



District 51 Waimānalo, Enchanted Lake, Lanikai, Pōhākupu, Kukanono

# State Representative Lisa Marten



Aloha neighbors,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to serve during this historic session. I was grateful to pass several measures that I worked on with District 51 residents, with other legislators, State and County agencies, and subject matter experts. Everything is a team effort at the legislature.

I continue to work on local issues. These include reducing homelessness, exploring opportunities to increase affordable housing, reducing flood risk, protecting our beaches, getting a Bellows plot cleaned of munitions before return to the State, and supporting our schools and health care providers.

I look forward to talking story about your concerns or ideas. Just call or email!

With warm aloha, *Lisa*

## LOCAL HOUSING

Rep. Marten supports Waimānalo Village residents who want lease extensions and options to purchase fee simple, as well as development of empty lots for affordable housing development. She has explored expansion of the State-funded Weinberg Village transitional housing. She continues to support the community led efforts to help the homeless at Hui Mahi'ai 'Aina and has started a flood prevention study to address the barrier to permitting.



Rep. Marten secured a federally funded US Army Corps of Engineer study for the entire Waimānalo watershed to lay the groundwork to address hotspots in the future.



### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Lisamarten.com has info and links to Bills. Sign up for our infrequent e-news on the website or shoot us an email.

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# BANNER YEAR FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS

**More work to come, but this should benefit some native Hawaiian residents in our District.**

- \$600 million will be disbursed over three years to develop **DHHL housing**, and to assist with down payments and mortgages for low-income beneficiaries on the wait list, and an additional \$20 million is for DHHL lot development and \$10 million for homestead services.
- The legislature encouraged the \$328 million settlement of the 1988 **Kalima case**, named after plaintiff and Waimānalo resident Leona Kalima, at this time because we had the funds and the political will to settle. 2,700 plaintiffs sought compensation for the cost of paying rent while on the waitlist. For the 953 that died waiting for settlement, their families can be compensated. Normally you cannot sue the State, but this ban was lifted temporarily to allow this particular suit in the early 1990s for those on the waitlist by 1988.
- **OHA** has been getting \$15.1 million a year, which is less than the pro rata share of ceded land revenues legally due. The annual payment was increased to \$21.5 million with the understanding that it is still a temporary amount that can be further negotiated. In addition, there was a one-time payment of \$64 million released from a special fund.
- **Hawaiian immersion** programs in the DOE were funded with \$38 million.
- Support was given to **Bishop Museum** (\$17.5 million), **Iolani Palace** (\$2 million).
- **Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve** (\$400,000), and for a **Kalaupapa memorial** (\$5 million).
- The new **Mauna Kea** Stewardship and Oversight Authority was established to manage lands and astronomy education and leases on Mauna Kea. There are 4 board slots reserved for native Hawaiian members.
- Unprocessed **taro** is exempt from GET. Traditional rights to stream water for customary **kalo cultivation** are protected.



## SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

In collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Agriculture and composters, I wrote and passed HB1992 which will promote soil health and reduce landfill waste by allowing composting in agricultural zones. Currently farmers can only compost organic materials that come from their own properties. **Composting** still requires permits from the DOH and the bill funded a position to create a simplified permitting process for small operations. A separate Bill passed to subsidize purchase of compost.

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I heard and supported many initiatives. Key projects funded include: food hubs, food safety certification, soil improvements, cover crops, farmer apprentice mentoring, emergency loans, purchase of irrigation infrastructure serving agricultural parks, purchase of a building for a DOE agricultural training center, control of agricultural pests such as axis deer on Maui, coffee leaf rust and little fire ants. Changes were made in regulations in order to promote: kalo farming, aquaculture, hemp farming, development of agricultural infrastructure, control of feral pigs, and local agricultural purchases for public schools and prisons.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## District 51 Residents Inspire and Help Pass Bills

### ARIEL'S BILL - \$8 million to transform CWS

The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board wrote three extensive resolutions asking for more and higher quality resources and better coordination among agencies that work with children who are wards of the State after the tragic death of Ariel Sellers.

I tried to shape those wishes into a Bill, with the guidance from multiple meetings with current and past foster parents in the community, and experts who work in the field. It was very challenging due to opposition from DHS and some constitutional conflicts, but with leadership from Representatives Luke and Yamane, and Senators San Buenaventura and Lee, \$8 million was allocated and additional regulations were created to **transform services and oversight for foster children** and for those that are adopted or placed with permanent legal guardians. This Bill was slashed along the way and nearly died. I thank community members for continuing to testify so I could beg on your behalf to keep it alive as it was fixed and expanded. To complement this Bill, I wrote a resolution to **Audit Child Welfare Service** which was passed by Senator Lee.



Waimānalo High school senior, Emily Ah Hee, participated in the Keiki Caucus Legislative Internship program. If interested in this for-credit course, please reach out!

