

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 330 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6010 | Fax: (808) 586-6011
Email: repganaden@capitol.hawaii.gov



MARCH/APRIL 2021

*Proudly Serving District 30 - Kalihi Kai, Sand Island,
Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Ford Island, Halawa Valley Estate*



STATE REPRESENTATIVE SONNY GANADEN

HAWAII HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -
DISTRICT 30

Kalihi Kai, Sand Island, Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Ford Island, Halawa Valley Estate

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

Greetings! This March marks one year of the pandemic, and all of us have been affected. Some of our neighbors have passed, many have become unemployed, and thousands of the community's children and parents struggle with difficulty and changing schedules.

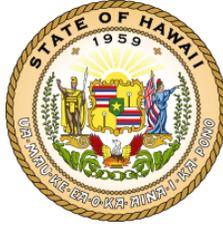
Economic recovery is tied to pandemic recovery. As the world and our economy reopens, we must remain vigilant and continue to follow guidelines to ensure we keep each other safe and healthy.

Our office continues to work with the County to ensure that vaccine distributions become more fair, transparent, and efficient.

We work for you. Please check out this newsletter that describes where the 2021 legislative session is and our current priorities. If you can, please reach out to testify or voice any concern!

The easiest way to check in is to visit the website or e-mail me at repganaden@capitol.hawaii.gov. Ang aming Newsletter ay may mga pagsasalin sa Tagalog para mas intindihan nyo po ang mga pangyayari sa inyong komunidad. Mangyaring bisitahin ang aking Facebook para sa karagdagang impormasyon.

Best wishes,
Sonny



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Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits to those who have exhausted their benefits and have a zero dollar (\$0) balance.

To apply for PEUC, sign into your UI account and click the link under the PEUC announcement

You will be directed to a page with the five prequalification questions as follows:

1) Are you unemployed or working less than full-time hours and your gross earnings is less than your weekly benefit amount?

For example, if you work less than full-time hours and your wages are less than your weekly benefit amount, select "Yes."

2) Did you file a claim in Hawaii?

For example, if you filed a claim on HUIclaims or using the PDF in Hawaii, select "Yes."

3) Have you applied for unemployment benefits in another State or federal program?

For example, if you work less than full-time hours and your wages are less than your weekly benefit amount, select "Yes"

4) Are you receiving compensation under Unemployment Compensation laws of Canada?

5) Are you able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work (currently the requirement to actively seek work has been temporarily waived during Covid-19)?

Answer the questions and submit them.

If you qualify for PEUC, you will see a confirmation message.

If you have a pending issue(s) on your claim, you will see a message telling you your claim is being reviewed.

If you do not qualify for PEUC, you will see a message explaining why.

If you need further assistance, please reach out to my office directly.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) FAQs

If I return to work, can I still collect UI?

You can retroactively collect the unemployment benefit for the weeks you weren't working, even if you have returned to work. You may still be eligible for UI even if you're working reduced hours that earn less than your weekly benefit amount.

If I am called back to work, but don't want to return because of COVID19 or other issues, can I refuse?

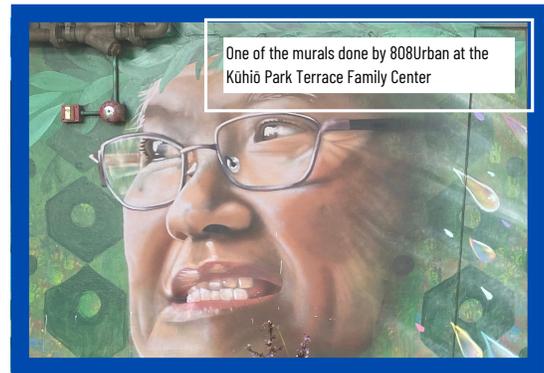
If you refuse work from your employer, for whatever reason, you will become ineligible for UI benefits.

Who do I contact to address issues with my claim?

