



Representative Ikaika Olds

District 23: Kapahulu, Mō'īlīlī, McCully,
Ala Moana & Pawa'a
March 2025



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We have arrived at the first major legislative milestone of the 2025 session. House and Senate bills have “Crossed Over” and will now restart the rigorous process of committee hearings, testimony, and voting. During this next phase, we will continue to discuss, debate, critique and make changes to bills in hopes of creating high-quality legislation. As community input is very important to me, if there are bills that you support or oppose, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Mahalo,



Top left: Health Committee at Iwilei Behavioral Center, Top right: Informational brief regarding funding for the Hawai'i State Hospital, Bottom left: Education Committee hearing, Bottom right: Seeds 4 Tomorrow at Agriculture Day at the Capitol

Legislative Updates

Bills and Committees

- HB943, which appropriates funds to expand crisis intervention by establishing a homeless triage and treatment center, is still alive and will head over to the Senate!
- As Senate bills cross over to the House in early March, committee hearings will resume.
- The Health Committee held an informational brief to appropriate funding for additional work on the Hawai'i State Hospital. I was able to make a site visit with Rep. Matayoshi and see what the current needs are.
- The Health Committee visited Iwilei Behavioral Health Crisis Center.
- The Higher Education Committee made history! Chair Garrett coordinated meeting at UH Mānoa in order to get more direct stakeholder feedback.
- The Keiki and Kūpuna Caucuses held press conferences introducing legislation packages with specific bills that the caucuses submitted this session.



Top left: Education Committee at UH Mānoa, Top right: Kūpuna Caucus press conference, Bottom left: Hawaii State Hospital site visit, Bottom right: Keiki Caucus press conference

Legislative Updates

Info Days at the Capitol

The Capitol holds different events during session with organizations coming from all over the State to share information with legislators about various community issues. I had the privilege of supporting and speaking at the Working Families Day event advocating for communities in all stages of life!



Top L to Bottom M:
Working Families Day
- Hawai'i Harm &
Health Reduction
Center (HHHRC),
Project Vision Hawai'i,
HCAN Speaks, Press
conference and rally,
Heroes and
Legislators;
Bottom R: Kaua'i
Farmers at Ag Day



Mid-Session Highlights

Education

- **Board of Education; Public Schools; Financial Literacy.** Requires the Board of Education to adopt and enact a policy by the 2026-2027 school year directing Department of Education public schools to incorporate financial literacy education in the school's curriculum. [HB619 HD1](#)
 - **Department of Education; Community Schools; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds to the Dept of Education for community school programming, including for a certain number of program manager positions. [HB754 HD2](#)
 - **Department of Education; Executive Office on Early Learning; Public Preschools; Teachers; Teacher Assistants; Equipment; Services.** Appropriates funds to hire teachers and teacher assistants and for equipment and services for public preschools. [HB429 HD1](#)
 - **Department of Education; Free School Breakfasts and Lunches; Cost; Appropriation.** Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires the Department of Education to provide free breakfast and lunch to students enrolled in a public school who meet certain requirements. Amends the amount the Department of Education is authorized to charge for school meals to all students enrolled in department schools. [HB424 HD2](#)
 - **Department of Education; Phones; Related Devices; Ban.** Requires the Board of Education to adopt a policy that bans the use of phones and related devices by students during school hours. [HB1343 HD1](#)
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Health

- **Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program; Dept of Health.** Expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to include at least two sites on the island of O'ahu, including one site in an area with a disproportionate number of individuals with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, or homelessness. [HB1462 HD1](#)
- **Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Education; Health Care Workforce; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds to support educational programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certification programs offered in public high schools; classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools; and education programs to support certified nurse aides in obtaining licensure as licensed practical nurses. [HB714 HD1](#)
- **Flavored Nicotine Products; Nicotine Product Flavor Enhancers; E-Liquids; Sale; Labeling; Prohibition; Penalties; Appropriation.** Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or possession with the intent to sell or offer for sale, of all flavored nicotine products and nicotine product flavor enhancers, including products with menthol. Prohibits the mislabeling as nicotine free, or the sale or marketing for sale as nicotine-free, any e-liquid product that contains nicotine. Establishes penalties for violations of sale and labeling prohibitions. Authorizes the Director of Health to appoint, commission, or contract for services of third-party inspectors to enforce the prohibitions. Establishes and appropriates funds for hearings officer positions within the Department of Health. [HB756 HD2](#)
- **Midwives; Practice of Midwifery; Scope of Practice; Licensure Requirements; License Renewals; Prescriptive Authority; Peer Review; Data Submission; Traditional Hawaiian Healing Practices.** Makes laws regulating midwives and the practice of midwifery permanent. Clarifies the scope of practice of midwifery. Establishes licensure requirements for certified midwives and certified professional midwives, including continuing education requirements. Grants global signature authority to midwives. Grants prescriptive authority to licensed midwives practicing as certified midwives and amends the list of approved legend drugs that may be administered by midwives. Establishes peer review and data submission requirements. Affirms that the practice of midwifery does not include Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Clarifies exemptions from licensure and grounds for refusal to grant, renew, reinstate, or restore licenses or for revocation, suspension, denial, or condition of a license. Clarifies medical record availability and retention requirements for the purposes of medical torts. [HB1194 HD2](#)
- **Prior Authorization; Utilization Review Entities; Reporting; Health Care Appropriateness & Necessity Working Group; State Health Planning & Development Agency.** Requires utilization review entities to submit an annual report containing data relating to prior authorization of health care services to the State Health Planning and Development Agency. Establishes timelines for the approval of prior authorization requests for urgent and non-urgent health care services submitted by a health care professional, including when a prior authorization request will be deemed automatically approved. Establishes the Health Care Appropriateness and Necessity Working Group within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to make recommendations to improve and expedite the prior authorization process. Requires the Working Group to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of each Regular Session. [HB250 HD2](#)

