*

2) Did you file a claim in Hawaii?

*For example, if you filed a claim on HUIclaims or using the PDF in Hawaii, select "Yes."*

3) Have you applied for unemployment benefits in another State or federal program?

*For example, if you work less than full-time hours and your wages are less than your weekly benefit amount, select "Yes"*

4) Are you receiving compensation under Unemployment Compensation laws of Canada?

5) Are you able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work (currently the requirement to actively seek work has been temporarily waived during Covid-19)?

**Answer the questions and submit them.**

If you qualify for PEUC, you will see a confirmation message.

If you have a pending issue(s) on your claim, you will see a message telling you your claim is being reviewed.

If you do not qualify for PEUC, you will see a message explaining why.

If you need further assistance, please reach out to my office directly.

# Unemployment Insurance (UI) FAQs

## If I return to work, can I still collect UI?

You can retroactively collect the unemployment benefit for the weeks you weren't working, even if you have returned to work. You may still be eligible for UI even if you're working reduced hours that earn less than your weekly benefit amount.

## If I am called back to work, but don't want to return because of COVID19 or other issues, can I refuse?

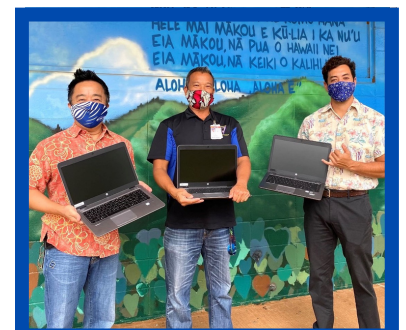
If you refuse work from your employer, for whatever reason, you will become ineligible for UI benefits.

## Who do I contact to address issues with my claim?

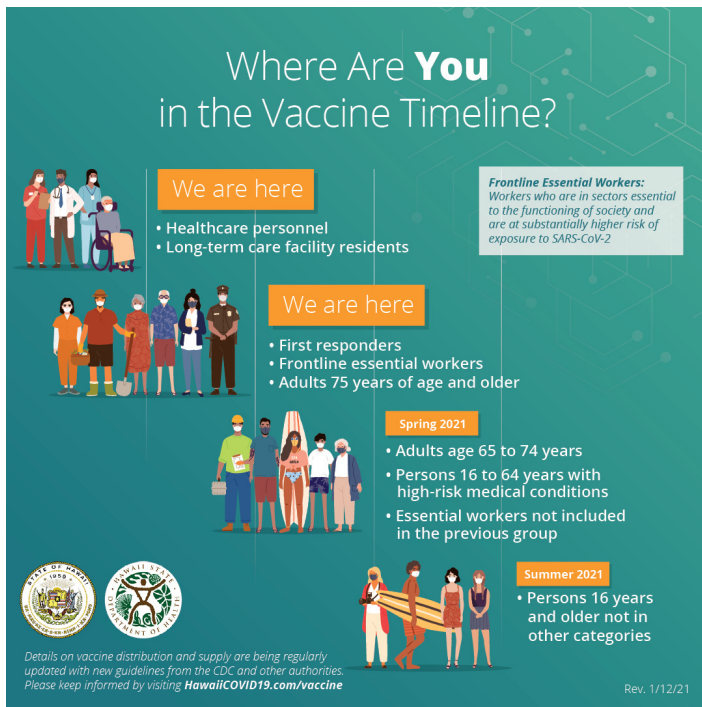
You can call the UI Call Center at (833) 901-2275 to speak to someone about your claim, your questions, or to reset your password. An additional 120 phone lines have been added to the call center to help.

## I'm having trouble getting into the system?

Recently, the Department created a mirror system that doesn't exist on the state mainframe with most other major governmental functions. This has allowed more capacity in the system and much greater rates of people accessing the UI system.



# COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES



We are here



## COVID-19 Vaccination Centers on Oahu

- The State of Hawaii's main website with information about vaccines is here: <https://hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine/>
- The website includes information about Hawaii's Vaccination Plan (<https://hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine/#hi-vaccination-plan>) and status of who is being vaccinated. It has links to sites that are administering vaccinations.
- As indicated in the Vaccination plan, presently, Tier 1A (frontline healthcare workers) and Tier 1B (kupuna 75+ years of age and essential workers) are currently being vaccinated on Oahu.
- Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) have begun operating at the Pier 2 Passenger Terminal on Monday, January 18, 2021. The HPH website for information and appointments is here: <https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/hph-covid-19-updates/vaccine-update/>. As indicated on the HPH website, **appointments need to be made** to ensure that sufficient vaccination supply and staffing are available to meet the commitments.
- The Queen's Health System is operating at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. This location opened for operations on Monday, January 25, 2021.

For more information, please visit **Kokua Kalihi Valley's** website at <http://www.kkv.net/>.

# ***BILL UPDATES***

## ***Measures Introduced***

- **HB1081 - RELATING TO SIDEWALKS** - 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.
- **HB615 - RELATING TO INTERNET ACCESS** - Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to develop a plan to ensure that all communities in the State having schools receiving federal Title I education funds have high-speed broadband internet access.
- **HB616 - BROADBAND ACCESS** - Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to conduct a study on the state of broadband access in all public housing projects in the State. Requires the Public Housing Authority to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022. Authorizes the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to request assistance from the Legislative Reference Bureau as may be necessary.
- **HB617 - HOTELS FOR HEROES** - Requires the Hawaii emergency management agency and Hawaii tourism authority to implement a program to provide complimentary hotels rooms to certain healthcare workers and first responders who are at a higher risk of exposure to COVID 19 and who want to limit the possibility of exposing their respective households and families to COVID-19.
- **HB621 - RELATING TO THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE** - Establishes the Oahu community correctional center site redevelopment working group to bring together state and county agencies, private entities, and the broader Kalihi community to examine how to best utilize the Oahu Community Correctional Center site and the surrounding area after the correctional center is relocated to a new location and identify, work through, and recommend solutions to issues relating to the redevelopment.

## ***Measures Supported***

In addition to the above bills that I've introduced, I am also supporting bills that relate to securing a minimum wage increase, school improvements, and immigration reform with the federal government.



### **Opening Day 2021:**

**Left:** For my swearing in ceremony, I was joined by Neighborhood Board member Joe Dumayag and my tita Lucy Ganaden

**Right:** Here, I'm joined by my staff members Grace J. and Kalei D. We are excited to be working for you!





# EXPLORE! LEARN! READ!

with the Hawaii State Public Library System

Even when the library is closed, our virtual doors are always open! Go to [librarieshawaii.org](http://librarieshawaii.org) to read an ebook, listen to an audiobook, learn a new language, watch an animated children's ebook, or find great information to help with school assignments and personal interests.

EXPLORE:



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS** offers articles and videos on science, nature, people and culture.

**PRESSREADER** allows you to read from more than 6,000 newspapers and magazines from over 120 countries in 60 languages.

LEARN:



**GALE COURSES** offers a wide range of highly interactive, instructor-led courses that you can take entirely online.

**MANGO LANGUAGES** is a free and easy way to learn a new language.

**TESTING AND EDUCATION REFERENCE CENTER** includes practice tests, courses and ebooks containing valuable study material, as well as information on 4,000 accredited schools.

READ:



**BOOKFLIX** features animated children's fiction and non-fiction ebooks.

**LIBBY & OVERDRIVE** provides access to free, popular ebook and audiobooks that you can read online or download to your mobile device.

**RBdigital** emagazines include kid-friendly titles like American Girl, Ask, Cricket, Faces and Highlights.

# 2021 SESSION CALENDAR

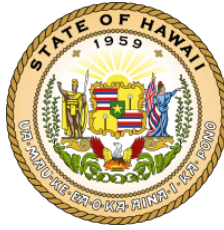
NOTE: ON THE 55 SESSION DAYS (DAYS WHEN MEMBERS CONVENE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CHAMBERS),  
THE SESSION DAY COUNT APPEARS IN A BOX ON THE LOWER-RIGHT, LIKE THIS: #