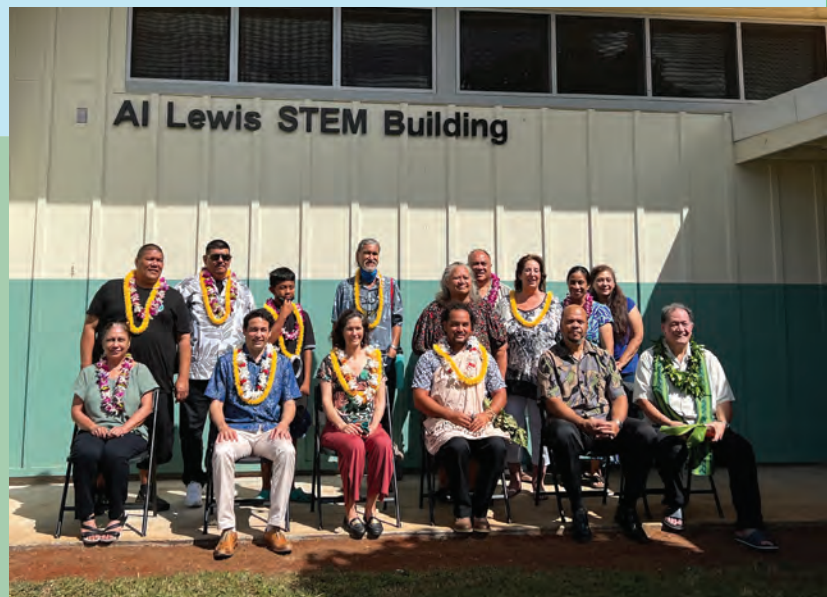
Next generation of leaders is being formed at the new Al Lewis STEM building at Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School. This is how we “Spend, spend, spend da money...” as Al Lewis would say.

Waimānalo Neighborhood Board Chair Kimeona Kane and Senator Lee



### ‘ŌHI‘A LEHUA BILL

I introduced the House companion to the Bill that passed to make the ‘ōhi‘a Lehua the State Endemic Tree. Given my work planting native trees with schools, I was thrilled to have a simple vehicle for students to get involved in the legislative process. DLNR worked with many schools and I supported the schools in my district who testified beautifully, in writing, in person and through art. Attention to the importance of this tree lent itself to an additional \$1.7 million in funding for the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death response on the Big Island.



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As Vice Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee I helped pass a phase out of **PFAS** “forever” chemicals which harm human health, make grants available to lower-income property owners for conversion of **cesspools** near water, and improve programs **recycling** electronic waste and HI-5 containers.

We passed measures to **reduce carbon emissions**. These included: energy efficiency requirements in all State facilities and use of low carbon materials for State buildings and highways, compensating farmers and foresters for sequestering carbon in trees and soil, and setting goals for decarbonization, including for ground and inter-island transportation, and commissioning the groundwork to get us there.

I have been removing invasive plants for seven years at a community forestry site on the watershed of Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary. Want To visit? Let me know.

Several Honu nested at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Bellows



I am pleased to expand my scope by serving on the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, and by supporting their work with the Department of Agriculture to fight an infestation of **coqui frogs** in Waimānalo. The frogs have become established over the last year in four acres of very steep valley which are challenging to access. They have hand-caught over 500 frogs and have targeted visible frogs with hand-spraying of citric acid (a common ingredient in food). They then took advantage of an unspent day of helicopter services for fire control to do a soaking with the citric acid using wildfire fighting equipment. This will hopefully reduce the population in the steep, inaccessible areas.

# CRIME

At their request, law enforcement agencies were consolidated into the new **Department of Law Enforcement** which will improve coordination and expand capacity.

Rep. Marten had some first-hand experience with crime recently that made her extra happy to pass bills to strengthen enforcement of **gambling** (game room problems in Waimānalo), to crack down on theft and **re-sale of catalytic converters** (her car was targeted at the airport), and to target **re-sale of stolen goods**.

Rep. Marten and HPD watched helplessly as her stolen bike was resold online. Thieves use technology, so she drafted a Bill in collaboration with HPD, the Prosecutor’s office, and pawn shop owners to better use technology in crime detection. It establishes a public stolen bike database and punishes the sale of bikes reported stolen on the database.

Consumers can avoid purchasing stolen bikes and sellers will be fined with no need to prove criminal intent. It also transitions pawn shop records provided to HPD to an electronic platform to better screen for stolen items.



## Cleaning up Government

A Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct was formed to produce a report this December for action next legislative session. I welcome more transparency both to make the public more comfortable and to make me more effective as a legislator. Related legislation that had already been introduced this session passed to:

- Prohibit fundraisers during session
- Require ethics training every 4 years
- Make providing false names and addresses of people paying for campaign advertisements a class C felony
- Require electronic recordings of board meetings be maintained as public record
- Reduce or waive costs in getting copies of government records

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **SMALL BUSINESS** employees are paid \$500 to sign up for the new Hawaii Retirement Savings Program for those who do not have access to employer-sponsored plans.
- **SMALL BUSINESS** owners will get help to compete for State contracting opportunities.
- **LOW INCOME WORKERS** will permanently receive their full earned income tax credit, even if it exceeds their tax bill, estimated cost \$250 million.
- **MINIMUM WAGE** will rise from \$10.10/hr to \$18/hr in increments by 2028, while the tip credit will rise from 0.75/hr to \$1.50/hr over the same period.
- **KUPUNA DRIVERS** licenses for those age 72 to 80 will expire after 4 years, not after the current 2 years.
- **FIREWORKS** fines increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and County records of sales and inventory to be shared.
- **HELICOPTER** companies must report flight paths. A Task Force with community representation established to recommend new laws and regulations.
- **STADIUM** downsized and affordable housing will be built in the parking area. Funded with \$350 million.
- **STATE HEALTH LABORATORY** to enable local testing of drinking water. Navy will be billed.
- **RANKED CHOICE VOTING** for special elections – voters rank from favorite to least favorite.

