

State Senator **BRANDON ELEFANTE**



Representing Senate District 16 - 'Aiea, Hālawā, and Pearl City

Aloha!

The wet winter weather we're currently experiencing is surely going to make for a wonderfully green spring! And can you believe the legislative session is a little more than halfway through? Time is surely flying by, and we're doing our best to hear as many bills as we can before the deadlines approach.

I appreciate those of you who reach out to my office with your questions, concerns, and/or suggestions regarding measures being heard. Community input is needed and encouraged, and I'm so proud of my constituents for being engaged in this process. It takes all of us to make a difference!

Brandon

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TOP: Aloha Stadium Closing Ceremony on February 25
L-R: Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Rep. Aaron Johanson, Sen. Brandon Elefante, Sen. Henry Aquino

BOTTOM: Sen. Elefante with former UH quarterback and current UH Football Head Coach Timmy Chang



Mahalo nui loa to Mele Murals for creating this beautiful mural at Waiau Elementary School. Through thoughtful student-led planning and faculty assistance, Mele Murals was able to use a modern approach to teach students Hawaiian culture and history using visual arts. And it's not just art being taught, but also relationship building, planning, and critical thinking skills.

The images were carefully selected to represent the mo'olelo of Waiau. Alaka'i (student leaders pictured here) were chosen by teachers for their artistic and/or leadership skills to see this project through.



Mahalo to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) Office for Student Success and the Counseling and Student Development Center for taking the time out of their busy schedules to testify on behalf of Senate Bill (SB) 500, a bill I introduced this session to help appropriate funds for UHM to hire more mental health practitioners. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, educators and faculty have seen an increased need for mental health assistance at campuses nationwide.

L-R: Dr. Theresa Crichfield, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Dean of Students, UH Manoa; Richard Mizusawa, former Associated Student Body President of UH Manoa; Trystin Nakayama, Office Manager and Executive Assistant, UH Manoa Counseling and Student Development Center; Dr. Lori Ideta, Vice Provost for Student Success, UH Manoa; Dr. Allyson Tanouye, Director and Chief Psychologist of the UH Manoa Counseling and Student Development Center

Senator Elefante at last month's Agricultural Awareness Day at the Capitol. This event brings together local farmers, ranchers, and agricultural researchers to share in new technology and findings, as well as a way to reach out to the legislature to pass laws to appropriate funds and protect our islands.