You can call the UI Call Center at (833) 901-2275 to speak to someone about your claim, your questions, or to reset your password. An additional 120 phone lines have been added to the call center to help.

I'm having trouble getting into the system?

Recently, the Department created a mirror system that doesn't exist on the state mainframe with most other major governmental functions. This has allowed more capacity in the system and much greater rates of people accessing the UI system.



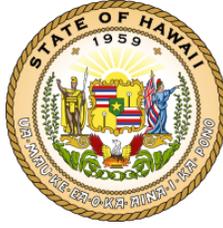
One of the murals done by 808Urban at the Kūhiō Park Terrace Family Center



Samurai, Inc. is my favorite spot to get a treat, whether it be ice cream, popcorn, or a hot dog!



Representative Belatti and I standing inside the courtyard at St. Anthony's Church on Puuhale Road

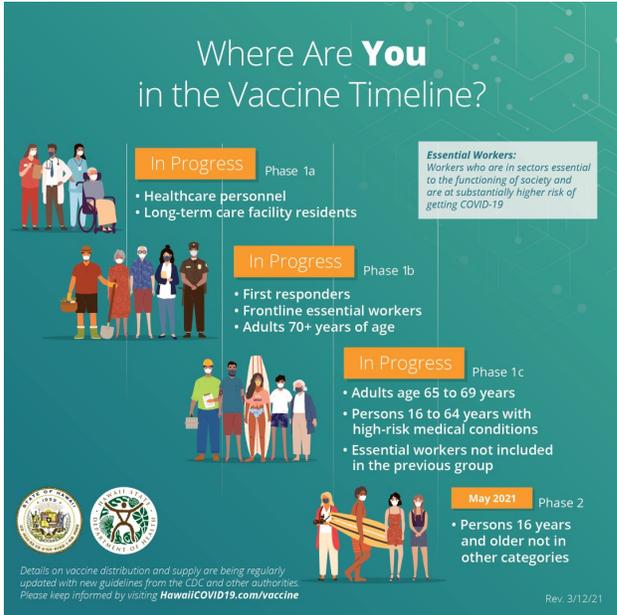


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COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES



We are here



HOW TO SIGN UP TO GET VACCINATED:

- The State of Hawaii's main website with information about vaccine registration is here: <https://hawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccination-registration/>.
- The website includes information about Hawaii's Vaccination Plan: (<https://hawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccine/#hi-vaccination-plan>) and the status of who is being vaccinated. It has links to sites that are administering vaccinations.
- As of March 15, those included in Tier 1A, Tier 1B, and Tier 1C are currently being vaccinated on Oahu.
- Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) is operating at the Pier 2 Passenger Terminal, Waterfront Plaza, and Aloha Tower Marketplace. <https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/hph-covid-19-updates/vaccine-update/>. As indicated on the HPH website, **appointments need to be made. No walk-ins will be accepted at vaccination sites.**
- The Queen's Health System began operating at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on Monday, January 25, 2021. Call: 1-808-691-2222 or visit <https://covid.queens.org/vaccination/> to schedule a vaccination appointment. Similar to HPH, **appointments need to be made. No walk-ins will be accepted.**

For more information, please visit **Kokua Kalihi Valley's** website at <http://www.kkv.net/>.



BILL UPDATES

MEASURES INTRODUCED

- **HB1081 - RELATING TO SIDEWALKS** - Requires the Department of Transportation and each county's transportation department to create and maintain a priority list of sidewalk installation and improvement projects and to publish the priority list on their respective websites.
- **HB615 - RELATING TO INTERNET ACCESS** - Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to develop a plan to ensure that all communities in the State having schools receiving federal Title I education funds have high-speed broadband internet access.
- **HB809 and HB 1191 - RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS** - Amends the Hawaii technology loan revolving fund to the Hawaii broadband infrastructure fund, and appropriates funds to establish a broadband infrastructure grant program to provide broadband service to underserved communities.
- **HB1002 and HB1003 - RELATING TO COVID VACCINATIONS** - Appropriates funds for supplies, personnel, equipment, and other necessities required for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.
- **SB1243 - RELATING TO THE PHASEOUT OF PRIVATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES** - Requires the State to phase out the use of private correctional facilities. Prohibits the construction of new correctional facilities and the expansion of existing ones without Hawaii correctional system commissions approval.

