



# Hawaii State Senator Bennette E. Misalucha

Pearl City | Momilani | Pearl Ridge | Aiea | Royal Summit |  
Aiea Heights | Newtown | Waimalu | Halawa | Pearl Harbor



## Report to the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 20 July 2021

Dear Neighbor,

The Legislature convened for a special session on July 6th to override Governor David Ige’s veto of 26 bills, one of which was HB862 - Relating to State Government. This bill calls attention to the Hawaii Tourism Authority and its management of a \$79 million annual budget and marketing efforts amidst a pandemic, which have been a great concern to constituents. As the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, I delivered remarks to my colleagues in support of the override, which you can see on page 2.

I am also pleased to report that SB1421, which is a bill I introduced and that passed the Legislature, was signed into law by Governor Ige. This act creates a dual use task force to explore how dual use technology can promote economic recovery and diversity the state’s economy.

I hope you will find the rest of our monthly report resourceful. As always, please let me know if there are any issues you see facing our community that I can help to address. Mahalo for the opportunity to serve you.

Very Truly Yours,

Senator Bennette E. Misalucha  
Senate District 16

## *Calendar of Events*

### July 2021

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Independence Day (Observed)
- 27 Pearl City Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- 31 Community Day in Our Schools, 8:00am

### August 2021

- 4 Independence Day
- 20 Statehood Day
- 23 Pearl City Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7:00pm

*To subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, email us at [senmisalucha@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senmisalucha@capitol.hawaii.gov)*

## CAPITOL UPDATES

### Senator Misalucha Remarks on HB 862 at Special Session

Senate President, Colleagues, I speak in strong support of HB 862.

What is NOT debatable is this: we all love this island state we call home, and we would like to continue to share its grandeur and beauty with the rest of the world...but it needs to be done in appropriate ways, using effective tools, and ensuring that the funds dedicated towards its purposes are spent wisely and effectively.


In my experience as Vice Chair of Energy, Economic Development and Tourism, I saw a sincere acknowledgement from my colleagues of the importance of tourism as a major economic driver for our state, and as such we are mindful that the industry needs to continue to be supported.

With this override, I'd like to cite the main reasons why I voted for the bill in the first place, and now will vote to seek for an override of the veto.

- 1.The transparency and effectiveness of the Hawaii Tourism Authority in handling the issues related to the pandemic. I was privy to meetings where data was not provided, despite repeated requests. I found that management decisions were slow amidst the crisis, and may have led to unnecessary waste of government resources.
- 2.Because we are all in this crisis together, I support the notion that special funds should not be held sacred for just one industry alone. As such, the Ways and Means Committee made a concerted effort to sweep all these dedicated funds into the general fund. This includes the TAT. This would provide the Legislature the ability to manage the coffers and ensure parity in the distribution of required resources.
- 3.Every year, every state agency is required to validate its budget, and to present its plans, and along with it, its financial objectives to support these plans. It is part of the checks and balance in state government. Since its inception, HTA has been exempted from this scrutiny. However, based on its past performance the past few years, HTA will need to convince the Legislature that it is deserving of this autonomy. It will require HTA to be more forthcoming with its strategic plans and force greater communication between HTA and the Legislature.
- 4.Much has been said about the reduced funding for HTA. From \$79 million, it is now at \$60 million. The Legislature is not micromanaging how those funds will be spent. However, considering the fact that most residents are now less supportive of tourism, it may be prudent for HTA to focus its attention on resource management rather than just marketing to tourists. This means funding to more community based non-profit groups, including VASH.

## CAPITOL UPDATES

### Legislative Special Session




**VETO OVERRIDE SESSION OVERVIEW**

**VETO OVERRIDE MEASURES**

- HB53: Relating To State Bonds
- HB862: Relating To State Government
- SB263: Relating To Economic Development
- SB404: Relating To Electioneering Communication
- SB811: Relating to the Department of Education
- SB1387: Relating To Microchip Identification

**AMENDED MEASURES**

- HB54: Relating To State Budget
- HB1299: Relating To Non-General Funds
- SB589: Relating To The University of Hawai'i


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During this month's special session, legislators convened to override certain bills vetoed by Governor Ige. In addition, we also amended some measures that had legal or minor issues. You may be able to view all the current bills signed and vetoed at <https://governor.hawaii.gov/2021-bills/>.

