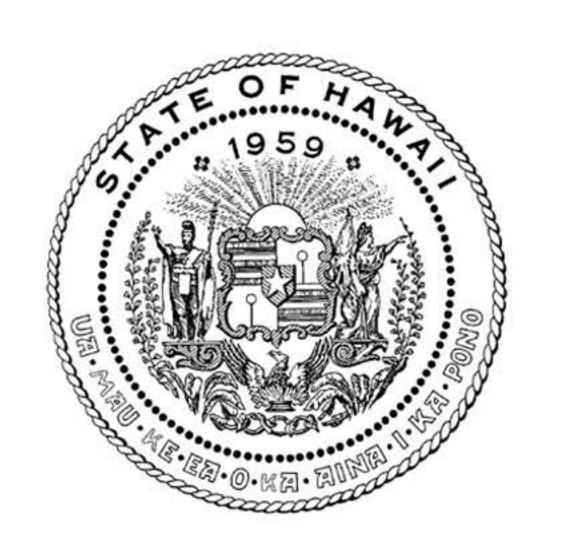


Wai'anae, HI, 96792

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State House District 44: Mākua, Mākaha, Wai 'anae, and parts of Mā 'ili 



Spring 2021 

#### REPRESENTATIVE \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\* CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES Postal Customer

## STAY CONNECTED

For updates and alerts on traffic, road closures, wildfires, clean ups, food distribution days, legislation, construction projects, COVID-19 resources, town halls, unemployment/PUA, and so much more, connect with me on social media. If you do not have a social media account feel free to sign up for our email update list!

## SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES: Bit.ly/RepGatesEmailList



Fb.com/RepGates



@RepGates



RepGates@ Capitol.Hawaii.gov



(808) 586 - 8460



Aloha United Way's Info Hotline



WCCHC COVID-19 Hotline 697-3170



UI/PUA/DLIR Assistance from Office of Rep. Gates https://Bit.ly/RepGatesUl

#### COVID-19 RESOURCES

For a full up-to-date list please go to Bit.ly/RepGatesCOVIDResources

Daily Updates from the COVID-19 Joint Information Center Sign-up at https://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates

Hawaii Department of Health Latest statistics and maps https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019

Department of Human Services (SNAP, food stamps, Med-QUEST, Work Programs, child care subsidies) https://humanservices.hawaii.gov 1-855-643-1643

Legal Aid Society https://LegalAidHawaii.org 808-536-4302 Extensive resources and advice on evictions, housing discrimination, legal assistance, and housing counseling

DCCA Office of Consumer Protection Landlord-Tenant Info Center 808-586-2634 CCA.hawaii.gov/ocp

PATCH Family, Child, and School@Home Resources https://www.patchhawaii.org/resources-for-families-covid-19/ 808-839-1988 patch@patch-hi.org

#### COMMUNITY CONTACTS

City Pothole Report Line: (808) 768-7777 City Pothole Damage Claim: (808) 768-5193 Reporting an issue on Farrington Hwy.: (808) 831-6714 Farrington Hwy. Pothole Report Line: (808) 536-7852 TheBus Information Hotline: (808) 848-5555

Bulky Item Pickup: (808) 768-3200 Report Abandoned Vehicles: (808) 768-2530 Report Illegal Dumping: (808) 768-3203 Report Illegal Encampments: (808) 768-4303 Contact Wai'anae Police Station: (808) 723-8600 Dept. of Parks and Recreation: (808) 768-3003 Hawai'i Humane Society: (808) 356-2200

Illegal Gambling: HPD Narcotics/Vice Division (808) 529-3111 Report a City Problem Online: www4.honolulu.gov/cityhallonline Mental Health Hawai'i Help (Warm Line): (808) 521-1846

Mental Health Hawai'i Crisis Hotline: (808) 832-3100 National Domestic Violence Hotline: 24/7 1-800-799-7233 Hawai'i Domestic Violence Hotline: (808) 531-3771

Child Abuse Hotline: 808-832-5300 Adult Abuse Hotline: 808-832-5115 Hawai'i Lawyer Referral: (808) 537-9140 Aloha Wai'anae Coast residents,

With the 2021 Legislative Session underway, our office has been working diligently to produce legislation that will benefit our community. As the new Chair of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs, I look forward to empowering our cultural practitioners and strengthening alliances abroad.

