

2024 END OF SESSION UPDATE

REPRESENTATIVE CORY CHUN

HOUSE DISTRICT 35



Aloha Neighbors,

This legislative session we passed meaningful legislation to help our working families, kūpuna, and keiki. Despite these accomplishments, we still face many challenges and made tough decisions when voting on issues.

I am proud of our accomplishments over the past two years and look forward to serving you better with the feedback I received from the community. I will continue to listen to your concerns and take them into consideration when making decisions on your behalf.

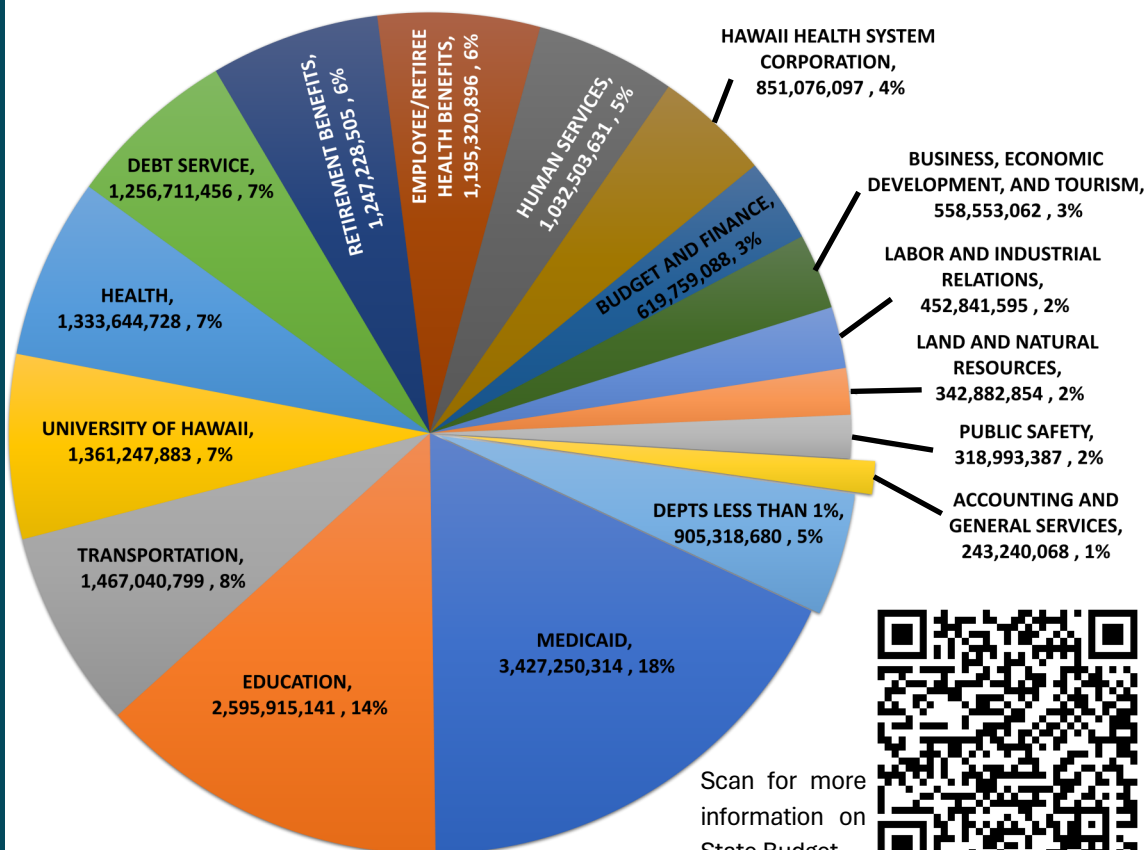
My office remains open for any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have. Please reach out by phone at **(808)586-6170** or email at repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov

Mahalo,



Fiscal Year 2024—2025 State Budget

With the uncertainty from last year's wildfires, many began the year concerned about the legislature's spending priorities. However, this year's \$19 billion budget has addressed all of the essential recovery efforts on Maui while also allocating much-needed funding for the benefit of the entire state, including you and your neighbors in District 35. This month's newsletter features some of the new programs aimed at providing significant assistance to us all. For more information on the State's budget, please feel free to scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.



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2024 Legislative Highlights

HB2404: STATE INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENTS

Updates the State's income tax brackets, doubling its standard tax deduction for the 2024 tax season. Adjustments will continue in 2026, 2028, 2030, and 2031, saving local taxpayers an estimated \$5 billion over the next six years. As the largest tax cut in State history, Hawai'i will move from the second-highest state income tax rate to being the fourth-lowest in the country.