Lastly, I wanted to share that I was appointed to serve on the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Last month, we attended a site visit to Hawaii Island and this month to Kauai. During these site visits, we learned about different facilities and programs and meet with county legislators.



Sen. Shimabukuro and Sen. Wakai flanked Sen. Misalucha at Ka'u High School where a pilot program on a new integrated approach to learning is being implemented.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Pearl City Complex School Supply Drive

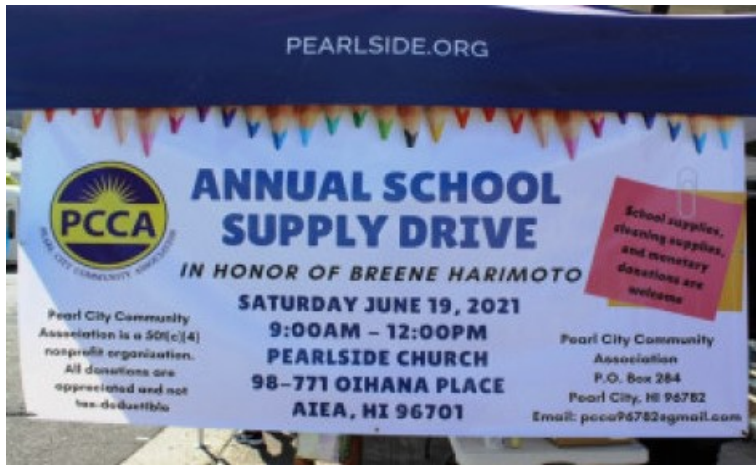
The 2nd Annual Pearl City Complex School Supply Drive, in honor of Senator Breene Harimoto, was held on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at Pearlside Church. Mahalo to the Pearl City Community Association for organizing the drive, which was led by President Kelsey Poaha. The donations were used to benefit the 10 Pearl City Complex schools. A similar effort was done in the Aiea community, also in honor of Senator Harimoto, held on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at St. Timothy’s Church.



Sen. Misalucha with PCCA President Kelsey Poaha and volunteers at the Pearl City Complex School Supply Drive, June 19, 2021.



Sen. Misalucha with Cheryl Harimoto, June 19, 2021.



## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### New Restrictions for Individuals with Disability Parking Permits



A gentle reminder for our individuals especially Hawaii's kupuna who have been issued disability parking placards. Effective July 1, 2021, the temporary (red) placards, long-term (blue) placards, and special license plates no longer allow a permittee to park in a metered parking space without payment of the parking meter fee. Those disability parking permits will still allow a permittee to park in reserved accessible parking spaces.

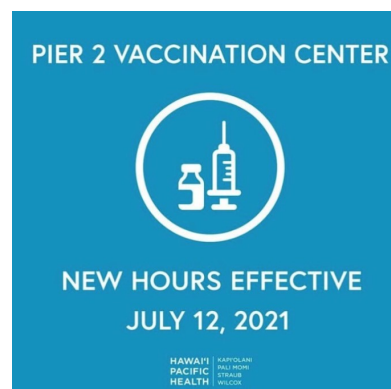
Permittees who have a valid driver's license and a physical disability that prevents them from reaching or operating a parking meter or unattended pay station are now eligible to apply for a DPPEP. The DPPEP allows the permittee to park in a space where payment is made (1) a parking meter without payment of the fee for the first 2.5 hours or the maximum time the meter allows, whichever is longer; or (2) an unattended pay station for 2.5 hours. The DPPEP may also be used to park in a reserved accessible parking space.

A physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse must complete and sign page 2 of the application form, certifying that the applicant qualifies for the DPPEP. For more information or to retrieve a copy of

### COVID-19 Update

Starting Monday, July 12, 2021, the Hawaii Pacific Health Pier 2 Vaccination Center will have new hours of operation:

*Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am to noon*  
*Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 4pm*  
*Saturday from 8am to 4pm*



Walk-ins are welcome, or schedule an appointment at <https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/>