

State Representative

'Ewa Neighborhood Board# 23  
March 10, 2022

# Matthew S. LoPresti, PhD

District 41: 'Ewa Beach, 'Ewa Gentry, 'Ewa Villages, Hoakalei, Ocean Pointe

## Red Hill Update

On October 18, 2021 a handful of my colleagues and I were among the first willing to speak out about the contaminated water supply and lack of transparency from our government. As the months went on and the situation worsened more and more elected officials began to echo our concerns and the concerns of the public. Eventually even our federal delegation joined our call to shut down Red Hill operations and finally the federal government has announced that they will be shutting down Red Hill for good. While I commend Defense Secretary Austin's decision to defuel and shut down Red Hill permanently, I am disappointed that they and others who were in a position to hold the Department of Defense accountable did not act until it was not only obvious that the health and safety of residents was being negatively impacted, but when it became clear that the public overwhelmingly demanded that the facility be shut down. Too often people lose faith in their elected officials when they wait to see which way the political winds are blowing and then lead from behind; I am proud to have been an early voice on shutting down this facility.

Reaching out to the Governor, the United State Navy, and our Congressman became a personal priority of mine. I asked for clear guidance from the Department of Health for the people being effected by the leak, especially those in the 'Ewa Beach Kapilina Beach Homes community. After confirming that military families were not the only ones being affected by this crisis I leapt into action to raise awareness about our 'Ewa community residents being effected too. It took great effort to finally get the Navy to admit our area was affected and it was only after my office finally convinced the media to cover the fact that our area was impacted as well. I want to thank Congressman Ed Case and his staff for helping me to get the word out and encouraging the media to take my reporting to them about Ewa also being impacted more seriously. Once they began covering the issue, I was finally able to have the public leverage to get the Navy to respond with deliveries of water for the areas of the 'Ewa Beach community that were and still are affected. I urged the Navy to treat our civilian families with the same level of care and dignity they were attempting to provide to service members and their families on base. Additionally, I asked that the Attorney General send a letter to clarify the law and obligations of the housing community to remind them that they must provide both potable water to the residents, and alternate housing or funds to find safe housing. Last but not least I was able to secure a donation from City Mill for hundreds of emergency water jugs for the Kapilina community and the students at Iroquois Elementary School and want to publicly thank them for their fast action, once again supporting the people in the 'Ewa area when they were in need.

The request for water from the Navy was finally acted upon after asking the Governor and Congressman Case to also support this request, and myself and others in the community were able to hand out potable water to those in need. However, with water being the precious resource that it is, there is still more progress to be made. A long term source of potable water must become accessible to our communities that have been effected, and I anticipate seeing the issue through by continuing to support the process of testing water quality, making the Navy clean our water sources as much as possible, and to invest in new technologies for the long term to ensure future generations have access to safe and clean water for a long time to come. Thank you to all those who came together to help in all the many ways that people did and still are doing today. It is our shared sense of community and commitment to one another that makes 'Ewa Beach strong and full of aloha.

**God bless!**

*-Matt*



## CIP Releases in and Around Ewa

- ◆ Ka'imiloa Elementary School, Fire Lane, Field and Campus Improvements, O'ahu :
  - To finance construction for improvements at Ka'imiloa Elementary.
  - \$210,000
  - February 2025 completion date
- ◆ Farrington Highway Widening, Kapolei Golf Course to Fort Weaver Road, O'ahu:
  - To finance land, additional design and additional construction for widening Farrington Highway from Kapolei Golf Course to Fort Weaver Road .
  - \$135,000,000.00 of \$235,000,000.00
  - December 2025 completion date
- ◆ Kalaeloa Harvesting Facility, O'ahu :
  - To finance the installation of photovoltaic panels and related infrastructure work at the Kalaeloa Harvesting Facility on O'ahu.
  - \$4 of \$5M
  - October 2023 completion date

## Mask Mandate Update

- ◆ The Governor announced that starting on March 9, 2022, that on DOE schools, students will no longer have to wear masks while outdoors on campus. Masks will still be required for indoor settings such as classrooms.
- ◆ On March 8, 2022, the Governor announced that the statewide indoor mask requirement will end when the current emergency proclamation related to COVID-19 expires at 11:59 PM on March 25.
- ◆ The change in the mandate comes from the Governor's acknowledgement of the falling numbers of cases and hospitalizations, and increased rates of vaccinations and boosters.
- ◆ *However*, it is still recommended that those over the age of 65, the immunocompromised, the unvaccinated and those who care for people at risk, such as the severely ill, still wear masks indoors.
- ◆ Additionally, it is also still recommended to wear masks in indoor settings such as schools, hospitals/care facilities, shelters, correctional facilities and other congregative living settings.

*Representative LoPresti Introduced or Co-Sponsored **129** bills that passed Third Reading and crossed over to the Senate!*

Here are four of those bills on which he is the lead:

### **2022 Session Bills**

- ◆ [HB 1757 HD 2](#)  
~ **Relating to Planned Community Associations**

Prohibits planned community associations from prohibiting an owner or a sub-association from utilizing xeriscaping. Allows associations to adopt rules regarding the design of any xeriscaping project. Voids any provision in an association document that prohibits xeriscaping .

- ◆ [HB 2280 HD 2](#)  
~ **Relating to Real Property**

Specifies that planned community associations cannot prohibit or unreasonably restrict the use of a member's enclosed yard area for personal agriculture.

- ◆ [HB225 HD2 SD 1](#)  
~ **Relating to Bullying**

Requires the board of education to develop a bullying prevention and response action plan. Requires the board of education to report annually to the legislature. Repeals Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011.

- ◆ [HB389 HD1 SD1](#)  
~ **Relating to Post-Secondary Education**

Requires accredited and non-accredited for-profit post-secondary educational institutions that are authorized to award degrees and operate in the State to disclose on the institution's official website, promotional digital and print media, and contracts for instruction, that they are for-profit businesses.