MEASURES SUPPORTED

In addition to the above bills that I've introduced, I am also supporting bills that relate to securing a minimum wage increase, school improvements, and immigration reform with the federal government.



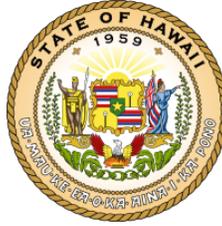
Starting in February, I will be hosting a question and answer forum **every last Monday of the month** on Instagram Live @RepGanaden. There you can ask me questions on things you would like to know more about (i.e. bill updates) and express your community concerns. You can submit your questions during the live or :

Email: RepGanaden@Capitol.Hawaii.Gov

Call: 808-586-6010

Instagram DM: RepGanaden

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RepGanaden



**Ano Ang Ginagawa
Namin At
Bakit**

WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR THE COMMUNITY & WHY

DIGITAL EQUITY

The Pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income communities who are unable to access vital services like healthcare and education due to a lack of internet access.

Our goal is to wire the low-income areas between Kalihi and Dillingham so that constituents can access the internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

Dahil sa pandemya, maraming pamilya ay walang access sa internet. Nakakaapekto ito sa kanilang kakayahan mag-access ng healthcare at edukasyon.

Nais namin mag-provide ng pag-access sa internet para sa mga nahihirapang komunidad sa pamamagitan ng Kalihi at Dillingham.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Hawaii's high recidivism rate demonstrates the inefficiency of our current criminal justice system in providing inmates with resources that would allow them to be positive contributors to their communities once released.

Our office is looking to phase out the State's use of private prisons and provide communities with necessary services like rehabilitation and mental health. Investing in these services has been proven to cost less, reduce crime rates and recidivism.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ang pagtaas ng bilang ng naakusahang kriminal na bumabalik sa dating gawi ng krimen dito sa Hawaii ay nagpapatunay lamng ng mahinang sistema at kakulangan ng pagpapatupad ng disiplina at kawalan ng positibong aktibidades at kontribusyon sa mga kriminal kaag sila'y nakalaya na dahilan ng kanilang pagbabalik sa dati.

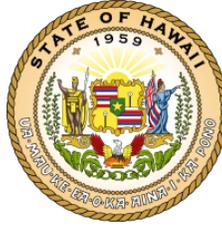
Kumikita namin ng paraan para magbigay sa komunidad ng mga kinakailangang serbisyo gaya ng rehabilitasyon. Pamumuhunan sa mga serbisyo na ito kaysa sa pribadong bilangguan ay mas mura at epektibo sa mabawasan ng krimen.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The State's plan for a safe economic recovery is reliant on vaccination rollouts and looking towards a digital economy. So far, 200,000 vaccines have been administered. My office is working with Kōkua Kalihi Valley to make sure vaccines are rolled out within our community. Moreover, a digital economy emphasizes the need for equitable broadband access to assure that low-income communities are not left behind as the State navigates through this pandemic

UNEMPLOYMENT

Ang prayoridad ng estado ay bawihin ng atin ekonomiya sa isang ligtas ng paraan. Kasama sa plano ay pagbabakuna at isang ekonomiya na mas digital. Hanggang ngayon, meron ng 200,000 tao sa Hawaii na kumuha ng bakuna, at nagtatrabaho ang oficina namin kasama ng Kōkua Kalihi Valley upang matiyak ng mga pagbabakuna para sa komunidad natin. Bukod pa rito, ang plano ng estado para isang digital na ekonomiya ay nagpapatunay na ang kailangan ng mga nahihirapang komunidad ay access sa broadband at internet.



