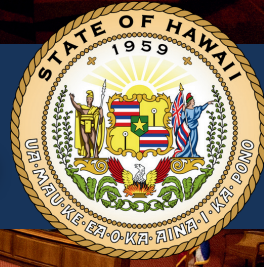




# Representative Cory M. Chun

## 2025 End of Session Community Update



Serving District 35 - Portions of Pearl City and Waipahu, Crestview

### Aloha neighbors,

I want to thank you and your 'ohana for allowing me to serve all of you for a third legislative session, the first in a new legislative biennium. It continues to be an honor and privilege to do this work on your behalf.

This session, I told my colleagues that I am often reminded that I should never let the pursuit of perfection get in the way of doing good. While there is still much more work to be done, this newsletter highlights some of the meaningful progress we have made together.

During the interim, my office remains open for any questions, concerns, or feed-back you may have.

Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone at (808) 586-6170 or email at [repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Mahalo,**



## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Illegal Fireworks Taskforce	\$ 2,420,000
Fireworks Enforcement Section	\$ 5,234,951
Continued Funding for the Silver Alert Program	\$ 514,000
Waipahu High School Softball Field Ground and Site Improvements	\$ 1,850,000
Temporary Library Locations - Pearl City, Wahiawā, & Makawao	\$ 868,000
Retrofit Public Buildings with Hurricane Protective Measures	\$ 6,000,000
Friends of Sunset Memorial - GIA	\$ 150,000

### Kamehameha Highway Improvements

Over the past year, many constituents and others who travel along Kamehameha Highway from the Waipahu Street exit toward Waipi'o Uka Street and into Mililani have expressed concerns about road conditions in the area. Representative Chun **has been working closely with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) during this time in hopes of a quick resolution.** Unfortunately, progress has been slow due to the department's limited resources.

To address this, Representative Chun has:

- Submitted a request during the legislative session to allocate Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in the State Budget specifically for road improvements along Kamehameha Highway.
- Worked with fellow area legislators, especially Senator Kidani, to **successfully include this funding in the final version of the State Budget, which is now awaiting the Governor's approval.**

While this is a significant step forward, more patience will be needed before the project can begin. The new fiscal year starts on July 1. Once the Governor signs the budget into law and releases the funds, HDOT can move forward with its repaving work.

Representative Chun will continue working with all necessary agencies to ensure the roadwork starts—and is completed—as efficiently as possible.

**Let's stay connected! Follow me on Social Media:**

@repchun @Representative Cory Chun

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Our office can help even outside of session. We're here to support you and your 'ohana.



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: KŪPUNA CAUCUS

## Kūpuna Caucus Legislation

As a Kūpuna Caucus co-convenor since 2024, Representative Chun introduced 3 of these four bills which passed this year:

### **HB703: Kūpuna Housing**

In 2023, a Kūpuna Caucus priority bill was passed into law establishing a State Supplemental Program for the Kūpuna Pilot Program, to help those relying on fixed incomes to secure and maintain affordable housing.

This pilot was initially set to expire in 2026. With initial success, **HB703 will now extend it until 2028**. This program is administered through Catholic Charities Hawai'i, and they can be contacted for more information.

### **HB 474: Fall Prevention**

In 2014, the State Department of Health developed fall prevention services and programs to keep fall related expenses to a minimum. **HB474 provides additional funding for this fall prevention campaign.**

### **HB705: Low-Income Subsidy Program**

To better coordinate the various benefits an individual may be eligible for, **HB705 establishes a subsidy program under the Executive Office on Aging.**

Dubbed the “**Medi-Medi Program**,” HB705 aims to **coordinate benefits across Medicare, Medicaid, and other similar services that an individual may qualify** for all at once. This bill will also establish a pilot program for a service distribution, to be set up within a, yet to be determined, disadvantaged community.

### **HB 320: Supportive Decision Making**

This measure will provide a **formal framework for supported decision-making** to allow adults with a disability or mental illness, and adults sixty-five years of age or older, **to make their own decisions with the help of trusted supporters.**

HB320 will work as an intermediate step to serve in instances where a full guardianship may not be necessary or desired by the individual or their family. The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities' support was key to the passage of this measure, **after a working group found that this would fit the needs of the State better than uniform guardianship.**



Kūpuna Caucus co-conveners Representative Takayama, Senator Moriwicki, and Representative Chun provided legislative updates relevant to working family advocates.