Representative Takayama (far right) organized a clothes drive with the YWCA O'ahu Dress For Success Program to help women who are overcoming poverty, homelessness, or incarceration find a good job. Many House members, including (left to right) Representatives Belatti, Chun, and Mizuno, with Lieutenant Governor Luke, helped with contributions.



Waipahū High School students in the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders program attended a Waipahū Neighborhood Board meeting to present their projects to the community. They are pictured above with Councilmember Weyer and Representatives Chun and Lamosao. They advocated against illegal dumping in the Waipahu area in this meeting and later helped to get several resolutions passed in this year's legislative session.



Representatives Miyake and Chun donated canned goods during a Hawai'i Food Bank event hosted by Lieutenant Governor Luke.

SB1035: GENERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

Exempts General Excise Taxes for medical and dental services paid with Medicaid, Medicare, and TRICARE benefits because these Federal reimbursements do not always compensate providers for the tax differential.



The Hawai'i Women's Legislative Caucus holds an annual Easter Basket Drive to collect basic household necessities, including toys for children. Donations go to women and families in need. Representative Chun along with his House and Senate colleagues participated in a successful drive.

Scan the QR Code or use the link for a digital archive of all my newsletters.

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/memberpage.aspx?>



Over \$28 Million in CIP Funding for Waipahū and Pearl City Schools and Improvements across the 2024 — 2025 Biennium

HIGHLANDS INTERMEDIATE (FY 24)	Plans, design, and construction for a covered bus stop and seating area; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 2,200,000
MANANA ELEMENTARY (FY 25)	Plans and construction to replace library and administration windows.	\$ 550,000
MANANA ELEMENTARY (FY 24)	Plans, design, and construction for restroom facilities for portable classroom; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 1,100,000
MOMILANI ELEMENTARY (FY 25)	Construction of perimeter fencing and security improvements.	\$ 3,550,000
PEARL CITY ELEMENTARY (FY 24)	Construction for the replacement of campus waterlines.	\$ 1,400,000
PEARL CITY HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY (FY 24)	Plans, design, and construction for restroom facilities for portable classroom; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 200,000
PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL (FY 25)	Design and Construction to resurface Tennis courts.	\$ 650,000
	Design, construction and equipment to renovate the medical classroom; ground and site improvements.	\$ 1,389,000
PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL (FY 24)	Design, construction, and equipment for general improvements to auditorium, including lighting and electrical improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 4,000,000
WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY (FY 24)	Design, construction, and equipment for cafeteria expansion, renovation and improvements; ground and site improvements.	\$ 4,500,000
WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE (FY 25)	Construction of air conditioning repairs.	\$ 200,000
WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE (FY 24)	New digital media, robotics, engineering/electronics, animation, music and science (dreams) building; ground and site improvements and equipment.	\$ 3,000,000
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL (FY 25)	Construction of campus-wide security fencing and gates along to include materials, remediation, ground and site improvements.	\$ 1,000,000
	Construction for tennis court resurfacing project.	\$ 650,000
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL (FY 24)	Design and construction for campus-wide, exterior repainting; and all related work including new work and refurbishment/repair; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 2,500,000
WAIPIO POINT ACCESS ROAD (FY 25)	Design and construction for Waipio Point Access Road multimodal and safety improvements.	\$ 2,100,000

2024 Legislative Highlights: Kūpuna Caucus Priorities

Representative Chun continues to embrace his new role as co-convenor of the Kūpuna Caucus and succeeded in moving legislation to benefit our kūpuna this legislative session. His efforts resulted in the adoption of several Caucus-supported measures including two major priorities.



Representative Chun was a guest speaker for a Disabilities Awareness Day that the Developmental Disabilities Council and the Alzheimer's Association hosted. Later he invited self-advocates to his office where they share their ideas with him.

HB1974: INCREASING MEDICARE/MEDICAID PERSONAL NEEDS MONTHLY ALLOWANCE

Previously set to \$50 in 2007, this increases the personal needs monthly allowance to patients in Medicare and Medicaid long-term care facilities to \$75 with additional eligibility clarification.

HB2216: INCREASING THE DAILY RATE FOR COMMUNITY CARE ADULT FOSTER HOMES

The last rate increase came in 2008, and this new increase will help kūpuna and disabled caretakers better make ends meet as the costs of living and doing business in Hawai'i continue to rise.