Serving on Energy and Environmental Protection with Chair Lowen



- **PRISON REFORM** through several initiatives to better tailor rehabilitation and reentry for incarcerated women and their families, setting up a women's court, and to provide IDs and parole services for all.
- **BAIL REFORM** eliminates monetary pre-trial bail for lesser, non-violent crimes.
- **LGBTQ+ COMMISSION** established to address discrimination and equity.
- **PERIOD PRODUCTS AT SCHOOLS** students will no longer miss class due to lack of menstrual products.
- **SEX TRAFFICKING** abatement office established within the Attorney General's office, services provided to support victim witnesses, and emergency shelter funding.

## ARE YOUR CONCERNS CITY, STATE, OR FEDERAL? DONT WORRY, WE WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE RIGHT PLACE



Jennifer Barra has spent a decade helping our residents navigate government entities to find solutions to their problems. Her knowledge of ongoing District issues, of government, and the legislative process was crucial while Rep Marten learned the ropes. We bid Jennifer a warm aloha as she leaves to work for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Stephanie Duarte Whalen and Alexandra Kahn joined us during busy session. Mahalo to this great team!

Many concerns District residents have fall under the jurisdiction of the County or the Federal government, but our office is always happy to let constituents know where and how to get help. For issues important to our community, I engage my elected counterparts.

For example, I ask for help from our Congressional delegation for **military and helicopter concerns**, or I lend support to City initiatives such as CM Ki'aina's Bill 38 to prohibit **commercial activity at Hūnānāniho Beach Park** or Mayor Blangiardi's Bill 41 to reduce the number of **vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods**.

# OUR BUDGET REFLECTS OUR VALUES

## How was the \$2 billion+ surplus used?

- **SAVING FOR THE FUTURE** \$500 million was added to the \$300 million already in the rainy-day fund and \$200 million in the hurricane fund. (This 10% reserve will ensure low interest rates for State borrowing.)
- **REDUCING DEBT** \$300 million for the public employee pension fund and \$300 million for future public worker health insurance.
- **TAX REBATES** \$250 million to cover rebates of \$300 (income under \$100,000 per individual or \$200,000 per couple), or \$100 for higher income earners multiplied by number of exemptions.
- **PAYMENTS OWED TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS** \$1 BILLION FOR DHHL, OHA, and a court settlement to early wait-listers. See details inside.
- **PUBLIC EDUCATION** \$200 million for pre-school infrastructure and \$120 to compensate teachers for experience, \$35 million for hard to fill locations, special education and Hawaiian immersion, and \$100 million in restored DOE positions.
- **BROADBAND** \$200 million for infrastructure to promote digital equity.
- **ADULT DENTAL** \$26 million so Medicaid clients can smile without shame and save us ER costs.

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** \$300 million for rental housing (half for working families up to median income), \$20 million for affordable housing infrastructure, \$5 million for gap financing for home purchases, \$4 million to match \$19 million in federal funds for First-to-Work families to get \$500/month rental assistance, \$15 million for the Ohana Zones Program which gets homeless into housing and other services, and \$1.5 million to give landlords incentives to accept housing vouchers by covering excess property damage.
- **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES** up to \$8 million (this is the District 51 Bill for Ariel!)
- **TRAINING DOCTORS, NURSES AND TEACHERS** \$3.8 million to support students in UH programs.



Rep Marten served on Finance with Chair Luke

## STATE FUNDS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

### Waimānalo Health Center

\$500,000 for further expansion of services - A new building at the original WHC site will provide a 10-chair dental clinic, vision services, health promotion and social services. It is just one part of a \$7 million project with funding coming from multiple sources.

**Kinai 'Eha** \$250,000 for youth workforce training and Hawaiian cultural identity, at HYCF.

### Projects Underway/Funds Released Over \$11,000,000

**Waimānalo Road Safety** Speed abatement, pedestrian safety, and repair work on Nakini Street and Huli Street

**Kailua High School** Building T Renovations, including new air conditioning units and a concrete walkway.

**Windward Community College** Classrooms and lab for Agripharmatech Program

**Makai Research Pier** Major repairs at the Makai Research Pier.

**Hawaiian Homelands Lot Development** Development of Hawaiian Homelands into residential and subsistence agricultural lots in Waimānalo

**Agricultural Infrastructure Improvements** Assessments on the Waimānalo irrigation system

**Women's Community Correctional Center** New equipment at the Ho'okipa Makai Cottage.

**Waimānalo Equestrian Trails** Expand and improve trails around Olomana