I want to acknowledge the ongoing hardships that the pandemic continues to create. Unemployment, childcare, education, rent and mortgage relief, support for local businesses, and health care are still pressing issues for our community.

I will continue to fight to ensure a safe enviroment where businesses can reopen, residents can get back to work, and students can return back to school.

With Aloha, Cedric

Join us! COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall Part 6: Talk Story with Rep. Gates Call or Zoom in to a virtual discussion about issues in our community! March 1, 2021 7pm Zoom Link: Bit.ly/RepGatesVTS Call: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 8408133583



Mahalo to the WCCHC, other stakeholders, and volunteers who make their monthly food distributions possible!

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

With the State Capitol closed to the public, testimony on bills will now be conducted Online or via Zoom. While it is unfortunate that in-person testimony is not allowed, I look forward to this new opportunity for our community to engage and let our voices be heard without having to commute from town or take a significant time off from work. To learn more, please utilize these resources:



#### State Public Access Room 808-587-0478 par@capitol.hawaii.gov LRB.hawaii.gov/par

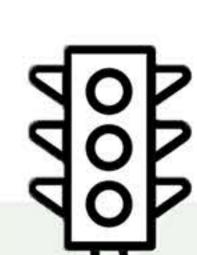
PAR offers free and open assistance to members of the public who would like to learn about the legislative process, learn how to write testimony, track bills, and testify remotely.



#### Wai'anae Public Library 808-697-7868 Libraries Hawaii.org

For those that do not have a computer, Wai'anae Library has Chromebooks available for remote and written testimony

## ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR COAST



#### Fighting for Traffic Improvements

am requesting another \$25 million for a parallel access route, the extension of Pa'akea Rd. to Lualualei Naval Rd., and other traffic alleviating measures. In addition, I am introducing HB1355 to reform our state's procurement system to prevent DOT projects such as the Ma'ipalaoa Bridge replacement from dragging on for years; as well as HB1194, which would prevent large vehicles such as semi trucks from driving in the left lane on Farrington Hwy. to prevent tragic accidents and improve traffic flow, something already done in 14 other states.



# Addressing the Housing Crisis

HB624 cuts certain taxes by 50% for local residents trying to buy homes under \$2 million, and raises taxes on foreign or out-of-state investment property purchases. Too often the uncontrolled market allows outside investors to buy up property in our communities, which prices out individuals and limits opportunities for the majority of local residents from achieving homeownership. HB632 creates a working group that studies ways to incentivize landlords to stabilize rent.



### Protecting Pōka'ī Bay

Hawai'i has the highest level of staph infections in the country. In our own community there have been far too many people getting staph infections at Pōka'ī Bay. HB626 would require the Clean Water Branch to test for staph at Tier 1 beaches (Mākaha Beach, Pōka'ī Bay, and Mā'ili Beach) and issue advisories if levels get too high. I also will be introducing a resolution calling for the renovation of the bathrooms, increased police enforcement, protection of Kū'īlioloa Heiau, and improved water circulation.



## Funding for our Schools

I am requesting \$91 million for our schools, including the Wai'anae High School Track and Field and a 21st Century Community Learning Center at Mākaha Elementary. In addition, I will continue to fight against budget cuts on our teachers by looking at how to balance the state budget without hurting our frontline essential workers.



# Protecting our Keiki

HB799 prevents sex offenders from living near schools, parks, and other places where children congregate. It also allows children to testify in court via video conference if an in-person testimony will further traumatize the child, and provides a judge greater leeway in expediting court cases that involve an abused child.