Mid-Session Highlights

Higher Education

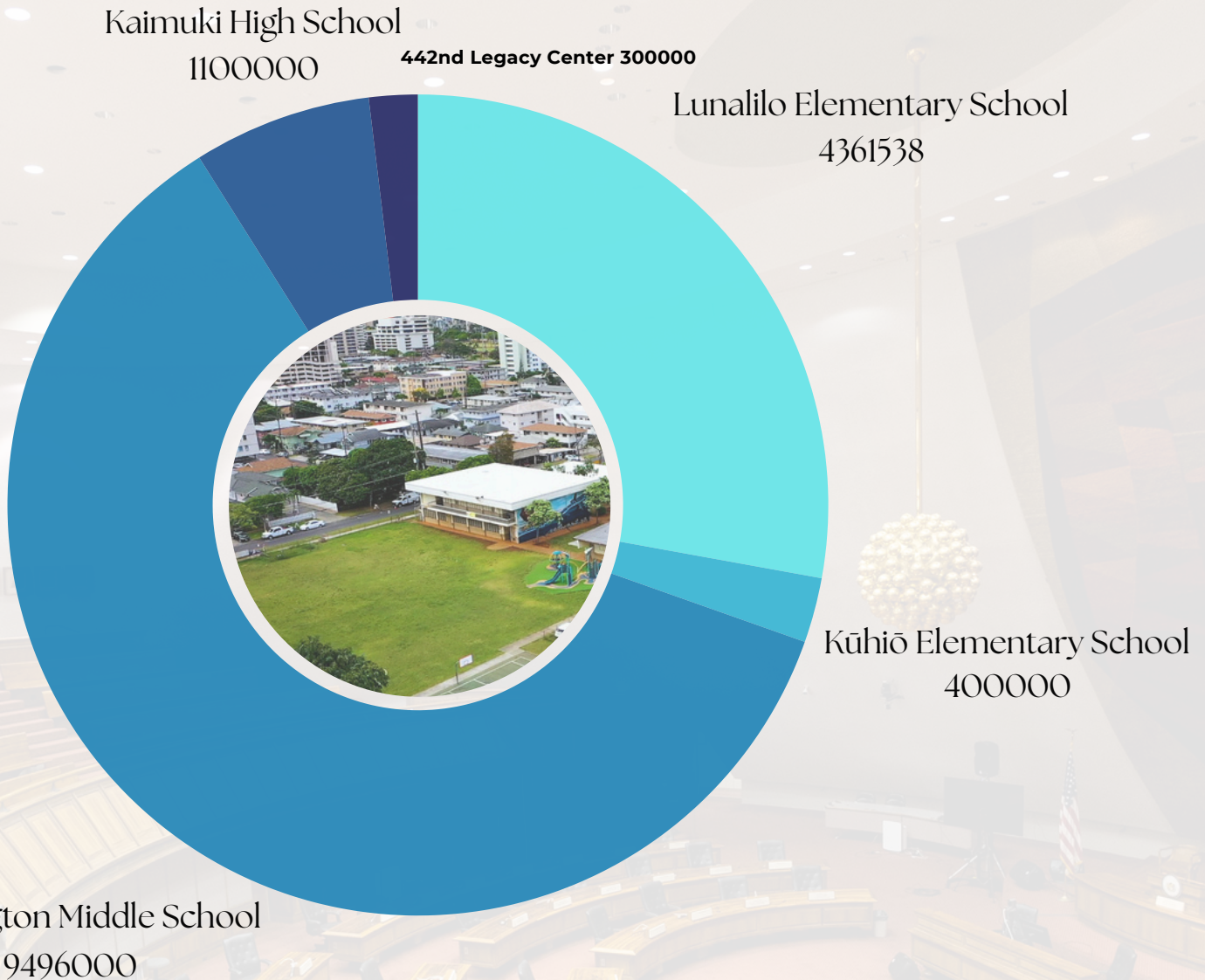
- **Aloha Intelligence Institute; Artificial Intelligence; University of Hawai'i; Appropriation.** Establishes and appropriates funds for the Aloha Intelligence Institute within the University of Hawai'i to develop, support, and advance artificial intelligence initiatives statewide. [HB546 HD1](#)
 - **University of Hawai'i; Higher Education; Graduate Outcomes; Report; Appropriation.** Requires the University of Hawai'i System to collect, analyze, and publicly report certain graduate outcome data. Requires and appropriates funds for the development and maintenance of a dashboard that tracks graduate outcomes. Appropriates funds for positions within the University of Hawai'i's Office of the Vice President of Academic Strategy. Requires annual reports to the Legislature evaluating institutional performance and workforce alignment. [HB1320 HD1](#)
 - **University of Hawai'i; Nursing; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds for nursing programs of the University of Hawai'i System, including for the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa (UOH 100)-University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu nursing collaboration phase III; University of Hawai'i, Mānoa (UOH 100) for the online RN to BS program; University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu (UOH 700) for the pre-nursing pathway; and University of Hawai'i at Hilo to increase its school of nursing cohort size. [HB442 HD1](#)
 - **University of Hawai'i; Saint Francis School; Campus; Acquisition; Revenue Bonds; Appropriation.** Authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i to issue revenue bonds for the acquisition of the former Saint Francis School campus in Mānoa, O'ahu. Appropriates funds for the acquisition. [HB548 HD1](#)
 - **University of Hawai'i; Scholarships; Appropriation.** Expands and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships to qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawai'i campus, rather than just community college campuses. [HB542 HD1](#)
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Human Services & Homelessness