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STUDENT SUCCESS

Although this world took a major hit in the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to recognize students from District 30 who excelled academically during their Fall 2020 semester in spite of this. Congratulations to you all!



Bryan Hill was named to the Chancellor's List at Troy University. The Chancellor's List honors full-time undergraduate students who earn a GPA of 4.0.



Mackenzie Lane was offered the Austin Peay State University Provost Out-of-State Scholarship for high-achieving freshmen. The APSU Provost Out-of-State Scholarship is offered to Out-of-State students achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher.



Celeste Gauer was named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Bob Jones University. The Dean's List recognizes students who earn a 3.00 - 3.74 GPA during the semester.



Jamy Lum was named to the University of New Hampshire's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.



Michael Minihan received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia in Fall 2020.

Mark Brison was named to Columbia State Community College's President's List for Fall 2020. Brison graduated in December with a Technical Certificate in Accelerated Advanced EMT.

Michael Littles was named to the President's List at Tallahassee Community College. The President's List recognizes students who earn a 4.0 GPA.

Kathleen Funcheon was named to the University of Alabama Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes students who achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Ryan White was named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the College of Business. The College of Business recognizes students with a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Courtney Casteen was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

I am broken. I watched as my mother's face slowly turned red and her brows began to crease as she let out a breath of frustration. I was in first grade and I was taking hours to do my homework. I could not comprehend the book because the letters were mixed up. As hot tears slid down my cheeks, my mother slammed her hand on the dining table and angrily swept all the papers, cups, and markers off the surface. My little hands began to shake. I was paralyzed with fear and I started to have difficulty breathing and speaking. What I didn't know at the time was that I had dyslexia. Although I was broken at the time, I was put on a path that led me to realize that despite the learning disabilities and obstacles you may encounter throughout your journey, with the right help, it is possible to achieve your dreams.

As I entered middle school, I lost all faith in myself. I thought, "Who in their right mind would think a girl with dyslexia could be smart enough to get straight A's?" That all changed when I picked up a copy of The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. I started to adore the main character Katniss because she used her power to fight and advocate for the people who didn't have hope. Books showed me that giving up should not be an option. I had to remember that I need to have faith in myself. Anything can destroy me, but that's only if I give it the power to do so.

One day, my teacher gave an article to us, but after rereading it, I still couldn't comprehend the material. Instead of giving up, I



used my markers and pens to create a color-coded key. Each color was associated with a question, definition, or my opinion. I learned that if I turned my book sideways I could read more proficiently. When writing, I use my hands to remember the difference between my lower case "d" and "b". As I reread the article, I felt like I was finally able to understand the material. I continued to use my strategies and by the end of the semester I was able to get straight A's.

When I reached high school, I became a teacher's assistant in

a special education math class. I tutored a group of freshmen during class and after school. Occasionally, I spoke to their teachers during lunch on how to bring their grades up. I figured out the best way to teach every individual and to find what worked for them. This could be color-coding, showing examples, or having a competition. I refused to let them fall through the cracks and I wanted to see my freshmen achieve in school. I'm glad I was a part of their journey to success, because I learned what my passion is.

After college, I want to become a special education english teacher. I will remind my students that with the right help, they can achieve their dreams, despite their disabilities.

For years, I let my problems and insecurities ruin my life. I understand the feeling of having my world crash down on me, but books saved me by providing heroines that inspired me. I was once a little girl who believed I was broken, but then I grew up and learned the possibilities are endless as long as I have hope.



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PACIFIC VOICES



Pacific Voices is an intergenerational youth program that is open to all Pacific Islanders, especially those living in and around Kalihi. It began as an afterschool program at Kūhiō Park Terrace because local non-profit Kōkua Kalihi Valley wanted to create a safe space for children to go to learn their traditions and cultures. The program aids in rooting youth to their cultural identity, which is often fractured due to their relocation to Hawai'i.

