MARCH 2021



Aloha Neighbors,

Here at the capitol, I'm learning a lot. Given the tight budget, my Bills have mostly focused on initiatives that don't cost the State money. I am thrilled to report that 7 made it through the House of Representatives (mostly environmental Bills) and will now try their luck in the Senate.

These past two weeks have been mostly focused on finance hearings. Our Chair has really tried hard to find over \$100M "extra" funds stashed away in special funds and defunct programs to try to restore full budgets for important programs such as the Sex Abuse Treatment Center and the State Needle Exchange after the Governor's cuts.

In the next few months COVID vaccines will become more readily available. When it's your turn to get vaccinated, please step up and do your part! It is not only for your own health, but to be part of the solution to stopping this virus. If you are vaccinated, you are less likely to consume our hospital resources, spread the disease to others, or provide an opportunity for the virus to mutate into new variants.

Stay tuned to social media for updates on new Federal benefits as they come out. See the next page for the scoop on our recent sewage saga.

I've so appreciated the calls and emails I've received in my first few months as your Representative. It's an honor to represent you and your interests. Please continue to reach out, as I need to hear from you to best support you.

With warmest aloha,

him Moster

Rep. Lisa Marten

# RENT RELIEF

Governor Ige is making a plan to distribute \$200 mil in Federal Funds - more info to come soon!

# KAILUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Next page

# TALK STORY AT THE KAILUA FARMERS MARKET

Saturday March 7th 9:30am-11:30am

## SIGN UP FOR A COVID VACCINE IF YOU ARE 70+

If you are 70+ head to Hawai'i Pacific Health's website, Kaiser Permanente links below, or <u>Queens</u> to register

Kaiser - NEW! We are accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccines at our upcoming mass vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 13,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at our Mapunapuna Medical Office. Eligible individuals in Phases 1A and 1B (70+) can make an appointment for this clinic. Kaiser Permanente members can make an appointment <u>here</u>. Non-members can determine their eligibility <u>here</u>.

75+ Registration Forms can be found here: https://castlehealthgrouphawaii.com/#covid19

COVID-19 Vaccine - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 (hawaiicovid19.com) More Vaccine info and updates on my Legislative Website

## **Current Hazard Status**

- Discharge was above the permitted fecal indicator bacteria levels from Feb 18 March 1. The most recent sample from March 2 was within permitted levels.
- Until we confirm the risk is over, do not paddling, snorkel, diving, fish or boat near the ocean outfall off the Marine Base peninsula. (The outfall is 100 feet under water.)
- All samples are taken daily since Feb 24 near shore at points between Boat Ramp and Pyramid Beach and the level of contaminants have been within the "safe" limits. Samples taken earlier in Feb were also OK.
- The sewage has been treated, but not fully due to some malfunctions that may have been successfully addressed.

### Why was the public notice a week late?

Communication from the City plant to the State Department of Health about an early February malfunction did not happen (as required by the discharge permit). Therefore, when there was a high reading in the effluent sample processed Feb 19 the DOH thought the sample might be an outlier. They waited for a confirmatory test which came on Feb 24. After confirming there was a problem, the City did not issue the agreed upon press release. The Department of Health then issued their own Press release March 26th and asked the City to put up signs. An investigation is underway.

#### What was going on at the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant?

All sewage is going through a primary treatment "clarifier" where it settles and sludge is removed from the bottom for disposal and oils are skimmed from the top to send to a digester. It is the secondary treatment where the liquid is sent up to the top of a tower to trickle down through microbials that eat the bacteria. There are two towers and one had a low population of microbials – they need to reproduce to get back to the effective population level. In addition, there is a secondary "clarifier" process and out of three clarifiers, one is not working properly. They test effluent before it is discharged for enterococcus bacteria which does not make us sick, but is found in the human intestines as a marker for likely sewage contamination. The levels from the time problems started are seen in the table below.

#### DOH Wastewater Sampling Overview

Sample date	Entero level	Max limit	% over	Beach sites Entero Levels						
17-Feb	54000	57850	93							
18-Feb	85000	57850	147	3	7	0.9	0.9	230	6	0.9
19-Feb	No Sample	57850	No value	1						
20-Feb	No Sample	57850	No value							
21-Feb	No Sample	57850	No value							
22-Feb	No Sample	57850	No value							
23-Feb	160000	57850	277							
24-Feb	74000	57850	128	38	42	69	34	36	6	0.9
25-Feb	73000	57850	126	8	86	9	2	2	0.9	0.9
26-Feb	94000	57850	162	100	63	42	12	8	1	nr
27-Feb	86000	57850	149	26	49	25	6	4	8	0.9
28-Feb	120000	57850	207	15	35	5	2	0.9	10	0.9
1-Mar	160000	57850	277	46	40	3	15	9	7	0.7
2-Mar	44000	57850	76	2	0.9	0.9	0.9	5	0.9	0.9



### HIGH BACTERIAL LEVELS POSSIBLE In Offshore Waters Near the



For more information: htps://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/ cwb/#!/landing

> Info from: City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services

Rep. Lisa Marten repmarten@capitol.hawaii.gov 808-586-9450 https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/ click on "members" icon