

\$ FOR THE 'EWA BEACH AREA

VETERANS, EDUCATION, & TRAFFIC CIPS IN 2021 STATE BUDGET

Mahalo to all the members of our legislative delegation, our Neighborhood Board, and everyone who worked to ensure the funds for these projects were included in the State Budget!

Hawai'i State Veterans Home 'Ewa/Kapolei Area: \$3.08 million to provide construction funds, acquire the services of a healthcare coordinator expert for a new 120-bed veterans nursing home and long-term care facility.

Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor: \$10 million FY22, \$15 million FY23 For plans, land acquisition, design, and construction of projects that will provide for safer, more efficient use of existing and/or additional operational areas.

Campbell HS: \$7 million for design and construction for athletic stadium and support facilities per master plan; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

E. Kapolei Elementary: \$4 million for design for new school; equipment and appurtenances.

E. Kapolei HS: \$500,000 for plans for a new East Kapolei High School; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

Ilima Intermediate: \$500,000 for design for 6th grade building

Kaimiloa Elementary: \$210,000 for plans, design, and construction for major pavement improvements to the existing fire lane; field and campus improvements; ground and site improvements

UH West O'ahu: \$3.5 million for plans, design, construction, and equipment for improvements to facilities, modernization of interiors and exteriors, pedestrian pathways, roads, upgrade existing temporary and new facilities.

Freeway Management System: \$4.5 million for construction for a freeway management system, including intelligent technologies and interagency coordination to monitor and manage traffic operations.

Farrington Hwy Widening: \$25 million for construction for the widening from Kapolei Golf Course to Fort Weaver Road.

Pedestrian Walkways: \$7 million for construction for pedestrian walkways, improvements island-wide.

Highlights from the 2021-2022 State Biennium Budget

HB200 includes \$14.9B in General Funds, \$1.4B in federal relief funds, and \$31.2B in other funds.

With the \$1.4 billion in federal assistance, the Legislature has been able to restore prior funding cuts to many departments.

Here are some highlights:

Department of Accounting and General Services:

- \$303,000 to restore funding for 8 Office of Elections positions.

Department of Education:

- \$2.6 million for the Early College Program which offers over 400 classes for 43 High Schools statewide.
- \$401 million in general funds for special education.
- \$7.1 million in general funds for the

- Early Learning program.
- \$4.4 million to restore positions for Special Education.
- \$249,000 for 7 permanent positions for Early Learning teachers.

Department of Human Services:

- \$500,000 in federal relief for additional funding for the Rent Supplement Program for low-income families.
- \$5.4 million in federal relief for additional funding for General Assistance payment for temporarily disabled individuals.
- \$14.4 million in federal relief for ongoing homeless services.
- \$31 million in federal funds for cash support for childcare.

Department of Labor and Industrial

Relations:

- \$700 million in 2021 and \$5.1 million in 2022 in federal relief to repay loans for the unemployment insurance program.

Department of Health:

- \$1.5 million in federal relief for the Office of Aging for services for Senior Centers.

Department of Land and Natural Resources:

- \$1.6 million to restore the Youth Conservation Corps Program to provide youth with environmental stewardship opportunities.

University of Hawai'i:

- \$164,400 and 2 positions for computer science pathways at UH West O'ahu.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MATT LOPRESTI

HOUSE DISTRICT 41: 'EWA, 'EWA BEACH, 'EWA GENTRY, 'EWA VILLAGES, HOKALEI, OCEAN POINTE

DISTRICT 41 NEWSLETTER - MAY 2021 - SESSION WRAP-UP

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My Most Meaningful Work Often Has Nothing to do With Bills

Helping constituents is the job of every elected official.

Some of the most meaningful and gratifying work I have done this term has been to assist many of my constituents and their families with their unemployment claims.

Of course, I wish my office wouldn't have to intervene to help get claims processed, but we are living in unprecedented times and the legislative and executive branches of our government have not adequately funded staffing and system upgrades for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) prior to the pandemic.

Since taking office in November, my staff and I have fielded scores of calls and emails from constituents pleading for help with their claims. In some cases, we've helped the same constituents multiple times.



I sought this office to help improve the lives of the people living in my community and across all the state. In some cases, that means introducing and trying to pass meaningful legislation. In others, it means helping answer questions and resolving problems for constituents.

Though I look forward to the day when

the my assistance with unemployment claims isn't needed, I will always take seriously the work of helping those in need, whatever the situation may be. I hope you never have a reason to contact my office for help, but if you do, please know that my staff and I are ready to assist you.

