

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 330 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
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**May 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

Greetings,

Thank you, sincerely, for your support in my first legislative session! This year was like no other. Prior to a major infusion of federal funds in March, the state was facing an unprecedented crisis. It took much effort to maintain state services while simultaneously cutting the budget.

Most services remain in place as our economy rebounds quickly, including returning full funding to public education. We are developing several projects over the legislative interim and continue to work with the county to fulfill numerous concerns in stream cleaning, road improvements, modernizing criminal justice, and oversight of the rail project.

We work for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with concerns regarding your state government.

Best,  
Sonny

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE MY NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL. TO VISIT MY STATE CAPITOL WEBSITE, AND TO VISIT MY FACEBOOK! SCAN THESE SPECIAL QR CODES USING THE QR READER ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.**



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### The City and County of Honolulu's **RENT & UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM**

#### **CAN PAY FOR:**

- Rent (Up to \$2,000/month)
- Household Utilities (Up to \$500/month)
- Supported for 12 months

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT  
[ONEOAHU.ORG/RENTHelp](http://ONEOAHU.ORG/RENTHelp)**

#### **WHO CAN QUALIFY:**

- O'ahu Residents
- COVID income or Job Loss
- Proof of Late Rent or Utility Bills
- Household Income Limits

#### **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:**

- Government-issued ID
- Rent Agreement or Bill
- Household Tax Document
- Recent Pay Stubs
- Unemployment Insurance Receipt

**The program is temporarily closed for new applications. Sign up to be notified at the website below to be notified when the application reopens for Round 2!**

**FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, VISIT  
[ONEOAHU.ORG/RESOURCES](http://ONEOAHU.ORG/RESOURCES)**



## American Rescue Plan UI Updates

## 2021 Child Tax Credit

### EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

**In addition to the American Rescue Plan, you may be eligible for ongoing relief first provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("Families First"), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (COVID relief law).**

#### Eligibility:

In addition to standard UI eligibility, you may qualify for UI benefits via these laws if:

- You are self-employed, including an independent contractor, freelancer, or gig-economy worker;
- You are a part-time worker;
- Your work hours have been cut or reduced to zero, but you are still employed;
- You have a limited work history that would typically disqualify you from UI; or
- You turned down a job offer due to an unsafe worksite.

#### Benefits:

- Your base weekly benefit amount is calculated by dividing wages in highest quarter of your base period by 21, up to a max. of \$648/week.
- If you are partially unemployed, your weekly benefit amount is calculated the same as the above by using the amount of reduced income you are currently receiving.
- Please ask DLIR if you have questions regarding your weekly benefit amount

#### How Can I File A Claim?:

- To apply for UI, please visit [labor.hawaii.gov/ui](http://labor.hawaii.gov/ui)
- You may also call your local UI office. Phone numbers maybe found at [labor.hawaii.gov/ui/contact](http://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/contact)

### Unemployment Insurance Appointments

On April 5, the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) launched an appointment system to make it easier for claimants to communicate with Unemployment Insurance staff online or by telephone. Appointments can be scheduled from April 20 with available slots on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Visit [labor.hawaii.gov/ui/](http://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/) to schedule an appointment

#### • **Am I eligible for the Child Tax Credit?**

- For children under 6, it is now \$3,600 per child per year
- For children ages 6-17, the credit is increased to \$2,000
- Children 17 years and younger are now covered by the Child Tax Credit

#### • **Income limits on the Child Tax Credit:**

- The full tax break is available to individuals who earn up to \$75,000/year; heads of household who earn up to \$112,500/year; and married couples filing jointly who earn up to \$150,000

#### • **How Payments Will Be Made:**

- The Child Tax Credit will be split between 2021 and 2022
  - Parents will receive half the credit, with payments of up to \$300/child under 6, and up to \$250/child between 6 and 17. This amount decreases for those with higher incomes.
  - The second half of your credit will be given with your 2021 tax refund (filed in 2022)

#### • **When Payments Will Be Delivered:**

- Payments will start in July, no date specified
- The Child Tax Credit will be paid out "periodically" from July through December

#### • **Payment Exception for Low- and Moderate-Income Taxpayers:**

- Taxpayers with income below the following thresholds are not required to repay up to \$2,000 per qualifying child:
  - Single: \$40,000
  - Head of Household: \$50,000
  - Married Couple Filing Jointly: \$60,000

#### • **Overpayment**

- The CTC isn't as flexible as the stimulus check rules. If you receive more money than you should have, you will have to pay it back. When filing your 2021 tax return in 2022, if your tax situation isn't what the IRS has in its system and you weren't entitled to as much as you received, you will have to give the overpayment back. To avoid this inconvenience, make sure your information is updated before the payments start arriving.



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## IMPROVING BROADBAND FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we now know that internet access is a public utility and not a luxury. Children need to be able to access the internet for school and adults need to be able to access the internet for work. We are working closely with the State to devise ways to make broadband internet cheaper and to increase accessibility, especially for those in low-income communities.

## OVERSEAS TERMINAL ROOF REPLACEMENT

The Ige Administration has also released \$25,774,335.00 to finance the construction costs for the Overseas Terminal roof replacement at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Oahu.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

### KALIHI WAENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Governor Ige's administration has released \$3,000,000 for the plans, design, and construction for improvements of sidewalks and bridges to access Kalihi Waena Elementary. The "Yellow Fruit Road" project involves constructing a 250' long walkway covered by a pergola where volunteers will plant lemons, limes, tangerines, and other citrus trees to provide students and their families with access to fresh fruits.

## STREET REHABILITATION PROJECTS

A streets and sidewalks improvement project with the City & County of Honolulu began this month and is projected to be completed in September 2021. This project includes resurfacing asphalt concrete pavements, the reconstruction of existing concrete and/or gutters, and the reconstruction of existing concrete sidewalks. Streets affected will be Pu'u hale Road, Kopke Street, Gulick Avenue, Bannister Street and Place, Waterhouse Street, Stanley Street, and Wilcox Lane. Streets not highlighted are included in an overlapping Board of Water Supply project (Summer 2022).





# STATE REPRESENTATIVE SONNY GANADEN



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## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

- The State of Hawaii's main website with information about vaccine registration is here: <https://hawaii-covid19.com/vaccination-registration/>.
- The website includes information about Hawaii's Vaccination Plan: (<https://hawaii-covid19.com/vaccine/#hi-vaccination-plan>) and the status of who is being vaccinated. It has links to sites that are administering vaccinations.
- Find vaccines using the CDC vaccine finder:
- <https://www.vaccinefinder.org/>
- As of April 19, O'ahu moved into **Phase 2** and is now vaccinating all eligible residents ages 16 and up
  - In addition to Hawaii Pacific Health, Kaiser Permanente, and the Queen's Health System, you can also get your vaccine at:
    - Aiea Medical Pharmacy
    - Walmart
    - Costco
    - Sam's Club
    - Don Quijote Drugs
    - Good Neighbor
    - Pharmacare
    - Health Mart
    - Safeway Pharmacy
    - Times
    - Select Walgreens locations
    - Happy Pharmacy