- **Department of Human Services; Community-Based Organizations; Social Services; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to collaborate with contracted community-based organizations to address the need for social services in the State. Requires the funds to be equitably distributed and allocated to various divisions within the Department of Human Services. [HB244 HD1](#)
- **Department of Human Services; Medicaid; In-Home Services; Matching Funds; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds to increase the funding for Medicaid in-home services if the Department of Human Services obtains the maximum amount of federal matching funds. [HB702 HD1](#)
- **Housing; Kauhale Initiative; Ohana Zones Pilot Program; Supportive Housing Special Fund; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds for the continued operation of the Kauhale Initiative and authorizes those funds to be used for the Ohana Zones Pilot Program. Establishes and appropriates funds into and out of the Supportive Housing Special Fund to assist the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation in financing the development, operation, and maintenance of affordable, supportive housing projects and the provision of supportive services for households with special needs who reside in the supportive housing projects. [HB431 HD2](#)
- **Preschool Open Doors Program; Eligibility; Providers.** Expands the Preschool Open Doors Program's eligibility criteria, including allowing families with children above the age of two and up to kindergarten entry to apply for program subsidies. Repeals the requirement that Preschool Open Doors Program providers be accredited. [HB692 HD1](#)
- **Safe Spaces for Youth Program; Office of Youth Services; Department of Human Services; Appropriation.** Makes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program permanent within the Office of Youth Services. Appropriates funds for a permanent Safe Spaces for Youth Program within the Office of Youth Services. [HB613 HD1](#)

Community Updates

Funding for Our Schools and Centers



- Kaimuki High School received \$1,100,000 for various infrastructure and communication system improvements.
- The 442nd Legacy Center received \$300,000 for the construction of climate control and fire suppression systems in the building.
- Lunalilo Elementary School received \$3,500,000 for the construction of a covered play court as well as \$861,538.46 for two Pre-Kindergarten Expansion classrooms.
- Kūhiō Elementary School received \$400,000 for the construction of playground equipment and surfacing.
- Washington Middle School received \$9,496,000 for the renovation and construction of a new band room.

Community Updates



Community Events

- My family and I visited the Waikīkī Health Makahiki Clinic for the Give Kids a Smile Hawai'i event, where free dental services, along with games and education, were provided to keiki in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month and the Give Kids a Smile Program.
- I spoke as a panelist in the public policy panel at the Childhood Homelessness Symposium hosted by Family Promise Hawai'i.



Contact

I've met with some of you since the session started. I am glad to discuss concerns and help where I can. Call our office or email to schedule a meet up -- I can even come visit you!

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Email: repolds@capitol.hawaii.gov

Phone: 808-586-8515

Address: 415 S. Beretania St.

Room 326

Honolulu, HI 96813

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Subscribe to our email list by emailing repolds@capitol.hawaii.gov, calling our office, [CLICKING HERE](#), or scanning the QR code below!



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