Senators Aquino, Shimabukuro, Wakai, and Elefante with Representatives Marten, Chun, and Takayama, after agreeing on the final draft for a new Silver Alert program.

SB2305: SILVER ALERTS

Requires the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a program similar to the missing child Maile Amber Alert. In coordination with county police, the Silver Alert can be used for missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

HB1771: THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S HAWAII HEALTHY AGING PARTNERSHIP

Although this bill did not pass, the requested \$400,000 was included directly into the State's budget. The Healthy Aging Partnership provides comprehensive support for older adults and includes an EnhanceFitness program, which improves flexibility, balance, and endurance tailored for fall prevention and to enhance overall fitness.



Pearl City Community Church has an EnhanceFitness program and advocates (left to right) Sharon Inake, Shirley Kidani, Lillian Muramatsu, Harriet Ho, and Jean Kimoto met with Kūpuna Caucus Co-Convenors Senator Moriawaki and Representative Chun at the Capitol for a rally.

HB2224: LONG-TERM CARE MASTER PLAN

Requires the Governor's Executive Office on Aging and the State Health Planning and Development Agency to create a comprehensive plan for long-term care policy goals that ensure the availability of a full continuum of institutional and community-based services. This builds on efforts started in 2008.

2024 Legislative Highlights: Healthcare



Representative Chun and advocate Becky Gardner share a moment of celebration over after a final version of the mental health associate licensure bill was agreed upon. Collaboration on this initiative began during the 2023 legislative session.



Representative Chun met with many caregivers who came to the State Capitol as advocates for kūpuna programs.

HB1830: ESTABLISHES ASSOCIATE LICENSURE FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Similar to medical doctors in residency programs, this establishes an associate license to qualified post-master professionals who are actively providing mental health services as part of a full licensure internship, supervised by a fully licensed provider. This new license will allow for reimbursement of services by insurance providers to these new graduates.



Students Carlo Golez and Jan Acosta, Representatives Chun and Lamosao, and Waipahu High School Principal Zachary Sheets.

HB1827: provides funding to support workforce development programs within high schools for a certificate and glidepath program for more certified nurse aides (CNAs). Earlier this year, Waipahu High School opened its newly renovated school-based health center, which is one example of the workforce development programs supported in this bill.



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) held a Cancer Action Day where Representative Chun and Senator Moriwaki met with cancer research advocates. As a strong advocate for cancer research, Representative Chun is working with ACS CAN to improve cancer research and cancer treatment access through new legislation.

HCR53: BIOMARKER TESTING

Requests a State Auditor's Impact Assessment Report relating to Biomarker testing and its effect on the State's Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage. Biomarker testing involves identifying a patient sample to assess the presence, absence, or progression of a disease, as well as to evaluate the response to treatment. This can help in faster diagnosis and result in a more personalized treatment solution. Although a valuable healthcare tool, health insurance carriers are not required to cover biomarker testing. The results of the auditor's report will lead to future legislation aimed at expanding access to biomarker testing, which could potentially improve health outcomes for many individuals and reduce overall healthcare costs by enabling more targeted and effective treatment plans.

2024 Legislative Highlights: Public Safety

FIREWORKS

Although a time honored tradition in Hawai'i, fireworks have become an ongoing health and safety issue. To better address these concerns, the legislature has taken several new steps.

- The Department of Law Enforcement has been appropriated an additional \$1,265,000 for its Illegal Fireworks Taskforce.
- **HB2193:** to deter illegal fireworks, this bill authorizes law enforcement to enter and inspect the premises of a fireworks licensee or permittee to ensure compliance.
- **HCR52:** Illegal Fireworks; Public Service Announcement that urges the Department of Law Enforcement, county fire departments, county law enforcement, humane societies in each county, and media organizations throughout the State to collaborate to create and disseminate public service announcements to highlight the dangers of, and advocate against the use of, illegal fireworks to protect the health and safety of the community, pets, and wildlife.

SB2197: ILLEGAL GAMBLING

Several neighborhoods in Pearl City and Waipahū have been wrestling with the problems that come with illegal gambling. This amends the definition of "advance gambling activity" to help law enforcement better deal with the illegal gambling problem our state faces.



House Finance Committee members Morikawa, Takenouchi, Lamosao, Kahaloa and Chun convened with the Senate Ways and Means Committee to come to agreement on the State Budget, including important biosecurity funding.

