

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA

COMMUNITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

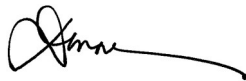
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Chinese New Year! Kung Hei Fat Choy!

For the Thirty-First Legislature, in addition to my duties as Chair of the Higher Education Committee, Vice Chair of the Education Committee, and member of the Judiciary Committee, I also belong to different legislative caucuses – keiki, kupuna, women and Filipino. The Capitol may be closed to the public, but our work is in full swing.

Many challenges continue to confront our district, especially because of the pandemic. Now more than ever, we will demand stricter government efficiencies as we find existing funds to make up for the budget shortfall. We are hopeful, especially for the vaccine's availability and accessibility, with the opening of Pier 2 and Blaisdell vaccination centers.

A total of 2,820 bills have been introduced to date. I have included several interesting bills for your information. I will continue to keep you informed of developments throughout the legislative session. If you are interested to follow any bills, you can visit Hawaii State Legislature website at capitol.hawaii.gov.



2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Senator Donna Mercado Kim



Effective communication with community health care partners concerning the COVID-19 vaccine



Vigorous monitoring of the Red Hill Tanks to ensure water is safe



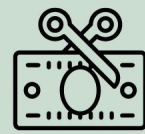
Support families to access resources-both public and private-to help during the pandemic



CIP school funding



Road repair and maintenance



No new taxes

BILLS OF INTEREST

SB 1 - Affordable Housing: Establishes the ALOHA homes program to develop low-cost home on state-owned and county-owned land in urban redevelopment site to be sold on leasehold by the HHFDC to qualified residents.

SB 6 - Minimum Wage: Establishes a minimum wage commission to recommend the annual rate of increase for the minimum wage. Provides that recommended minimum shall go into effect unless affirmatively rejected by concurrent resolution.

SB 31 - Lowering voting age: Proposes a constitutional amendment to lower the qualifying age of voters for any state or local election to sixteen years of age.

SB 156 - Limits the Government's use of facial recognition systems: Except in certain circumstances. The Legislature finds that the unregulated and unfettered use of facial recognition poses a unique and significant implications with respect to the civil right and liberties of residents of, and visitors to, Hawaii.

SB 159 - Automatic Voter Registration: Requires any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a motor vehicle driver's license or identification card to be automatically registered to vote unless the applicant affirmatively declines.

SB 234 - Telework Policies: Requires that each department, board, commission, or agency develop policies under which eligible employees may be authorized to telework.

SB 338 - Department of Agriculture: Food Hub Pilot Program: Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

SB 561 - Relating to Gaming: Establishes the Hawaii lottery and gaming corporation for the purpose of conducting gambling in Hawaii. Allocates proceeds to capital improvements to public schools and the University of Hawaii system, scholarships and educational loan repayments for medical students who practice in Hawaii for 10 years, support for the family practice rural residency program, watershed protection and reduction and prevention of problem gambling.

SB 704 - Legalization of Marijuana: Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specific quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to State general excise taxes and income taxes.

SB 837 - Offenses against Seniors: Lowers the age at which enhanced penalties apply for crimes against seniors from 62 years of age to 60 years of age. Makes commission of certain criminal offenses against a senior's person or property applicable if the perpetrator knows the senior victim's age.

2021 Year of the Ox

Kung hei fat choy: February 12th marks the beginning of the Year of the Ox. The ox denotes hard work, positivity and honesty that will be manifested in all of us in the coming 12 months, according to astrologers.



Capital Improvement Projects

I am pleased to report that the following CIP's have been approved for release:

1. **Red Hill Elementary School**– covered play court \$ 1,386,583
2. **Kapalama Elementary School**- building 1 \$ 75,000
3. **Bishop Museum**- fire alarm system \$ 900,000
4. **Halawa Animal Quarantine Station**- tar removal & remediation \$ 150,000
5. **Major pavement improvements**, statewide \$ 20,750,000

OPENING DAY: Record number of women elected to the Senate!



Update on Vaccinations

The first two mass vaccination sites on Oahu launched Monday at Pier 2 and the Neal Blaisdell Center. Hawaii Pacific Health will be managing the Pier 2 site and the Queens Health Systems will manage the second site at the Blaisdell. So far, 151,558 cumulative vaccine doses have been administered. The Hawaii Department of Health is partnering with several pharmacies to conduct drive through vaccination events or in-home vaccinations.

Kupuna 75 and older can access the list of registration links to schedule an appointment at hawaii-covid19.com under vaccination registration.

In Progress

Phase 1A: Healthcare personnel

Long-term care facility residents

Phase 1B: First Responders

Frontline essential workers

Adults 75 years of age and older

Spring 2021

Phase 1C: Adults age 65-74 years

Persons 16 to 64 years with high-risk medical conditions

Essential workers not included in the previous group

Summer 2021

Persons 16 years and older not in other categories

Community Concerns

Red Hill Fuel Tanks: A case hearing is scheduled from February 1-5 regarding the Navy's application to the State's Department of Health to operate the Red Hill underground storage tanks (UST). This is being contested by the Board of Water Supply whose concern is to protect our water source unless it can undertake additional protection against leakage. They are asking the DOH to require the Navy to relocate the Red Hill USTs or upgrade them with secondary containment.

OCCC Updates: The Department of Public Safety confirms that replacing the existing facility in Kalihi remains to be a priority. Along with DAGS, they are currently exploring various methods of financing, so as not to rely on traditional financing solutions using State funds. They are making available Request for Interest (RFI) to various organizations to determine their possible interest. The RFI response will help in planning, procurement, and eventual delivery of the new OCCC. All information, including the RFI can be accessed through the OCCC Future Plans website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.

Halawa Navy Sewer: The Halawa Navy Sewer, Water and Drainage Repair Project is expected to start on Feb. 22, 2021. The anticipated competition date is October 2022. Typically, work hours will be from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Work will be accomplished in 12 phases:

- Phase 1: Kamakani St. to Ulune St. (Project start-point near the Halawa Pump Station)
- Phase 2-11: Along the easement area to Camp H.M. Smith
- Phase 12: Pressure Reducing Valve Station (project end-point near Camp H.M. Smith)

The goal of this project is to replace/repair the Navy's severely deteriorated existing 12-inch waterline and 10-inch sewer line which provide potable water, fire protection, and wastewater service to Camp H.M. Smith. In addition, the project will improve the drainage along the upper portion of the Halawa utility corridor between Poko Road and just above Halawa Heights Drive bridge. This project will install permanent erosion control measures.



Mark Your Calendar



February 1-5 @ 8 am

Court Hearings regarding the Navy's application to operate the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage. URL links for each day listed below:

Feb 1 <https://youtu.be/Xg5Nv8A-VA>

Feb 2 <https://youtu.be/d7UVDBfP3xA>

Feb 3 <https://youtu.be/QeFPRlrRoRw>

Feb 4 <https://youtu.be/7j22rllilQ>

Feb 5 <https://youtu.be/VkPw4t-ztVM>

February 12 @ 2 pm

Free webinar: **Vaccination Plan Update**

by the Department of Health. Sign up to register: <https://aarp.cvent.com/> COVID2-12

2021 Spring Community Bulletin

Please look out for my spring community bulletin in the mail in the next few weeks. In it you will find my **Community Survey**. After you have filled it out, and sent it back, you will receive a surprise in the mail! If you need a copy, feel free to contact my office and we will gladly send you one.



Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 587-7200
Fax: (808) 587-7205

Email: senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov
Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov
Facebook: [@SenatorDonnaMercadoKim](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorDonnaMercadoKim)