



# | MAY 2021 | REPRESENTATIVE STACELYNN ELI



Hawaii State Legislature  
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## 2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 legislature closed on April 29th. In four months a lot of work has been done by both the legislature and our community. COVID-19 has taught us many lessons, the most important is that the only way forward is together! I hope this legislative wrap-up helps to update you on what has been going on both at the legislature and our district. Please contact me should you have further questions and or concerns!

Mahalo nui,  
*Stacelynn Eli*



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021 !!

### Graduation Dates:

- Nānākuli High & Inter. : May 29 (Drive-through diploma pickup)
- Wai'anae High: May 21 (In-person, student-only, with drive-through diploma picked-up the following day)
- Campbell High: May 22 (Drive-through diploma)
- Kapolei High: May 21 (In-person, limited guests)



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Rep. Eli and Kimmie Timson



Black Hoohuli, Rep. Eli and Joseph Lapilio



Chaz Meyers and Rep. Eli

# KALANIHOOKAHA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Construction of the Dr. Agnes Kalanilookaha Cope Community Learning Center is complete. Representative Eli had the honor and privilege to attend the blessing and opening of the Kalanilookaha Community Learning Center it is beautiful and the Nānākuli community is very much deserving! It has a multi-purpose room, the Ka'ala pavilion and the Kaiāulu lānai open for community use. Until we can gather safely in large groups they are offering small group tours of the facility, three times a day, Monday thru Friday. If you would like a tour of the community learning center please contact Kimmie Timson at 497-2473.



(Left to Right) Senator Mike Gabbard, Rep. Sharon Har, Dr. Marcus Iwane (West O'ahu Clinic Chief), Dr. John Yang (Hawaii Permanente Medical Group President and Medical Director), Rep. Stacelynn Eli, Rep. Cedric Gates and Rep. Ty Cullen

## KAISER PERMANENTE KAPOLEI OFFICIAL OPENNING!

Representative Eli toured Kaiser Permanente's new West Oahu Medical Office, which is a \$60 million investment in the community. It will have 40+ exam rooms, primary care for families. There is also expanded women's health services, general radiology, mammography, ultrasounds. On top of that, you can get labs done here and there's a full pharmacy.

The staff here hope that this clinic will mean that underserved populations have more resources to take care of their health. Primary care, imaging and the lab will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with extended hours for urgent care and pharmacy services the 8 p.m. and pharmacy services. For weekend hours and most holidays, the office will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## GROUND BREAKING OF NEW 5-ACRE HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY WEST O'AHU CAMPUS

Representative Eli attended the groundbreaking of the new Hawaiian Humane Society 5-acre campus in West O'ahu. The new facility will provide a range of services and opportunities to the community including, adoptions, pet lost & found, dog park, state-of-the-art shelter, veterinary facility, affordable spay and neuter services educational, programs for youths and adults, outreach programs and volunteer opportunities. This project is expected to be completed in 18 months.



# Bills & Resolutions that Passed 2021 Legislative Session:

## **Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Meals.**

Transfers the Hawaii Farm to School Program, including the Farm to School Coordinator position, from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education. Establishes a programmatic goal for the Department of Education that at least 30 percent of food, as measured by food costs, served in public schools must consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires the Department of Education to report annually to the Legislature certain information regarding the Farm to School Meals Program. [HB767 HD2 SD2](#)

## **Food Donation; Charitable Donations; Liability Protection.**

Clarifies the liability immunity for food donations to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations by explicitly including as an exception from liability the good faith donation of perishable or nonperishable food that has exceeded the labeled shelf life date and the donation of farm produce. [SB244 SD2 HD1 CD1](#)

## **Military Dependents; Military Service Members; Government Employment; Temporary Professional License; Expedited Licensure Process.**

Beginning on January 1, 2022, exempts dependents of military service members from state residency requirement for government employment if the military service member is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders. Allows a spouse of an active duty service member in the military who accompanies the service member on an official permanent change of station to Hawaii and who holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for temporary licensure on an expedited basis in the State. [HB961 HD1 SD2](#)

## **Kalaupapa Month.**

Designates January of each year as "Kalaupapa Month" to serve as an annual reminder of the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant sacrifices and contributions of its residents throughout the history of Hawaii. [SB697 SD1 HD2 CD1](#)

## **Special Number Plates; Polynesian Voyaging Society; Motor Vehicles.**

Authorizes the county directors of finance to issue special number motor vehicle license plates commemorating the Polynesian Voyaging Society to any Hawaii resident who is a registered owner of a motor vehicle. [SB60 SD1 HD1 CD1](#)

## **Racing; Oahu; Public Racing Facility Working Group.**

Convenes a Public Racing Facility Working Group to identify a location and develop a plan for the establishment and operation of public racing facilities on the island of Oahu to improve safety, boost economic activity, and provide for recreation. Requests the Working Group to report to the Legislature no later than December 1 of each year through December 1, 2025, or until a final plan and recommendations to establish a public racing facility on the island of Oahu are finalized and adopted. [SCR263 SD1 HD1](#)

## **Native Hawaiians; Cultural Practices; Puuhonua; Wellness Centers; Faith Pods.**

Requests the Department of Public Safety to allow faith pods based on kapu aloha to be established within each correctional center in the State. [SCR25 SD1](#)

