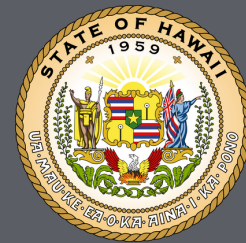




2025 Legislative Session

# A Message from Representative Matthias Kusch



DISTRICT 1 – Hamakua, portion of Hilo, Ka’umana

I am humbled and honored to step into this role following the untimely passing of Representative Nakashima. As your new representative, my experience as a retired Hawai’i Fire Department Battalion Chief, farmer, affordable housing advocate, along with various community leadership roles has prepared me to tackle the key issues facing our district, our Island home and State.

During the upcoming Legislative Session, I will be working on the following key areas, along with collaborating with my fellow lawmakers on dozens of bills to help our State move forward in the years to come:

### Affordable Housing

I am keenly aware of the high cost of housing, whether renting or buying. I continue to work with our Housing Committee for more affordable housing, serving our families and our kupuna.

### Working families

As a member of the Working Families Caucus I look forward helping to reduce the costs of living, Pre-K childcare, and related burdens to our young families.

### Roads In Limbo

Together with CoH DPW, I aim to start the process improving our Roads In Limbo: To maintain and improve where possible.

### Agriculture

As the Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Food Systems Committee, working with fellow Hawaii Island Representative Kahaloa, we are focusing on several bills strengthening Ag theft, animal and crop processing centers & a comprehensive biosecurity omnibus bill.

### Fireworks

With the tragic fireworks incident in Honolulu on January 1st, we are working to strengthen prosecution and significantly reduce supply coming into our islands. Working the Dept of Law Enforcement, leveraging technology we hope to finally make a difference on this long standing issue.

### Funded Captial Improvement Projects (CIPs)

- \$2,762,000 for the Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed Project
- \$200,000 for the Hospice of Hilo
- \$1,400,000 for Honoka'a High and Intermediate School, Science Facilities Upgrades

### This legislative Session: Captial Improvement Projects (CIPs)

- Classroom preconstruction at EB DeSilva
- Laupahoehoe Charter School Various Maintenance Projects
- Honoka’a Inter & High Parking Lot Expansion Design & Permitting

For the 33rd bienium legislature, I am a member of the following committees and caucuses:

- **Vice Chair of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee (AGR)**
- **Finance (FIN)**
- **Energy & Enviromental Protection (EEP)**
- **Working Families Caucus**

I look forward to hearing from you, I am committed to being accessible and listening to your needs, ideas, and feedback. **I encourage you to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance with your concerns.** Our district is its strongest when we collaborate and our community comes together.

Mahalo,

Matthias Kusch  
State Representative, House District 1

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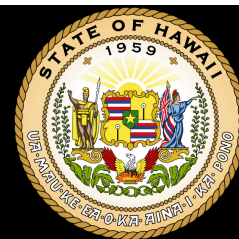
Rep. Matthias Kusch's Staff (L to R)  
Committee Clerk JB Araula  
Legislative Aide Teshira Smallwood  
Office Manager Haruna Koshikawa

Our staff and I are here to assist with any concerns or issues you might have. Whether it's a safety matter or a highway sign that needs repair, no concern is too big or too small. Please feel free to reach out to my office by phone, email, or letter. We're here to help in any way we can.

January 14, 2025

# Matthias Kusch

YOUR NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR District 1



Aloha,

On behalf of my family and my staff, we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year! I am honored and grateful to be your new State House Representative. We are busy on our committee assignments and the opening of the Legislature on January 15th.

Mahalo for your trust and support as we work together to build a stronger future for District 1, Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawai'i. Please read on for more details.