Noteworthy Legislation That Passed The Legislature

- **HB79 Relating to Housing:** Establishes an affordable homeownership revolving fund within HHFDC to provide loans and appropriates ARPA funds for loans to nonprofit community development financial institutions and nonprofit housing development organizations for the development of affordable homeownership housing.
- **HB243 Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation:** Requires state agencies to: identify existing and planned facilities vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess a range of options to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise to those facilities; submit annual reports regarding the vulnerability and adaptation assessments for state facilities and the progress made in implementing sea level rise adaptation in future plans.
- **HB1081 Relating to Sidewalks:** Requires the department of transportation and each county's transportation department to maintain a priority list of sidewalk installation and pedestrian improvement projects and to publish the priority list on their respective websites. I'm hoping this helps us to finally get the sidewalk along Fort Weaver Road.

This Year's Biggest Disappointments

We didn't do nearly enough to help working families. Legislation that I introduced and co-sponsored to provide paid sick and family leave and to increase the minimum wage were all prevented from advancing in the legislature this year. Even more frustrating was that despite helping businesses with a \$700 million bailout, the legislature failed to provide income tax relief for workers relying on Unemployment Insurance to sustain themselves and their families during this crisis.

Legislation I supported to rein in the abuse of "emergency powers" failed to pass this session. Governor Ige suspended Hawai'i's open records law throughout much of the pandemic, so I and others introduced legislation to limit this and other emergency powers. During a crisis information and transparency is necessary to build and maintain public trust and confidence in government. Suspending open access to government records breeds mistrust. This still needs to be fixed.

BIPARTISAN WORK FOR 'EWA BEACH

Task Force Formation on North Road Management

Mahalo and congratulations to Representative McDermott for the adoption of HCR97.

Team work is a vital at the legislature. We do our best to work together to represent the people of Hawai'i and 'Ewa Beach. Both from neighboring districts and across the state, working with my colleagues in the House and Senate is important when trying to accomplish anything.

With this in mind, I want to use space in this legislative wrap-up edition of my newsletter to share a big mahalo and congratulations to my colleague Representative Bob McDermott for the passage of [HCR97](#).

This Resolution calls for the creation

of a task force bringing together "representatives from the Department of Transportation, City and County of Honolulu, 'Ewa Beach Golf Course, Carmel Partners, Iroquois Point, and 'Ewa Beach Neighborhood Board" who will be charged with making "recommendations on safety improvements and unified management of North Road" by the end of this year.

I have co-sponsored similar measures with Bob in the past and we made lots of progress on it together. I am thrilled to see its adoption by the House and Senate this year and I sincerely hope the entities named will take it to heart and work together to recommend solutions to the inconsistent management of and the illegal dumping on North Road.

Residents of the 'Ewa community know the problems that have long plagued North Road and I applaud Representative McDermott for his persistence in addressing this issue for our community.

If you'd like to express your support for task force, I recommend contacting Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi and the Director of the Department of Transportation and encourage them to move this forward:

Director Jade Butay
(808) 587-2150

Mayor Rick Blangiardi
(808) 768-4141

2022 "Year of the Limu" Proclamation Request

Our 'Ewa community was once known as "the House of Limu." Earlier this year, I was contacted by Uncle Wally Ito, who coordinates the Limu Hui. He asked me to introduce a resolution "Declaring the Year 2022 as the Year of the Limu." As a pillar of our community, I was thrilled to oblige his request and introduced [HCR74](#) and [HR63](#) and in the Senate, our Ewa Senator, Fevella, introduced [SCR135](#) and [SR60](#).

I'd like to congratulate Senator Fevella on shepherding SR60 to its adoption by the Senate and while in the end more pressing issues took precedence this session, Uncle Wally made clear in his testimony why this is such an important

issue for us to pursue:

"Limu is a key component of the near shore marine ecosystem but this concept is not realized by many within our State. Loea limu have intimate knowledge of the many uses of limu. Not only for food but also for medicine and its use in many cultural and religious ceremonies. A healthy limu population is a key factor to a healthy reef ecosystem."

Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr. was one of the founding members of the Limu Hui and 'Ewa Limu project. He held much of the traditional limu 'ike which he freely shared with all. Uncle Henry grew up in 'Ewa Beach where he learned about the

many uses of limu from his grandmother, mother, and aunt. As they grew older, he realized that he needed to share their knowledge with others otherwise all of their limu 'ike will be lost forever."

We are hopeful Governor Ige makes the proclamation for both 'Ewa and the state at large. My office reached out to Governor Ige and urged Uncle Wally and the other advocates to do the same.

To express your support for the "year of the Limu" contact Governor Ige on his website: <https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/>.

