

Mid-Session Community Update

March 2024



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

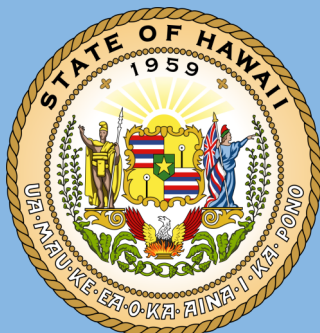
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Aloha Neighbors,

March serves as a midpoint within the legislative session and we recently came up on an important legislative deadline known as First-Crossover, where bills introduced in the House “crossover” to the Senate and Senate bills come over to the House.

I have highlighted some of the House bills that have survived this deadline in this newsletter and hope you will take some time to review them. The measures includes both issues that are important to the community as well as Kūpuna Caucus priorities. I will continue to keep track of these bills and begin my review of the Senate measures that have come over to the House.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any of the bills or on any other issue you might be interested in. My staff and I can be reached at (808) 586-6170 or via email at repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mahalo,



Spending time with the next generation of community leaders from Waipahū Intermediate School (right) and August Ahrens Elementary School (left). Students asked questions about the legislative process, policy issues facing the community, and what it’s like to be a representative during their visits to the state capitol.

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@repcorychun



@Representative Cory Chun

House Measures that Made it through First Cross-Over

TO HELP our FAMILIES and COMMUNITY

Fireworks (HB2193):

Establishes law enforcement procedures to enter and inspect any licensee's or permittee's premises to verify firework compliance.

Income Tax Standard Deduction Increase (HB2779)

Adjusts the state tax deductions increasing it, incrementally, from \$4,400 to \$20,000 for joint tax returns and \$2,200 to \$10,000 for single returns or married filing separate tax returns.

Teachers/Education Salary Increases (HB1653):

Supports automatic salary increases for educators who have completed and remained compliant to established requirements.

DA BUX "Double UP Food Bucks" (HB2771):

Supports the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) incentive program for SNAP members to purchase more of healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables.

Child of Military Parent (HB1904):

Provides a public school placement process for children whose parent is pending transfer from another state while on active duty.

State Fire Marshal (HB1843):

Establishes a State Fire Marshal to direct state efforts in preventing and responding to fires in coordination with existing County efforts.

Noise Pollution (HB2804):

Increase penalties for violations of leaf blower restrictions such as hours of operation and decibel level specifications from a specific distance.

KŪPUNA and LONG-TERM CARE

Paid Family Leave (HB2757):

12 weeks paid leave to care for family member with a serious health condition. Caretakers should not have to choose between caring for family and working.

Silver Alert (HB1774):

Similar to an "Amber Alert", this measure is for persons who are cognitively impaired, have a developmental disability, or are 65 and older.

Dementia Training for Law Enforcement (HB1773):

Provides Dementia training to law enforcement officers to assist our residents who may be lost or confused in their community due to cognitive impairments.

Personal Needs Allowances (HB1974):

Increases the monthly personal needs allowance of long-term care facility residents from \$50 to \$75 a month. The increase would benefit kūpuna and disabled adults living in community care homes.

Long-Term Care (HB2224):

Creates a comprehensive long-term care master plan to effectively accomplish long-term goals.

Caregiver Tax Credit (HB1769):

Provides eligible taxpayers a caregiver tax credit up to \$5,000/year. Family caregivers often give up employment to caretake a family member.

Mental Health Professional Licensure (HB1830):

Similar to medical doctors in residency programs, this bill would allow other mental health clinicians to be reimbursed during internship.



Senator Moriwaki and Representative Chun met with members from the newest EnhanceFitness program at the Pearl City Community Church who were at the Capitol to advocate for HB1771 and SB2470 that provides funding for the Healthy Aging Partnership Program, who's support includes EnhanceFitness.

The State Budget (HB1800):

The \$11.3 billion budget is a supplemental adjustment to the budget bill, HB300, from last year. This represents all of the state's spending limits for the 2025 fiscal year. Based on recommendations from the Governor the House passed out their version of the budget, which now must be considered by the Senate. Here are some highlights to keep an eye on as the Senate prepares their own version.

House Budget Highlights

Capital improvement

- \$650,000 for resurfacing the tennis courts for Pearl City High School
- \$650,000 for resurfacing the tennis courts for Waipahū High School

Department of Health

- \$13,000,000 for Adult Mental Health for Psychiatrists and Physicians
- \$10,800,000 for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services
- \$400,000 for the Executive Office on Aging

Department of Human Services

- \$15,525,000 for Home-and Community-Based Service
- \$23,620,000 for Medicaid In-Home services
- \$3,000,000 for Mobile Clinics

Department of Land and Natural Resources

- \$7,425,000 for Fire Pre-Suppression, Readiness, and Post-Fire Restoration and Rehabilitation



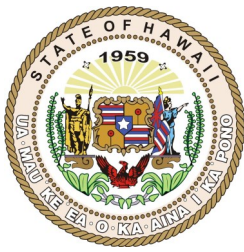
Rep. Takayama, Senator Aquino, Rep. Chun, and Senator Elefante participate in a surprise announcement for Pearl City High School teacher **Andrew Jackson (middle)** who was recently selected as the Pearl City Waipahū Complex Area Teacher of Promise Award winner.



The Developmental Disabilities Council partnered with the Alzheimer's Association for a Disabilities Awareness Day at the State Capitol. Rep Chun listened to the concerns and ideas of self-advocates.



Rep. Chun met with the **TrueCost Coalition of Hawai'i** to discuss the cost non-profit organizations face when delivering services. Grants may not always pay for all expenses so they are advocating for new ways for the legislature to provide necessary funding to non-profits.



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Long-Term Care Summit 2024

As Hawaii prepares for its growing aging population, a Long-Term Care (LTC) summit was held on Feb. 28th at the Queen's Conference Center and Feb 29th the State Capitol's Auditorium. Private and Public entities met to strategize and best prepare Hawaii to compassionately care for our elders. An important strategy coming out of the summit was to create a comprehensive long-term care master plan to effectively accomplish LTC goals within the Executive Office of Aging. Pictured above are members of the LTC Summit planning team including Rep. Chun and Senator Sharon Moriwaki, and members of the Hawai'i Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging, Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, the Council of State Governments West, and the American Healthcare Association.