HB2619: FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Along with common nuisance animals, like feral chickens, our communities are also starting to see more exotic pests like the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and the Rose-Ringed Parakeet. The legislature has recognized the problems that these creatures pose and HB2619 provides \$20 million in funds towards a comprehensive agricultural biosecurity program with the Department of Agriculture. This will help fund responses to help mitigate the spread of many invasive species, including feral chickens, CRB, and Rose-Ringed Parakeets.



HB2192 conferees Representatives Takayama, Amato, and Chun after passing out their conference draft.

HB2192 FOR SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK

Last year, Representatives Takayama and Chun helped pass HCR 29 which requested a study for potential solutions addressing the legal and physical situation at Sunset Memorial Park. This year, **HB2192** was drafted as a result of that study and authorizes the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to appoint an organization as the limited owner of a cemetery, under certain circumstances, to file complaints and engaging in certain security and perpetual care activities for the cemetery. This will directly help Sunset Memorial and will help to ensure this does not happen for other cemeteries across the state.

2024 Community Highlights



(above) The Waipahū High School (WHS) Football Team was honored at the State Capitol for their 2023 Division 1 Football Championship win.

(right) Representative Chun, WHS Football Head Coach Bryson Carvalho, Assistant Coach Lehua Saturnio, Representative Lamasao, and players Tai Aipia Barrett, Arjay Kelemete, Eric Moananu, and Caleb Lauifi pose for a photo on the House Floor after the presentation.

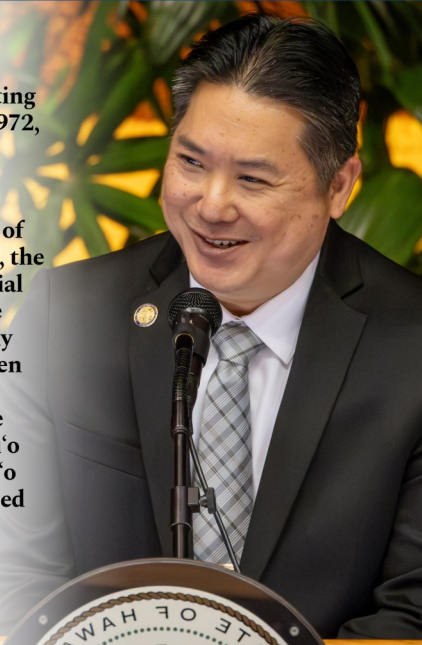


WAIPAHŪ LAWMAKERS BACK CITY'S DECISION TO ELIMINATE WAIPI'O PENINSULA AS PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

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The Waipahū community has shouldered the burden of hosting a landfill site. From 1943 to 1972, the Waipahū Incinerator Ash Landfill and Dump took in municipal solid waste. Despite stopping the disposal of municipal solid waste in 1972, the site continued to take industrial waste, ash, sewage, and sludge until November 1991. Not only has Waipahū shared the burden of having a landfill in its community, but the site of the proposed landfill at the Waipi'o Soccer Complex on the Waipi'o Peninsula has already been used in this manner.

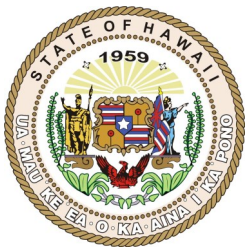
Representative Cory M. Chun
House District 35 - Portions of Pearl City and Waipahū, Crestview



Representative Chun and Councilmember Say, pictured below, with the Waipahū High School's LifeSmarts Team, attended a competition hosted by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. They were tested on personal finance, consumer rights and responsibility, health and safety, technology. Waipahū High School came in third in this year's competition and recognized at the State Capitol for their achievements.



Representative Takayama, Senator Elefante, Senator Aquino, and Representative Chun helped to acknowledge the newly inducted Pearl City Community Association (PCCA) officers during their installation event. These volunteer officers will help the non-profit PCCA in its mission to promote the health and welfare of the Pearl City community. PCCA has been active for over 60 years and has support from the Pearl City District Complex Schools in its efforts to make Pearl City a great community to live in.



Representative Cory M. Chun

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Opening Day:

Representatives Poepoe, Garrett, Takenouchi, Evslin, Chun, Aiu, Miyake, Kila, Kahaloa, and Lamosao. Representative Miyake was appointed by the Governor during the interim and welcomed by Rep. Chun and his colleagues as they all looked forward to a productive legislative session.



Sine Die (Last Day):

Representatives Evslin, Chun, Lamosao, Garrett, Aiu, Takenouchi, Miyake, Kila, Kahaloa, and Poepoe. They are proud of their many accomplishments during the legislative session.