

# REP. AMY PERRUSO

Wahiawā | Whitmore Village | Launani Valley

## Contact Us

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(808) 586-6700

*Call anytime!*

## Useful Contacts

**Honolulu Pothole Hotline:**

(808) 536-7852

**Abandoned Vehicles:**

(808) 733-2530

**Street Light Repair:**

(808) 768-5300

**Building Permit:**

(808) 768-5555

**Trash Collection:**

(808) 768-3200

**Legal Aid Society:**

(808) 536-4302

**Consumer Protection:**

(808) 587-3222

**Agricultural Inspection:**

(808) 861-8490

**Public Access Room:**

(808) 587-0478



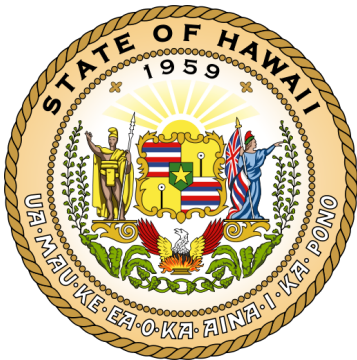
## Aloha kākou,

Agriculture is essential to our islands. While we often hear soaring rhetoric about increasing food production in Hawai‘i, little is done to grow that vision into a tangible reality. Legislation being enacted this year, however, will bring changes.

In 1994, the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) was established to diversify our state’s farming industry. Since then, though, the agency acquired prime agricultural land primarily to export crops to the mainland, instead of growing food for local consumption.

On April 9, 2019, the State House moved to accept the Senate draft of House Bill 1561, which requires the State Auditor to audit the ADC. This will allow stakeholders to see exactly how the agency allocates its resources and, in turn, ensure it uses taxpayer money to supply healthy food to island markets.

Additionally, Senate Bill 390 would create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the state’s supplemental nutrition assistance program. These funds could be used to



**Bills Rep. Perruso Supports**

**Senate Bill 301**

Closes corporate income tax loophole for real estate investment trusts and allocates 10 percent of new revenue to fund economic development.

**Senate Bill 316**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawai'i Promise Scholarship Program. Delivers financial aid to low-income students to meet their community college tuition needs.

**House Bill 463**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a food safety program to assist local farmers in meeting USDA requirements.

**House Bill 467**

Provides funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which ensures that economically vulnerable working caregivers can provide our kupuna with access to basic services.

*Putting people first!*

purchase Hawai'i-grown produce, allowing low-income families to access healthy dietary options in a way that improves prosperity for small farmers. Implementing this idea would provide an estimated \$3.6 million economic impact to our state, keeping food dollars in our local economy, lowering healthcare costs, and stimulating crop diversity in our agricultural industry.

Finally, Senate Bill 762 would cultivate young farmers by funding an agriculture education coordinator at the University of Hawai'i. To meet our state's ambitious food security goals, we must empower a new generation of farmers to develop agricultural techniques that not only feed our community, but also protect our 'aina and address the looming threat of climate change.

It is time to begin viewing climate justice and food sustainability as integrated issues. As the climate crisis worsens, enhancing food security will become more urgent. By passing progressive agricultural legislation, this year, lawmakers are planting the seeds for a future in which we preserve nature to nourish the needs of our Hawai'i's most vulnerable people.

Mahalo nui loa,

*Rep. Amy Perruso*

District 46-Wahiawā, Whitmore Village, Launani Valley