Color code: ■ = bills    ■ = resolutions    ■ = budget or fiscal bills

See reverse side for more deadline information.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>JANUARY</b>			<b>20</b> Opening Day <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">1</span>	<b>21</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">2</span>	<b>22</b> Non-Admin Bill Package Cutoff <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">3</span>	<b>23</b>
24	<b>25</b> State-of-the- State Address & Administration Bill Package Cutoff <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">4</span>	<b>26</b> Recess #1	<b>27</b> State-of-the- Judiciary Address & <b>Bill Intro Cutoff</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">5</span>	<b>28</b> Recess #2	<b>29</b>	30
31	<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
	<b>1</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">7</span>	<b>2</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">8</span>	<b>3</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">9</span>	<b>4</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">10</span>	<b>5</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">11</span>	<b>6</b>
7	<b>8</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">12</span>	<b>9</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">13</span>	<b>10</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">14</span>	<b>11</b> <b>Triple Referral Filing (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">15</span>	<b>12</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">16</span>	13
14	<b>15</b> <i>HOLIDAY</i> <i>Presidents' Day</i>	<b>16</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">17</span>	<b>17</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">18</span>	<b>18</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">19</span>	<b>19</b> <b>First Lateral (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">20</span>	20
21	<b>22</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">21</span>	<b>23</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">22</span>	<b>24</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">23</span>	<b>25</b> Mandatory 5- Day Recess Begins	<b>26</b>	27
28	<b>MARCH</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Last Day of 5-Day Mandatory Recess	<b>4</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">24</span>	<b>5</b> <b>First Decking (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">25</span>	<b>6</b>
7	<b>8</b> Recess #3	<b>9</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">26</span>	<b>10</b> Recess #4	<b>11</b> <b>First Crossover (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">27</span>	<b>12</b> <b>Substantive Resolution Cutoff</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">28</span>	13
14	<b>15</b> <b>Budget Decking</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">29</span>	<b>16</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">30</span>	<b>17</b> <b>Budget Crossover</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">31</span>	<b>18</b> <b>Triple Referral Filing (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">32</span>	<b>19</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">33</span>	20
21	<b>22</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">34</span>	<b>23</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">35</span>	<b>24</b> <b>First Lateral (House Concurrent Resos)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">36</span>	<b>25</b> <b>Second Lateral (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">37</span>	<b>26</b> <i>HOLIDAY</i> <i>Kuhio Day</i>	27
28	<b>29</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">38</span>	<b>30</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">39</span>	<b>31</b> <b>First Crossover (Concurrent Resos)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">40</span>			
<b>APRIL</b>				<b>1</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">41</span>	<b>2</b> <i>HOLIDAY</i> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>3</b>
4	<b>5</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">42</span>	<b>6</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">43</span>	<b>7</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">44</span>	<b>8</b> <b>Second Lateral (Senate Concurrent Resos)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">45</span>	<b>9</b> <b>Second Decking (Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">46</span>	10
11	<b>12</b> Recess #5	<b>13</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">47</span>	<b>14</b> Recess #6	<b>15</b> <b>Second Crossover (Bills) &amp; Disagree</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">48</span>	<b>16</b> Constitutional Amendments <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">49</span>	17
18	<b>19</b> <b>Second Crossover (Concurrent Resos)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">50</span>	<b>20</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">51</span>	<b>21</b> Recess #7	<b>22</b> <b>Final Decking (Non-Fiscal Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">52</span>	<b>23</b> <b>Final Decking (Fiscal Bills)</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">53</span>	24
25	<b>26</b> Recess #8	<b>27</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">54</span>	<b>28</b> Recess #9	<b>29</b> Adjournment <i>Sine Die</i> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 1px;">55</span>	<b>(Session pau!)</b>	

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE DEADLINE INFORMATION



- **Representative Sonny Ganaden:** (808) 586-6010
  - **Office Manager Grace J.:** (808) 586-6009
  - **Session Staffer Kalei D.:** (808) 586-6122

- **Aloha United Way (COVID-19 Information):**

- 211



- **State of Hawai'i COVID-19 CARES Line (Quarantine & Isolation Support):**

- (808) 832-3100

- **We Are Oceania COVID-19 Hotline (Quarantine & Isolation Navigation, Food Support Services):**

- (808) 913-1364

- **Queen's COVID-19 Infoline:**

- (808) 691-2619



- **Queen's COVID=19 Vaccination Line:**

- (808) 691-2222

- **Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services:**

*Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Elder Care,  
Maternal and Child Health, Youth Programs*

- (808) 791-9400



Please sign up to receive our e-newsletter!  
Scan this special QR code using the QR reader on your  
smartphone to sign up.



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE SONNY GANADEN



Hawai'i State Capitol Building  
415 S Beretania Street, Rm. 330  
Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 586-1010  
repganaden@capitol.hawaii.gov

## Next Community Meetings

- Next Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board Meeting  
February 17 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Next Aiea Neighborhood Board Meeting  
February 8 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)

For links to the Neighborhood Board Meetings,  
please visit my website:

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?  
?member=Ganaden&year=2021](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Ganaden&year=2021)



*Mahalo for your support of the Kalihi Kai - Sand Island - Hickam - Pearl Harbor - Ford Island - Halawa Valley  
Estates community!*