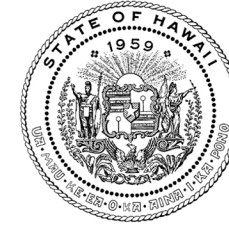




Representative Chris Toshiro Todd
 Hawai'i State Capitol
 415 S. Beretania St., Rm 322
 Honolulu, HI 96813

State House District 2



Mar 2021

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TOSHIRO TODD

WANT TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD?



Aloha Hilo! With the State Capitol closed to the public, testimony on bills will now be conducted online via Zoom. Additionally, all committee hearings will be livestreamed and stored on the Hawai'i House of Representatives YouTube page. Although this will present some challenges, allowing the opportunity to testify remotely will give Hawai'i Island residents greater access to committee hearings.

For more information, you can contact the Public Access Room using the info below:



Public Access Room
 (808) 587-0478
 par@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha! Please reach out to my office at (808)586-8480 or via e-mail at reptodd@capitol.hawaii.gov if you'd like to talk story. Mahalo!



INVESTING IN HAWAI'I'S FUTURE

2021 HOUSE CROSSOVER UPDATE

1 Public Health

Our path to economic recovery heavily depends on the health of our communities. In order to ensure that our schools, businesses, and other gathering places can reopen as safely and as soon as possible, we have to maintain our commitment to effective public health measures. The House recently passed legislation calling for a statewide implementation of the Safe Travels program (HB1286), which requires a negative COVID-19 test to bypass the mandatory 10-day quarantine. This standard policy over the whole state will minimize confusion among residents and travelers alike. We are also pushing to extend the Nurse Facility Sustainability Program (HB311) and Hospital Sustainability Program (HB474), which have strengthened our healthcare services. It is critical that we do everything in our power to keep public health at the top of our priority list.

2 Economic Resiliency

In the short term, the Legislature aims to mitigate the economic fallout of the pandemic. We are currently considering various rental, mortgage, and unemployment support measures. Together, these will help local people to provide for their families now, as well as to save for their futures later. The House has passed bills to establish an Affordable Homeownership Revolving Fund (HB79), create a commercial rent relief program (HB1324), and to amend the Landlord-Tenant Code by giving renters more flexibility (HB1376). We are also looking to adjust to the new digital economy by expanding broadband access across the state (HB1191). Additionally, as federal funds became available to Hawai'i, we in the Legislature are actively preparing how to best utilize these resources for the welfare of the entire state.

3 Government Accountability

Hawai'i's experience with COVID-19 has highlighted many of the shortfalls and limitations that the state government faces when trying to affect positive change, especially during urgent situations. That is why the House has advocated for and passed several improvements that will stabilize the budget, increase transparency, and restructure certain government operations. These reforms include bolstering the Rainy Day Fund (HB1115), encouraging departments to purchase locally-grown food (HB817), establishing the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (HB1149), and streamlining procurement and other regulatory processes to make them more accountable. As we emerge from this crisis, we should have a renewed commitment to make government more accountable, more efficient, and more responsive to the concerns of citizens.

FACT SHEET: H.R.1319 THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

March 2021 Federal Stimulus Plan Summary

- Signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on March 11, 2021
- \$1400 stimulus checks for adults and dependent children, with certain income restrictions
- Includes a \$1600/year per child expansion of the federal child tax credit which will automatically be reflected on paychecks
- \$2.2 billion in aid to Hawai'i state and county governments, including \$36 million for Hawai'i County
- \$116 million to the state government for critical infrastructure improvements, such as broadband to expand access for work, education, and telehealth programs



Aloha! If you would like to support or provide comments on any of the measures or projects listed here, please contact my office at (808)586-8480 and we will point you in the right direction.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A few of the Hilo projects funded in the House draft of the 2021 budget

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO - \$25 MILLION

Funding for campus revitalization, renovation, and modernization

HILO MEDICAL CENTER - \$25 MILLION

Funding for assorted improvements, including the construction of a new intensive care unit (ICU)

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS - \$30+ MILLION

Funding for various facilities, including DOE schools, Hilo Harbor, Hilo Airport, and Puainako St.