Vice Speaker Ichiyama, AARP State Director Keali'i Lopez, Executive Office on Aging Director, Caroline Cadirao, Representative Chun, and Senators Hashimoto and Moriwicki, came together as part of a Kūpuna Caucus press conference to announce their legislative priorities.



Senators San Buenaventura and Hashimoto, Representatives Chun and Marten, Executive Office on Aging Director Cadirao, and Senator Moriwicki after HB705 was passed out of its conference committee.



As previously highlighted, Best Buddies Hawai'i, which offers one-to-one friendship and leadership programs for children with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, including at Pearl City High School, visited the capitol to advocate for Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding. They received \$75,000 to help with operating expenses.



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: HEALTHCARE

## **HB 700: Cognitive Assessments**

This bill aims to improve the early detection of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias by **including a cognitive assessment as a part of annual wellness visits for qualified Medicare patients.** The Executive Office on Aging will also collect and analyze the data from these assessments to better inform future research and treatment as part of the Hawai'i 2035 State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.



Representative Chun continues to be a strong advocate for the Alzheimer's Association. Along with several of his House and Senate colleagues, he came out to help support them and their advocates at the State Capitol during their annual Advocacy Day. He spoke briefly regarding HB700's importance.



## **SB 1252: Alzheimer's and Dementia Training**

This will establish additional positions at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Geriatric Medicine to coordinate and incorporate training on Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia into its programs. Not only will this improve nurse and physician understanding of dementia related illnesses, **it will also support current and future local medical professionals in our communities.**

## **HB 250: Health Insurance Prior Authorization**

Prior authorization for treatments is a cost control process that requires advance approval from a health plan before a patient is qualified for payment or coverage, and aims to balance the needs of health insurance as a business and providing necessary care to patients. However, every health plan addresses prior authorization differently, creating a costly administrative burden on healthcare professionals.

### **HB 250 will:**

-  Require data submission to the State Health Planning and Development Agency
-  Establishes a working group to review this data to find better ways to manage and administer prior authorization.

## **HB 441: Cigarette Taxes**

Cancer research at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center is uniquely important because of the demographics found only in Hawai'i.

This bill is the first step in a longer process to ensure this research remains properly funded now and for generations to come. **HB441 will raise the cigarette tax from 16 cents to 18 cents to help fund cancer research at the UH Cancer Center.**

## **HB 1300: University Of Hawai'i Cancer Center**

Hawai'i is the only place with sufficient populations of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos to do meaningful cancer research for these groups. They are also overrepresented in communities living near landfill sites.

**HB1300 appropriates money to the UH Cancer Center to study various factors to analyze the health effects and risks of individuals living near landfills.**



Representative La Chica, Senator Elefante, Representatives Kusch, Matayoshi, & Lee, Governor Green, Attorney General Lopez, and Representatives Marten & Chun, among others, came together as part of the annual Take Down Tobacco Day at the State Capitol.



As a part of Take Down Tobacco Day, Rep. Chun met with student advocates who were also participating in the event, advocating against flavored vaping products. Despite the 21 years old and older restriction, they are a major problem within schools.



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

## **HB 958: Electronic Bicycles**

Establishes safe riding behaviors for electronic bicycles (e-bikes), updating the law to match new technologies. It establishes three classifications of e-bikes, based on how fast it can go. It then limits the types of e-bikes that children can use.

## **SB 30: Moped Safety**

**Prohibits anyone under 16 years old from driving a moped** and requires anyone driving a moped to wear a safety helmet, regardless of age.

## **HB 431: Kauhale and 'Ohana Zones**

This bill looks at several housing solutions as part of the ongoing challenges of statewide homelessness. It makes the **'Ohana Zones Program, first established in 2018, permanent** and further expands the Governor's kauhale initiatives, further establishing requirements.