## **Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program; Unserved Areas; Underserved Areas; Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Strategic Broadband Coordinator; Appropriation.**

Establishes the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to award grants to applicants to extend deployment of infrastructure used to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of the State. Renames the Hawaii Technology Loan Revolving Fund as the Hawaii Broadband Infrastructure Special Fund. Establishes the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Requires the Governor to appoint a Strategic Broadband Coordinator to head the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office. Appropriates \$5,000,000 out of the funds received by the State from the American Rescue Plan Act for the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program. [HB1191 HD2 SD2 CD1](#)

## **Green Job Youth Corps Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Report; Appropriation.**

Allows the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer or enter into agreements for the administration of a Green Job Youth Corps Program, which will prioritize work and training opportunities for young adults between the ages of twenty and forty to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. Requires the Department to report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2022.

Appropriates \$5,000,000 out of the funds received by the State from the American Rescue Plan Act for salaries for up to one thousand Green Job Youth Corps Program participant positions. [HB1176 HD1 SD2 CD1](#)

## **Audit; Department of Education; School Food Services Branch; Board of Education; Superintendent of Education.**

Requires the Auditor to audit the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch to determine the amount of local produce that is being purchased and served to students. Requires that the Board of Education prioritize for the Superintendent of Education position candidates that have the minimum qualification of ten years of employment in a department of education, including no less than five years serving as a principal or in a higher-level position. Specifies that a desired qualification for candidates for the Superintendent of Education position is having a working understanding of the State's tri-level system of educational administration. [HB515 HD1 SD2](#)

## **Scholarships; Special Education Students; University of Hawaii; State Scholars Program.**

Allows applicants to the University of Hawaii who earned a high school diploma from a public high school in the State with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and provide evidence that they qualified for and received special education services for two or more years during enrollment in grades seven through twelve to be eligible for the Hawaii State Scholars Program. [HB1291 HD1 SD2 CD1](#)

# Budget Highlights 2021 Legislative Session:

## Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

- \$3.11 million in American Rescue Plan funds for the Disability Compensation Division modernization.
- \$2.08 million for fiscal year 2022 and \$740.85 million for fiscal year 2023 in American Rescue Plan funds for the repayment of the unemployment insurance loan principal and interest.

## Department of Health

- \$20.0 million for the renovation and construction of the intensive care unit at Hilo medical center
- \$4.4 million to support the Hawaii State Hospital
- \$1.5 million for improvements to the Kahuku Medical Center
- \$3 million for renovation and improvements including ADA improvements at the Kauai
- Veterans Memorial Hospital
- \$2.7 million for improvements to the Kona Community Hospital
- \$12.0 million for improvements to Maui Health System facilities
- \$29.5 million to support wastewater treatment projects statewide
- \$26.4 million to support safe drinking water projects statewide
- \$2.5 million for improvements to Oahu region Hawaii Health System Corporation
- facilities

## Department of Human Services

- \$388,869 to restore 16 critical Med-Quest positions.
- \$500,000 for fiscal year 2022 in American Rescue Plan funds to supplement the rent supplement program.
- \$2.14 million to restore planned reductions for the Medicaid program.
- \$5.40 million in American Rescue Plan funds for fiscal year 2022 for additional general assistance payments.
- \$10.8 million for fiscal year 2022 and \$14.3 million for fiscal year 2023 in American Rescue Plan funds for homeless services.

## Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

- \$38.0 million for lot development statewide
- \$3.5 million for repair and maintenance projects statewide
- \$17.0 million for the development of infrastructure at Pulehunui

## Department of Education

- \$35.7 lump sum to address heating, ventilation, and air conditioning at schools statewide
- \$184 million to address deferred maintenance at schools statewide
- \$4.0 million for the design of a new East Kapolei Elementary School
- \$3.0 million for the upgrade of special education facilities statewide
- \$9.2 million to support gender equity projects

## Department of Transportation

- \$114.6 million for airfield improvements statewide
- \$115.0 million for improvements to the Lihue Airport
- \$92.5 million for improvements at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport
- \$15.7 million for terminal improvements at the Ellison Onizuka Kona International
- Airport at Keahole
- \$211.0 million for the modernization and improvement of harbors statewide
- \$145.0 million for improvement or replacement of bridges statewide
- \$13.0 million for rockfall mitigation projects statewide
- \$4.6 million for traffic signal modernization
- \$4.5 million for freeway destination sign upgrade or replacement

## Missing and Murdered Native Women & Girls HCR 11 Introduced and passed!



This Legislative session, I introduced HCR 11, with the support of many of my colleagues and the Women's Caucus included it in our priority bill package for 2021. This resolution creates a taskforce for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWG). This MMIWG taskforce will be led by agencies that advocate for Native Hawaiians, women and gender diverse people.

Data shows that Native Hawaiians are disproportionately trafficked into the sex trade, which fuels the MMIWG crisis. From 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child sex trafficking victims reported to the State of Hawai'i, Child Welfare Services hotline were Native Hawaiian. In addition, 64% of 97 sex trafficking victims identified in 2019 by Child & Family Services were Native Hawaiian.

Mahalo nui to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women for your commitment to the wellbeing and protection of women!