Pacific Voices provides a safe space for children to be educated in a culturally-appropriate manner that places value on their personal history and circumstance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has temporarily been placed on hold but will re-open when it is safe to do so.

Innocenta Sound-Kikku, known by most community members as "Mama Ino," founded and operates Pacific Voices. With over 10 years of law enforcement experience under her belt, she acts as a liaison for the Chuukese community and works tirelessly to connect the community to resources, cultural support, and advocates for their rights to health and culture. Additionally, she is a main character in TeAda's production "Masters of the Currents," which has toured throughout the U.S.

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

RAY'S CAFÉ

I'm a huge fan of Ray's Café! Serving Honolulu since 1986, some of you may remember Ray's Café when it was in downtown Honolulu on the corner of Smith and Beretania. Since then, they relocated to the corner of North King and Kopke in Kalihi. This local favorite has a reputation for being a hidden treasure, and that's for good reason. The food is delicious, the portions are huge, and the prices are just right! They are well-known for their prime rib plates, which are on special every week from Friday - Monday. Consider stopping in for a bite to eat! (I recommend calling your order in ahead of time as parking is limited.)



Ray's Café
2033 North King St
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 841-2771

Here I am with owner Felix, showing off the gigantic Fresh Grilled Ahi plate



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NO INTERNET TO SURF?



YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR LOW-COST PLANS OR DISCOUNTS!

FCC Lifeline Program. This federal program offers discounts on Hawaiian Telcom's internet service for households with income levels $\leq 135\%$ of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or that receive benefits from federal assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, and Public Housing Assistance. **More info:** www.usac.org/lifeline

Hawaiian Telcom's Internet Kokua Program. This program offers High-Speed Basic Service up to (7 Mbps download) for \$9.95/month and High-Speed Extreme service (up to 20 Mbps) in fiber-served areas for \$12.95/month (WiFi router included) for qualifying households. **More info:** <http://www.hawaiiantel.com/Residential/Discounted-services-for-qualified-Hawaii-residents>

Spectrum's Internet Assist Plan. This plan offers high-speed service (up to 30 Mbps with no data caps) for \$17.99/month (modem included). In-home WiFi may be added for \$5/month for qualifying new households. **More info:** <http://www.spectrum.com/internet/spectrum-internet-assist?opredirect=browse-content-spectrum-internet-assist>



RESOURCES

- **Representative Sonny Ganaden:** (808) 586-6010
 - **Office Manager Grace J.:** (808) 586-6009
 - **Session Staffer Kalei D.:** (808) 586-6122



- **Aloha United Way (COVID-19 Information):**

- 211

- **State of Hawai'i COVID-19 CARES Line (Quarantine & Isolation Support):**

- (808) 832-3100

- **We Are Oceania COVID-19 Hotline (Quarantine & Isolation Navigation, Food Support Services):**

- (808) 913-1364



- **Queen's COVID-19 Infoline:**

- (808) 691-2619

- **Queen's COVID=19 Vaccination Line:**

- (808) 691-2222

- **Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services:**

*Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Elder Care,
Maternal and Child Health, Youth Programs*

- (808) 791-9400





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Next Community Meetings

- Next Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board Meeting No. 15
April 21 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Next Aiea Neighborhood Board Meeting
April 12 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Next Aliamanu-Salt Lake-Foster Village-Airport
Neighborhood Board Meeting
April 8 at 7:00 pm

**For links to the Neighborhood Board Meetings, please
visit my website:**

<http://bit.ly/repganaden>

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SMARTPHONE.**



NEWSLETTER



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*Mahalo for your support of the Kalihi Kai - Sand Island - Hickam - Pearl Harbor - Ford Island - Halawa Valley Estates
community!*