## **HB 1462: Crisis Intervention and Diversion**

Expands the Department of Health's Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program by establishing at least two sites on O'ahu. **This aims to redirect those with mental health disorders away from the criminal justice system to more appropriate healthcare services.**

## **SB 1044: Property Insurance Stabilization**

Helps stabilize the State's insurance market by:

- Enabling the Hawai'i Property Insurance Association and Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund to underwrite certain insurance risks in the State that standard insurers are unwilling to underwrite;
- Establishing a Condominium Loan Program to enable community development financial institutions to offer direct loans with low-cost financing for maintenance or repair projects;
- Establishing a Condominium Loan Loss Reserves Program, to incentivize community development financial institutions to provide loans at competitive rates for the purpose of allowing qualified condominium associations to perform maintenance or make necessary repairs;
- Establishing a Condominium Loan Revolving Fund to provide the necessary funding to these newly established loan programs; and
- Appropriating refundable general obligation bonds to provide capital for these programs.



Previous newsletters can be found on Rep. Chun's Capitol webpage. Scan the QR code to access the digital archive.



Representatives Lamosao and Chun with Waipahu Intermediate School students in the Lieutenant Governor's Office. This was one of several places visited as part of a state capitol tour.



August Ahrens Elementary School students in the gallery of the House Chambers while on a school field trip to learn more about state government.



Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area Superintendent Farjardo, Superintendent Hayashi, Rep. La Chica, Senator Aquino, Rep. Chun, Pearl City High School Principal Halfmann, Senator Elefante, Rep. Takayama, and Councilmember Okimoto at Pearl City High School's 5th Annual Chargerpalooza, where students interact with the larger community, offering them a glimpse into their hard work and creativity.



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

## ★ **Fireworks Legislation**

Since taking office in 2022, fireworks have consistently been a major concern. While progress had been made each year, the unfortunate tragedy from this past New Year paved the way towards larger fireworks reforms.

**Four fireworks bills passed this year**, including a drone enforcement bill introduced by Rep. Chun.

### ● **HB 550: Drone Enforcement**

State case law has prevented law enforcement from making full use of the various drone technologies that have become available due to privacy concerns. HB 550 was introduced by Representative Chun and passed by the legislature to help address these issues and provide a framework for law enforcement to make use of drone footage when used on public property to observe illegal fireworks activities that are also happening on public property.

### ● **HB 806: Fireworks Sting Operations and Explosives and Firearms Laboratory**

This bill appropriates money to the Department of Law Enforcement so that they can perform illegal fireworks sting operations. It also establishes an explosive and firearms laboratory to help in these endeavors.

### ● **HB 1483: Illegal Fireworks Related Crimes and Penalties**

While the State and counties have passed various fireworks restrictions over the course of many years, law enforcement continues to wrestle with the nuances that come with the enforcement of these restrictions. HB1483 adds new definitions within the law to assist law enforcement agencies and county prosecutors in dealing with the illegal fireworks problem.

### ● **SB 222: Illegal Fireworks Task Force**

An illegal fireworks task force was established by the Legislature in 2023. This bill extends the life of that task force from 2025 to 2029. The purpose of this task force is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the use of illegal fireworks in the state and to provide its findings and recommendations to the legislature. It will provide annual interim reports with a final report due prior to the convening of the 2030 legislative session.

## ★ **Kūpuna Outreach on Emergency Preparedness**

The House and Senate both passed resolutions, HCR 37 and SCR 22, requesting the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) to collaborate with relevant agencies to develop outreach programs to inform kūpuna about emergency preparedness.

## 🐰 **Annual Easter Basket Drive**



Representatives Lee and Kusch, who were dressed as an Easter Chick and Bunny, respectively, as part of the Hawai'i Women's Legislative Caucus' annual Easter Basket Drive where household essentials are donated and distributed to various non-profit organizations for vulnerable mothers and their families.

## ♥ **Remembering Former Representative Gene Ward**

Before each legislative day, the Representatives take turns sharing a bit of reflection in the form of a short invocation. Rep. Chun used his invocation to remember Rep. Gene Ward who recently passed away. This provided bipartisan space for all the members to acknowledge the loss of a colleague and time to reflect on their shared responsibilities for the State.