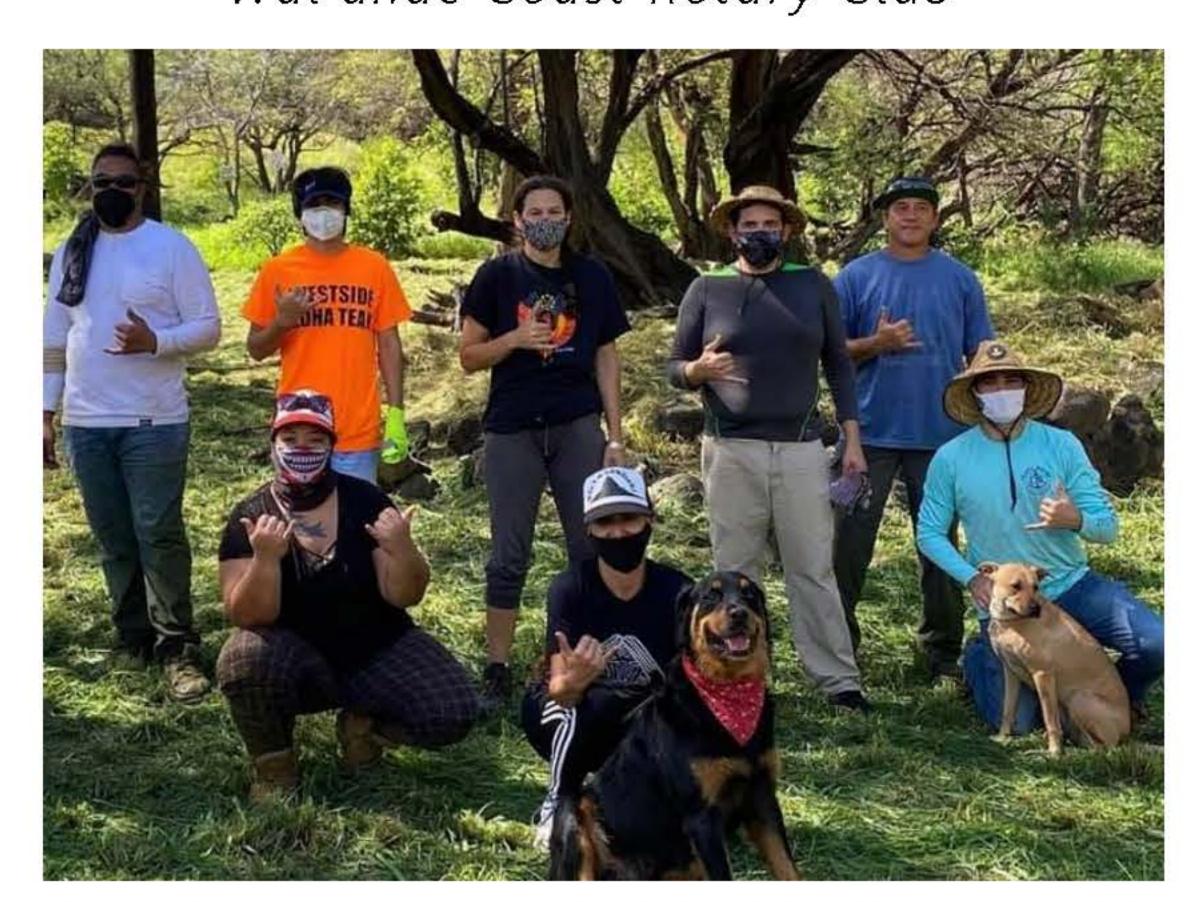


If you would like to comment on or support any of these bills please don't hesitate to contact my office.

We would love to hear your input!



Talking with members of the Wai'anae Coast Rotary Club



Mahalo to the Kia'i 'O Lahilahi for their monthly clean up of Mauna Lahilahi!



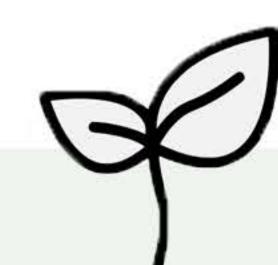
#### Mākua Valley Task Force

HB547 establishes a Mākua
Valley task force to prepare for
the transition of the
management of the Mākua
Military Reservation from the
United States Army upon the
expiration of the Army's lease
for the land.



#### Protecting Ancestral sites

HB1358 requires that the State
Historic Preservation Division
raise fees, hold negligent
developers responsible for
damages and mitigation, raise
fees on those damaging
pre-1778 Native Hawaiian sites,
and increase penalties for those
trying to sell or remove historic
artifacts away from Hawai'i.



### Native Hawaiian Subsistence Farming

Currently, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners cannot farm in Agricultural Districts to feed their 'ohana; however, solar farms, geothermal, and even some golf courses are allowed to operate on them. This bill affirms a Hawaiian subsistence farmer's right to feed their family on lands cultivated by Kūpuna for hundreds of years.



### Small Business Relief

HB1324 would create a rent relief grant for commercial tenants, providing critically needed assistance for small business owners. The bill specifies that future federal funding should be prioritized for this grant, and assistance should go to farmers as well.



Conducting a tour of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts



Meeting with Nainoa Thompson regarding upcoming Hōkūle'a voyages



Mahalo to Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae and the many partners who organized to clean up and beautify Pōka'ī Bay!