

COMMUNITY UPDATE

2023 Legislative Interim Summary

Winter 2023



Representative Cory Chun
House District 35

Vice Chair, House Committee
on Corrections, Military, and
Veterans

Member, House Committee on
Water and Land

Member, House Committee on
Finance

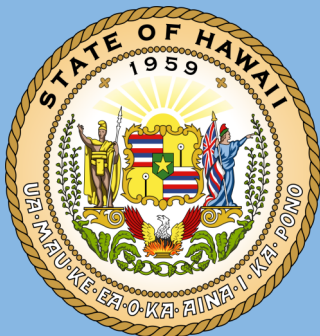
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Aloha Neighbors,

I am honored to have completed my first full year as your District 35 State Representative. While the legislature is in focus during the legislative session between January and May, the legislative interim, what the rest of the year is often referred to as, is just as important. I was able to learn more about the role of the legislature and bring some of that knowledge back to your communities via townhall events across the district.

Please take some time to review the highlights here. Additionally, you are welcome to view my capitol website, which has an archive of my previous community reports and other updates. You're welcome to browse the link or scan the QR Code:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/memberpage.aspx?member=252&year=2023>



Please call my office, (808) 586-6170, or send an email to: repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov to provide your suggestion or if you have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

With the 2024 Legislative Session approaching, both the State House and Senate are actively recruiting for temporary full-time positions between January and May 2024. If you or someone you know may be interested in a position like that please feel free to scan the QR codes to learn more about the potential opportunities:

House



Senate





Throughout the legislative interim, Representative Chun's goal is to learn all that he can about his role in the State House. As a member of the House Finance Committee, he was able to participate in site visits, including visits to Maui (top left), Kauai (bottom left), and Hawaii Island (bottom right), to look over state facilities and community needs.

In addition to these neighbor island visits, Representative Chun also spent time touring state facilities in district including the Waipahu Civic Center, Leeward Community College. These efforts have helped him grow as a legislator and will ensure he is better able to address your community needs.



In addition to the time Representative Chun has invested with legislative activities, he has also made sure to keep connected with the community. He has helped coordinate with the City to address things like graffiti, road pavement, and helping with street signs both replacing fading ones and getting ones installed for better pedestrian safety.

He also had the honor of speaking to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders at Pearl City's The Children's House with fellow Pearl City Representative Takayama (top right) and was invited to Waikele Elementary's Career and College Fair (bottom) with Representative Lamosao and Waipahu High School's Honor Societies.



Representative Chun attended a mini concert at the State Capitol performed by the Samiweng Choir from the Philippines. They are 14-18 year old high school students from Ilocos Norte National High School and their program has won international awards as far back as 2011, and received more honors this year at the 2023 South Korea & Hawaii Concert Tour.

In May, the Aiea and Pearl City legislators teamed up and invited Governor Josh Green to speak about the legislative session and his priorities going forward. They came together again in September for a meeting regarding the homeless who live in our communities. The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, James Koshiba, and Homeless outreach non-profit Achieve Zero both gave presentations on their strategies and initiatives.



Representatives Kong and Takayama, Senator Elefante, Governor Green, Representatives Aiu and Chun, and Councilmember Okimoto during the May townhall held at Pearl Ridge Elementary.



(Top) Representative Kong, Senator Elefante, Representative Chun, Senator Wakai, Councilmembers Okimoto and Cordero, and Representative Aiu (Bottom) James Koshiba and Nicky Winters from Achieve Zero taking questions



With all of the recent wildfires, Representative Chun, along with Senator Aquino, Senator Kidani, and Representative Lamosao, organized a disaster preparedness townhall for our Waipahu communities. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and community organizer and pastor Allen Cardines Jr. both gave informative presentations about State and community responses to natural disasters and how each community can organize to assist government.



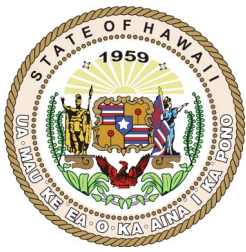
NASW 2023 Awardees Dr. James Pietsch, Dr. Lorraine Freedle, Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, Representative Chun, and Julius Bravo



Representative Chun, NASW members Jue Jue Min Thu, Hannah Hancock, and Francie Julien-Chinn (President)

As part of their 2023 Hawaii behavior Health & Wellness Convention, The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Hawaii Chapter recognized several of their outstanding members for their achievements this year. Dr. James Pietsch was recognized as a Friend of Social Work, Dr. Lorraine Freedle received a lifetime achievement Award, Sonja Bigalke-Bannan received the Practitioner of the Year award, and Julius Bravo received the Advocacy Award. Representative Chun was humbled to be in their company and was also presented a Legislator of the Year award for supporting an audio only telehealth measure that was signed into law this legislative session and a mental health associate licensure bill that they hope will pass next legislative session.





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Representative Chun was chosen to participate in a two-part energy conference over the course of the legislative interim. He first traveled to Richland, Washington, and then Washington, DC (pictured left). This was a national conference with State legislators from across the country. Everyone shared each of their state's perspectives on energy and learned about a variety of options on how to address the growing need for clean and sustainable energy.



Representative Chun will be incorporating the lessons he's learned from this conference into his legislative priorities for the upcoming 2024 legislative session. Along with proposals that he's been working on to improve the health and safety of both keiki and kupuna, he will also look to introduce legislation to strengthen Hawaii's energy grid and help the State meet its clean energy goals.

While taking on this new responsibility, Representative Chun will still continue to look for solutions for the problems closest to home.