## 🌐 **Stay Connected:**

Sign up for exclusive digital content via monthly email news blast. Receive our paper newsletter, digitally along with additional community related content. And be the first to know about special off cycle updates. Scan the QR code or email [Repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:Repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov)





# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: COMMUNITY NEWS

## HB 427: Biosecurity

Building on last year's biosecurity legislation, the Legislature continued to prioritize biosecurity with HB427. This bill further expands the biosecurity program established last year and will reorganize the State Department of Agriculture into the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Before the 2024 Legislative Session, biosecurity efforts were split across several departments. They primarily included the Departments of Agriculture and Land and Natural Resources, but also overlapped into other areas. **This measure will further streamline efforts under a single department for more optimal coordination.**



Representative Chun and Hawaii Farm Bureau Executive Director Miyamoto at Agriculture Day at the Capitol. Rep. Chun listens as the Executive Director explains their role as a non-profit to help Hawai'i analyze and resolve the problems that face Hawai'i's agriculture, farmers', and ranchers.

## House Concurrent Resolution 33: Relocating the Pearl City Post Office

The traffic along Kamehameha Highway and Acacia Road has been a long standing community concern. While the State and City are actively working on solutions, Pearl City Neighborhood board Chair Veray (pictured with Representative Chun below) is also thinking outside the box to help alleviate the traffic in the area.

HCR 33 is a resolution that the House and Senate agreed on, urging the Postmaster General to **relocate the Pearl City Post Office from where it is on Acacia Road to unused Navy land on Lehua Avenue**. If this relocation is agreed on, Acacia Road could be expanded and it could also open an additional access point to the Walmart also located near by.



Pearl City Neighborhood Board Chair Veray and Representative Chun. Chair Veray is committed to the Pearl City area. He applies his out-of-the-box thinking in many areas. He is also the President of The Friends of Sunset Memorial.

## May 2025: Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month



To promote awareness of the damage that invasive species have in our communities, the State has organized a Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) campaign since 2018. This year, Governor Green, along with advocates and staff from both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources, named May this year's HISAM. With concerns like coconut rhinoceros beetles and rose-ringed parakeets being an ongoing issue in our community, Representative Chun took time to participate in the Governor's Proclamation Ceremony.



# 2025 COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

## ✓ \$150,000 for Sunset Memorial Cemetery

Last year, the Legislature gave the Department of Commerce and Consumer Protection the authority to grant limited ownership of Sunset Memorial Cemetery for the purposes of maintenance and security. The Friends of Sunset Memorial Cemetery was awarded this limited ownership and submitted a Grant-in-Aid application for the public purpose of revitalizing and repairing the cemetery.

**This grant-in-aid application was approved, and the Friends of Sunset Memorial Cemetery will receive these much-needed resources.**



Longtime community advocate Amy Agbayani was honored at the State Capitol for her work in civil rights, civic engagement, immigrant rights, and other important advocacy work.

## Pearl City Lions Club



(Above) Representative Takayama, Senator Aquino, Pearl City Lions Club President Balais, Senator Elefante, and Representative Chun at the Pearl City Lions Club's 60th Anniversary event. In addition to his policy work, Representative Chun does his best to stay connected with the communities that he represents. One way he does this is through his involvement with Pearl City Lions Club. The legislators presented the Lions Club with a congratulatory Certificate honoring their many years of positive community impact.

(Below) Separately, they hosted a tour at the Capitol for their sister club members from Nagasaki. Representative Chun took them to the House Floor and shared a shaka with them at his seat.



## 🎓 Congratulations Class of 2025!



Pearl City-Waipahu Area Superintendent Fajardo, Representative Chun, Waipahu High School Principal Sheets, Senators Kidani and Aquino, and Representative Lamosao at Waipahu High School's graduation.



Senators Aquino and Elefante with Representatives Chun, La Chica and Takayama at Pearl City High School's graduation. It is important for Rep. Chun and his colleagues to show support to the students living and learning in their communities.





## Representative **Cory M. Chun**

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## Opening Day 1/15/2025

Representatives (front) Poepoe, Takenouchi, Lamosao, (middle) Evslin, Kahaloa, Miyake, Chun, (back) Kila, and Garrett during floor session on the Legislature's Opening Day. Representative Chun had developed a close connection with many of his colleagues who were elected in 2022 with him.

They took time to honor that relationship with a photo while preparing for a new legislative biennium.

## Sine Die 5/2/2025

Representatives (front) Lamosao, Takenouchi, Poepoe, (middle) Chun, Miyake, Kahaloa, (back) Evslin, Garrett, and Kila come together on the last legislative day of the year, sine die adjournment.

They were proud of all the work that was accomplished while recognizing that there is still a lot of work that remains unfinished.

